



## Where Trauma is Not an Economic Burden

Letter received from Dr. Daniel Sciuto,  
Samburu County Referral Hospital, Kenya

This year is a very difficult year for Samburu, Kenya. We are experiencing the hardest drought in the past 20 years. There is no grass left, animals are dying, tribal conflict due to cattle stealing has become an everyday issue, and there is a massive fuel shortage that has almost doubled the price of food. I am witnessing the highest level of poverty I have ever seen. The number of trauma patients in the hospital are at their highest level. I have never experienced before the male ward being totally filled with trauma patients. Most of the injuries are from a gunshot or a fall from a tree.

It has become a normal thing for me and my hospital to receive a trauma patient and book it immediately for a SIGN Surgery. We prepare the patient, do the surgery, discharge the patient, and do everything for free. The SIGN Nail replacement comes in time, and we never miss a nail or postpone a surgery. The average waiting time for surgery is three days. Average hospitalization days for trauma is eight days.

But this “normal” thing is not normal at all. We have got used to it, but sometimes I look at these patients and I realize how amazing it is for them to be admitted in a SIGN Hospital, where the trauma is not an economic burden to them. Especially in a moment like this, when the poverty level is so inhumane, the help and support received from SIGN is even greater.

I am writing these words just to be sure that also you never get used to it and remember how much good you are really doing and how many lives you are really touching every single day all over the world. Please accept my daily appreciation for all the work you are doing.



**Dr. Sciuto (right) provides free care for trauma patients in rural Kenya.**

# SIGN Responds in Ukraine: 11 Sets Sent

Thank you for your generous support of SIGN's response in Ukraine. Donations from the SIGN Family have enabled us to send 11 sets of SIGN Instruments and Implants to sites across Ukraine so far, each with enough nails to treat between 70-100 patients with fractured long bones. We are focusing on hospitals that are receiving high numbers of patients needing treatment and surgeons that are interested in establishing a long-term partnership with SIGN.

## Education + Implants

Each Ukrainian surgeon has been provided with digital education materials, such as our Technique Manual and training videos. Our SIGN Mentors are available to

answer questions on SIGN Technique or case consultation, as they do for all SIGN Programs. We have been contacted by several surgeons that have volunteered to go to Ukraine and carry SIGN Equipment, some of whom are already familiar with the SIGN Technique, so they are able to provide in-person training when they arrive.

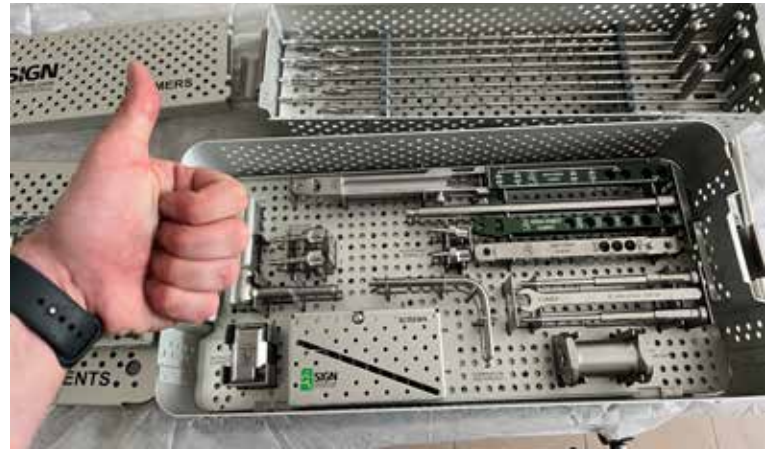
## Healing for All Injured People

One new SIGN Surgeon said, "I am so thankful to you for such a generous donation. It will help us in our effort with wounded soldiers, as well as with injured civilians. And I hope it will expedite their recovery. I am so grateful to you on behalf of the

hospital, on behalf of the traumatology department, and myself. Thank you."

## Long-term SIGN Support

We will resupply implants and support surgeons as long as there is need in Ukraine. Once peace is established, we hope to continue supporting these hospitals with SIGN Programs, as we do around the world.



A SIGN Surgeon in Ukraine receives their new SIGN Set. We are not sharing the identity and location of SIGN Surgeons in Ukraine, for their protection.

