



## SIGN Patient: Mary Ikoli, South Sudan



Two years ago, Mary Ikoli came to Juba Teaching Hospital in Juba, South Sudan, with two broken legs. The 26-year-old mother of two was seven months pregnant. She lives in Torit, a rural community in South Sudan that has faced food insecurity, bordering on famine, since 2017.

She had climbed a tree to pick leaves and cook them for her family. She fell and broke both femurs, which left her totally incapacitated.

Her family's already difficult situation had become much worse. Four days after her injury, she was brought to Juba Teaching Hospital, where Dr. Mapuor Mading was able to stabilize both of her legs. Dr. Mapuor used SIGN Fin Nails to perform the surgery in less than 30 minutes, which reduced the chance of complications with Mary's pregnancy.

"I didn't know that I would ever walk again," Mary says. "I thought the child in my womb would have a mother that could not walk."

Just 10 days after surgery, Mary was walking and doctors at Juba Teaching Hospital assured her that her pregnancy was progressing well. She returned home to Torit, where she gave birth to a baby boy.

Mary was not able to return to Juba for two years, but when she came for a follow-up visit, she walked into the hospital carrying her 16-month-old. Her x-rays show full healing, and she reports no lasting effects from her broken legs.

"You see I can walk and run now, carrying my baby," Mary says. "Thank you all for helping me."

*Mary with her son during her follow-up appointment 2 years after her surgery.*

# Message from Dr. Zirkle

By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD

The surgery for these patients illustrated in this newsletter is as good or better than any results in the world. These surgeons, from South Sudan and Somaliland, are teachers and future leaders in orthopaedic surgery. They perform excellent surgery, which is shown when their patients return walking and smiling. But they are not content; they mentor other doctors in their community, which raises the level of care and creates equality of fracture care around the world.

Like all SIGN Surgeons, they work under difficult circumstances and do not have the instruments and machines available in the United States. They rely on their knowledge, skill, and tactile sense to achieve excellent results for their patients. They epitomize the saying “the surgeons are skilled according to what they can do without.”



Mary (from front cover) stands with Dr. Mapuor a few days after SIGN Surgery on her legs in 2018.

## Giving Ideas

**IRA:** Check with your CPA to see if you are eligible to give a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA account directly to SIGN.



### Stocks and Bonds:

When doing your year-end tax planning, consult with your CPA about donating stocks and bonds to SIGN. Not only will your gift help heal, but you may receive some valuable tax advantages as well.



### Employer Matching:

Many employers match donations to charities. Check with your Human Resources department to find out how your donation to SIGN can go further.



For all questions, please call Lori Maier at 509.371.1107. Please donate online at [signfracturecare.org/ways-to-give](https://signfracturecare.org/ways-to-give)



## Message from Jeanne

By Jeanne Dillner, CEO

This has been a year to count our blessings, even in the midst of significant challenges. Yes, we are blessed to have such a talented and dedicated staff and board. Yes, we are blessed to work with SIGN Surgeons who often sacrifice a lucrative practice to care for the poor. And yes, we are immensely blessed because you have a heart for the injured poor and entrust your financial gifts to us, so that we can empower SIGN Surgeons to care for these patients.

In 2020, your gifts provided healing hope to patients like those whose stories are in this newsletter. Your gifts have made it possible for us to keep our doors open so that we could continue to design, manufacture, and distribute implants and instruments to more than 350

hospitals in 54 countries. Your gifts have helped us to pivot from the annual in-person SIGN Conference to online webinars, where SIGN surgeons like Dr. Mapuor are faculty. Your gifts have given us the confidence to say “yes we can” when doctors from Armenia asked for SIGN Implants to help save the limbs of those wounded in recent days from the resurgence of conflict with Azerbaijan.

The love you show for the disadvantaged is an inspiration, and your action of giving has empowered 7,000 SIGN Surgeons to give limb-saving surgery to nearly 325,000 patients since we began this journey in 1999. Your gifts continue to bring healing hope and we are deeply grateful that you chose to bless us so generously.

# SIGN Patient: Ridwan Ahmed, Somaliland

By Dr. Abdirashid Ismail, Hargeisa Group Hospital, Somaliland

Ridwan Ahmed, 23, is a police driver in Somaliland. He is married with two daughters. In July, he was hit by a criminal with a big stone while he was in the line of duty. The following day he was transferred to Hargeisa Group Hospital where he received care and we were able to fix his fractures with a standard SIGN Nail. Luckily there were no complications with the surgery and afterward.

I worked with Dr. Ridwan Mohamed on this case, and we chose to use a SIGN Implant for the fact that it eases early mobilization with less bed stay. The patient was fortunate, as are many who have SIGN Implants, and walked out of his bed the day of his surgery.

Ridwan is currently back to work—in the police station and driving—and is amazed by the job done for his injured leg. He is pain-free and can bend his knee like any other normal person, which is telling us that his range of motion is fully restored.

“God healed me, I am standing on my broken leg,” Ridwan says. “I have been using it the last two weeks. I am happy because I can stand on

it and flex it. Nothing is neglected in my life now.”

