

# Newsletter Winter 2021

## Message



Dear all,

It has been a year that has thrown the world into disarray and once again highlighted the discrepancies between those who have access to high quality healthcare and those who do not, with many countries around the globe struggling to cope with the pandemic - an event that was predictable only in that it was always going to happen at some point in time. Facing such an acute existential threat as opposed to the more gradual, but potentially even more devastating impact of climate change for example, should bring humanity together.

The spirit of Interburns, our global family committed to improving burn care and prevention, made up of wonderful people from all walks of life with different cultures, languages and beliefs, should be a shining example to others, especially politicians and global leaders. Despite the difficulties, we have managed to continue our work and developed new ways of working like everyone else. I am sure everyone is a bit 'zoomed out' and we all long for the vital face to face human contact that the digital world denies us.

Let us hope we will soon be able to meet up, but in the meantime let's continue to work as best we can to ensure that burns patients don't once again become a forgotten group, sidelined by other unfolding events. On behalf of Interburns thanks to all of you who have worked so hard and continue to do so - you really are the change and the action that the burn community needs to see!

On a final note, as of February 2021, I will be based in France as I take up my new role as Chief Surgeon for the International Committee of the Red Cross - another new challenge, but one that brings me back to my humanitarian roots.

Best wishes, Tom Potokar, Director, Interburns



Volunteers distribute posters in Hebron, OPT.

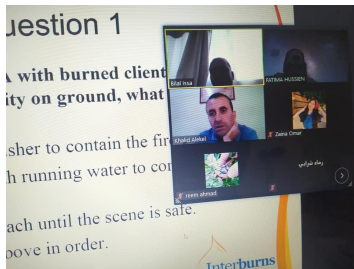


Children gather round burn prevention messages in Nepal.

## A snapshot of 2020

- ❖ EU Burn Assessment Team (BAT) training was developed and led by Interburns with the CGBIPR, European Burn Association (EBA) and the Norwegian Directorate of Health.
- ❖ Community burn prevention activities and training have been underway in Nepal, Ethiopia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT). We will have more details in the next Newsletter.
- ❖ Interburns was invited by the Nigerian Burns Association to visit Abuja in early 2020 to recommend steps for a new approach to burn care.
- ❖ A dynamic Advanced Burn Care (Surgery) course was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March.
- ❖ The Delivery Assessment Tool (DAT) has been developed into a digital DAT tool.
- ❖ Interburns network participated in multiple global meetings on burns during national and global lockdowns.
- ❖ A quality improvement for nurses course in Malawi has been developed into a *Practical Guide to Implementation and Improvement Science* and a parallel online course.

### Burn prevention in Gaza and the West Bank.



*Top left:* Basic Burn Care (BBC) being delivered by Zoom in the West Bank, OPT.  
*Middle:* Community prevention discussions, Gaza.  
*Right:* Placing posters in public places, Hebron.  
*Below right:* a motion graphic video for sharing on platforms..

There has been fantastic work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by partners MAP and AWRAD using social media, radio and puppet shows to spread burn prevention messages in spite of local lockdowns. In Gaza, 500 households were given leaflets and 200 posters were distributed in villages and public places such as schools, clinics, local NGOs and neighborhood areas. In Hebron, 3,500 leaflets were distributed and 750 posters were put up around the city.

A motion graphic video (*right*) and posts were distributed on popular social media platforms and the video was shown on the two most popular stations with millions of viewers in Palestine and around the world.

*Right:* number of views of the graphic video in the first two weeks.



