



Global Smile Foundation

ECUADOR MARCH 2023



In March 2023, the team of expert volunteers from **Global Smile Foundation** (GSF) spent 2 weeks in Guayaquil, Ecuador for the first of two outreach cleft programs in the country this year. GSF's programs take place at Hospital León Becerra, a nonprofit children's hospital in Guayaquil that serves a low-income population.

At the beginning of this program, our team evaluated more than 270 patients for surgical readiness. Ultimately, our team performed 192 surgical procedures for 70 patients. Some patients who did not undergo surgery this time are scheduled to receive care during on the next trip in September 2023.

GSF provides **integrated and long-term** cleft care. Our volunteer teams include professionals from the range of cleft care specialties, such as surgery, anesthesiology, nursing, pediatrics, speech pathology, dentistry, orthodontics, and psychology.

The March team included 60 international cleft and pediatric specialists, as well as 64 Ecuadorian healthcare providers and volunteers from GSF's in-country organization, Fundación Global Smile-Ecuador.

GSF also provides education and training for in-country providers during outreach programs to build sustainable capacity for cleft care in Ecuador. In March, our team members lead sessions on **Sedation and General Anesthesia in Pediatric Dentistry** and **NasoAlveolar Molding (NAM)**.





Ovidio's healthy smile from 2018 to 2023

OVIDIO'S STORY

In 2018, the GSF team met **Ovidio** (above). Like many infants with cleft, he was underweight. Cleft lip or palate can prevent an infant from feeding properly, increasing the risk of malnourishment. Donations from GSF supporters provide special bottles and enriched formula so that GSF patients can grow and thrive.

After six months, Ovidio returned for cleft lip surgery and, a year later, he came back for cleft palate surgery. Our team sees Ovidio and his family every year for evaluation and dental care. He graduated from Kindergarten this spring and we expect to begin speech therapy soon.

YOUR IMPACT FOR PATIENTS & FAMILIES

Your gift to GSF empowers our volunteers to provide individualized cleft care for every patient onsite during our outreach programs.

Not only does cleft increase the risk of poor health for patients, but their families have a greater risk of **poverty and food insecurity**. Due to bullying and discrimination, parents often keep children with cleft at home. This means that children are unable to attend school and parents are unable to work.

By joining GSF in making cleft care possible, **you have helped change so many lives!** On behalf of our patients and their families, thank you.

Cleft Care March 2023

270	Patients screened
223	Antigen/COVID tests performed
192	Surgical procedures for 70 patients
168	Psychosocial interventions
39	Nutrition/feeding consultataions
43	Speech & language sessions
149	Dental procedures for 78 patients

