



We recently conducted two Operation Cleft surgical camps in Bangladesh at Thakurgaon (30 patients) and Rangpur (20 patients). They were both 3-day camps where a total of 50 cleft repair surgeries were successfully completed under the expert care of our qualified plastic surgeons and their dedicated teams.

Our in country Manager revisited a number of the patients in February to take some photos and to see how they were progressing. Just a few months after surgery these children look completely different. Not only will their appearance continue to improve as the scars heal and fade but more importantly their health, speech and life opportunities are now greatly improved.

Because Bangladesh is one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world, cleft repair surgery is not covered under their overburdened healthcare system.

If we do not help them, these children will grow to adulthood with this condition untreated. They will suffer ill health and social isolation and will remain illiterate because they are not permitted to attend school.

Operation Cleft has been providing around 1,000 children a year with this life changing surgery for the past 10 years. That is more than 10,000 children's lives changed forever. The gift we give them is:

"a smile for life"

For more information, go to www.operationcleft.org.au