## Advanced Burn Care (ABC) Surgery

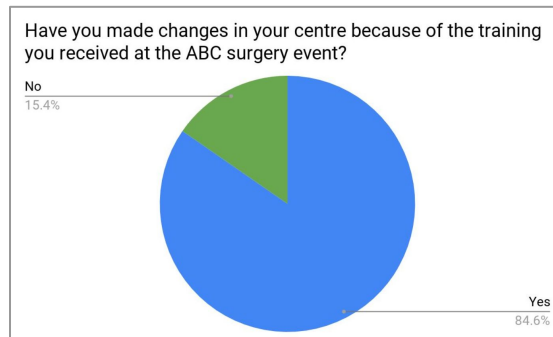
We were so glad to be able to hold Advanced Burn Care (Surgery) in Ethiopia just before travel restrictions in March. 28 high calibre young surgeons from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda and Zambia participated in the 5 day specialist course led by Interburns faculty from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa and the UK.

This was the first time that ABC(S) was held in the region and the course had been updated since it was first held in Nepal. Modules cover key aspects of surgical care from the acute and emergency stages in the first 24 hours, to reconstructive surgery, months or years post injury. Participants are encouraged to think critically and see problems from multiple angles. Feedback has been extremely positive and practical skills were employed as soon as participants returned to their own hospitals. Our thanks to AMREF Health Africa for facilitating the course, and to our funders NIHR and UKAID Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF).

*Below: Results from a 3 month retrospective survey.*



*Above: Participants develop skills in communication and teamwork, vital when working as part of a burn team.*



*'Following the training. I am more confident in using ketamine for procedural pain. Pain now gets oral ketamine (in honey) 30 min before dressings. Patients' experience has been impressive'. Participant feedback*

*Below: With AMREF and local health officers in Ethiopia.*



*Below: the days when we could eat together.*





## A road map for Ethiopia

***“Interburns activities have had a tremendous impact on improving burn care and gives us a benchmark to develop a road map for burn care in our country.***

***We formally and sincerely express our gratitude for the amazing work you have accomplished in Ethiopia”.***

Emergency and Critical Care Directorate,  
FMOH, Ethiopia.



*Left: A burn team hold a group discussion to self assess their unit using the DAT.*

In 2015 Interburns was invited to assess Ethiopia’s dedicated burn unit at AaBET hospital, and make recommendations for a new unit at Yekatit 12. Since then two parallel projects, funded by the NIHR and UK AID’s SCCF, have supported the government’s aim to improve national and regional burns services through initiating a comprehensive approach to burn care, with tangible results.

Community surveys in 2019 found that there was limited knowledge about how to prevent and treat burn injuries which often led to increased risk of infection. The most affected groups were women and children and major causes of burn injuries were coffee, hot water, and heat or flame. Health facilities in nearby communities did not have the skills to treat burn injuries and Health Extension Workers (HEWs) did not have adequate training about burn prevention and treatment.

Through the project, 157 primary healthcare workers were trained in Basic Burn Care (BBC) and 125 in Essential Burn Care (EBC); 51 nurses and surgeons attended Advanced Burn Care (ABC) Nursing or Surgery, and community prevention methods were piloted. Service assessments (DAT) were held at four burn units - AaBET, Yekatit 12, Hawassa and Jimma Hospitals. In spite of the extreme stress on health services and staff in 2020, DAT assessments showed improvements in key areas. Staff attribute confidence and skills directly to Interburns training. The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health, will adopt the approach and we look forward to working in the country again, dependent on funding. We thank our partners at AMREF Health Africa and the FMOH for their support and dedication. Read more about the comprehensive approach:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305417920304149>



*Above: Discussing burn prevention in the community.*

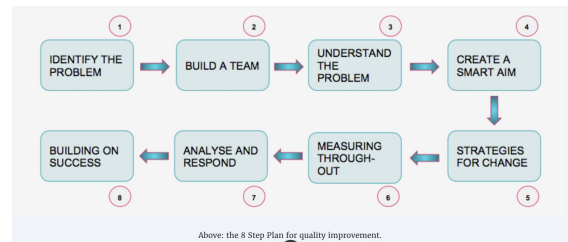
## Resources

### Achieving Change in 8 Steps.

Based on a quality improvement project run by CGBIPR and Interburns in Malawi in 2019, the **Practical Guide to Quality Improvement for Burn Care** sets out 8 steps for planning and running a QI project in burn care in a low resource setting. Including details of projects, decisions, processes, failures and success, it can be used by anyone working in a healthcare setting who wants to bring about change using available resources.

