




ANNUAL REPORT 2020

T H E G L O B A L S U R G E R Y
F O U N D A T I O N



Shaping a New Future in Healthcare



To our founding members,
volunteers and partners,
we sincerely thank you
for your continued support.

As we work together
to meet the surgical needs
of those who are furthest behind,
so that no one gets left behind.

The table of
Contents

5

**Message
from our
Leadership**

6

**GSF
Leadership
Team**

7

**2020 Report
Start-up
Activities**

8

**Special
Events and
Activities**

10

Education

14

Research

16

**Policy and
Planning**

17

**Infrastructure
and Equipment
Procurement**

18

**Digital
Presence**

20

**Our
Partnerships**

21

**Financial
Summary**

21

**Summary of
Plans for 2021**



Letter from the Executive Lead

Dr. Geoff Ibbotson

2020 was unprecedented in modern history. The world shut down while the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged even the most affluent countries, causing collateral damage that is as significant as the direct impact of the virus itself, resulting in further death and disability.

Worldwide, lockdowns have resulted in minimal or no access to emergency and cancer surgery. An estimated 28 million surgeries were cancelled or delayed during the 3-month lockdown period in early 2020 alone, while data for the subsequent lockdowns remains unknown.

Time will only tell how many women and infants died because they could not get a caesarian section in childbirth, how many children and young adults died or were disabled because they could not receive emergency surgery, and how many cancer patients progressed to incurable stages of disease or death due to delayed treatment.

Currently, the backlog of urgent surgery continues to overwhelm healthcare systems, creating long waitlists which will result in increased death and disability for those patients whose treatment has been delayed. This -the unseen impact of the pandemic- will have enormous consequences on communities and economies around the world.

COVID-19 has brought into clear focus the obvious: strong, resilient healthcare systems must be a top priority for countries.

It was into this new world that the Global Surgery Foundation (GSF) was launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on January 22, 2020 – just as the world's leadership was starting to realize that the pandemic was gaining momentum. Despite the significant impact of COVID-19, frontline healthcare workers and like-minded organizations from around the world rallied to join the GSF.

Throughout the past year, the GSF has communicated the important message that having a strong surgical care system will provide an effective foundation for the overall healthcare system – one that will be better prepared to cope with the strain of emergencies and pandemics. Through our activities in 2020, the GSF has become recognized as a preeminent platform for hosting events and training and has reached more than 5,000 direct beneficiaries, which reflects the power of our network of partners.

We are very thankful to our founding members, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC), and the Rali and Makentse Mampeule Foundation (RMMF), for their support through the early development of the GSF.

Indeed, the achievements in this 2020 Annual Report would not have been possible without our founding members, partners and volunteers. Now is the time to act. Advancing towards a world in which all people have access to the treatments they need will require our relentless efforts – and we count on your support.

The time is now. Let's act together.



Global Surgery Foundation Leadership Team



**Dr. Rifat
Atun**



**Dr. Geoff
Ibbotson**



**Dr. Walt
Johnson**



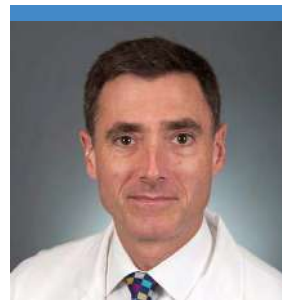
**Dr. Bhagawan
Koirala**



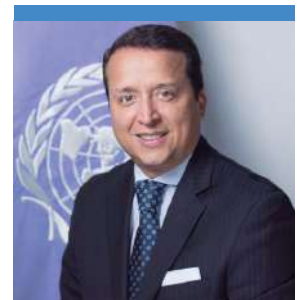
**Dr. Emmanuel
Makasa**



**Prof. Salome
Maswime**



**Dr. John
Meara**



**Mr. Alex
Mejía**



**Dr. Kee
Park**



**Dr. Lubna
Samad**

GSF ▶
Founding
Donor



**Mr. Rali
Mampeule**

2020 Report

Start-up Activities

With the GSF being officially launched in January 2020 – just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly spread around the globe – we moved quickly to adapt our activities. Some planned activities needed to be modified or postponed, whereas other activities increased as the needs presented.

