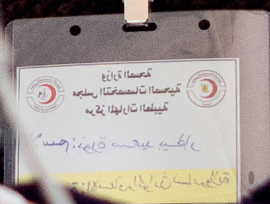


# Building a legacy

OUR IMPACT IN 2024



David Nott  
FOUNDATION



# Welcome

**At the David Nott Foundation, we strive for a world where access to safe, skilled surgical care is a reality for all. Every day, doctors and healthcare professionals work tirelessly to care for their communities while contending with the horrors of war and catastrophe. Health systems are under strain and increasingly under attack.**

For an organisation such as The David Nott Foundation, seeing an increase in demand for our products and services worldwide is troubling. Every day, there is more news of violence, and the odds seem increasingly stacked against those who have the least. The continuation and escalation of conflict around the world is palpable. A disorderly international community at the political level only serves to emphasise the importance of non-governmental bodies and civil society groups in tackling some of the intractable challenges we face.

I am immensely proud of our small team in responding to the crises in front of them. We initiated a robust and vital response in Palestine by training doctors set for Gaza on HEST courses in the UK and Kuwait. We increased our localisation commitment in Ukraine: local faculty took part in our HEST-UK course in Edinburgh to develop their skills to deliver future HEST teaching. Our new Ukrainian faculty helped train 226 doctors on 3 courses in Ukraine itself. We broadened our decade-long commitment in Syria, developing the local faculty, delivering HEST courses and investing in women's health, a health

catastrophe created by the conflict. We are doing this by investing in training, equipment and awareness campaigns for those suffering from cervical cancer. In Libya, we broke records and boundaries: we not only trained 103 doctors in one mission but also delivered our first HEST-Obstetrics & Gynaecology course. We see this course as a pioneer and enabler of change in a world in which a maternal death occurs every 2 minutes.

As I begin my tenure as CEO of this fantastic organisation, I want firstly to thank our supporters. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity, collective spirit, enthusiasm and commitment to what we do. It resonates with people in all corners of the world. Without you, we simply cannot do what we do, supporting doctors working in conflict and catastrophe. I would also like to thank the team: Our employees, our faculty, our co-founders and our board of trustees. I would like to thank my predecessor, Elly Nott. Everything you read in this report is a result of her vision and her tireless work in bringing this community together, focused on a single mission. As we come to the end of our first decade of action, we begin the next with so many opportunities to touch more lives and make safe, skilled surgical care a reality for all.



