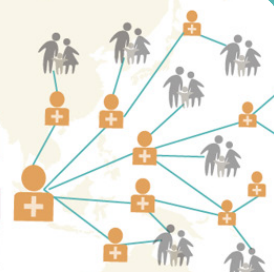


OUR
Exponential Reach
 of **Healthcare Training**
 in underserved regions of the world



**PHYSICIANS FOR PEACE'S
 STRATEGY**



**EMPOWERS LOCAL
 HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS**



**BUILDS COMMUNITIES TO
 BECOME SELF-RELIANTLY
 HEALTHY**



OUR MISSION

To educate and empower local providers of surgical care to alleviate suffering and transform lives in under-resourced communities around the world

In the Last Quarter PFP...

Latin America:

- Taught a 7-module course on scar evaluation and treatment for PFP partners in Latin America, including CRISAQ.
- Created and led a new course on the initial care and treatment for burns.
- Provided PPE to global partners as well as special materials needed for burn care garments, splints, and face masks.
- Led a 6-session live course to create new burn care and surgical protocols at the children's hospital Nacional de Salud del Niño San Borja in Lima, Peru.
- Offered monthly webinars to more than 800 healthcare professionals throughout North, Central, and South America.

Malawi:

- Started a new scholarship program for anesthesia residents in Malawi. We are pleased to announce our first recipient, Dr. Ichabod Mhone.
- Continued our surgical residency scholarship, which was awarded to our latest scholar of the 5-year program, Dr. Naomi Kafumbu.
- Taught a class on respiratory distress in babies and young children to pediatric ICU nurses in Malawi.

- Staffed and supplied an operating theatre in Blantyre, Malawi. 118 surgeries were performed here last quarter. Led by PFP's Surgical Clinical Officer in Malawi, junior surgical registrars (residents) were instructed in, observed, and participated in these procedures, which included 11 different and distinct types of surgeries.
- Through our partnership with Eastern Virginia Medical School, students completed a Teaching Guidebook for PFP volunteer medical educators traveling to Malawi. This will be particularly helpful in understanding the norms of the community as well as the types of cases and working conditions they can expect to encounter.

Honduras & Fundacion CRISAQ

- Of the population of 9 million, an estimated 66% live below the poverty line.
- Tegucigalpa is the largest city, the capital, and the home of Fundacion CRISAQ, a burn rehabilitation center for burn patients founded in 2007 for children.
- The 2nd largest city, San Pedro Sula, is 250 miles north of Tegucigalpa, resulting in a significant transportation barrier to CRISAQ facilities and services for many Hondurans.

Physicians for Peace began working in Honduras in 1992 and has partnered with CRISAQ since it opened.

Looking Ahead

Physicians for Peace

- PFP will teach 3 distinct multimodal online courses with certification in: scar management, initial management of burn patients, and nursing management for burn injuries. Multiple partners in Latin America will participate.
- With at-home child burn cases on the rise, PFP created a song and animated video, Cuidado! to teach children about prevention. The song will be released this month. Be sure to follow PFP on social media to watch the video or visit PhysiciansforPeace.org!
- The Jane W. Smith Regional Training Program will proceed in Guatemala (some portions were completed online last year). As the vaccine becomes available, health professionals from countries across Latin America will learn together, both from PFP trainers and from each other's experiences.



- PFP will offer a robust schedule of monthly webinars for its global partners.
- As international travel resumes, PFP will continue 3 month in-country rotations in Malawi for training and direct patient care in general surgery and anesthesiology.
- In Malawi, PFP's Surgical Clinical Officer will conduct rotational outreach visits to district hospitals outside of the city where resources and specialized expertise are even more limited.

Beginning New Projects

The ultimate goal of Physicians for Peace's partnerships is to empower communities to provide surgical care that will transform lives. With this objective in mind, our intention is to offer education and resources until local providers are equipped. Once a project reaches this goal, it is complete. PFP is nearing completion in several longstanding projects and is in the process of exploring new partnerships in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. As new partnerships are established, Physicians for Peace will work with these partners to assess their goals and needs and create the multi-year project, including the necessary benchmarks and steps that lead to sustainable outcomes. We look forward to sharing our progress towards assessing and forming new partnerships with you over the next year.

