

FACT SHEET | MERCY SHIPS OVERVIEW



Mercy Ships, founded in 1978, operates hospital ships that deliver **free surgeries** and other healthcare services to those with little access to safe medical care. An international faith-based organization, Mercy Ships has focused on partnering with African nations for the past three decades. Working with in-country partners, Mercy Ships also provides **education and training across the surgical ecosystem** to strengthen healthcare systems and leave a lasting impact.



OUR SURGICAL FLEET

Mercy Ships bases its work from its two hospital ships, the *Africa Mercy*®, which went into service in 2007, and the *Global Mercy*®— the world's first purpose-built civilian hospital ship—which began serving African nations in 2022. Each year, more than **3,000** volunteer professionals from over **60 countries** serve on board, including surgeons, dentists, nurses, teachers, cooks, engineers, and others who dedicate their time and skills to accelerate access to safe surgical, obstetric and anesthetic care.

Mercy Ships focuses on the areas of sub-Saharan Africa where, according to the 2015 Lancet Commission on Global Surgery study, at least **90% of the population lacks access to safe, affordable, and timely surgery.** Since 1990, Mercy Ships has served 14 African nations through 44 field services.

TWO PROGRAMMATIC PILLARS



Direct Medical

Mercy Ships provides safe, free surgeries on board its hospital ships, focusing on seven specialties: maxillofacial/head and neck surgery; reconstructive plastic surgery; pediatric orthopedic surgery; specialized pediatric surgery; general surgery; opthalmic; and women's health.



Education, Training, and Advocacy

Mercy Ships focuses on long-term, sustainable education and training across the surgical ecosystem, working to create lasting impact by increasing surgical capacity in host nations.

MERCY SHIPS' LEGACY SINCE 1978*



117,000+

life-changing surgical procedures



541,000+

dental procedures



54,300+

professionals trained in their area of expertise



2.87 million+ direct beneficiaries

*as of July 2023



as of July 2023



FACT SHEET | OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES





MISSION

Mercy Ships follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor.



VISION

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform individuals and serve nations.



VALUES

- Love God
- Love and serve others
- Be people of integrity
- Strive for excellence in all we say and do



IMPACT

Each year, 16.9 million people around the world die due to lack of access to surgical care. Mercy Ships deploys hospital ships to provide free surgeries. Since 1990, Mercy Ships has conducted 44 field services in 14 African countries, most of which are ranked by the United Nations Development Index as the least developed in the world. In addition to surgical care, Mercy Ships creates lasting impact by training local medical professionals and strengthening in-country healthcare systems.





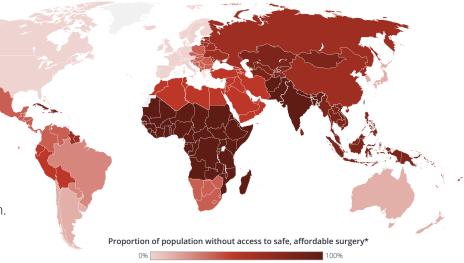
FACT SHEET | ADDRESSING SURGICAL NEED

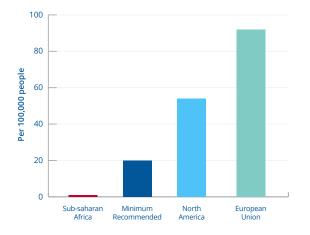


The urgent need for surgical care in the world's poorest regions is widely unrecognized. **Each year, an estimated 16.9 million lives (32.9% of all deaths worldwide) are lost from lack of access to safe, affordable, and timely surgery.** This greatly surpasses the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS (1.46 million), tuberculosis (1.20 million), and malaria (1.17 million) combined*. Mercy Ships has 45 years of experience in providing safe anesthesia and surgery. The organization also focuses on education and training across the surgical ecosystem in some of the world's most vulnerable nations, leveraging its expertise to build medical infrastructure and bring lasting change.

WHY AFRICA

As with so many global health challenges, the burden of untreated surgical conditions falls heaviest on individuals living in low-resource countries. Throughout West and sub-Saharan Africa, at least 90% lack access to surgical care.* Additionally, patients undergoing surgery in Africa are two times more likely to die following an operation.