**"I am so thankful to you for such a generous donation. It will help us in our effort with wounded soldiers, as well as with injured civilians."**  
— Ukraine Surgeon



SIGN Board Member and Staff prepare shipments of SIGN Instruments, Nails, and donated external fixation devices.

## Trauma Healers

This one-hour documentary, explores the need for trauma care in low- and middle-income countries and highlights how SIGN Surgeons are a solution.

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of TRAUMA HEALERS being released, we encourage you to watch (or even re-watch) the film.

Watch on demand at:  
[signfracturecare.org/traumahealers](http://signfracturecare.org/traumahealers)



# SIGN in Kenya: Healing Care for Pastoralist

Kodumas, 25, takes care of his family's animals in Samburu County, Kenya. Due to the ongoing drought, he had to climb high in trees and cut some branches to feed his animals and keep them alive. As he was doing that, he fell from a substantial height and suffered both a pelvic fracture and a femur fracture.

When he arrived at Samburu County Referral Hospital, he was in very poor condition due to the long distance he had to travel. SIGN Surgeon Dr. Daniel Sciuto first fixed the pelvic fracture with a pelvic external fixator and then stabilized the femur fracture with a SIGN Nail. Kodumas started rehab in bed for reinforcing the quadriceps muscle and ensuring a good range of motion. Dr. Sciuto shared, "we supported him with a special food supply for better inpatient care."

After 30 days Kodumas was able to start moving and two weeks later began weight bearing with a walking frame and crutches. Ten weeks after surgery, he was able to return home walking under his own power.

"We were able to discharge at a zero cost to the patient," Dr. Sciuto says. "We are happy that trauma in our facility, thanks to the SIGN Program, is not an additional economic burden to poverty in such difficult moments."



After pelvic and femur fractures, Kodumas is able to walk and return home in just 10 weeks.

## Give Strategically with a Donor Advised Fund

Many donors have established a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to help them plan out their charitable giving. A DAF is a charitable investment account that makes it easy to dedicate and manage funds for SIGN and other nonprofit organizations.

### How a DAF Works

By creating a DAF, you, your family, or your businesses make an irrevocable gift to a public charity that sponsors a donor-advised fund program, which can be claimed as an immediate tax deduction. Most DAFs accept donations of cash, long-term appreciated securities, stocks, cryptocurrency, and more. Once the fund is established, you advise how contributions are invested by the DAF sponsor, which could potentially allow tax-free growth — resulting in

more money to support causes that matter to you. You can then recommend grants to IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) charities, including SIGN, with the flexibility to plan your giving on the schedule most convenient to you.

### Donate Without Fees

Each DAF has their own grant distribution process, but several major DAFs currently partner with a service called DAF Direct to easily connect donors to their chosen nonprofits through their web application with no processing fees. SIGN has a link on our website to accept gifts through DAF Direct, ensuring that more of your donation helps people who need healing surgery.

Please consult with your financial adviser to see if establishing a Donor Advised Fund could be

helpful for you in managing all of your charitable giving.

Learn more and make your gift at [signfracturecare.org/DAF](http://signfracturecare.org/DAF)

A screenshot of the DAF Direct website's donation form. The form is titled "DAF DIRECT" and includes the tagline "Directly connecting donors to charitable causes". Below the title is a link that says "What is this?". The form contains several fields: "Donate now from:" with a dropdown menu currently showing "-Please select-"; "Designation:" with an empty text box; and "Amount:" with a text box containing a dollar sign "\$". A blue "NEXT" button is located at the bottom right of the form.





# How You've Helped This Year...

As of May 2022

**11,574**

**Patients Healed**

**17 SIGN**

**Programs Started**

**191 Hospitals** received implants

**46 Countries** have been sent shipments

**5 SIGN Trauma Session Webinars**

## Contact SIGN

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give.org

**SIGN**  
Meets all 20  
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Standards

See SIGN's privacy policy and state disclosures at [signfracturecare.org/privacy](https://signfracturecare.org/privacy)



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# Thank you



For supporting  
**SIGN Surgeons**  
around the  
**world!**

Your gifts  
during **Give  
Bigger** and  
responding in  
**Ukraine** are help-  
ing injured people  
receive healing care in  
difficult circumstances.



**You may be able to help twice as many people!** Ask your employer if they have a donation matching program to multiply the impact of your gift.