An Essential Strategy for Achieving Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 5

**1. No Poverty**
Improved access to timely and safe surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anaesthesia care directly contributes to preventing individuals from falling into extreme poverty.

An estimated **5 billion** people do not have access to safe, affordable surgical care and anaesthesia worldwide.

**81 million** people face catastrophic financial expenditure annually seeking surgical & anaesthesia care where it services are not readily available.

**3. Good Health and Well-being**
Surgical care is essential to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for women, men, and children of all ages. Surgical care addresses infectious conditions, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries. It is a necessary component of Universal Health Coverage.

NCDs kill **38 million** people each year, with 80% of NCD deaths impacting people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

25% of disabilities could be treated with surgical interventions.

Improvements in trauma care can save up to **2 million** lives annually in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

**5. Gender Equality**
Essential surgical care, including the availability of emergency cesarean section, is critical for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Up to **25%** of all maternal deaths could be prevented with increased access to emergency obstetric services including caesarean section.

Timely detection and availability of obstetric surgical care can prevent up to ¼ of maternal deaths.

**16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**
Essential surgical care is critical to achieving just, peaceful and inclusive societies - because where people are prosperous, healthy, and equal, societies thrive.

**17. Partnerships for the Goals**
Partnerships across silos and between governments, civil society, and private stakeholders will be essential to strengthening surgical systems and achieving the SDGs.