



2025
Conference Report

INCLUSIVE APPROACHES, LASTING CHANGE



Circle of
Cleft Professionals

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OVERVIEW

The *Solutions for Comprehensive Cleft Care* (S4CCC) conference (4th edition) brought together 45 dedicated cleft professionals from 21 countries and 12 disciplines, united by a shared goal: *to generate momentum for Comprehensive Cleft Care (CCC) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)*. Each of the four Solutions Groups (SGs) was tasked with developing actionable recommendations for an understudied topic:

- **Effective Community-based CCC Interventions (SG1)**
- **Multidisciplinary CCC Team-building (SG2)**
- **Making the Case for Core CCC Disciplines (SG3)**
- **Supporting Parents in CCC Treatment Decision-making (SG4)**

From January to March 2025, SG members engaged in an intensive six-session virtual sprint, meeting every two weeks to explore evidence, refine insights, and prepare to lead global dialogue. Their efforts culminated in the *Inclusive Approaches, Lasting Change* virtual conference on March 20, 2025, where they collectively facilitated 4 dynamic Roundtable sessions.

More than 230 participants—most from LMIC contexts—joined the conversation, bringing a wealth of lived experience and practical knowledge. The full dialogue is available for viewing on the Circle of Cleft Professionals (CoCP) -

[YouTube channel.](#)

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable impact doesn't happen overnight. It takes careful planting, diverse hands, and shared commitment to tend something meaningful into full bloom. This year's S4CCC conference—guided by the theme *"Inclusive Approaches, Lasting Change"*—was a vibrant reflection of just that: collective care rooted in diversity and collaboration, growing toward a strong future for cleft care in LMICs.

We extend heartfelt thanks to each SG member and special recognition to the 8 SG Co-chairs who helped cultivate this work with insight and care. We are also grateful for the support of the 11 NGO sponsors who made this work possible, and for Dr. Sebastian Taylor's thought-provoking plenary address.

We hope that the guidance produced here will continue to take root—inspiring tools, dialogue, and shared learning across LMIC cleft care communities.

With appreciation,

Hugh Brewster & Neeti Daftari
Hosts, S4CCC 2025
On behalf of the Circle of Cleft Professionals (CoCP)

SUMMARY OF SPRINT PROCESS



Connecting // Solutions Group (SG) members, Co-chairs and support team became acquainted, established shared expectations for participation, and began reviewing key topical resources.

Exploring // SGs discussed their learning, brainstormed key questions, and identified experts to consult.

Surveying // SGs consolidated topical knowledge, prioritized survey questions, and compiled a list of individuals to invite to complete a survey.







Analyzing // SGs compared notes from their interviews and survey analysis and began to form guideline recommendations.

Recommending // SGs finalized their recommendations and rationale and planned their Roundtable presentation.

Facilitating // SGs hosted a 70-minute Roundtable discussion at the 2025 S4CCC Conference.

Consolidating // SGs debriefed their Roundtable, considered participant feedback, and planned to capture their final topical Guideline Recommendations in written form.

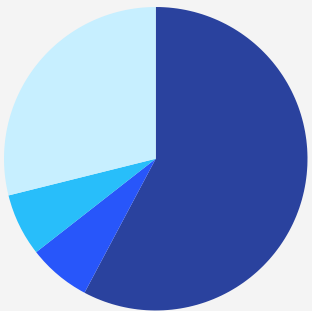


- 
OPENING PLENARY // Quality Care for Mothers and Newborns: Cleft Within the Big Picture, Dr. Sebastian Taylor
- 
Closing Plenary & Discussion// From Roundtables to Practical CCC Tools
[Watch the Plenary Recording](#)
- 
SG 1: Effective Community-based CCC Interventions: What strategies lower the burden of care for families who live far from a CCC hospital or centre?
[Watch the Recording](#)
- 
SG 2: Multidisciplinary CCC Team-building
 What practices are most effective in building and maintaining strong CCC teams?
[Watch the Recording](#)
- 
SG 3: Making the Case for Core CCC Disciplines
 How do we effectively advocate, internally and externally, for year-round CCC care?
[Watch the Recording](#)
- 
SG 4: Supporting Parents in CCC Treatment Decision-making
 How do we support parents in making informed decisions about their child's CCC treatment plan?
[Watch the Recording](#)

SUMMARY OF S4CCC PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Composition of Survey Respondents (n = 90)

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Participant based in LMIC | 52 |
| Participant based in HIC | 6 |
| NGO Representative | 6 |
| SG Co-chair / Member | 26 |



