

## Increasing Need for SIGN Surgery

On the crowded streets of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, traffic is made up of large trucks, cars, motorbikes, pedestrians, and more. When vehicles of widely different sizes and weights occupy the same space, traffic accidents often lead to severe injuries. This is especially the case for motorbike users, who account for over three-fourths of all fatalities and 80% of all reported road accidents in Cambodia, according to the United Nations Development Program. Cambodia, like many low- and-middle income countries, has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of road traffic injuries, far outpacing the capacity of local healthcare systems.

Vannary, 17, was riding a motorbike when he was struck by a truck and knocked to the ground. He was left with a broken leg and broken arm on his left side. He was taken to the closest hospital, which fortunately had a SIGN Program in place.

SIGN Surgeons Dr. Chheur Heng Naroth and Dr. Huot Vutha examined Vannary's injuries and determined that a SIGN Nail was the best treatment for his fractured femur. Because the nail was donated by a SIGN Supporter like you, Vannary and his family were able to afford the surgery he needed.

After a week-long stay in the hospital, including a separate procedure to treat his arm injury, Vannary returned home. Six weeks after SIGN Surgery, Vannary can walk and perform normal tasks again. He is well on the road to a full recovery, and this injury will not limit his future.



**SIGN Surgery that helped Vannary heal after a fractured femur is available at 17 hospitals in Cambodia.**



# SIGN Responds to Global Needs

By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD

SIGN is a network of surgeons all around the globe. Every day we hear from them about their successes and challenges. It is a great reminder how we are connected and working toward the common goal of creating equality of fracture care.

In the past few weeks, we have been concentrating on Ukraine, which we feel is time well spent. Doctors from around the world are working together to identify hospitals in Ukraine that can use SIGN Implants and coordinate shipping in a timely and secure manner. Other organizations, including Orthopaedic Trauma Association and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, have come alongside us to provide external fixators and other devices for surgeons treating patients injured in the conflict.

We are proud of this work, but it is not the only place in the world that

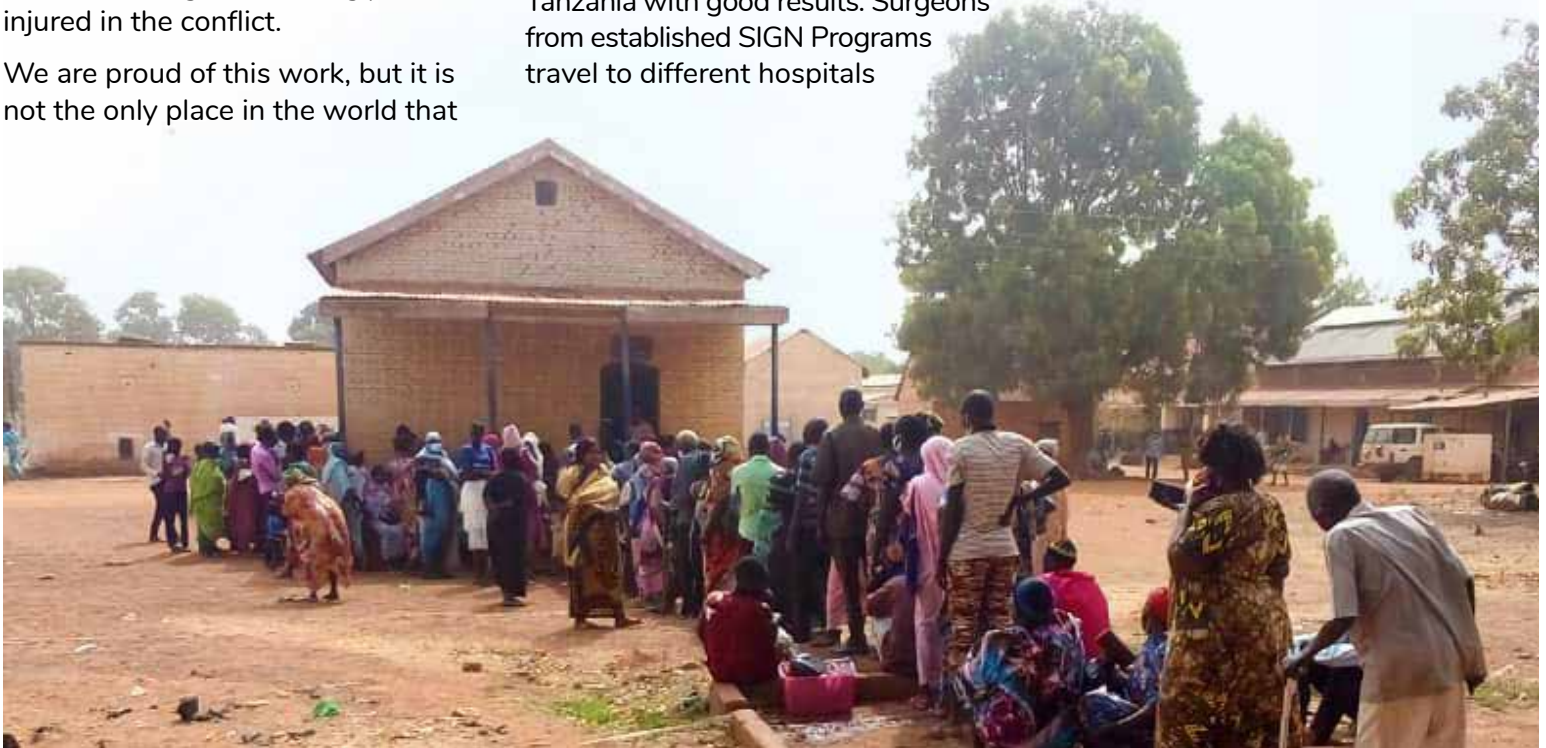
is facing conflict or needs our attention. Conflicts, natural disasters, and the everyday trauma of traffic accidents leave people injured and in danger of lifelong disability. These injured people are filling up hospital wards waiting for the right treatment to stabilize their fractured arms and legs.

