

These babies need our help.

And we need your help to enable us to provide the surgery that they and many thousands like them need.

This is not cosmetic surgery. It's not just about the way they look. The impact on the life of a child born with a cleft lip and palate in Bangladesh can be devastating and will effect the whole family.

Can you begin to imagine your baby going through life with this type of facial deformity. It would never happen in Australia. But it does happen all the time in Bangladesh.

These children are from very poor families and the surgery they need is not covered under their country's public health system. Many live in poverty with parents that barely earn enough regular income to feed their family. They simply cannot afford to pay for the operation.

Children with an untreated cleft rarely attend school because, largely due to ignorance and superstition, they are teased and ostracised by a school system that is not equipped to handle children with special needs.

Without an education, the children will remain illiterate so options for meaningful employment as they mature are very limited. This perpetuates the poverty cycle into which they were born.

Early intervention is the key. If these babies have the surgery they need before their speech patterns form, they have a much better chance of learning to speak normally.

They will also be spared many years of chronic ear nose and throat infections not to mention the teasing and social isolation that most of them would have been subjected to.

By providing this service, we are truly giving these children a much improved outlook and hope for the future.

Our aim is to give them the best chance possible of becoming contributing members of their family and society. Improved looks, health and educational opportunities are just a few of the many benefits that this surgery will bring.

Please help us give them hope for the future



Every face tells a story

Many young families in Bangladesh live on the poverty line and are just like Farzana's parents pictured left. They lead very simple village lives where everything revolves around the extended family group. When their daughter was born with a cleft lip and palate, they were devastated. They were very upset and distressed over her condition and knowing they could never afford to pay for the surgery their child needed, they worried about what sort of life she would have.

Babies born with this condition are often sickly and malnourished due to feeding problems. As they grow older, if

the cleft is not repaired, they suffer both physically and emotionally. Frequently both children and parents are ostracised by their communities and many family units break down due to the stress and peer pressure.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to help Farzana's family by providing the lip and palate repair that their precious daughter needed. Now, a few years later Farzana is unrecognisable. This beautiful, bright and bubbly little girl has barely a visible scar thanks to the exceptional skills of our surgical team.



The relief and joy that Operation Cleft has brought to this family is priceless.

How can you help

Give underprivileged children in Bangladesh a smile of their very own; one that they can keep forever and share generously with others.

- ◆ **Donations** may be made by completing the form on the back page or via our website using [PayPal](#). If you prefer to use **EFT** (electronic funds transfer), email info@operationcleft.org.au for bank account details.
- ◆ **Rotary, Rotaract, Interact Clubs** - as part of your commitment to international service, consider making a club contribution to Operation Cleft. \$300 = 1 smile - \$3,000 = 10 children's lives changed forever.
- ◆ **Businesses** - Make a donation and/or encourage your staff to give a donation and **match their contribution**. All donations of \$2.00 or more are fully tax deductible in Australia.
- ◆ **District Governors** - Suggest your spouse nominate Operation Cleft as their project of choice; **nominate an Ambassador** in your district and circulate the Operation Cleft **e news** to all clubs in your district.
- ◆ **Accountants/Solicitors** - Suggest Operation Cleft to your clients as a worthy and reputable charity who have DGR (item 2) status.
- ◆ **Private Family Foundations (DGR item 1)** can contribute to Operation Cleft via the RAWCS website at www.rawcs.com.au - project #64/2007-08



\$300 will give a child a "smile for life"



No-one
 can do
 everything
 but everyone
 can do
 something



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 underprivileged
 child in
 Bangladesh a
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(All figures quoted in Australian dollars).

To make a donation, complete the form below

For more details go to www.operationcleft.org.au

I/we would like to make a donation *monthly *quarterly *Please tick your preferred donation method

** If ticked, the amount indicated below will be charged to your credit card each month or quarter until you terminate the request.*

Credit card donations may also be made via PayPal, (our secure online payment facility) - visit www.operationcleft.org.au

\$300 for cleft repair surgery for one child *or* \$..... for operations

I would like to make a donation of \$

My cheque is enclosed (*Cheques should be made payable to Operation Cleft*)

Please charge my credit card - MasterCard Visa
Please print name above (as it appears on your credit card)

Number on card _ _ _ _ _ Expiry date ____ / ____

Signature of cardholder

Name
First name Last name Please print the name of your club, business, school or group if applicable

Address State P/code

Telephone H: .../..... B: .../..... Mob: Email:.....

♦ *I would like a certificate in the name of*

Please send this completed form with your donation to: **Operation Cleft, PO Box 631, Box Hill Vic. 3128**

For further information - Tel: 0414 246 851 Email: info@operationcleft.org.au Web: www.operationcleft.org.au

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible in Australia