



#EmpowerGirlsNow

JESSICA HANSEN

Executive Director
Alliance for Smiles





Alliance
FOR Smiles

Changing
lives,
one smile
at a time





OUR MISSION
To forever improve
the lives of children
and communities
impacted by cleft
lip & palate by
providing free
comprehensive
treatment, while
building local capacity
for long-term care.





One in 700 babies around the world is born with a cleft lip or palate.

In many countries, surgery is unattainable or unaffordable.

In some regions, 1 in 10 are killed their infancy; those who survive face many challenges.





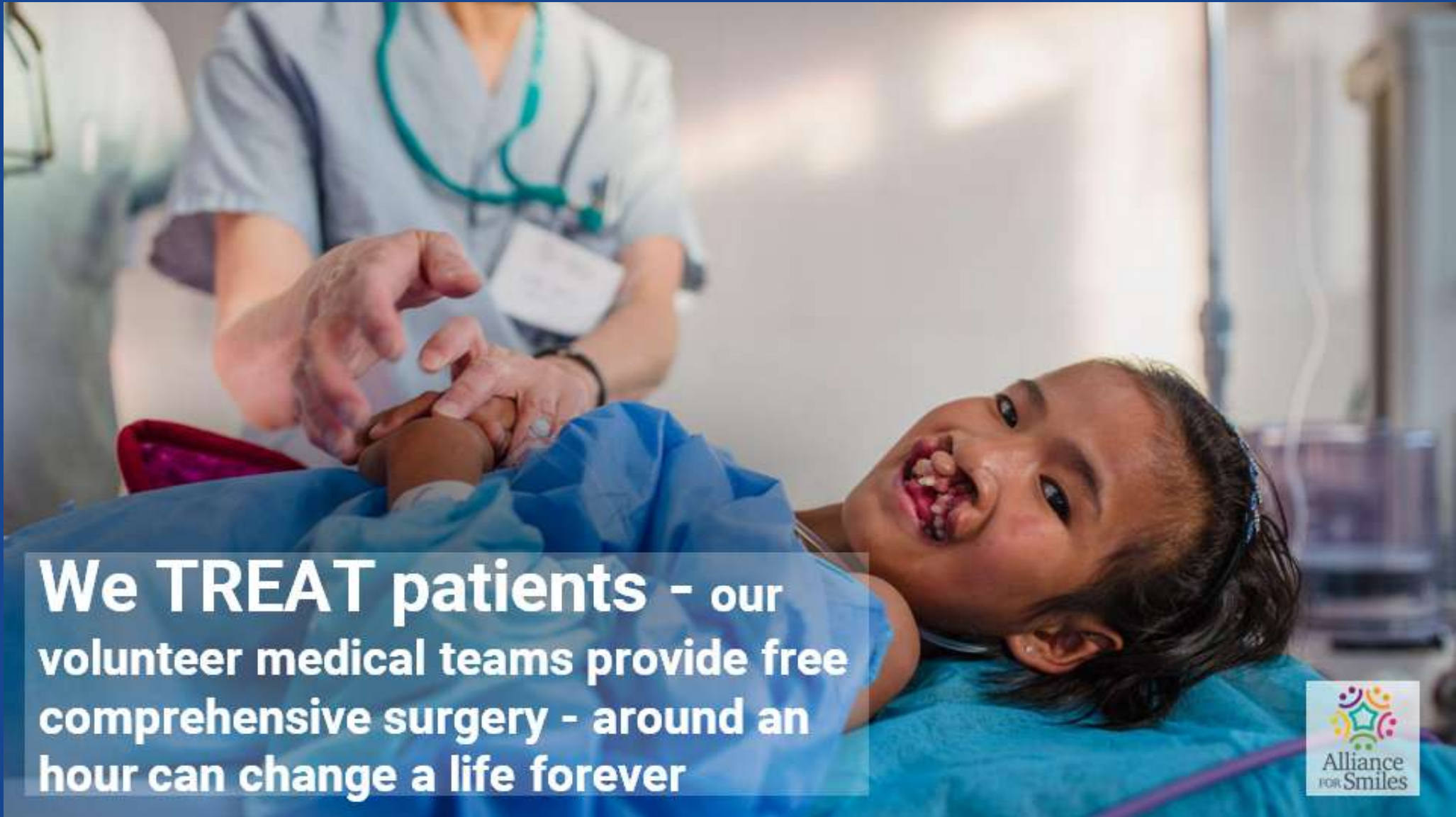
Girls with cleft conditions face manifold challenges:

- Difficulty breastfeeding; malnourishment
- Ear infections & hearing loss
- Respiratory, dental & speech problems
- Social, emotional, & behavioral issues
- Bullying, abuse, abandonment, & isolation



What AfS does





**We TREAT patients - our
volunteer medical teams provide free
comprehensive surgery - around an
hour can change a life forever**







**We TRANSFORM
lives & communities**
by establishing permanent
local Treatment Centers to
provide long term
comprehensive care





According to the UN, empowering girls includes increasing:

- Their sense of self-worth
- Their right to have and to determine choices
- Their right to have access to opportunities and resources
- Their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home
- Their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally





The gift of becoming an "ordinary girl"





The “ordinary girl” now



“...every girl has the right to go to school, stay safe from violence, access health services, and fully participate in her community”





“ ...every additional year of school increases a girls’ eventual wages by an average of 12% – earnings she invests back into her family.

Empowered, educated girls have healthier, better educated children and higher wages – helping to break the cycle of poverty.”



Empowering girls & women is core to AfS:

- Patients & mothers
- Local nursing & surgical students
- International Fellows
- Medical volunteers
- Mission Directors
- Staff
- Leadership





Alliance for Smiles has provided around 9,000 life-changing surgeries & transformed countless other lives through training & equipping local medical teams thanks to the support of people like you.



THANK YOU