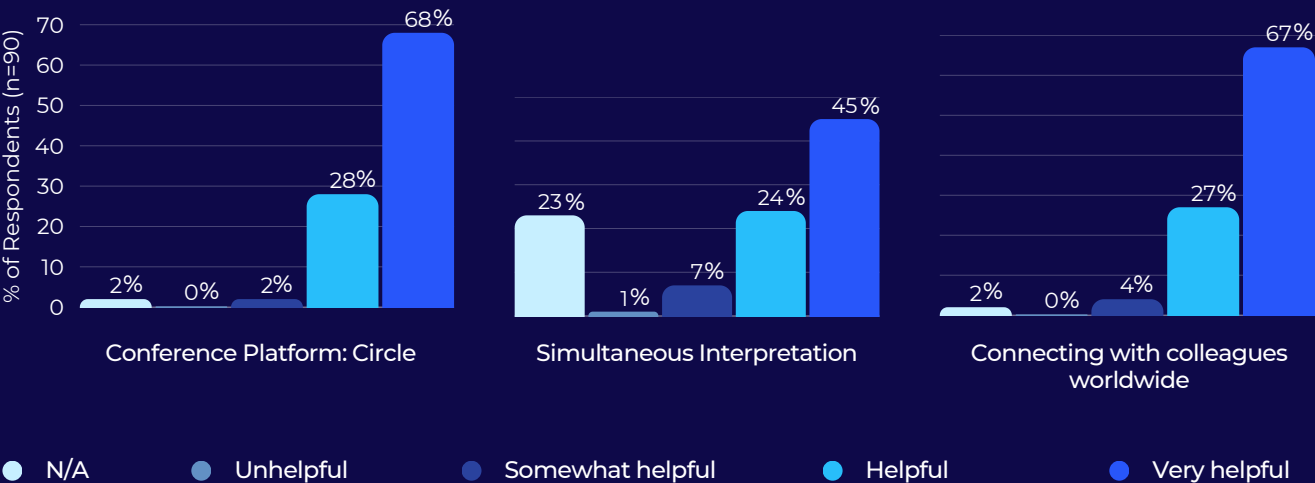
92%

are highly likely to attend a future S4CCC conference

98.8%

rated their overall S4CCC experience as Helpful (3/4) or Very Helpful (4/4)

Participant Experience of the S4CCC Conference



“



What Participants Appreciated:

“The organization, the ease of access to the sessions, and overall faultless technology.”

- Participant, LMIC

“Multiple inputs and diversity of participants which mean a variety of perspectives”

- Participant, LMIC

“Interdisciplinary presentations with engagement of delegates from LMICs.”

- Participant, HIC

“Connecting with professionals from all over the world and exchanging experiences and solutions for the challenges that most of us from Sub-Saharan Africa are facing.”

- Participant, LMIC



The “How Abouts...”:

“I felt I was missing out on what was happening in the other groups during the breakout sessions (Roundtables)...”

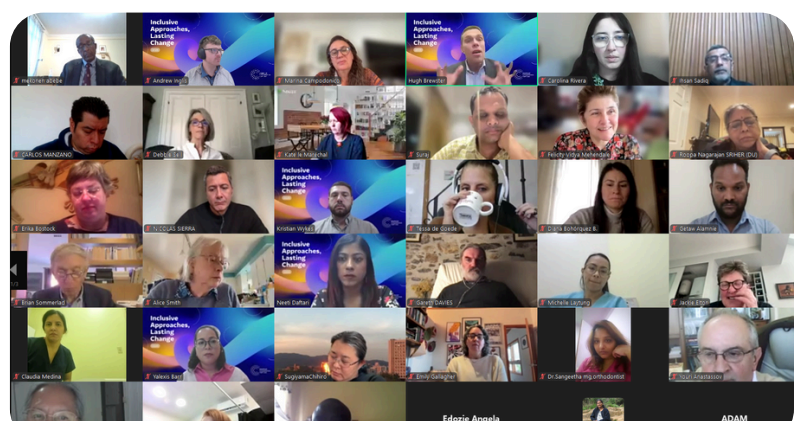
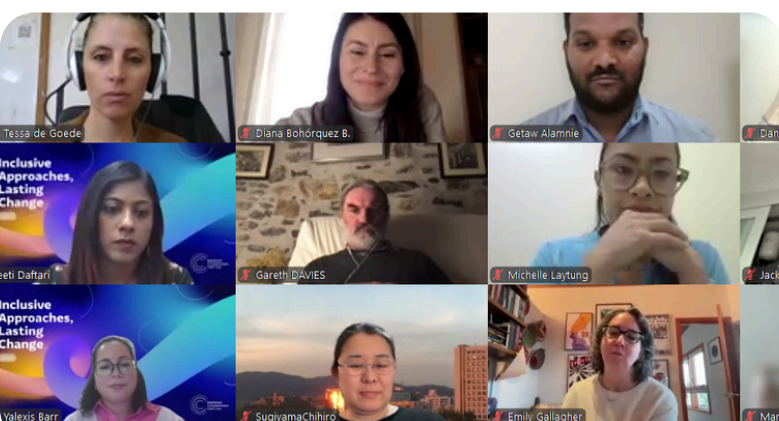
- Participant, LMIC

“A summary of prior conferences and current work sent prior to the conference would have been helpful.”

- Participant, LMIC

”

05.