Long lines of people waiting for treatment are a common sight in developing countries. As you can see here in South Sudan, dozens of people wait to be seen at a free clinic. SIGN Surgeon Mapuor Mading traveled to Wau with a Traveling SIGN Set to care for patients and train a surgeon there.

The Traveling SIGN Sets have also been used in Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Tanzania with good results. Surgeons from established SIGN Programs travel to different hospitals

after they hear there is surgery that needs to be done. This gives them a chance to evaluate the surgeons in the hospital and if there is enough need, we can start a SIGN Program there. The leaders of the Traveling SIGN Teams are often senior orthopaedic surgeons, and they serve as mentors for the staff in these new programs.

SIGN Surgeons are constantly innovating, and we amplify techniques that are effective. This raises the level of orthopaedic care throughout the world and helps SIGN Surgeons feel more vested in SIGN. We are a worldwide organization, and everyone has a role to play.



## BBB Wise Giving Alliance Accreditation

By meeting key standards of board oversight, finances, results reporting and fundraising appeals, SIGN Fracture Care achieved renewed accreditation by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. This accreditation signifies that SIGN is deserving of donor trust as we are a well-run nonprofit organization.

We strive to be good stewards of your donations to SIGN in order to effectively and efficiently support surgeons in low- and middle-income countries. We are grateful for this recognition from the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, which shows that we are meeting their 20 standards and our promises to you.



[give.org](https://give.org)



# Bringing SIGN Surgery to Patients

Dr. Mapuor Mading operates at Juba Teaching Hospital in Juba, the capital city of South Sudan. Until last year, that was the only hospital in the country able to perform SIGN Surgery. Dr. Mapuor also has a Traveling SIGN Set, so that he can travel to hospitals in need around the country and work with the local doctors to treat patients with fractures. Recently, he traveled about 400 miles northwest and spent a week performing surgeries at Wau Teaching Hospital.

One of the hundreds of patients he treated is Teresa, a 66-year-old woman who had been bed-ridden for more than a year. She was walking along the road when a motorcycle crashed into her and left her with a fractured right femur. The local hospital did not have implants to treat her fracture, and she could not afford to travel over 12 hours by bus to Juba for care.

"I was heartbroken," she recalls. "I cried every day because I couldn't walk. I become disabled and a burden to my children."

Teresa's leg remained in a nonunion, which means the broken femur fragments did not heal together. She could not stand or move her leg without the fragments swinging apart.

When Teresa heard a radio announcement that a surgeon from Juba was coming to Wau to do operations for people with broken bones, her joy returned. Dr. Mapuor examined Teresa and determined that a SIGN Nail was the best treatment for her injury. After successful surgery, she was able to stand the next day—for the first time in more than one year. Five days later, she was able to return home.

"Now my leg is strong. I am standing on it," Teresa says. "Thank you very much for helping me and helping others like me. God bless you."

**You can help people like Teresa regain the ability to walk and provide for themselves and their families by donating with the enclosed form or visiting [signfracturecare.org/donate](http://signfracturecare.org/donate)**

**People fill the waiting areas and line up outside to receive care from visiting doctors.**



**SIGN Patient Teresa**



**Dr. Mapuor (in green) brought a Traveling SIGN Set to care for patients with fractures in Wau, South Sudan.**





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# How You've Helped This Year...

As of Mar. 2022

**6,555**

**Patients Healed**

**2 SIGN**

**Programs Started**

**144 Hospitals**

received implants

**43 Countries**

have been sent shipments

**4 SIGN Trauma**

**Session Webinars**

## Contact SIGN

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Meets all 20  
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# DOUBLE your donation!



# SIGN

## 2-day

*give*

# BIGGER

# May 3 & 4

*your donation will be matched*

*when you give at*

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*The first \$50,000 donated  
May 3 & 4, 2022, will be matched.*

