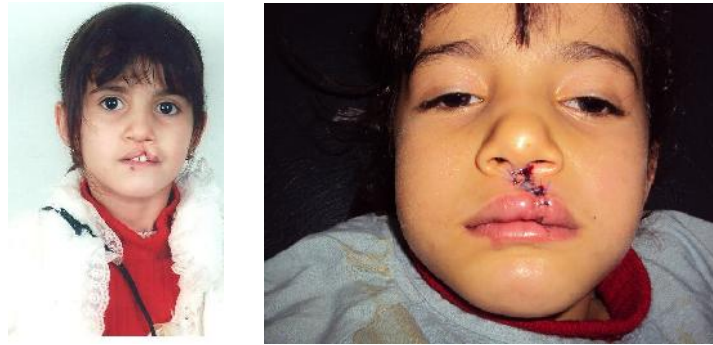


Smile Focus April 2011



Above: 6 year old Thuraya Mohamed before and after her operation

Six year old Thuraya from Radah was born with a cleft lip. For the last six years, her parents visited many doctors in Sana'a but were asked to pay more than a hundred and twenty thousand Yemeni Rials for the surgery (approximately \$600 USD), a huge sum in a country where nearly 50% of the population live on less than two US dollars a day.

In February 2011 they were informed by some of their friends that there was a possibility for the family to travel to Jordan for free surgery under the sponsorship of Operation Smile USA. The cost of the air travel and stay in Jordan for the families would have amounted to several thousand US dollars. Along with a few other Yemeni families whose children had similar cleft lip problems, Thuraya's family got their passports ready for the trip to Jordan.

However, Operation Smile could not conduct its cleft surgery camp in Jordan due to logistical setbacks. A U.S. representative of Operation Smile—who had heard about our small aesthetic and reconstructive charity in Sana'a—contacted us to ask if we could help the children. Accordingly, Thuraya and two other cleft children who were supposed to go to Jordan were sponsored by the Yemen Smile and Smile Train USA partnership programmes for free surgery at the Yarim hospital cleft surgery centre, during our latest camp.

Yarim hospital is situated in Yarim, a small village about two hours drive from Sana'a. The total cost of our state of the art aesthetic lip and nose surgeries for the three patients at Yarim village cost a mere fraction of what it would have cost for their air tickets to Jordan, not to mention all the other logistical expenses incurred during a stay in a foreign country.



Above: Before and After shots of 20 year old Amlak Mohamed and 4 year old Reysan Baggash