**Dr James Gough,**  
Chief Executive

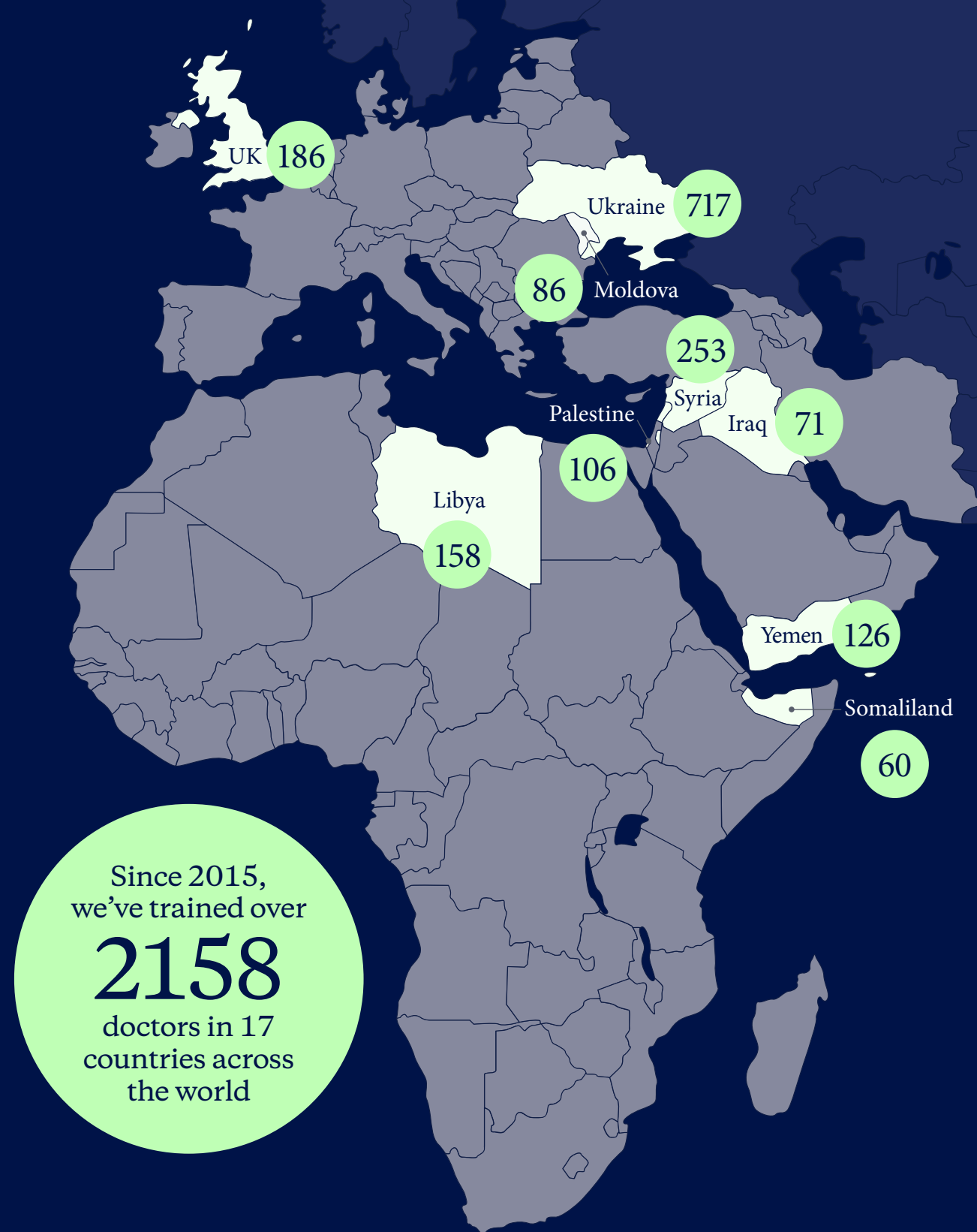


**“As we come to the end of a decade of action, we begin the next decade with so many opportunities to touch more lives and make safe, skilled surgical care a reality for all.”**

**DR JAMES GOUGH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



We build a  
community of  
surgeons  
anaesthetists  
obstetricians  
gynaecologists  
life savers



Since 2015,  
we've trained over  
**2158**  
doctors in 17  
countries across  
the world



# We build opportunities

**In 2024, we continued supporting medical professionals in Palestine, addressing urgent healthcare needs amid an intensifying Gaza-Israel conflict.**

Following the success of our Hostile Environment Surgical Training (HEST)-UK course for doctors heading to Palestine in December 2023, we once again joined with PalMed to train another group of doctors who intend to offer their skills on the frontline. In total, we have trained 80 doctors deploying to Gaza from countries including Germany, Sweden, and Qatar, with some participating in multiple missions.

With backing from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS), we also trained 24 Kuwaiti surgeons and 12 anaesthetists preparing to volunteer in Gaza. Recognising the importance of adaptability, we taught these doctors to construct a simple anaesthesia machine using components available on-site, a skill that could be crucial in resource-limited hospitals.

Until safe and skilled surgical care is available for everyone, we will continue to do all we can.

“If this training can work in Gaza, it can work anywhere else.”

DR ISRAAR ULHAQ

Our support extends beyond training; our faculty—including Co-founder Professor David Nott—have deployed to Gaza on multiple occasions, joining with organisations deploying medical teams into Gaza.



Dr Israar Ul-Haq is an urgent and pre-hospital care doctor. Volunteering his expertise, Dr Ul-Haq joined two separate missions to Gaza after training on our HEST-UK course.



“Seeing Gaza reminds me of the vital importance of our foundation’s work. Training doctors, operating on patients in war zones, bearing witness to doctors’ needs on the ground, I’m more driven than ever to help the charity grow so we can reach even more people in need.”

