BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the delay or cancellation of tens of thousands of non-emergent essential surgeries such as cleft repair, burn care, and hernia repair.

Now that many countries have flattened their COVID curves and increased their health system capacity to address COVID with improved staffing, infection control, testing, and PPE supplies, hospitals are planning on restarting non-emergent essential surgery.

The American College of Surgeons and other groups have published guidelines on restarting non-emergent essential surgery, however, the guidelines can be challenging to adapt to low and middle income settings. In addition, research has been published showing excess mortality rates for asymptomatic COVID patients as high as 20%, raising ethical issues.

Through this webinar, the Global Surgery Foundation, Operation Smile, and their partners, aim to share ideas and create a dialogue on how to safely restart non-emergent surgery.

Key Learning Objectives:
1. To understand the potential pre-requisites and factors to consider before restarting essential surgery and other services.
2. To share the experiences of other countries that have restarted essential surgery after COVID-19 and Ebola.
3. To be familiar with the existing professional guidelines on the restarting on non-emergency surgery.
4. To be familiar with the ethical issues and patient informed consent issues surrounding the restarting on non-
emergent surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

EVENT OBJECTIVES
This virtual roundtable aims to bring together international experts to discuss lessons learned about responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
At the end of this virtual roundtable, participants will be able to:

- what are non-essential surgeries?
- how can LMIC resolve the current issues around the COVID-19 pandemic

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE
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TARGETED AUDIENCE
Participation is open to government officials, diplomats, staff of international organizations, development practitioners, faculty members, and administrators of educational institutions and anyone who is interested in the discussed topics.