

Ghella pledges with Operation Smile to increase access to surgical care in Cariri, Brazil

Rome, May 2nd 2023 - In line with its social commitments, Ghella confirms itself as **a guarantor of responsible acts towards others** by supporting [Operation Smile](#).

In 2017*, there were more than 7 million people living with schisis in low- and middle-income countries.

Since 1997, [Operation Smile](#) has carried out 82 medical missions in 12 cities in Brazil, changing the lives of more than 5,800 patients and earning the trust of local communities by partnering with the area hospitals.

The activity primarily supports rural areas such as Cariri, in the northeastern region, where residents do not have adequate access to schisis treatments, available in the country's southern metropolitan cities, where there are more plastic surgery specialists. Our support is aimed at providing multidisciplinary assistance to 90 patients and providing at least 50 surgeries. Improving the accessibility of surgical treatments and **widening educational opportunities for physicians and volunteers** on site are essential elements of a **practical and decisive approach** to guarantee a complete rehabilitation of patients.

*Source: Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 Results. Seattle, Washington, United States: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 2018. Available from <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool>. Accessed November 29, 2019.

Founded in 1894, we are a global reality of primary importance in the construction of large public projects. Specialized in underground excavation and tunneling works, we realize important infrastructures such as subways, railways, highways, and hydraulic projects. Over the course of 150 years, we have built over 130 tunnels and connected more than 1,000 km of highways, railways, and subways. We believe in a business model focused on leaving a better world to the next generations. We build to the highest quality, innovation and sustainability standards, utilizing advanced technologies and state-of-the-art construction methods, supported by a continuous process of staff training. We aid economic growth and social development in all the territories in which we operate.