DAVID NOTT, CO-FOUNDER



# We build trust

This year, we deepened our commitment to Ukraine by focusing on both immediate healthcare needs and long-term localisation efforts. Our goal is to empower Ukrainian healthcare professionals with the skills, resources, and leadership needed to deliver sustainable care amidst conflict. Here's an overview of our achievements in 2024.

## Training and capacity building

### TRAINING IN MOLDOVA

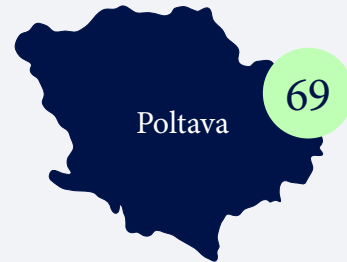
In response to healthcare challenges amplified by the Ukrainian crisis and answering a request from the World Health Organisation (WHO)-Office for Europe, we held two HEST-Anaesthesia courses in Moldova, training 26 Moldovan anaesthetists.

### COURSES IN VINNYTSIA AND POLTAVA

Our work continued within Ukraine, where we trained:



86 medical professionals in Vinnytsia in March; offering them specialised trauma surgery and emergency care training tailored for frontline challenges.



69 medical professionals in Poltava in June, bringing our milestone to over 2,000 healthcare workers trained globally in nine years. These sessions were invaluable for doctors actively treating war casualties, equipping them to handle the complex trauma cases they encounter daily.



71 medical professionals in Kyiv in October. This mission was a milestone, with our HEST course fully run by local Ukrainian faculty and a pilot of our Hostile Environment Surgical Training for Nurses (HEST-N) for 15 frontline nurses.



## Strengthening local leadership

### EMPOWERING LOCAL INSTRUCTORS

Localisation is a cornerstone of our charitable mission. In June and December, we funded several Ukrainian surgeons to attend our HEST-UK course led by our Co-Founder Professor Nott. This training, held at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, equipped them with advanced skills to lead sessions independently. Following this, a number of these professionals returned to Ukraine and joined our courses as official faculty members, teaching and helping build a sustainable, locally -led training model that can continue for years to come.

Beyond instructor training, our localisation efforts include employing key programme team members within Ukraine, building partnerships with local suppliers, and aligning our strategy closely with the Ministry of Health and affiliated bodies.



# We build resilience

**Libya has faced political turmoil and unrest for the past 13 years with conflict persisting among armed groups.**

In February we trained 103 doctors in Tripoli, Libya, the largest number trained in one mission, empowering them to save lives in conflict. These doctors are now equipped to perform complex procedures with confidence.

We partnered with the Libyan Board of Medical Specialties to deliver four surgical training courses in parallel. Over five intense days, our team of expert trainers delivered two HEST- courses for surgeons, two HEST-Anaesthesia courses and a brand-new HEST-O&G obstetrics and gynaecology course. Doctors we'd

previously upskilled in Libya also joined our training faculty and led the teaching of several of our modules for the first time, demonstrating our commitment to localising our impact.

“Candidates travelled from all over Libya with many travelling over 1000km to participate in our surgical training. Their eagerness to learn and share their experiences was evident and they will now be equipped with the skills needed to deliver high quality care.”

DR MOEZ ZEITON, CONSULTANT ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON AND FACULTY LEAD FOR LIBYA



Dr Moez Zeiton, Libya Faculty Lead





# We build innovations

**For thirteen years the David Nott Foundation has supported Syria's dedicated healthcare professionals. We look forward to continuing to assist our partners and faculty as they navigate the next steps at this time of change and make safe, skilled surgical care a reality for all Syrians.**

## APRIL-MAY MISSION WITH ACTION FOR HUMANITY

We partnered with Action for Humanity to deliver training and surgical support in Northwest Syria. This mission was a dual effort: while three of our international faculty, including Co-Founder Professor David Nott, provided hands-on instruction, our local Syrian faculty also led parts of the HEST training, building local expertise and capacity. Together, we trained 33 Syrian doctors, equipping them with advanced trauma care skills and surgical techniques crucial for treating war-related injuries. This mission also included an operative component, where Professor David Nott performed surgery on patients allowing doctors to learn through practical application and immediate patient care.

