

Young Man's Mobility Restored

By Ryan Smith, SIGN Communication Specialist

Mollalign's story is a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact of SIGN's work.

SIGN Surgeons do more than repair a fractured bone.

Traffic accidents are a growing epidemic. They are the leading cause of injuries treated by SIGN Surgeons. In 2022, 73% of patient cases entered in the SIGN Surgical Database listed road traffic accidents as the cause of injury.

One of those patients is Mollalign, a 16-year-old from Ethiopia. He was in a traffic accident that left him with a fractured left femur. He could not walk or move without experiencing severe pain. Fortunately, he was referred to Dessie Referral Hospital, which has a SIGN Program.

After two days of care for wounds and infection control, SIGN Surgeons used a SIGN Nail to stabilize Mollalign's fractured bone. His family was able to afford the care he needed because the SIGN Nail was donated and provided to him at no charge.

With his fractured femur stabilized, Mollalign was able to take his first steps with crutches the day after surgery. He slowly gained mobility and was discharged from the hospital a week later.

After 51 days of recovery, Mollalign returned for a check-up. His x-rays showed that his femur healed in the proper alignment. He was able to walk, move freely, and perform the SIGN Squat and Smile without experiencing any pain or discomfort.

Mollalign's story is a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact of SIGN's work. SIGN Surgeons do more than repair a fractured bone. They restore their patient's ability to walk, work, and go to school. Thanks to their dedication to providing world-class medical care to people in need, Mollalign was able to overcome a devastating injury and reclaim his independence and quality of life.

You can help equip SIGN Surgeons to care for the next person in need when you donate today. Use the included form or go to signfracturecare.org/donate.



Mollalign is back on his feet and has regained full function after SIGN Surgery.

A SIGN of Civilization

By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD, President and Founder

Anthropologist Margaret Mead was once asked about the first sign of civilization and culture. She answered that evidence of a healed femur in human remains was the first indication. If you broke your leg, you would not be able to hunt, gather food, or run from danger. In order for a person with a broken leg to heal, someone would need to protect and provide for them — the first sign of civilization. This is the care that SIGN Surgeons provide for their patients.

In more recent times, World Bank studies show that when a family's breadwinner is disabled, the family can spiral into poverty for up to three generations. Many SIGN Patients injured in traffic accidents on the way to work are at risk of falling into this dilemma.

People in low- and middle-income countries frequently travel by motor-

cycle. Unfortunately, motorcycle accidents are numerous and cause many fractures. In addition, conflicts seem to be breaking out all over the world. Many people in conflict zones suffer fractures from gunshot injuries.

Imagine yourself having a fractured femur in a low-income country. When you are living on the edge of poverty, you have no real choice in your treatment. Because people cannot afford surgery or hospital care, they often turn to traditional bone setters, who are not equipped to deal with severe long bone fractures.

SIGN is working for people in this situation by providing education to surgeons and donating implants to treat the fractures. This proven system has helped more than 400,000 patients. SIGN Surgeons continue to show their skill in the operating room and managing patients. They report

their surgeries to the SIGN Surgical Database, and follow-up x-rays are reported to give us a true picture of the success of the surgery.

I have great respect for SIGN Surgeons, many of whom risk their lives to go out and treat patients in conflict areas. They are also eager to learn, and we learn from each other as we observe x-rays of initial surgery and follow-up.

I have great respect as well for the SIGN Staff who manufacture and ship the implants, oversee the process as we develop new products, and raise money for this growing endeavor.

Thank you for being part of this collective effort to provide healing care for injured people. By working together and empowering local surgeons to heal people with broken bones, we are demonstrating a SIGN of civilization, and even creating peace.

Imagine yourself having a fractured femur in a low-income country. When you are living on the edge of poverty, you have no real choice in your treatment.



UN Global Road Safety Week Spotlights Ongoing Needs

By Eric Sargent, SIGN Grant Coordinator



This May 15-21, SIGN joins an international coalition including government, corporate, and humanitarian organizations in observing, “UN Global Road Safety Week”. When you support SIGN, you are helping to bring equitable treatment to people injured in road traffic accidents and promoting the sustainable growth of low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).

Increasing Traffic

Access to motorized transportation is rapidly increasing in LMIC. For many people, access to improved mobility has brought access to employment and education, which has led to reduced economic inequities.

However, this progress comes at a price. The United Nations estimates over 1.3 million people are killed and 20-50 million people are injured in road traffic accidents every year, with over 90% of fatalities occurring in LMIC. Not only do these accidents impact individuals and their communities, but they “are now among the most serious threats for countries’ sustainable development”, contributing to a GDP loss as high as 3% each year.

Unmet Needs

The UN Road Safety Plan recognizes there are many unmet needs for post-crash responses in under-resourced communities.

A major issue is a lack of comprehensive data on trauma injuries throughout LMIC health systems. This accounts, in part, for the wide variance in annual global injury estimates, and the data deficit means researchers and policy makers struggle to track progress on safety measures. Many injuries are underreported, as victims either can’t afford or can’t access emergency medical care when they need it most.

How SIGN Helps

The UN notes building health systems capacity will require, “regional collaboration between multinational and private sector donors operating in LMIC”, to reduce the negative impact of road traffic accident injuries. Their recommendations to strengthen medical care directly align with the SIGN Model as demonstrated by our partnership with over 7,000 SIGN Surgeons working in 57 countries towards these very goals.

UN Recommendation

Build capacity of pre-hospital, hospital, and rehabilitation care/services, and establish a basic package of emergency care services for each level of the health system.

Ensure 24-hour access to operative and critical care services that are staffed and equipped — regardless of patient’s ability to pay.

Establish trauma registries in health-care facilities to gather information on the cause of injury and clinical interventions.

Provide recovery and rehabilitation services to prevent permanent disability.



SIGN Model in Action

SIGN Education improves orthopaedic trauma care at more than 400 medical centers and continues to grow through the sustainable model of SIGN Surgeons providing peer support at the local level.

SIGN Implants are donated free of charge to patients, and hospitals stay equipped with the necessary SIGN Instruments to treat them in a timely manner.

Pre- and post-operative reporting on the SIGN Surgical Database instills a culture of data-driven decision-making while compiling comprehensive fracture case records.

Definitive healing through SIGN Surgery has kept 400,000 patients and counting from a lifetime of permanent disability.



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEDIAMAX

451 Hills Street, Suite B
Richland, WA 99354

How You've Helped This Year...

As of Mar. 2023

7,378

Patients Healed

5 SIGN

Programs Started

134 Hospitals received implants

40 Countries have been sent shipments

2 SIGN Trauma Session Webinars

Contact SIGN

P 509.371.1107

F 509.371.1316

info@signfracturecare.org

signfracturecare.org



SIGN
Meets all 20
BBB Charity
Standards

give.org

See SIGN's privacy policy and state disclosures at signfracturecare.org/privacy

DOUBLE your donation!



SIGN 2-day



give
BIGGER

May 2 & 3

*your donation will be
matched when you give at*
**signfracturecare.org/
GiveBigger**

*The first \$50,000 donated
May 2 & 3, 2023, will be matched.*