Innovation During a Pandemic

Tegucigalpa Honduras, July 2020: Jose, a 54-year-old husband, father, and grandfather suffered severe sulfuric acid burns. He attempted to go to the hospital but was denied admittance. In addition to his burns, he was COVID positive; the hospital turned him away, seemingly due to both his COVID diagnosis and overcrowding. Jose was simply instructed to clean his burns. What would you do if you were Jose? Where would you go?

There is no doubt that the pain the COVID-19 pandemic has caused for so many will be felt for years to come, even generations. In its wake, the pandemic seems to be offering a singular consolation: innovation. Necessity is the mother of invention, and the changes in how everyone operates on a daily basis in the time of COVID-19 have inspired critical thinking and reevaluation in many sectors. Physicians for Peace and its partners have been steadily adapting and innovating as needs continue to emerge.

When Dr. Gabriela Galdámez became Medical Director of the PFP partner organization Fundacion CRISAQ at the beginning of April 2020, Honduras was in the throes of its first surge in COVID-19 cases. The organization had served as an outpatient clinic since its inception in 2007, offering holistic care originally for children but recently expanding to adults recovering from burn injuries. Patients who had already received necessary surgeries and were past the threat of infection visited CRISAQ for continued therapy, counseling, and social services to integrate fully back into healthy, productive lives.

But by April 2020, **the world had changed. CRISAQ had to stop seeing patients** in-person.

A pivot was necessary. Honduras was in lockdown. Travel and public transportation, already an expense barrier for many Hondurans, stopped completely. Simply being outside was unlawful. CRISAQ's staff, after 13 years of using paper patient files, had to shift quickly to telehealth. While platforms like Zoom have been heavily utilized in the U.S., Dr. Galdámez and her team were finding this tool was not accessible to many Hondurans. Most citizens did, however, have phones that took high quality pictures, and many were comfortable using the international messaging app WhatsApp. While Dr. Galdámez recognized this was not an ideal platform, staff and patients made it work, sharing photos of burns and using chat features to discuss treatment.

Still, in-person care remains critical to properly treat and rehabilitate severe burns. In the early summer, with the support of our donors, **PFP was able to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials needed so CRISAQ could reopen.** But PPE is only useful if properly utilized, so PFP also provided training for CRISAQ staff on how to properly use and wear the masks, gloves, and other items.

CRISAQ faced another challenge. **Area hospitals**, which were already overcrowded became fully overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and **began turning people away.** At the same time, patients needing care for acute symptoms were avoiding hospitals for fear of contracting COVID-19.

CRISAQ staff found themselves caring for patients that, under other circumstances, would have received initial treatment at a hospital. Dr. Galdámez had already adjusted CRISAQ's role in how to serve patients, but now she had to adjust offering first response burn care, a very different process from long term therapeutic care.

Acknowledging this shift in care would be lasting, Dr. Galdámez knew her staff needed additional training. A continuation of their long partnership, **PFP stepped in to offer this training** so CRISAQ staff could respond to the changing needs of its community.



A picture Jose sent to CRISAQ staff to evaluate progress

Jose, at a loss for how to seek help, contacted CRISAQ through their new telehealth system. When CRISAQ staff saw the severity of his wounds, which covered 35% of his body, via pictures, they strongly recommended another attempt to be treated at the hospital. He needed in-person care. He needed emergency treatment. But he was again denied admittance. CRISAQ was his only resource. The organization took on his care and taught Jose how to treat his wounds at home and arranged for him to pick up a necessary combination of topical antibiotics. Today, Jose has recovered from COVID-19, and his burns continue to heal. Thanks to the innovations of the CRISAQ team, his prognosis is bright.

Today, Fundacion CRISAQ, with Dr. Galdámez at the helm, has embraced its many changes. COVID-19 remains a threat in Honduras, but innovation has sustained the organization through the entirety of the pandemic. CRISAQ, with the help of PFP, will come out of the pandemic equipped to meet patient needs. Dr. Galdámez notes, **"now we have a more optimized way of handling patients and it's due to COVID... In the handling of the patients, we've had so many changes and the benefit was for the patient."** Despite the many horrors of COVID-19, dealing with the pandemic has made way for a solution for better patient care through invention and innovation. CRISAQ can now serve Hondurans throughout the country via telehealth, creating greater access than would have ever been possible by a second physical location, a goal before COVID-19. In an era where the only constant is change, Physicians for Peace and Fundacion CRISAQ continuously adapt to improve how they serve their communities.