## NOVEMBER MISSION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

We embarked on a new collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), marking our first partnership with them in Syria. This mission was a significant milestone, as it was part of the WHO's broader strategy to strengthen trauma care and emergency preparedness in Northwest Syria. Recognising our Hostile Environment Surgical Training (HEST) courses as an integral part of this effort, WHO invited us to deliver specialised training for Syrian medical teams.

**Two of our international faculty members, alongside 14 local faculty, trained 25 doctors, focusing on trauma response and surgical interventions that are critically needed in Syria.**

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE CAPACITY IN SYRIA

Our missions, scholarships and ongoing support demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable programme in Syria. By empowering local Syrian instructors and collaborating with organisations like Action for Humanity, the WHO and local health system governance actors; we are helping to support a resilient, self-sustaining medical community capable of responding to crises.

## INNOVATION

Building capacity within the health system involves different specialties that address injuries caused by conflict but also areas of care that have been neglected. To address these needs, this year we developed the Hostile Environment Surgical Training for Obstetrics and Gynaecology (HEST-O&G), delivering it for the first time in Libya in February.

The course covers a variety of common scenarios in maternal and neonatal health emergencies. Participants begin with neonatal and maternal trauma training before moving into obstetrics to understand the complexities of childbirth emergencies. Beyond the medical realm, our trainers advocate for a holistic approach to maternal health in their teaching.

**It's not just about reducing mortality rates, it's about understanding the wider implications of maternal deaths on families, communities, and societies at large.**

In addition, this year we began the development of the Hostile Environment Surgical Course for Nurses (HEST-N). Nurses play a vital role within the health system, often being the first responders and providing continuous patient care long after doctors have stabilised initial trauma cases. In conflict zones, where resources are scarce and medical needs are urgent, their expertise becomes even more critical. We piloted an early version of the course for the first time in Ukraine in October, training 15 nurses. We continue to review and develop this course to ensure the content meets both the requirements of the recipients and the mission of the organisation.

**“75% of displaced people are women and children, and one of the five of those women will be pregnant.”**

**DR PIPPA LETCHWORTH,  
FACULTY LEAD FOR OBSTETRICS  
AND GYNAECOLOGY**



Dr Pippa Letchworth, Faculty Lead for Obstetrics and Gynaecology



# We build leaders

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our Friends of the David Nott Foundation (FDFNs) and Trainees of the David Nott Foundation (TDFNs) volunteer societies. Whether they are raising funds or convening conferences and webinars, our network of FDNF and TDNF groups are an essential global community for sustaining our mission.

This year, we celebrated a total of 21 national and 4 international FDNF societies, and welcome 13 TDNF committee members supporting 50 members from over 10 countries. These dedicated supporters not only help raise awareness and funds but also help members gain experience in the humanitarian sector.

## CONFERENCES

This year we held our first TDNF conference, a hybrid event at the University of Salford. The conference attracted 200 medical professionals from various specialties and international locations, including Yemen, Pakistan, Albania, Nigeria, Poland, UAE, Ethiopia, Thailand, Malawi, and many more. The day was full of comprehensive lectures and workshops. Our faculty provided the trainees with insights into working in war zones.

We also held our third Friends of David Nott Foundation (FDFNF) conference, hosted this year by our FDFNF at the University of Cambridge in the Clinical School of Medicine. This event brought together 45 dedicated FDFNF members from universities across the UK. The conference, led by our faculty members, featured four specialised workshops focusing on vascular surgery, orthopaedics, paediatrics, and general trauma.

## THE FDFNF IN CONGO

This year we were contacted by a medical student to set up an FDFNF in the DRC, our first ever in Africa. In support of the Congolese doctors we provided funding for teaching tools to upskill doctors in Kabare's territory at the Murhesa Medical Center.

“Our first workshop was a success. We chose doctors who really needed training. It was a big moment for us.”

CHRIS KITUMAINI, FDFNF PRESIDENT  
IN THE DRC

“Our dream is to follow in the footsteps of David Nott and other humanitarian surgeons.”