WHAT IS MISSING

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the surgeon density is reported to range from 0.2 to 1.0 per 100,000 people, which is **far below the minimum recommended ratio** of 20/100,000.§ The lack of skilled providers is considered to be the main barrier to the expansion of surgical care. Research shows life-saving services such as surgery and specialized treatment are farther than 2 hours away for at least 170 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa.*

^{*}Lancet Commission on Global Surgery ${}^{\scriptscriptstyle T}\!P$ roceedings of the National Academy of Sciences ${}^{\scriptscriptstyle S}$ The Lancet Global Health

Mercy Ships

FACT SHEET | ADDRESSING SURGICAL NEED



The heart of Mercy Ships' calling rests upon recognizing the value of human life. To support this mission, Mercy Ships' programmatic strategy includes delivering improvements through **Direct Medical Services** and **Education, Training, and Advocacy**. In addition to measuring output (i.e., the number of surgeries performed and number of training hours delivered), programs are designed to **maximize impact holistically**, taking into account the health and non-health outcomes that accrue to patients, their families, providers, and health systems.



Mercy Ships provides surgeries not typically available in-country, focusing on the following specialties: maxillofacial/head and neck surgery; reconstructive plastic surgery; pediatric orthopedic surgery; specialized pediatric surgery; general surgery; opthalmic; and women's health. Surgeries are always free and include any rehabilitation needed, as well as food, lodging, and transportation to both patients and their caregivers. In addition to these surgeries, Mercy Ships provides free dental services.



EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND ADVOCACY

In alignment with the Dakar Declaration, which focuses on "urgently expanding the core and support services workforce needed to provide safe surgical care," Mercy Ships works toward integration with and development of postgraduate training, with the goal of increasing the number of fully trained providers. Long-term partnerships are pursued in selected countries to strengthen healthcare systems.

WHY SHIPS

Over 40% of the world's population lives within 100 km (62 miles) of a coast.† Mercy Ships sails state-of-the-art floating hospitals directly to African nations — not only to provide free surgeries but to use the ship as an educational platform to enable lasting improvements in-country. The ships provide the security of a controlled environment, reliable electricity, clean water, and advanced medical technology without depleting any resources in areas that are already resource deficient. In addition, the ships allow the volunteer crew to serve within a close-knit community of like-minded professionals.



†UN Fact Sheet



FACT SHEET | EDUCATION, TRAINING, & ADVOCACY



Mercy Ships designs programs to bring hope and healing to patients and providers, while strengthening the overall healthcare infrastructure in African nations where there are gaps in surgical systems. Our programmatic strategy is not just focused on providing free surgeries; equal importance is placed upon providing education and training to professionals across the surgical ecosystem. These programs are under the umbrella known as **Education, Training, and Advocacy**.



MEASURING SUCCESS

In addition to measuring output (i.e., number of surgeries performed or hours of training delivered), we pursue programs that **maximize impact** in each host country **holistically**, taking into account both health and non-health outcomes. Some of our key metrics for success include:

- Increased disability-adjusted life years (DALY) restored to patients' lives
- Increased number of specialist providers
- Increased number of encouraged and empowered providers
- · Increased influence in global surgery conversations

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In order to increase the number of fully trained providers, Mercy Ships focuses on **core programs that fill a gap where specialized training is lacking.** We examine needs in the nations we serve and implement programs such as:

- Six-month to one-year fellowships in the following areas: plastic and reconstructive surgery, maxillofacial/head and neck surgery, anesthesia, difficult airway management, data informatics, and perioperative nursing.
- Using the ship's hospital as a rotation in the host country's established training programs for surgery, anesthesia, and nursing.
- Long-term partnerships, such as Université Gamal Abdel Nasser de Conakry in Guinea and Connaught Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

ADVOCACY

Mercy Ships works toward creating a world where everyone who is suffering from disability, disfigurement, or disease has access to quality, affordable, medical/surgical treatment and whole-person care so that they can reach their God-given potential. Our direct advocacy activities include peer-reviewed scientific publications about the work that we do and having a presence at international meetings such as the G4 Alliance, the UN General Assembly and the World Health Assembly. We also support the rollout of the Dakar Declaration as driven by signatory countries and regional partners.