Activity Summary List:

- 1) Establishment of the GSF / UNITAR platform as being the premier common stage for all global surgery stakeholders to leverage and scale-up their activities. Multiple new partners joined the effort through official Memorandums of Understanding. ([Partnerships](#))
- 2) Completion of the GSF 2020-2025 strategy along with the framework for the Global Surgery Collaborative Research Hub and Industry “Think Tank” ([GSF 2020-2025 Strategy](#))
- 3) The development of e-learning platforms in Global Surgery with partners
- 4) Webinar series with partners ([Recordings](#))
- 5) Coordination of the Nepal NSOAP Workshop (Postponed due to COVID)
- 6) Development of the COVID Self Diagnostic Online application for South Africa
- 7) Establishment and expansion of the GSF Leadership team
- 8) Launch of GSF digital presence ([Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 9) Publication of the NSOAP Manual with Harvard PGCSC along with a special launch event with a 6-part focused online series. ([Recordings](#))



Special Events and Activities



1 UN Mission briefing at the World Health Organization (Jan 13, 2020)

This event was attended by 25 UN Member States Permanent Mission health attachés with the aim for them to communicate back to their home governments information regarding the GSF. It was met with much interest and support. Mr. Nikhil Seth (UNITAR), Dr. Teri Reynolds (WHO), Dr. Geoff Ibbotson (GSF), Dr. Makubalo (SA Mission) and Mr. Miguel LaPlante (Swiss Mission) were the panel speakers ([news article](#)).

Follow-up meetings have taken place with Permanent Mission reps as a result of this briefing.

The goal is to garner Permanent Mission support from a broad base of countries and recruit appropriate countries to serve on a high-level governance council for the GSF as it develops.



2 GSF Launch at WEF in Davos (Jan 22, 2020)

The GSF official launch took place on Wednesday January 22, 2020 at the South African Hub in Davos, Switzerland as part of the events at the World Economic Forum. The event speakers included Mr. Rali Mampeule (Founding Donor), Mr. Nikhil Seth (UNITAR) and Dr. Geoff Ibbotson (GSF) and was very well attended ([news article](#)).

Additional media coverage at the WEF was conducted at the United Nations Web TV SDG Media Zone where Mr. Mampeule, Dr. Ibbotson and Dr. Lina Roa (Harvard) were interviewed regarding the launch of the GSF ([watch video](#)).



3 Nepal NSOAP Workshop (Mar 11-12, 2020) – postponed due to COVID-19

This high-level government workshop was planned and coordinated directly with the Nepal Ministry of Health and Population to initiate the planning and policy process for the country of Nepal for building up surgical capacity towards the year 2030. The attendees / beneficiaries were to be mainly MoHP staff and surgical specialists from around the country in addition to some major funders involved in Nepal. Harvard Medical School, the Nick Simons Institute, and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) are all

partnering in the process. The 2-day event was initially planned for Mar 11-12 but was postponed just a week prior to the event due to the COVID-19 situation. Depending on the request from the MoHP, we will re-schedule the workshop in 2021.



4 Online Launch Event for the NSOAP Manual publication (Sept 28, 2020)

The official manual for the National Surgery Obstetrics Anesthesia Planning was published by UNITAR in collaboration with the Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change and the GSF.

The official publication launch was conducted online with keynote addresses given by UN Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Nikhil Seth; Dr. John Meara; Dr. Salome Maswime; and Dr. Emmanuel Makasa. This publication launch was

then followed by a 6 part online educational series hosted by the GSF and UNITAR on topics directly related to the NSOAP manual. Further information on the NSOAP educational series will be covered in the Education Section.