DAN LAZENBY, PLASTIC AND BURNS  
TRAINING REGISTRAR, TDNF PRESIDENT





# We build awareness

In 2024, we focused on increasing awareness and building strategic connections to further our mission.

## **BUILDING CONNECTIONS AT PARLIAMENT**

In February, we partnered with CT Group to host a special event at Parliament, where we engaged with Members of Parliament (MPs) and expanded our network of supporters for our work in Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, and beyond. This event fostered meaningful conversations about our mission and helped strengthen relationships with key stakeholders.

## **AMPLIFYING OUR VOICE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE**

Our CEO, Dr James Gough, also made significant strides in raising awareness at the global level. As an alumnus of the McCain Institute Global Leaders Program, he attended the UN General Assembly, where he shared valuable insights on global humanitarian challenges and highlighted the critical role the David Nott Foundation plays in addressing healthcare needs in conflict zones.

## **DOCTOR THEATRE RAISES VITAL FUNDS**

In October, Theatre Friends of DNF hosted the 'Doctor Theatre' event at the Almeida Theatre. Some of the world's greatest actors came together with David Nott for a once in a lifetime evening on stage. We are indebted to Peter Capaldi, Judi Dench, Lindsay Duncan, Stephen Fry, Ian McKellen, Simon Russell Beale, and Imelda Staunton for their extraordinary contribution and support. Through their personal stories and performances, they raised over £61,000 to support our mission.

## **SHOWCASING LEADERSHIP AT AIDEX 2024**

The team also had a useful visit to AIDEX 2024 in Geneva, where we connected with potential partners and explored services aligned with our work. A key moment was our CEO, James Gough, joining a panel discussion on Healthcare Collaboration in Conflict-Affected Areas, showcasing our leadership in the field.

These events have been crucial in building our network, raising awareness, and furthering our impact in the communities we serve.



**“Our job is to make sure we use our unique position to bring our knowledge to more doctors, whilst always maintaining excellence. This can only happen with collaboration.”**

**DR JAMES GOUGH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOLLOWING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



# We build capability

**This year, we announced the launch of the Betty Boothroyd Scholarship Fund. The programme provides opportunities for doctors and health researchers from the conflict-affected states in which we operate. It is named in honour of the late Baroness Betty Boothroyd, our Founding Patron and a passionate supporter of our work.**

This programme not only aims to provide advanced surgical capability but also contribute to the development of health systems, cultivate local leaders, and enable doctors and healthcare workers to become mentors, advocates, and catalysts for change within their health systems. The Betty Boothroyd Scholarship Fund helps build resilient health networks that can endure and adapt to the challenges of conflict, ultimately fostering a new generation of medical professionals dedicated to improving healthcare access and outcomes in their communities.

We are thrilled to announce Dr Munzer Alkhalil is the first recipient of the Betty Boothroyd Scholarship. Dr Alkhalil is a Syrian public health specialist advisor and researcher with a medical background and over a decade of leadership in conflict-affected health systems.

His research will focus on the importance of developing locally-led health responses, including surgical care in conflict zones. As demonstrated in Syria's response to the earthquake and previous crises, robust surgical networks that can function independently and improve medical training and education are crucial, especially when external resources are scarce. We know surgical capacity strengthening is not an isolated function, but an integral part of a broader humanitarian and health response, which currently faces many limitations. Our Foundation understands that we cannot train doctors in isolation and, as a development organisation, must use our position to help build insights into effective health systems that surround that surgical capability.



Betty Boothroyd





# We build recognition

At the David Nott Foundation, our brand is far more than just a logo or a colour palette – it's the heart of how we communicate our vision. This year, we've invested in a bold new identity to reflect our mission more powerfully than ever before.

## Why we've refreshed our brand

A strong, consistent brand helps us achieve our mission in tangible ways:

### BUILDING CONNECTION

Our new identity is designed to resonate with all of our audiences and reach new ones – future humanitarian surgeons, medical professionals and donors who share our vision of a world where safe, skilled surgical care is available to all. By aligning our visuals, messaging and values, we're able to connect more deeply with those who care about our cause.

