



SIGN in The Gambia



Dr. Marenah (left) leads the surgical team at Edward Francis-Small Teaching Hospital in The Gambia.

Edward Francis-Small Teaching Hospital is the only hospital that treats orthopaedic patients in The Gambia, a small West African country. Until 2018, the hospital did not have a permanent orthopaedic surgeon, so they relied on visiting doctors to provide care for broken bones.

The hospital did not have intramedullary nails, the gold standard for long-bone fracture treatment, so they could only use plates, casts, and other techniques that require the patient to stay immobile for a long time and often lead to improper healing and life-long disability.

Surgeon Returns Home

Dr. Kebba Marenah, is from The

Gambia, but went to England to pursue his medical degree and orthopaedic residency. When he was preparing to return home in 2018, he recognized the challenge he would face.

“I was the first and only Gambian orthopaedic surgeon, and therefore knew that my services back home would be much needed,” Dr. Marenah says. “Knowing the lack of implants would be a major challenge to my work, I helped the hospital put together an application to SIGN before my return, and thankfully we were approved.”

With a fully-trained surgeon and new orthopaedic equipment and implants from SIGN, Edward Francis-Small Teaching (Continued on page 2)



In two years, the EFSTH team has helped more than 245 people with SIGN Surgery.

SIGN in The Gambia

(Continued from front page)

Hospital quickly became the referral center for all orthopaedic cases for 2.25 million people in the country.

“Many of the patients we treat are poor and would struggle to afford implants of SIGN quality,” Dr. Marenah says.

Rapid Recovery

Malang Jatta was walking along the side of the road when he was hit by a car. His femur was fractured, but, like many people in The Gambia, he first sought care at a traditional bone healer. Unfortunately, the fracture did not heal in the proper position, causing his leg to be shortened. He was in pain and unable to walk for eight months, and this caused him to lose his job.

“He came to us desperate with no money and struggling to feed his family,” Dr. Marenah recalls. “We were able to fix his femur using a SIGN Nail, but also using fracture reduction devices donated by SIGN.”

Malang surprised the surgeons by walking into his two-week follow-up appointment with no crutches and no limp.



Edward Francis-Small Teaching Hospital is the only facility in The Gambia performing orthopaedic surgery.

“He was a completely different man to the one I had consulted with a few weeks earlier; He was all smiles and his confidence was high.” Dr. Marenah says. “By the 12-week follow-up, he informed us that he had managed to get his job back and was able to work again to feed his family.”

Healing with Fin Nails

Since joining the SIGN Family, Dr. Marenah and his team have helped more than 245 people heal from fractures and regain their mobility with SIGN Surgery.

“The surgeons do excellent surgery

according to their reports on the database,” says Dr. Lewis Zirkle, the President and Founder of SIGN. “They also get good results, which is the true test of good surgery.”

The surgical team has been studying their use of SIGN Fin Nails, and are contributing to SIGN’s ongoing research of these implants.

“Surgery with the Fin Nail is quicker because no distal interlocking screws are necessary,” says Dr. Zirkle. “We are studying the stability and we feel that it provides equal stability in most fractures. This must continue to be verified by reports on the database.”



Malang is able to work and support his family again after SIGN Surgery.



Most patients cannot afford to purchase implants, but donated SIGN Implants have them back on their feet.

Healing Restores Hope in Kenya

Edward Gikundi is a public service driver. He drives matutus — large



Your gifts allow SIGN to donate implants to the poor, so that people like Edward can get back on their feet and work to feed their families.

colorful public buses — and cars to help others get where they need to go in central Kenya.

In April, he was on his way to pick up a person who had been discharged from the hospital, when he was in a serious car accident that fractured his right tibia. Onlookers helped him and took him to the local hospital.

The doctors put Edward's leg in a cast, but he could not afford the implant for surgery that he needed to properly care for his injury. He laid in the hospital bed for three weeks. He was about to give up, when a nurse whispered in his ear that he should ask for a discharge and go to St. Orsola Hospital, Matiri, where he surely would be helped.

"We received him, and we operated on him the following day, inserting a SIGN Nail

in his broken tibia," says Dr. Giuseppe Gaido, the SIGN Surgeon at St. Orsola. Because the SIGN Nail was donated to the hospital by supporters like you, Edward was able to immediately receive the care he needed.

"There was no issue of payment for the implant because the SIGN Nails are free," Dr. Gaido adds. "What I receive for free, I give for free."

At a follow-up appointment four months after the surgery, Edward can walk freely, squat and smile, and he has returned to full function.

In his mind, the most important thing is that he is back to work, driving public transportation. His old employer accepted him back, and he is once again the breadwinner for his wife and three small children.

"Surely the SIGN Nail has been his salvation," says Dr. Gaido. "Through it, Edward can now provide for his family again."

SIGN Trauma Sessions

In September with IGOT:
**Open Fractures
and Soft-Tissue
Reconstruction**

In October:
Pelvic Fractures

Even though the annual SIGN Conference has been cancelled, SIGN is providing innovative educational opportunities for surgeons around the world. In SIGN Trauma Sessions, leading surgeons from around the world present their research and case studies in their areas of expertise.

SIGN Surgeons, please see emails from the Program & Education team to sign up for upcoming sessions. Previous sessions can be found on The Hub, focused on Humerus Fractures and Pediatric Femoral Fractures.

Upcoming sessions will include:

Sept 25 Open Fractures and Soft-Tissue Reconstruction, in partnership with IGOT

Oct Date TBD Pelvic Fractures

SIGN *Silent Auction* November 12-19

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Help heal the injured poor by supporting SIGN during our silent auction.

Registration and Questions

Online
signfracturecare.org/auction

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



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Free Event, Thursday October 22, 2020

Help heal the injured poor by supporting SIGN during our annual benefit.

Registration and Questions

Online signfracturecare.org/benefit

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Email events@signfracturecare.org