

Operation  Smile

OPERATION SMILE EGYPT

 EGYPT | 2026



OUR FORMULA FOR TRANSFORMATION

At Operation Smile, we believe safe, essential surgery is a human right. For over 40 years, we've transformed lives, strengthened health systems and built sustainable solutions.



We partner with local volunteers, medical leaders, health ministries, universities and non-governmental organizations to bring essential surgical care closer to patients' homes, starting with cleft surgery and comprehensive care. Together, we transform health systems by training and equipping local professionals, strengthening infrastructure and building capacity for sustainable care.



Operation 100 is our bold strategy to bring essential surgical care closer to patients' homes by investing in frontline health workers and strengthening district hospitals.



By focusing on district hospitals, we're bringing care closer to patients, creating access to surgical care, building local capacity and fostering stronger health systems and communities.



Education is a force multiplier. We equip frontline health workers with the skills and resources to deliver sustainable, high-quality care independently for their communities.



Operation 100 is just the start.

We're breaking down barriers to surgical care and advancing health equity, so no one is left behind.



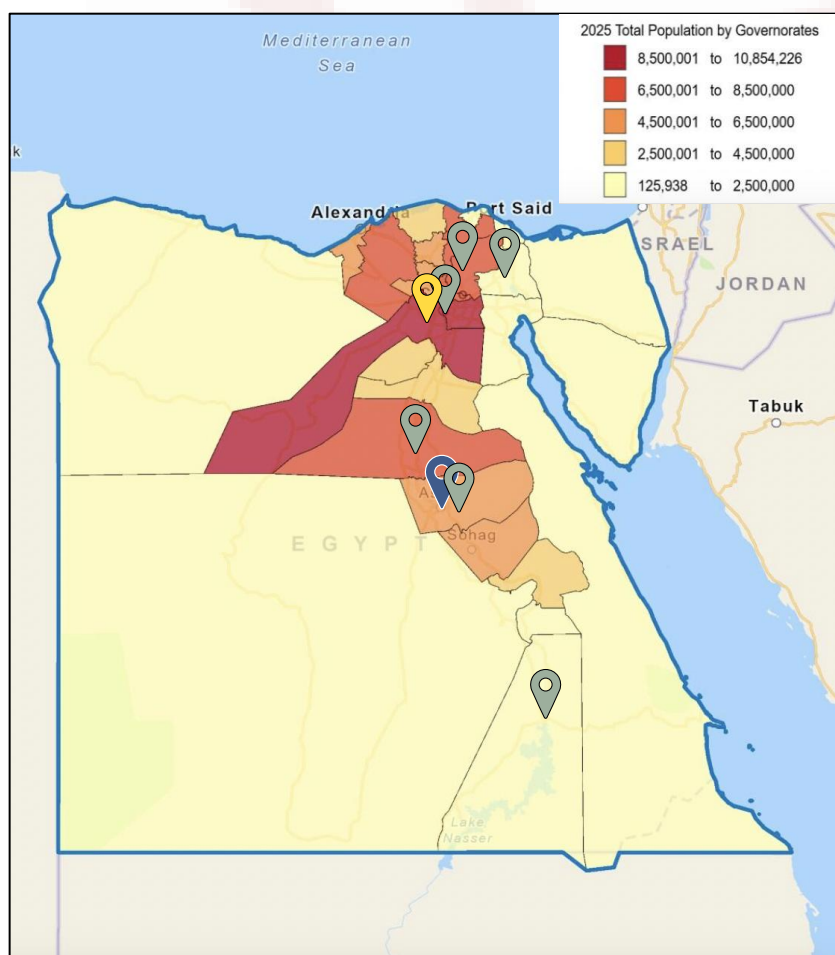
BRINGING CARE CLOSER TO HOME

To ensure that every child has access to care close to home, we equip local healthcare providers with the skills and resources to deliver high-quality care. Through our hub-and-spoke model, hubs provide direct patient care while training and supporting providers in under-resourced communities, the spokes. This approach strengthens local healthcare systems and builds the expertise needed to sustain care for generations to come.