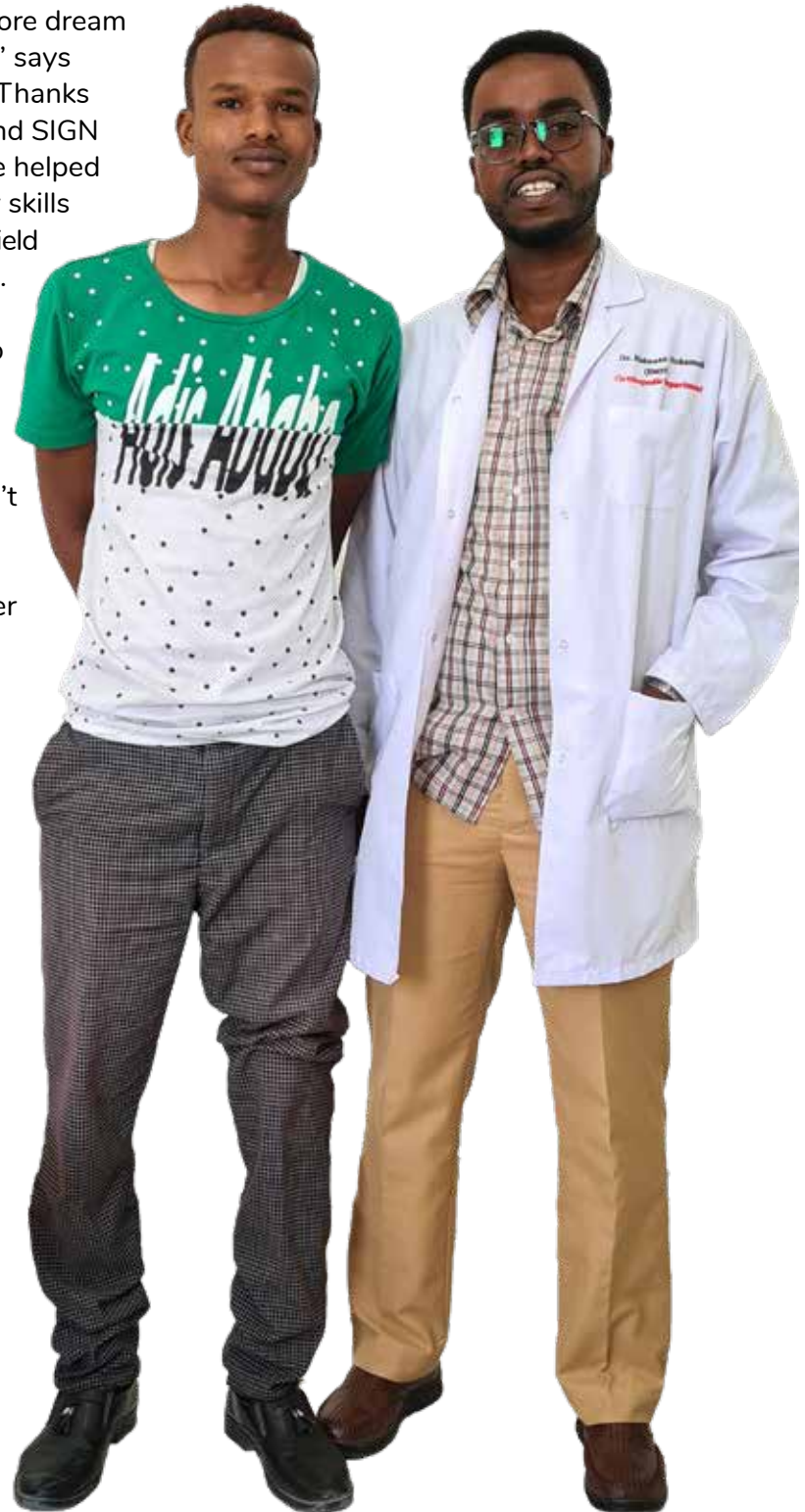
Dr. Mohamed completed his medical degree at the University of Hargeisa and has stayed on at Hargeisa Group Hospital to learn from the orthopaedic department.

“To become a good orthopaedic surgeon is my core dream at this moment,” says Dr. Mohamed. “Thanks to my mentor and SIGN Team, who have helped me to shape my skills in this amazing field of orthopaedics. My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. Abdirashid—a senior and mentor, without him I couldn’t have the ability to operate this case or any other patient in the first place.”

I am thrilled that the names of the father and doctor are almost identical, Ridwan Ahmed and Dr. Ridwan Mohamed, and that they are both married with two kids and both serving their nation through public service.



Ridwan is back to work as a police driver thanks to SIGN Surgery from Dr. Mohamed (right) and Dr. Abdirashid.



# December 1 is GIVING TWOsday

On Giving Tuesday, join  
**Dr. Zirkle and  
Jeanne Dillner**  
for a Fireside Chat!

[signfracturecare.org/givingtuesday](http://signfracturecare.org/givingtuesday)



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