

Interplast® news

Your newsletter about how you are impacting lives

YOU ARE THE REASON MOCEIWAI SMILES TODAY

Thanks to you, his future is bright.

It's thanks to your kindness, that Moceiwai received life-changing surgery to repair his cleft lip and palate, and today he is thriving.

When Moceiwai was born with a cleft lip and palate, his mother, Loata, was shocked and scared; she had never seen anything like it before. For one year both Loata and baby Moceiwai suffered in silence, thinking help was not available to him.

With your compassionate support, an Interplast volunteer surgical team, travelled to the remote island of Labasa, in Fiji where they met Loata and Moceiwai and he had his first surgery to repair his cleft lip. Then remarkably, just last year, Moceiwai received his second surgery to repair his cleft palate. And guess what? Thanks to you, he's thriving! You may have read about Moceiwai in our recent tax appeal. Loata recently sent a photo and told us that Moceiwai, now four years old, is doing great.

"Thank you so much for the wonderful surgery,"

she told us.

It's only through your generosity that our skilled volunteers of plastic and reconstructive surgeons, and allied health professionals can mobilise and travel to remote islands like Labasa.

It's because of you, Moceiwai's future is looking bright.

Thank you.

Moceiwai after his second surgery with his mum, Loata, and now today he is thriving.

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YOU HELPED REWRITE

MOCEIWAI'S FUTURE

YOU CAN GIVE A CHILD A REASON TO DREAM AGAIN THIS CHRISTMAS.



Ngawang in April after her 2nd hand surgery that you helped provide.

Ngawang received life-changing surgery, because of you. But more children are still desperately waiting.

In 2021, Ngawang's father experienced every parent's worst nightmare. Ngawang, seven years old, was in her bathroom at home, heating water with a rod heater, when she dropped it, severely burning her chest and arm. Unresponsive, her father broke down the locked door to find Ngawang badly burned and unconscious.

Over the next three years, Ngawang was in and out of hospital for treatments, but what she desperately needed was complex reconstructive surgery that could only be performed by specialists, and it simply wasn't available in the small region of Bhutan.

Ngawang's mental health began to suffer. Previously she was very social and outgoing. She loved her friends and was a diligent student. However, her parents noticed her withdrawing from her friendships and she began to struggle with her schoolwork.

Ngawang's family felt they had no other option than to take out a large financial loan and seek treatment overseas, they couldn't let her suffer any longer. Thankfully, they heard that the Interplast surgical team was travelling to Bhutan. When they arrived, they assessed Ngawang's injuries and discovered she had significant injury to her chest and arm which was preventing her from growing and moving freely. They scheduled her immediately for surgery.

"I want to be a lawyer when I grow up."



Since the first surgery, Ngawang has had a skin graft along with rehabilitation from Interplast's visiting hand therapists and the local rehabilitation team until her second surgery earlier this year.

When the team returned to Bhutan in April this year, they scheduled Ngawang for her second surgery to release the burns contracture and webbing. They were so relieved to see a happier Ngawang.

Despite her anxiety at the idea of another operation, Ngawang was positive. "I thought I was not able to do anything. My father is a painter, so I wanted to help him," she said. She filled the Interplast team in on how she joined a soccer team since they saw her last, smiling as she recounted how she helped her team win a match as their goalkeeper. She's also no longer letting her injuries limit her dreams for the future, "I want to become a nun or a lawyer," she shared with a smile.

Ngawang will still need more surgeries to regain full use of her hand, but her future dreams are closer than they have ever been, thanks to you.



Interplast surgical team repairing Ngawang's hands in Bhutan.

WILL YOU HELP REWRITE

A CHILD'S FUTURE

This Christmas?

Without you, the future is uncertain for children born with cleft lips or palates, or those who have suffered burns injuries.

Throughout parts of Asia and the Pacific region, hundreds of children who have suffered debilitating burns that has left them scarred or facing life-changing disabilities, have to wait far too long for surgery.

Without specialist reconstructive surgery their childhood can be wiped away. Often children with burns or cleft lips face social stigma. They are withdrawn from their community and they miss out on childhood milestones, like attending school.

Without critical surgery, it can change a child's entire life.

You can help send an Interplast surgical team to the Pacific region to help perform life-changing surgeries on children who have been waiting.

This Christmas, you can help rewrite a child's future, by sending an urgent gift.



Ngawang after her surgery with Interplast Ambassador Sam Squiers.

Jo has spent 20 incredible years helping and healing families, because of you.

Dear Friend,

How do I even say thank you? It's through your compassionate support that I've served families in Asia and the Pacific region for the past 20 years. In that time, I have volunteered as a perioperative nurse on 14 different Interplast surgical and educational programs.

I've had the privilege of helping countless children and adults get their lives back through life-changing surgeries. Though, the work I cherish the most is educating and equipping local nursing and surgical teams on the ground.

It goes without saying, I can only do this work because of you – thank you!

I've visited many incredible communities across our neighbouring region, however, Bhutan is one I hold dear to my heart. Since 2016 I have helped train the nursing staff and it is extremely rewarding to see them stepping into leadership roles or taking their skills to other regions throughout Bhutan.

These increased skills provide the tools to train up their own teams. It allows them to expertly treat more people faster and it provides children and adults who have experienced major burns with a better chance of survival. That's why I keep going back year after year because I've seen the transformation of both staff and patients with my own eyes.

It takes an immense team to complete just one Interplast program, but we cannot do our work without the extraordinary support of generous, kind people like you.

Thank you for making this vital work possible.

Love, Jo



YOU HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN 2025:

595 people received specialist care

169 life-changing surgeries performed

492 days of dedication from our volunteers, providing care and education in the Pacific and Asia.

22 programs conducted in 9 countries, that included surgical programs and educational training programs.

FY25 figures (July 2024 - June 2025)

THANK YOU