 Our hub is **Assiut University Hospitals** in **Assiut**, home to our Care Center and a key training site for cleft care. Serving as an Operation 100 site, the hub provides weekly surgical care and daily non-surgical burn care.

 Our spoke sites are located in **Aswan, Cairo, Assiut, Ismailia, Al-Sharqia, and Minya**, and include university hospitals, burn centers, and dental faculties. Aswan University Hospital in Aswan, Abo El-Reesh in Cairo and Suez Canal University Hospital in Ismailia are also Operation 100 sites.

 In Fiscal Year 2027, **Atfal Misr Hospital** in **Cairo** will begin surgical care as a new Operation 100 site.



THE NEED



One in 600 births

In Egypt, it is estimated that over 5,000 children are born with a cleft condition every year – around one in 600 births.

Many of these children live beyond the reach of any hospital care. According to Operation Smile's survey, 52% patients arriving at Operation Smile programs do not have a hospital within two hours of their home. The Lancet Commission proposed that at least 80% of the population should live within two hours of a hospital.

Financial burden

25% of the population in Egypt is at risk of catastrophic expenditure for surgery. Operation Smile's survey revealed that 38% of patients arriving at Operation Smile programs in Egypt could not have undergone surgery without the support of Operation Smile.

With nearly 30% of the 118.4 million people living in Egypt falling below the poverty line, patients with cleft conditions face financial barriers to receiving the care they need.

Limited health workforce

Compared to high-income countries, which have an average of 11.4 nurses and midwives per 1,000 people, Egypt faces a critical shortage, with just 1.9 nurses and midwives per 1,000 individuals.

Egypt has 50 specialized surgical workers per 100,000 population, while in high-income countries, the rate stands at 71 specialized surgical workers



OUR IMPACT IN EGYPT

Operation Smile has been working in Egypt since 2005, providing care for children born with cleft conditions.

Since then, more than **13,370** patients have received safe surgery and comprehensive care through Operation Smile, helping them achieve healthier futures. Operation Smile's volunteer network is central to delivering high-quality surgical care, bringing specialized expertise that expands access to treatment and improves outcomes for children and families.

But there is more to do.

In July 2026-June 2027, Operation Smile will invest \$909,169 in surgical care, comprehensive cleft care, medical education and health system strengthening, helping more children access life-changing care closer to home while building the skilled local teams needed to deliver it for generations to come.



Program Pillar	Budget
Direct Patient Care	\$582,965
Education & Training	\$71,060
Student Programs	\$1,840
Local Program Operations	\$244,145
Research	\$9,160
Total July 2026 - June 2027	\$909,169

Outputs: July 2026 - June 2027	
Cleft Surgical Patients	262
Burn Surgical Patients	231
Other Surgical Patients	20
Oral Health Patients	5,802
Nutrition Patients	220
Psychosocial Patients	210
Speech Patients	93
ENT Patients	167
Patients Recruited	1,320
Total Training Spots	2,634

*Estimated costs in USD based on current knowledge and subject to change in response to an evolving healthcare landscape

*Table reflects country-level budget. Operation Smile's global office makes additional centralized investments to support country-level programming



JULY 2026 – JUNE 2027 PROGRAMS



Surgical Care

Operation Smile will expand access to safe, high-quality surgery across Egypt, helping more patients receive specialized care closer to home. At Aswan University Hospital, combining cleft surgery with oral health care will allow patients to address related oral health needs alongside their surgical treatment, supporting more comprehensive care in a single program. At Suez Canal University Hospital, an orthognathic and oral health program will provide specialized treatment for patients with more complex needs beyond initial cleft surgery, helping them achieve improved function and long-term oral health. Weekly surgical care at Assiut University Hospital and quarterly programs at Cairo University Pediatric Hospital (Abo El-Reesh) will provide more consistent opportunities for patients to access treatment throughout the year. Atfal Misr Hospital in Cairo will also become a new Operation 100 site, expanding the local network of hospitals able to provide ongoing cleft surgery and creating an additional pathway to care for patients in the area.