### INSPIRING TRUST

In the humanitarian space, trust is paramount. A polished, cohesive identity reinforces our credibility and assures donors, partners and governments that their support is in expert hands.

### REFLECTING OUR MISSION

We want our brand to feel alive, urgent, and hopeful – reflecting the extraordinary work of our team and the inspirational healthcare professionals we train. A modern, dynamic identity helps us tell their stories and bring our mission to life.

### A UNIFIED IDENTITY

From davidnottfoundation.com to posters to social media posts, a unified identity ensures that our message is clear, no matter where people encounter us.

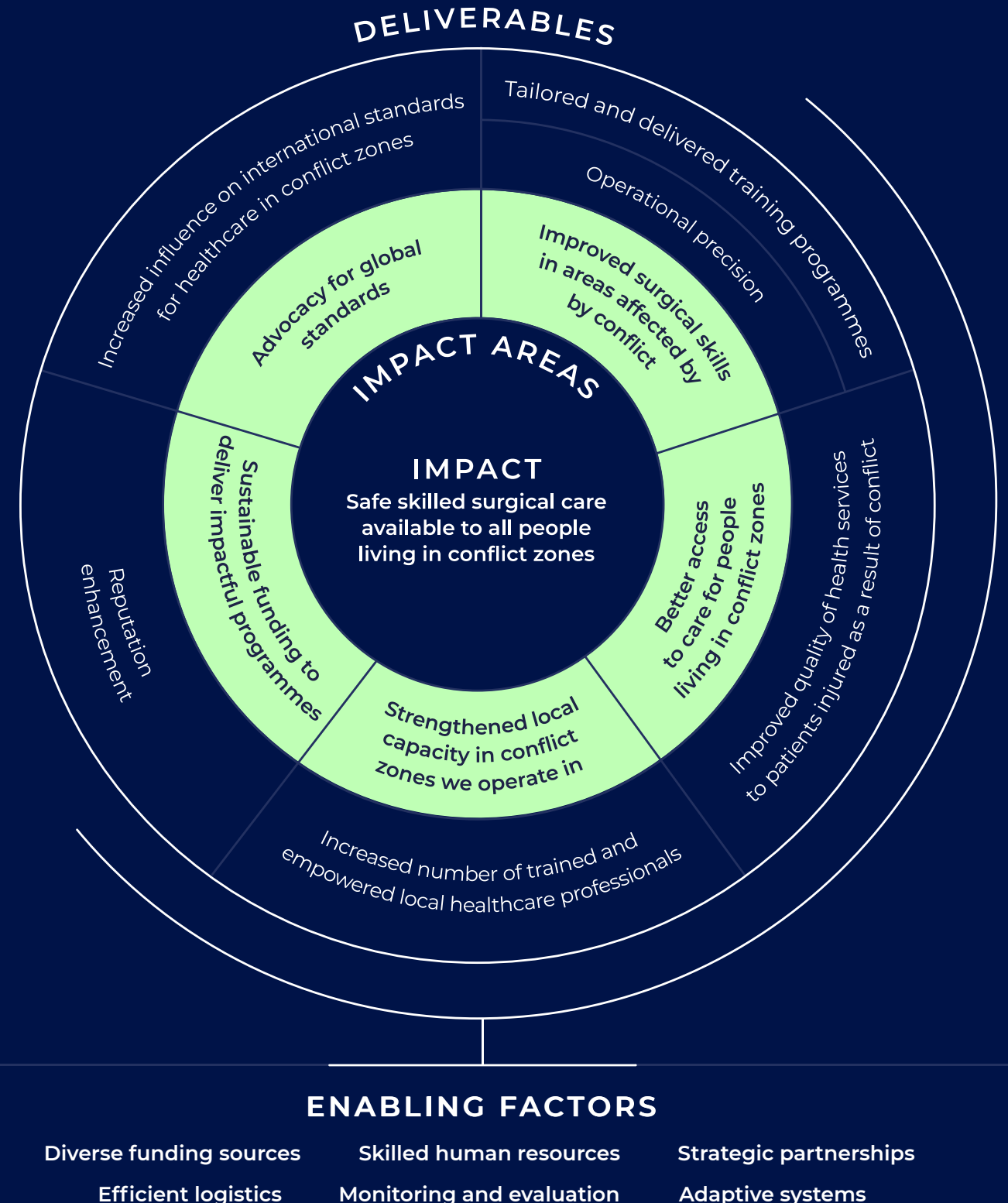
We've introduced a refreshed logo, colour palette and typography that capture the essence of the Foundation. Pale green and deep blue symbolise growth, peace and trust, while bold, modern typefaces project strength and clarity.