FACT SHEET | DIRECT MEDICAL SERVICES

Mercy Ships deploys hospital ships to African nations to provide **free surgeries** and conduct training and mentoring to strengthen in-country medical infrastructure. The specialty procedures offered are those typically unavailable in the host countries, including **maxillofacial/head and neck surgery; reconstructive plastic surgery; pediatric orthopedic surgery; specialized pediatric surgery; general surgery; opthalmic; and women's health**. In addition to these surgeries, Mercy Ships provides free dental services. The organization also works to build partnerships with African governments and universities to deliver both the greatest immediate benefit and the most long-term sustainable transformation.







ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE

Surgery, especially in difficult circumstances, can be an extremely traumatizing experience, and Mercy Ships strives for excellence in all aspects of **pre- and post-operative care.** For every patient Mercy Ships serves, there are multiple touch points as part of an all-inclusive program.

Mercy Ships' patient care may include various consultations, nutritional guidance, anesthesia, oversight of recovery, outpatient appointments, and rehabilitation after surgery, among others. **Care is specialized based on the patient's condition and specific needs.** Some patients, in fact, require more than one surgery and go through these steps multiple times. These touch points are not tracked separately or used cumulatively as key performance indicators.

Patients may also spend time at the Hospital Outpatient Extension (HOPE) Center, a Mercy Ships' facility which bridges the gap between the ship and the patient's community.

SURGICAL SPECIALTIES







Reconstructive plastic



General surgery



Pediatric surgery



Pediatric orthopedic



Ophthalmic



Women's health

MEASURING SUCCESS

Mercy Ships focuses on lasting impact and does not measure success by the number of surgeries performed. Instead, the organization works in each nation to bring about **holistic change**. One of the primary KPIs Mercy Ships uses is the Disability-Adjusted Life Year (DALY), which is a measure of the **years of healthy life restored to patients**. With two ships operating simultaneously, Mercy Ships expects to perform 4,500-6,000 surgical procedures per year, which will return an estimated 4,000 to 7,000 years of healthy life to patients per field service.



FACT SHEET | SURGICAL SPECIALTIES

Mercy Ships deploys hospital ships to provide free surgeries and conduct training and mentoring to strengthen in-country medical infrastructure in African nations where 9 out of 10 people do not have access to safe, affordable surgery and anesthetic care. The seven types of specialty procedures offered are those typically unavailable in the host countries.



MAXILLOFACIAL/HEAD AND NECK surgeries target afflictions such as facial tumors, cleft lips, cleft palates, and noma. Cleft lip and palate are the most common facial birth defects, affecting one in 500 of all live births. Most growths are benign, but their size and location can have crippling effects, hindering mobility, breathing, and eating. Noma is the most dangerous affliction, fatal in ninety percent of the cases where it is untreated.



RECONSTRUCTIVE PLASTIC SURGERY can be life-changing when an accident maims the skin beyond repair, or a disease causes conjoined limbs or tumors that disfigure and debilitate. Burns are the fifth most common type of childhood injuries and are exacerbated when there is no access to care to prevent infection or the onset of deformities. Mercy Ships' specialized surgeons transplant skin over burnt tissue, separate webbed or conjoined fingers, and intercede to reduce the suffering from various injuries all over the body.



GENERAL SURGERY is the largest grouping of surgeries, comprised of procedures such as goiter removal, hernia repair, appendectomies, thyroidectomies, benign tumor removal, and limb fracture repair. Approximately 1.5 million deaths could be prevented annually from these common, easily treatable conditions, which affect quality of life by crippling a person with mobility, financial, or other health impairments.



PEDIATRIC SURGERY refers to the subset of general surgeries requiring extensive surgical knowledge for the intricacies of diagnosing and caring for newborn infants and children. Procedures include treatment for umbilical hernias, soft tissue tumors, congenital birth defects, abnormalities in the abdomen, and traumatic injuries.



FACT SHEET | SURGICAL SPECIALTIES

PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY focuses on children faced with bowed or windswept legs, clubfoot, and quadricep contractures, among others. Because of the bone malleability of pediatric patients, orthopedic surgeons are able to correct problems in a shorter amount of time with less trauma to the body. Mercy Ships performs a limited range of surgeries on young adults up to age 30. Post-surgery, patients are offered physical therapy to improve range of motion, flexibility, and general mobility as part of the rehabilitative recovery process.



