



# Global Initiative for Children's Surgery



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The global initiative for children's surgery started operating in 2016 with the aim for providing safe and effective surgical care for every child, regardless of ethnicity and race, nationality and country or residence. Their objective is to understand what resources are needed to provide the most optimal surgical care and provide these to regions that might be lacking them. To do this, they have many partners around the world that work in different fields, to holistically approach surgical care and improve it from all points of views. They focus on infrastrutures, service delivery, training and research.

## Their vision and mission

The global initiative for children's surgery dreams of a future where all children are able to access surgical care, with a particular focus on children coming from low and middle income countries (LMICs). They aim to reduce the inequalities with surgical care and access to surgical procedures in LMICs as historically, little has been done to standardise the surgical care world-wide. They are particularly conscious that lack of medical and surgical care does not only affects patients, but also has an effect on family stability and happiness as well as family income. As the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery suggests, 5 billion patients in the world find themselves without safe and affordable access to surgical and/or anaesthetic care and 143 million more procedures are needed in LMICs. They estimate that \$350 billion need to be invested to solve the problem and meet the global health and development goals.

## The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery: By the Numbers



**5 billion**

World's population without access to safe and affordable surgical care and anesthesia



**\$21 trillion**

Estimated loss in global productivity between 2015 and 2030 without 'urgent and accelerated investment' in surgery



**143 million**

Additional surgical procedures needed in low- and middle-income countries each year



**\$350 billion**

Estimated global investment needed by 2030 to reach the commission's goals

## Who are they?

They are a team made up of institutions, allies and providers that come from all over the world and include people from high income as well as lower income countries. They are experts in all type of children's surgery and subspecialties as, included but not limited to, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, orthopedics, anesthesia, intensive care, radiology, pathology, laboratory medicine, pediatrics, nursing and physical and occupational therapy. Alongside this, they focus on paediatric surgery as well.

## What is their approach?

The global initiative for children's surgery takes into consideration as most important the needs and insights of healthcare professionals in LMICs around the world, ensuring that their needs are met and letting them guide the direction of the project. Alongside them, the global initiative for children's surgery consults health, advocacy and policy experts and well as implementers of surgical services for children.

By doing so, they are able to analyse and understand the state of children's surgical care around the world and put in place global, regional, national and local guidelines to identify "priorities" and improve the delivery of surgical care. They bring together the resources they write, in order to create recommendations that can be implemented wherever and whenever, to make things better for young patients worldwide.



## How can you get involved?

- Sign up for their newsletter.
- Check out their COVID-19 resources.
- Check out the resources for students and trainees as well as their fellowship and funding opportunities.
- Become a member or donate to their initiative!

## Check out these links:

- <https://www.globalchildrensurgery.org/what-we-are-doing-global-childrens-health/-for-partnerships>
- <https://www.globalchildrensurgery.org/publications/-for-publications>
- <https://www.globalchildrensurgery.org/awards-and-publications/-for-presentations>



## Sources

- <https://www.baps.org.uk/news/announcements/global-initiative-for-childrens-surgery-gics-inaugural-meeting-report/>
- <https://www.globalchildrensurgery.org>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00268-018-04887-8>