4 Geneva Health Forum (Nov 16-18) – held virtually due to COVID-19

This international conference on global health brings approximately 1,500 attendees from around the world to discuss new and innovative approaches to meeting the global health needs. This year UNITAR and the GSF have coordinated with the leadership of the Geneva Health Forum to hold two surgical workshops, a leadership workshop, and have representation on other workshops. The Geneva Health Forum invited GSF/UNITAR to be part of the planning committee, thereby giving representation for the direction of the conference. This has raised the presence of Global Surgery and UNITAR within the Global Health community.

The GSF and UNITAR led a workshop on the subject of “Integrating Surgical Planning into National Health Strategies” with members stretching across a wide array of global health specialties and stakeholder groups.

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Geoff Ibbotson (GSF/UNITAR)
Dr. Lubna Samad (Indus Health Network, Pakistan)
Dr. Scott Corlew (Harvard PGSSC)

Members:

Dr. Emmanuel Makasa (Wits University / Zambia)
Dr. Rifat Atun (Harvard)
Dr. Hamid Ravaghi (WHO EMRO)
Dr. Faisal Kak (FIGO / Lebanon)
Dr. Teri Reynolds (WHO Hdq)
Mr. Ian Walker (J&J / Industry rep)
Dr. Che-len Reddy (Harvard)
Dr. Haitham Shoman (Harvard)

The result of this three-session workshop and discussion was a White Paper that is presently in final preparation for publication. Furthermore, there is an editorial manuscript being submitted for publication summarizing the salient points of the workshop.

Education

The GSF has partnered with multiple stakeholders to facilitate educational resources and training solutions with the goal to build capacity in surgical providers. This will include e-learning courses, trainer of trainers and face-to-face training at all levels of frontline surgical providers, government staff and policy makers. An online platform and educational repository will be built and made widely available.

1 Partner webinar sessions

The Global Surgery Foundation hosted several well-received events in 2020. Each event brought together a pool of experts in the respective field, leveraging the GSF platform. The following events were organized:

Minimally Invasive Surgery & the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak: Lessons Learned in China and Italy



Youth, Technology and Health Initiatives - Accelerating Africa's COVID-19 Response



COVID19 & Oxygenation support: Is there any solution for low resource hospitals?



How to plan for re-starting surgery post COVID-19 in LMICs



Leading Health Systems Through the COVID-19 Pandemic



Global Anesthesia Priorities in the COVID-19 Era



Watch all event recordings at:

www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/events/2020-event-recordings

2 Special NSOAP Educational online series

The official manual for the National Surgery Obstetrics Anesthesia Planning was published by UNITAR in collaboration with the Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change and the GSF. The official publication launch was conducted online with keynote addresses given by UN Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Nikhil Seth; Dr. John Meara; Dr. Salome Maswime; and Dr. Emmanuel Makasa. This publication launch was then followed by a 6-part online educational series:

- 28 September 2020**

1 The official publication launch of the NSOAP Manual
- 14 October 2020**

2 First-hand experience in developing an NSOAP
- 28 October 2020**

3 Integrating an NSOAP into National Health and Pandemic Response Strategies: Aligning the plans with high-priority government strategies
- 11 November 2020**

4 Donors' perspective on funding the implementation of NSOAPs: What strategies do the funding agencies feel necessary to fund large-scale surgical healthcare programs
- 25 November 2020**

5 Ministries of Health perspective on NSOAPs: Streamlining NSOAPs for rapid adoption and diffusion
- 9 December 2020**

6 The role of NGOs, academic institutions, professional associations, and other non-state actors in supporting the NSOAP process
- 13 January 2020**

7 Adopting a pragmatic lens: Five simple steps for every health managers to improve facility efficiency on Monday morning

The full narrative report is available upon request.

Watch all recordings at:

<https://www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/events/nsoap-series>

The series was organized on the Zoom platform with a parallel livestream on UNITAR's Facebook page. The recordings are available on the [GSF website](#).