Download it in PDF from [www.interburns.org/news](http://www.interburns.org/news) or [www.globalburns.org](http://www.globalburns.org). See the e-book at : <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/792687/>.

The Guide is also an **online course**. Keep an eye on our website and follow us on Facebook or Twitter for more news.



Above: the 8 Step Plan for quality improvement.

Above: Quality Improvement as an online course at [www.interburns.org](http://www.interburns.org)

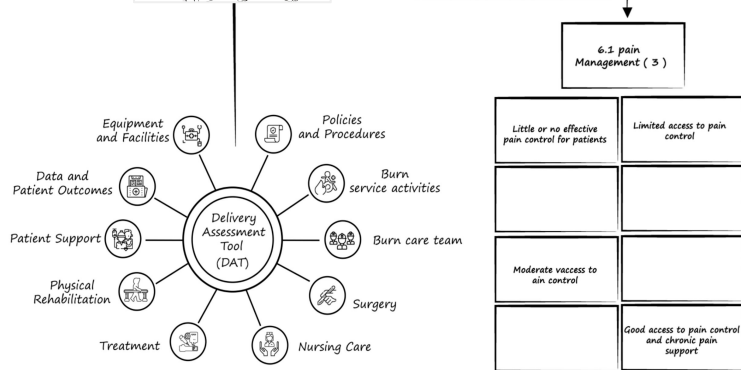
## Coming soon!

Thanks to funding from Interplast Australia and New Zealand we have developed a digital version of the **Delivery Assessment Tool (DAT)**. This will help more burn units self-assess their service against the *Operational Standards for Burn Care in Low Resource Settings*. Through guided group discussion around 10 key service areas, the DAT has been used in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The digital version will be freely available for use by burn units as part of their annual quality improvement processes. More details soon.



The DAT - online self assessment for burn units.



## 2021 and publications

- The New Year began with news of two extremely generous donations from the **Hermitage Foundation** and **Lady Yuen Peng McNeice Charitable Foundation**. Unrestricted grants of this kind really help us extend the work we do. Many thanks.
- We launch new online courses and tools to support quality improvement in burn care including an *Implementation and Improvement Science Course*, a revised *Essential Burn Care (EBC)* and a digital version of the *Delivery Assessment Tool (DAT)*.
- Collaboration with Centre for Global Burn Injury Policy and Research (CGBIPR) continues until July 2021 including developing guidelines for the WHO Global Burn Registry (GBR) in low resource settings, a nurse mentoring programme, and clinical assessment of burn services in Mongolia.
- Interburns is now registered in the EU. This will help us to expand our remit after the successful EU Burn Assessment Team (BAT) training in January 2020.
- Travel permitting we will run ABC (Nursing) in Lilongwe, Malawi, supported by Wales for Africa and EBC/BBC ToT in Tanzania in collaboration with colleagues at Weill Cornell Medicine, USA.
- Thanks to funding from Interplast (Australia and New Zealand) our local team and partners in Nepal, Sagun, will extend the community burn prevention programme to new districts.

### Publications



Above: Training community healthcare workers in Nepal in first aid for burns and prevention.

- Burns in Nepal: a participatory, community survey of burn cases and knowledge, attitudes and practices to burn care and prevention in three rural municipalities. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/2/e033071>
- A comprehensive, integrated approach to quality improvement and capacity building in burn care and prevention in low and middle-income countries: An overview. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305417920304149>
- Recommendations for burns care in mass casualty incidents: WHO Emergency Medical Teams Technical Working Group on Burns (WHO TWGB) 2017-2020 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305417920304599>