Reconstructive surgery outreach in Ghana: Greater Works Restoration Foundation (GWRF)

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Introduction

• There are 15 plastic Surgeons in Ghana serving a population of 28 million (1:2,000,000)

• The is great burden of congenital anomalies and injuries sustained from various forms of trauma

• Resulting in various degrees of incapacitation of the individuals involved
Introduction

• Dependency on family and friends

• Unproductivity of the individual – beggers on the streets

• Drop out of school due to stigmatisation

• The needs of the Ghanaian people for reconstructive surgeries are currently unmet by the lack of availability of reconstructive surgeons
Reconstructive needs of Ghana

• The few available reconstructive surgeons are located in the southern parts of Ghana

• Accra – 9
• Cape coast – 1
• Kumasi - 5

• The reconstructive service is not readily available
What is the problem with the reconstructive needs

- Lack of knowledge or unawareness of services
- No money whatsoever to seek care despite the need
HOW DOES GREATER WORKS RESTORATION FOUNDATION (GWRF) COME IN?

• An NGO that makes the highly specialized care of reconstructive surgery readily available to all regions of Ghana through it’s outreach programme.
How do we do it

Provide comprehensive reconstructive services at no cost to the recipient (full surgical team, reviews and follow-ups)

Build capacity of the local team for improved services
• Practical anaesthetic workshops
• Perioperative
• Surgical skills

Awareness creation via radio and public announcements
How is GWRF able to achieve this at no cost to recipient?

- Fund raising (individuals, cooperate institutions etc)

- Working with district hospital and NHIS

- We are able to operate 50-70 cases in 7 days with three working operating tables
What is our experience and impact so far

• Operated over 340 patients who will probably still be living with their deformities (2.5 years of our inception)

• We receive calls all over Ghana especially the rural areas concerning cases that could benefit from our serves

• Stories will tell of our contribution to development:
3 year old boy
Function improved; Yet more stages required
Symbol of femininity becomes a burden
A smile worth a thousand words
Inconvenience and lesson for burn care
Relief to parents and child
Ability to wear shoes ....
Lucky maybe, but a smile restored
Team work
Tiring but worth the effort..
Conclusion

• The impact of congenital and acquired deformities on development as a people cannot be over emphasized

• Some of these deformities can be corrected through reconstructive surgery to improve function and reduce dependability

• We must train more surgeons to improve the surgeon : patient ratio

• In the interim outreach services must be strengthened to bridge the gap
• Thank you

• FACEBOOK: Greater Works Restoration Foundation (like and share)
• www.gwrf-gh.org