 **3,129 TOTAL BENEFICIARIES**

The series reached 3,129 total beneficiaries via Zoom, Facebook live, and YouTube recordings.

4.4 

The series was rated 4.4 out of 5 stars in a participant survey.

 **102 COUNTRIES FROM ALL REGIONS**

Participants represented 102 countries from all regions. Equal representation between HICs and LMICs was achieved (50.3% to 49.7%).



 **768 NSOAP MANUAL DOWNLOADS PER PROFESSION**

The NSOAP Manual was downloaded 768 times by professionals representing 102 countries.

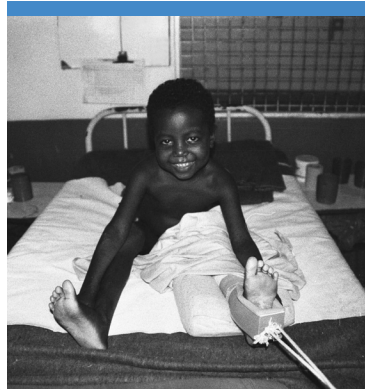
Profession	Count	Percentage
Surgeon	271	28%
Academia	201	21%
Anesthetist	115	12%
Government	84	9%
Hospital Admin.	43	5%
Obstetrician	24	3%
United Nations	17	2%
Other	199	21%

3 Future education-focussed projects for 2021



On-line course (MOOC) on Global Surgery Leadership

In collaboration with University of Cape Town and Harvard Medical School Program in Global Surgery and Social Change.



On-line interactive course on Paediatric Trauma Care

In collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



On-line learning platform in support of Value Based Health Care in Cancer Treatment

In collaboration with multiple partners and expected initiation in Q3 2021.



Research

Research, monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure that the efforts being expended on increasing capacity in surgical care are accomplished in the most effective and economical ways. The GSF will establish initiatives focussed on fostering multi-dimensional research across surgical fields such as obstetrics, pediatrics, trauma, treatment of cancers and other NCDs.

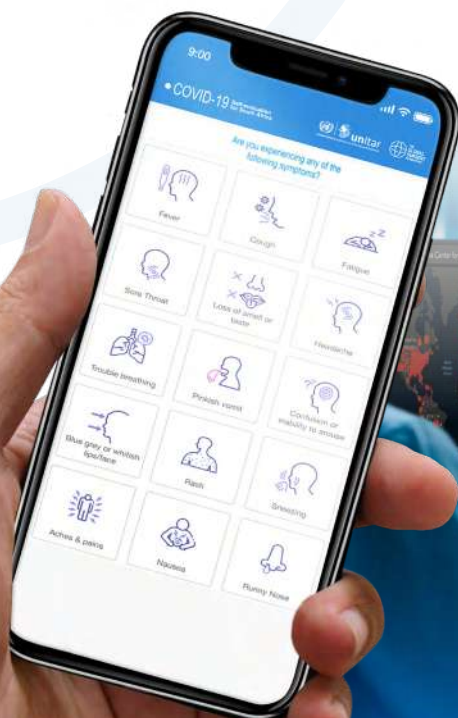
1 The UNITAR COVID-19 self-diagnostic tool and tracking app

A request was brought to the GSF from South Africa asking for assistance for dealing with the COVID-19 situation there. After evaluation, it was decided to explore the opportunity to develop an online tool for helping governments track symptomatic patients so that they can self-report and also receive instructions from the government health agencies.

The collated data is analyzed and the tool can then alert the governments to potential “hotspot” areas wherein patients are symptomatic. This will allow health agencies to target their limited resources more effectively.

A phase I pilot project went live in the last week of April and a phase II, more complex version of the tool is being developed and ready to launch while awaiting appropriate funding. The tool has a powerful health resource tracking and analysis component that can be used for any health sector or disease.

A specific briefing is available upon request.