OPHTHALMIC SURGERY addresses serious vision impairment, a condition estimated to affect more than 80 percent of people in Africa (need source). Cataracts, a clouding of the eye's lens that impedes the passage of light, are the leading issue. Complete cataract blindness can be stopped in its early stages through a low-cost, suture-less technique. Other surgeries involve correcting pterygium (cornea growths), strabismus (crossed eyelids), eyelid deformities, and providing prosthetic eye replacements.



WOMEN'S HEALTH SURGERIES are necessary in countries where women lack access to routine obstetric and gynecological care. During labor, obstructions that prolong delivery and persistent contractions can cause soft tissues caught between the baby's head and the mother's pelvis to become cut off from blood flow and die. The development of obstetric fistula is directly linked to obstructed labor, which accounts for up to 6% of all maternal deaths.





DENTAL PROGRAM

In addition to these surgical specialties, Mercy Ships provides free dental services as part of its field service programs. Without treatment, even the most common oral conditions (cavities and periodontal disease) can be lethal. Poor oral health can contribute to other diseases such as noma or osteonecrosis (rotten decay) of the jaw. For children, tooth decay is a particular concern as it impacts childhood nutrition, growth, and weight gain.





FACT SHEET | THE GLOBAL MERCY



The *Global Mercy*[®] is Mercy Ships' newest vessel, its first purpose-built vessel—and the **world's largest civilian hospital ship**. Completed in 2022, the state-of-the-art floating hospital more than doubled the organization's capacity to provide free surgeries and training. More than **150,000 lives are estimated to be transformed** through surgery alone during the ship's lifespan, and thousands of local doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel will be trained, furthering Mercy Ships' mission of providing holistic support to African nations with fragile healthcare systems.

OUR MARITIME PLATFORM

The *Global Mercy* is the result of long-term collaboration by highly respected maritime professionals around the world. She was built with efficiency and sustainability in mind



Ship systems provide **reliable** and **efficient power, clean water**, and **air conditioning** for the hospital and crew.



Modern, efficient systems **reduce total energy consumption.**



Filtering and treating AC condensate water for technical **reduces potable water use** by approximately **50%**.

SPECIFICATIONS	
Length	174m
Breadth	28.6 m
Draft	6.1m
Decks	12
Gross Tonnage	37,856
Main Engines	4x Wartsila 6L32
	with ABB Azipod® propulsion units
CrewCapacity	640
Build date	2015
	Tianjin Xingang Shipyard, China
Project Management	Stena RoRo
Registration	Malta
	Lloyd's Register

A FLOATING VILLAGE

Each year, more than **1,500 volunteer professionals** — including surgeons, nurses, engineers, teachers, cooks, plumbers, electricians, housekeepers and chaplains — from over **60 countries** serve on board in both short and long-term assignments, so the *Global Mercy* is **designed as a community** with comfortable meeting, work, and living spaces. The ship incorporates the latest comprehensive technology for crew safety and security.



Accommodation for up to **640 Crew members**



682 seat **Auditorium**



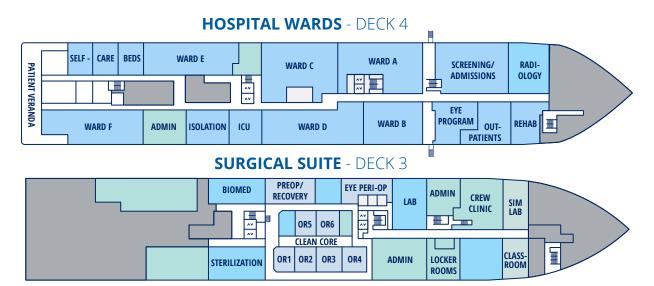


Café & Ship Shop

Additional crew facilities include gymnasium, pool, and library.







Hospital Area: approximately 7,000 m2



EQUIPPED TO HEAL

The *Global Mercy* is designed so that surgeons can carry out a wide range of procedures though the focus is on specialties that are not typically available in-country. Patients also receive **pre-operative** and **post-operative** care on board, including any necessary radiological tests via the ship's **world-class X ray and CT scan.** Dental care can be provided through a specially designed Hospitainer on the dock.

- 6 operating theatres
- **102** acute care beds
- **7** ICU/isolation beds
- 90 self-care beds



BUILT TO TRAIN

Using the ship as a platform for training and mentoring, Mercy Ships focuses on long-term, sustainable surgical education working to create lasting impact by increasing surgical capacity in host nations. Training spaces include a **simulation lab** which allows trainers to simulate local conditions and limitations in order to teach best practices in low-resource environments.



