Diseases requiring surgical intervention constitute 11% of the global burden of disease. Situation analysis conducted in 8 LMICs has shown inadequacy of life-saving emergency, anesthesia and surgical procedures and basic equipment. Emergency and essential surgical services provided through district hospitals as a primary health care measure, relieve the burden on tertiary facilities, while establishing robust, sustainable centers.

**CALL TO ACTION:**

- Recognize the cross-cutting WHO surgical program that strengthens isolated surgical components in various disease-specific programs
- Support WHO’s critical surgical initiative which provides an essential primary care service despite lack of mass appeal for funding
- Support the global interface that strengthens district surgical services in 38 low and middle income countries: *WHO Global Initiative for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care*

**Emergency**
- Resuscitation, abscess, burns, abdominal conditions, disasters

**Obstetrics / Maternal Health**
- Obstructed labor, female genital mutilation, unsafe abortion, obstetric fistula

**Trauma**
- Violence, burns, falls, disasters, prevention of permanent disability

**Children**
- Congenital anomalies, club foot, cleft lip/palate, hernias, abdominal wall defects

**Cancer**
- Curative surgical resection for breast, cervical, liver, lung, gastric, prostate cancer

**HIV**
- Male circumcision resulting in reduction in HIV infection

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