Our new identity is a step forward in ensuring that we continue to transform lives for years to come.

We're excited to announce that the David Nott Foundation is moving to a new office at 193 Hercules Road, SE1 7LD. The move provides greater efficiency as we continue to grow and expand our impact.

# Theory of Change 2024

Our Theory of Change focuses on ensuring access to safe, skilled surgical care in conflict zones. By training local healthcare professionals, building sustainable partnerships and advocating for global standards, we empower communities to create lasting impact.



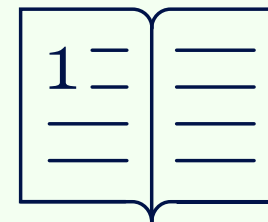


# We build a world where safe, skilled surgical care is available to all

## What's to come in 2025

We will continue to shift toward a more holistic approach, better reflecting the diverse range of activities and training that support surgical education in conflict and catastrophe-affected areas.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to scaling our impact, improving local healthcare systems, and ensuring the sustainability of our programs in conflict zones. Building on the progress made over the past year, here's what's to come.



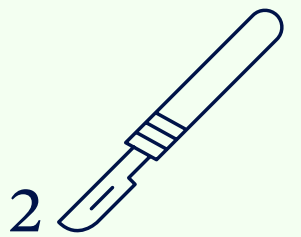
### EXPAND AND ADAPT OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS

We will further develop and refine our suite of HEST courses, surgical missions, and published materials to ensure they are adaptable to the rapidly changing environments in which we operate, so our content remains relevant and impactful.



### SUPPORT HEALTHCARE INNOVATORS

We will offer scholarships to pioneering healthcare professionals working in conflict zones and disaster areas. By supporting their efforts to generate new knowledge, we aim to further our mission of improving healthcare delivery in these regions.

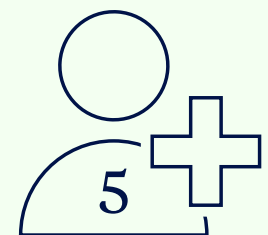


### STRENGTHEN LOCAL CAPACITY TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY

We will expand local faculty and in-country teams in Ukraine, Syria, and Palestine to empower leadership and deliver locally led HEST courses. This ensures training remains relevant, sustainable, and impactful.

### INVEST IN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

We will continue to grow our global network of Trainees and Friends of the David Nott Foundation. This includes supporting their fundraising efforts, conferences and training initiatives, as well as helping them expand their impact.



### DEVELOP TRAINING FOR SURGICAL NURSES

We will refine and expand our surgical nurse training program, delivering pilot courses overseas and enhancing the material to meet the needs of frontline healthcare professionals.



### LONG-TERM COLLABORATION WITH ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

We are committed to developing a long-term partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to deliver a cadaveric course in the UK. This will train potential DNF faculty members from conflict-affected regions, ensuring high-quality training for local instructors.

### DIVERSIFY FUNDING SOURCES

In response to the increasing global demand for our services, we will diversify and expand our funding sources to ensure that we can continue to meet the growing need for our training.





“I am so proud of everything the David Nott Foundation has achieved in our first nine years of operations. It feels like yesterday that I began this journey at David and I’s kitchen table. I had absolute clarity on the need for safe, skilled surgical care and how we could contribute to making it a reality. Since then, the scale of the need and complexity of the challenges have only increased but in 2025 we will mark ten years of making a difference and look ahead to the decades to come, filled with that same purpose, energy and determination.”

ELEANOR NOTT, CO-FOUNDER AND SENIOR ADVISER

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David Nott  
FOUNDATION