Comprehensive Care

Comprehensive cleft care extends beyond surgery, helping patients address the health, developmental and psychosocial needs that can affect their recovery and quality of life. Weekly nutrition clinics in Assiut and Cairo will provide nutrition assessments, formula, feeding bottles and caregiver education to help children improve their nutritional health and be ready for surgery. Oral health programs in Assiut, Cairo, Aswan, Minya and Ismailia will help prevent and address dental problems, supporting patients' health throughout their cleft care journey. Weekly speech therapy and psychosocial clinics in Assiut and Cairo help patients develop clearer speech, communicate more effectively and receive psychological support as they navigate treatment.

Patients in Cairo and Assiut will also have access to laser therapy and micropigmentation to address treatment-related needs and support their appearance and confidence. In Cairo, school-based oral health education will help children and families understand how to prevent dental problems and encourage healthier habits from an early age.





JULY 2026 – JUNE 2027 PROGRAMS

(CONTINUED)



Medical Education

Training the next generation of local medical providers is essential to building sustainable cleft care capacity. Alongside surgical programs, Operation Smile will deliver American Heart Association Life Support courses for health providers, helping teams respond effectively to medical emergencies and support safer patient care. Helping Babies Breathe training in Assiut and Cairo will strengthen providers' ability to respond to newborn complications, while hands-on surgical training will build operative skills and clinical confidence.

The cleft care diploma at Assiut University Hospital and Cairo University Pediatric Hospital, developed in partnership with Operation Smile, will further equip providers with specialized knowledge and practical skills across cleft care. Together, these education pathways will increase the number of local providers able to care for patients with cleft conditions and help make specialized treatment more available within Egypt.



Infrastructure and Equipment

The Assiut Cleft Center will serve as a cornerstone of sustainable cleft care in Egypt, expanding access to year-round treatment and multidisciplinary services. Strategic investment in the center will help more patients receive safe, comprehensive cleft care while establishing a permanent base for provider training, ensuring the local workforce is equipped to deliver these services for years to come.



Student Programs and Patient Management

Operation Smile will advance equitable access to care and support the long-term sustainability of Egypt's cleft care network through community outreach and student engagement. Patient recruitment efforts, including advertising, social services, a dedicated hotline and digital campaigns, will help identify patients earlier and connect them to treatment regardless of where they live. Student club activities in Assiut and Cairo will cultivate future health advocates and community leaders who can raise awareness, reduce barriers to care and support healthier communities.



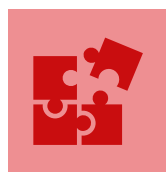
FIVE-YEAR VISION

Medical education will focus on competency-based training, mentorship and professional development to build the expertise local clinical teams need to deliver high-quality cleft care independently. The cleft care diploma will remain central to this work, developing multidisciplinary providers who can both deliver care and share their expertise with others.

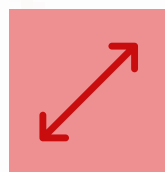
Investments in hospital readiness will lay the foundation for a more sustainable future for cleft care, ensuring patients can access high-quality services through well-equipped, locally led centers of excellence. These improvements will support the long-term availability of both surgical and comprehensive care while strengthening the health system's ability to serve future generations of patients. Operation Smile will also deepen collaboration with government agencies, academic institutions and schools, while expanding patient recruitment and community awareness efforts to help more people with cleft conditions find and access care.



Train



Strengthen



Expand



Brighter
Futures





OUR PARTNERS



Operation Smile believes that anything is possible through trust and partnerships.



Operation Smile works closely with the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide medical care for patients from other countries as part of our Transcending Borders initiative. This partnership has allowed us to transform the lives of patients from Libya and other neighboring countries.



We partner with leading academic institutions in Egypt, including Assiut University, Sphinx University, Cairo University and Aswan University. Operation Smile will expand its educational partnerships by establishing a partnership with the top-ranking Al-Azhar University. Maximizing our long-standing relationships with university partners gives us the opportunity to address skill gaps in the health care sector and to strengthen local capacity.



Operation Smile has an established relationship with the Ministry of Health in Egypt, which allows us to work and partner with hospitals across the country.

THE PARTNERS



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