SUMMARY OF S4CCC MEMBER FEEDBACK

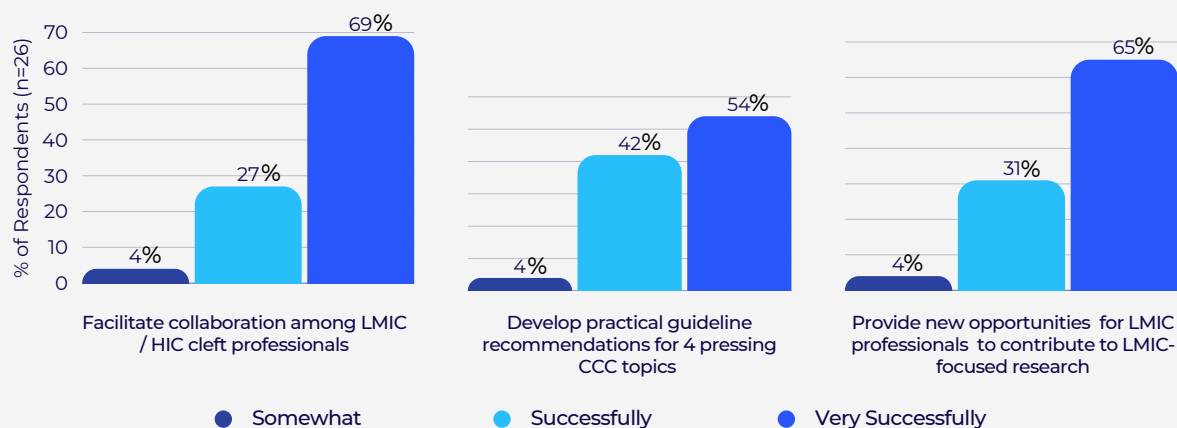
96%

are highly likely to participate in a Solutions Group in the future

96%

rated their overall SG experience as excellent

How well did the SG Members believe that the SG process supported its objectives?



What SG Members Appreciated:

"The opportunity to connect with multidisciplinary professionals around the world challenged my thinking in a very positive way. It also broke down some of the barriers to international working and learning"

"Discussing cross-cutting topics; discussing novel topics for the 'first time'

"The focus on building teams, the emphasis on comprehensive cleft care in LMICs, and the connection of cleft care professionals around the globe."

"It has generated a lot of ideas and clarity about the direction(s) future work could take."

The "How Abouts...":

"The sprint process was fantastic and challenged my in-built assumptions. However, it was a big undertaking to effectively facilitate this process in a short time and alongside a regular workload. But totally worth it and would do it again"

"This virtual conference should grow to the level of being a hybrid one, hosted both in person and virtual."

SOLUTIONS GROUP (SG) MEMBERS

The dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit of the following global cleft professionals made both the S4CCC Roundtable and the Guideline Recommendations possible:

- Adam Said Mang'ombe
- Ahmed O. Lawal
- Camila Osorio
- Carolina Rivera Gutiérrez
- Chrystelle Hanitriniaina
- Daniela Garcia Iturbe
- Dr. Andrea Domínguez Rivera
- Dr. Anne V Hing
- Dr. Balasubramanian Subramanian
- Dr. David Anthony Gillett
- Dr. Debbie A. Sell
- Dr. Diana C. Bohorquez
- Dr. Dorothy Bbaale
- Dr. Emily Rose Gallagher
- Dr. Felicity Vidya Mehendale
- Dr. Getaw Alamnie Gebeyehu
- Dr. Gustave Buname
- Dr. Ihsan Sadiq Mohammed
- Dr. Malka Jayathilake
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- Dr. Mohammed A.S Abdullahi
- Dr. Nicolas E Sierra
- Dr. Nirina A. Mandrano
- Dr. Omolola Orenuga
- Dr. Pumulo Maimbolwa
- Dr. Ruben Ayala
- Dr. Sangeetha M. Gnaneswar
- Dr. Savitha Vadakkanthara Hariharan
- Dr. Solomon Obiri-Yeboah
- Dr. Teshome Assefa
- Gareth W. Davies
- Khamis J. Khamis
- Kylie R DeBoer
- Maan Sukte
- Manju Subrahmanian
- Phanomwan Yoodee
- Prof. Mobolanle Olugbemiga Ogunlewe
- Prof. Roopa Nagarajan
- Prof. Vignesh Kailasam
- Sara A. Horne
- Sarah Claire Kilcoyne
- Scarlett Norambuena
- Zainal A. Ahmad

SG Members





OUR ADVISORS



Dr. Marina Campodonico



Dr. George Galiwango



Dr. Debbie Sell



Prof. Roopa Nagarajan



Dr. Mekonen Eshete



Dr. Felicity Mehendale

OUR SPONSORS



If you're interested in joining the CoCP, please complete a [brief application](#).

Distribution, re-use or referencing of any S4CCC Guideline Series is welcomed. Please acknowledge the authors and source (Solutions4CCC)

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