NATIONS SERVED

Since 2022, the *Global Mercy* has conducted **2 field assignments**, serving Senegal, The Gambia, and Sierra Leone.

GLOBAL MERCY LEGACY SO FAR*



Delivered services valued at **\$23 million+**



1,560+

life-changing surgical procedures



680+

professionals trained in their area of expertise



1,960+

direct beneficiaries







FACT SHEET | THE AFRICA MERCY



The Africa Mercy was **first deployed as a Mercy Ship in 2007** with an inaugural field service in Monrovia, Liberia. Acquired in 1999 through an initial Balcraig Foundation donation, the former Danish rail ferry known as the *Dronning Ingrid* was renamed the Africa Mercy by Dame Norma Major in April 2000. The ship's \$62 million USD refit was made possible through a matching grant from the Oak Foundation, ongoing support from the Balcraig Foundation, corporate gifts-in-kind, trusts and individual contributors. The Africa Mercy underwent a second refit in Durban, South Africa, in 2023 to extend her service life.

OUR MARITIME PLATFORM

The Africa Mercy has received multiple upgrades, enabling her with some of the same world-class technology and efficiencies of the Global Mercy. She continues to meet all international sustainability regulations.



To prevent the transfer of invasive species to countries and regions where the ship travels and docks, a Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) was installed in 2021.



In 2019, all bathrooms on board were outfitted with shower heads that **reduce** water consumption and prevent bacteria from forming.

SPECIFICATIONS

-
152m
23.7 m
6.0 m
8
16,572
4 B&W (3120 kW each)
1980 Elsinore, Denmark
1999 — 2007
A & P Shipyard, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Malta
Lloyd's Register

A FLOATING VILLAGE

An estimated **16,500 professional volunteers** from **over 90 countries** have served on board the *Africa Mercy* so far. Surgeons, nurses, engineers, teachers, cooks, plumbers, electricians, housekeepers and chaplains give of their time each year, serving in both short and long-term assignments. The ship includes comfortable meeting, work, and living spaces, as well as the latest comprehensive technology for crew safety and security.



Accommodation for up to **470 Crew members**



350 seat **Auditorium**



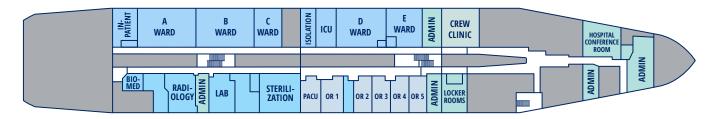


Café & Ship Shop

Additional crew facilities include pool and library.



HOSPITAL - DECK 3



Hospital Area: approximately 1,200 m2



EQUIPPED TO HEAL

The Africa Mercy's hospital allows surgeons to carry out a wide range of procedures, though the focus is on specialties that are not typically available in-country. Patients also receive **pre-operative** and **post-operative** care, including any necessary radiological tests via the ship's **X ray and CT scan.** The Africa Mercy hospital extends to the dock through the use of tents and specially designed containers for outpatient care and rehab after discharge.

- 5 operating theatres
- 80 acute care beds
- 5 ICU/isolation beds



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In addition to surgical and anesthetic care, Mercy Ships uses the ship as a learning platform to provide **education and training** across the surgical ecosystem to increase surgical capacity in host nations.



NATIONS SERVED

Since 2007, the *Africa Mercy* has conducted **16 field assignments**, serving Liberia, Benin, Togo, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Cameroon, Senegal, and The Gambia.

AFRICA MERCY LEGACY SO FAR*



Delivered services valued at **\$XX million+**



35,624+

life-changing surgical procedures



8,347+

professionals trained in their area of expertise



XX,XXX+

direct beneficiaries

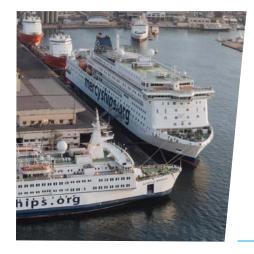
*as of July 2023







Mercy Ships began with a dream: a ship that could deliver safe, free surgery to those around the world without access. In 1978, Don and Deyon Stephens took a leap of faith to make that dream a reality. They purchased the retired Italian cruise liner Victoria and transformed her into the Anastasis hospital ship. From there, the fleet grew. Over the decades, five hospital ships would serve more than 55 countries worldwide, and that small crew would become a global community encompassing thousands of volunteers. Although Mercy Ships grew into an international charity, the core mission remained: to follow the 2,000-year-old model of lesus in bringing hope and healing.