2 Future research-focused projects for 2021

a. Establishment of the Collaborative Research Hub (CRH) with key funding partners

The GSF is in the process of establishing a Global Surgery Collaborative Research Hub (CRH) based in Geneva, Switzerland with the purpose to facilitate cutting edge research in surgical care delivery science. The intent will be to serve as a common platform for all interested researchers to build upon the valuable work done by the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS). This will foster multi-dimensional research across surgical fields such as obstetrics, pediatrics, trauma, treatment of cancers and other NCDs.

In an effort to support front-line surgical research, the CRH will focus on facilitating the research to be conducted by local surgeons in their home countries, while giving the opportunity for short visits and courses in partner academic institutions and within the International Geneva global health ecosystem.

Expected launch will be Q2 of 2021.

b. Establishment of CRH Fellows scholarship program

Over the past year, 3 Fellows from the Harvard PGSSC have rotated through the GSF/UNITAR team on 3-month rotations. As this rotation becomes more established in the era of virtual working, the expected outcomes will be scientific publications on key global surgery topics of the rotating Fellows' choice.

Expected initiation will be Q3 2021.

c. Upcoming Publications

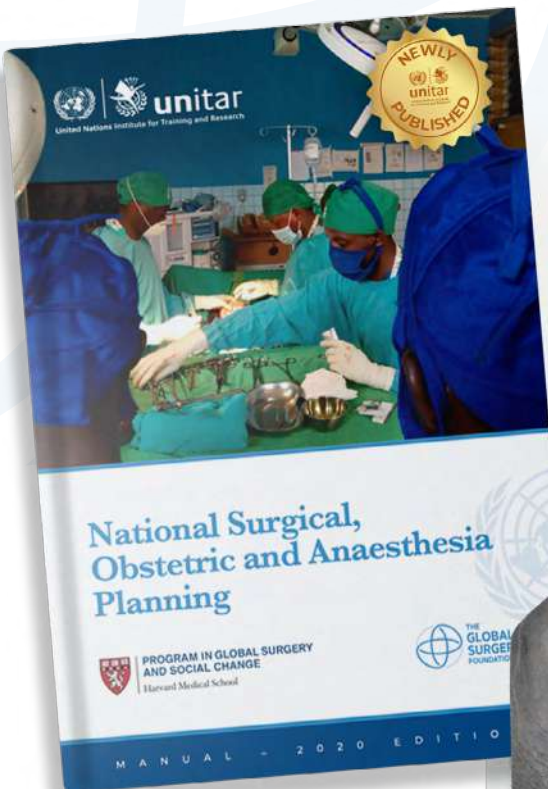
- i. Proceedings of the World Health Summit session
- ii. Proceedings of the NSOAP Manual online series (7 publications)
- iii. Geneva Health Forum Workshop White Paper: **Integrating NSOAPs into National Health Strategies**
- iv. Editorial on GHF White Paper
- v. Editorial/Opinion publication on **Innovative Financing in Global Surgery**
- vi. Editorial/Opinion publication on **Investment Funding and the Private Sector in Global Surgery**
- vii. Descriptive publication entitled, "Overcoming barriers to accessing surgery and rehabilitation in low and middle-income countries: an innovative model of patient navigation in Nepal". Accepted by World Journal of Surgery

Policy and Planning

The GSF is establishing a common platform to assist countries in the development of policies and planning for surgical care systems, including the NSOAP process. These plans are intended to be integrated into a country's National Health Strategy. This common platform will engage multiple stakeholders to further develop the NSOAP process, including leading academic institutions; the World Health Organization; UN Member State Ministries of Health; funding agencies; industry; foundations; philanthropy and NGOs.

1 The NSOAP Manual

In 2020, the GSF in collaboration with UNITAR and the Harvard Medical School Program in Global Surgery and Social Change published the first edition of the NSOAP Manual. This Manual was followed by a 6 event, online series highlighting the important aspects of the Manual and how to leverage this work to improve access to surgical care systems.



The NSOAP Manual was downloaded 768 times by professionals from 102 countries (as of February 2021).



