



INF EAR CAMP

PYUTHAN 2014

INF is a Christian mission serving Nepali people through health and development work

The ear camps were started in 1993 by then INF's Ellen Findlay and Dr Mike Smith. During their work in Nepal they recognised the need for professional specialised health care for the poorest and most disadvantaged in Nepal.

In a country where even basic health care can not be guaranteed for everybody and where specialist care is only available in the capital or major cities and only for those that can afford it, many people suffer from diseases that could actually be cured by a single intervention.

Since then 125 camps in 35 districts have taken place. More than 85,000 people have been seen by specialist doctors and over 8,000 operations have been undertaken.

What has started as a small project has become a solid long-term project with several full-time Nepali staff workers and a steadily growing team of ENT surgeons, audiologists, anaesthetists and other medical professionals from all over the world.



Offering specialist care to thousands of people in underprivileged areas

It is always difficult to measure work or success in numbers, especially if it actually is about people and their lives.

Nevertheless, even the sheer numbers are impressive and give an impression of the intensity of these camps.

Usually the camps are broadly advertised by newspaper and radio. Word is also spread by people, especially those who already know INF's work or have had a good experience with an earlier camp. Health workers are informed by the government about the camp

and asked to refer patients in need. Patients come from the local area, neighbouring districts and even from places far away, undertaking journeys of several days.

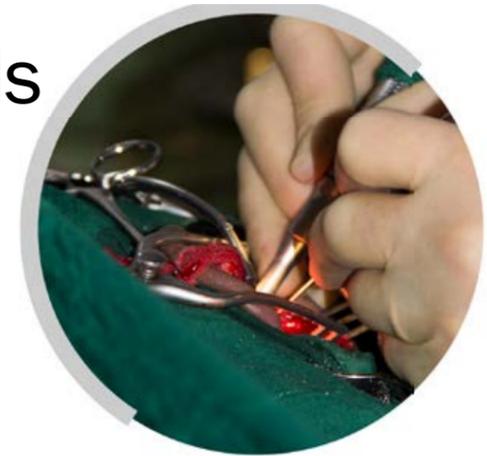
The team consisted of 10 Nepali staff members, three anaesthetists from the UK, a GP from New Zealand, three audiologists from Australia and the UK, four British ENT surgeons, a Nepali surgeon from Kathmandu, a British scrub nurse, three medical students from the UK and two long-term INF expatriate staff members with long experience of camps, who helped with translation.



234 hearing aids



1235 patients



175 operations



705 hearing tests

Operations that change lives

Ending seven years of chronic infections

Ram*, aged 13, suffered for more than seven years from chronic infections in both ears. His hearing was impaired, and again and again he had bad smelling discharges from his ears. He was not even able to finish three years of school. His eardrum was perforated and the small bones inside his ear were damaged.

The INF camp team decided to do an operation the same day, reconstructing the eardrum with cartilage from the outer ear. Ram was able to leave the hospital in the evening and the chances are good that this operation has ended his seven year long suffering from chronic infections.

* All patient names have been changed.



Ram*, 13, got a **reconstruction of his middle ear** after suffering from chronic ear infections for seven years. His favourite sport is *football*, despite having been born with 14 toes and having difficulty wearing shoes!



Hearing for the first time

About the impact of hearing aids and the need for speech therapy

Suthi* is 15 years old and the eldest of four children. Both of his parents are unable to speak, so he provides and speaks for the whole family. His mother works in the fields of other people and his father in a brickworks. As this is not enough income for the family, Suthi also works carrying and baking bricks. Through his efforts his younger siblings have the chance he has never had, to attend school.

To the amazement of the whole team he immediately started to use his voice and after some time was even answering questions, unclearly but plainly trying hard. He probably learned to speak before losing his hearing at the age of about two and subsequently stopped speaking. He and his family received counselling and training and currently the team is considering further ways to support him during the next weeks and months while he has to learn to use his new won abilities.

Nevertheless, he brought his parents from the village in the hills where they live to the INF ear camp. Surprisingly Suthi's father is actually able to react to very loud sounds. Audiometry proved and clarified th]g and so he fYV]j YX'U hearing aid. Suddenly he was able hē `YUf'Zcf the first time since childhood.

Unfortunately speech therapy will be difficult for him to access locally. We hope to introduce this service in the new ear hospital for such patients.



Suthi*, 15, and his father, who has suffered from **deafness** and being **mute** since childhood.

He received hearing aids and is now able to hear and is learning to speak.

* All patient names have been changed.

IN PICTURES



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Reconstructing a middle ear

Spending more than NPR 100,000 and still not finding healing

Raju, 59, farmer from a village nearby, is a father of three children and he has three grandchildren. He now has a small farm with a buffalo, a bull and some rice- and maize fields that do not provide sufficient crop to supply his own family. In the summer he sells vegetables in the market to earn a enough to buy rice for his family.*

In the aftermath of the Nepali civil war he suffered a gunshot wound to his right ear. He was first treated at the local hospital and then

transferred to Kathmandu. There the wound was treated and basic cosmetic surgery done. After staying in hospital for 1.5 months he went home again, but soon after that a badly smelling discharge came from his ear and the pain became unbearable. As his symptoms persisted he went to Delhi in India hoping to receive lasting treatment. Just one week after coming back to Nepal the discharge and pain started again. Several further attempts at different hospitals did not bring much change. When he arrived at our camp, more than six



Raju*, 59, father of three children suffered from a **gun shot wound** to his right ear.

Using prostheses, INF camp surgeons reconstructed his middle ear.

* All patient names have been changed.

PATIENT STORY



years after the incident, he could not hear anything on the right side and that side of his face was partially paralysed. Especially in noisier environments or with many people talking at the same time he could not follow conversations anymore. Hence he had withdrawn from social activities and usually just stayed at home or worked in his fields.

INF ear camp's surgeon Dr Mike Smith reconstructed his middle ear using an artificial prosthesis for the small bones inside the ear

and removed the sources of the years-long infection which included a lot of black powder debris embedded in the middle ear which may have been residue from the gunshot.

After spending more than NPR 100,000 which is more than 10,000 USD for treatment in total, several months in hospitals and uncounted courses of antibiotic treatment it is hoped that his will bring an end to the long suffering and hopefully give him new courage to engage in social life.

IN PICTURES





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