2 Future policy and planning focused projects for 2021

a. Establishment of the GSF Industry Think Tank

Within the research pillar, the GSF will also host an Industry Think Tank on shaping resilient healthcare systems in LMICs. This initiative will bring industry leaders together in an action partnership to make an impact on the frontlines.

Expected initiation will be Q3 2021.

Infrastructure and Equipment Procurement

The GSF will establish support mechanisms to assist governments, frontline surgical providers and NGOs in procurement of equipment and establishment of infrastructure to ensure upscaling surgical capacity. The goal will be to keep this process technologically appropriate for the context for each surgical system.

1 Development of a Digital Marketplace

The GSF is in the process of finalizing the plans to launch a Digital Marketplace for all stakeholders to use in accessing their equipment and supply needs. This digital marketplace will leverage state-of-the-art blockchain technology for data collection, while increasing transparency and accountability. An additional advantage will be the significant cost savings as the digital marketplace will be able to leverage a centralized purchasing of items and thereby reducing the costs as the volume increases.



Digital presence

1 GSF website

The GSF website (www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org) was officially presented during GSF Launch at WEF in Davos (Jan 22, 2020). Since then, the website has continually increased its reach.



2 GSF social media

The GSF launched its social media presence on 6 November 2020 on four major platforms:



Twitter
www.twitter.com/surgfoundation



Facebook
www.facebook.com/surgfoundation



Instagram
www.instagram.com/surgfoundation



LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/company/surgfoundation

Three campaigns were launched:

1

#GlobalSurgery is #GlobalHealth - Mondays

This campaign makes the case for why GSF is needed in a provocative manner by sharing “reasons why” global surgery is global health.

2

#NSOAP - Wednesdays

This campaign aims to build awareness of the newly published NSOAP Manual and leverages the visibility created by the NSOAP Series.

3

Let’s Act Together (General posts) – Fridays

In a collaborative spirit, this campaign sheds light about the GSF organization by sharing recent, upcoming an past developments, specific segments of the website, new partnerships, etc.

In addition, GSF posted in support of themed days, such as the official launch of the WHO Global Strategy to Eliminate Cervical Cancer, the International Day of People with Disabilities – highlighting the linkages between these causes and global surgery.

In two months following the launch of the GSF social media presence (@surgfoundation), it has been successfully established as one of the leading voices in the global surgery sphere.

Detailed information about website and social media outreach is available upon request.

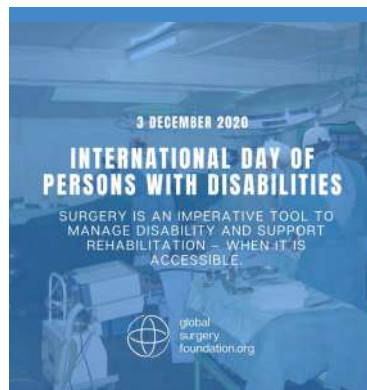
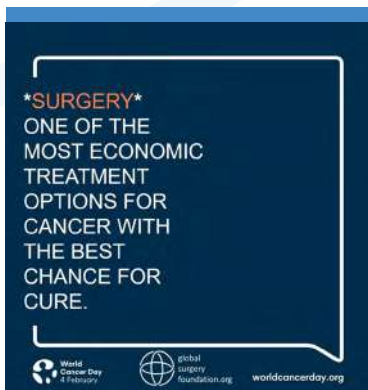


Figure X: Sample of GSF social media posts. Top: weekly campaigns. Bottom: themed days.

Our Partnerships

Over the course of 2020, we continuously built our strong network of partners globally. We are very thankful to each of them for their continued support towards the vision of the GSF.

Host institution



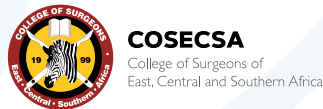
Founding donor



Universities



Colleges and associations



Other partner organizations





info@globalsurgeryfoundation.org



www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org