THE MERCY SHIPS FLEET

The *Anastasis* began service in the South Pacific in 1983. She was joined by two smaller ships, the *Good Samaritan* in 1983 and the *Caribbean Mercy* in 1994. The Droning Ingrid, a Danish rail ferry, was purchased in 2000 and converted to the **Africa Mercy**. The Good Samaritan – renamed the **Island Mercy** – and the Caribbean Mercy were both retired in the early 2000s. In 2007, the Anastasis made her final sail to Liberia, where she passed the flame to the Africa Mercy. Construction began on the first purpose-built Mercy Ship, the **Global Mercy**, in 2015. She made her maiden voyage to Africa and served alongside the Africa Mercy in Dakar in 2022, making Mercy Ships a two-ship fleet for the first time in over 15 years.



1983 - 2007

وماحلر

Good Samaritan/ **Island Mercy** 1983 - 2001



Africa Mercy 2007 -



FOCUS ON AFRICA

For its first decade of service, Mercy Ships served the Caribbean, Central America, and the South Pacific. The first visit to Africa was just over two months long, from 1990 to 1991. But when the Anastasis docked in Lomé, Togo, it was the beginning of a new era. Over the following years, Mercy Ships' focus shifted fully to Africa. The organization began building long-term relationships with government leaders and healthcare workers in African host nations, collaborating to improve local surgical ecosystems.

To date, a Mercy Ship has served 14 African nations: Benin, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Togo.



FACT SHEET | SIERRA LEONE



MERCY SHIPS AND SIERRA LEONE

The Global Mercy™ arrived in Sierra Leone in August 2023, marking the first full-length field service for the new purposebuilt hospital ship. In addition to providing surgeries, Mercy Ships is working closely with national partners to strengthen Sierra Leone's surgical and anesthetic systems. Healthcare professionals will receive in-depth training and mentorship across areas like nurse anesthesia, biomedical technology, and ophthalmology. The Mercy Ships team works in collaboration with the leadership of Sierra Leone, alongside partners like Connaught Hospital in Freetown, the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons, and the West African College of Surgeons.



HISTORY

Anastasis1992 – 1993
2001 – 2002

2001 - 2002 2002 - 2003 2003 - 2004

Africa Mercy 2011



A Mercy Ship first visited Sierra Leone from 1992 to 1993. The *Anastasis* planned to return soon for follow-up operations, but a devastating civil war kept the ship away for a decade.

When Mercy Ships returned in 2001, the eager anticipation of the crew was matched only by the excitement of the patients. In addition to performing surgeries, volunteers partnered with the community as they rebuilt what had been lost: fitting prosthetic limbs, repairing wells, and offering training to people whose lives and education had been paused by the conflict.

The *Anastasis* returned to Sierra Leone for three field services in a row, from 2001 to 2004. That relationship continued with the *Africa Mercy*® in 2011, and now with the *Global Mercy* in 2023.

MERCY SHIPS' LEGACY IN SIERRA LEONE*



10,200+

life-changing surgical procedures



52,900+ dental procedures



15,800+ professionals trained in their area of expertise



310,000+ direct beneficiaries

*as of July 2023





FACT SHEET | MADAGASCAR



MERCY SHIPS AND MADAGASCAR

The Africa Mercy® makes her return to Madagascar in February 2024, marking the fourth visit to this beautiful island nation since 1996. During the ten-month field service in the Port of Toamasina, Mercy Ships will offer direct medical services, simultaneously mentoring and training healthcare professionals to strengthen local surgical and anesthetic systems.





HISTORY

The first Mercy Ship, the *Anastasis*, docked in Toamasina, Madagascar, in 1996. Then, during 2014 to 2016, the Africa Mercy returned for two back-to-back field services.

One focus in the relationship between Mercy Ships and Madagascar has been to help women injured during childbirth. As the ship's crew worked with both government and medical partners, they found that women with obstetric fistula often withdrew from society. Because the rugged terrain made travel too expensive, it was difficult to find those who needed help. This situation, discovered during the 2014-2016 field services, sparked a change for Mercy Ships that was implemented in subsequent field services. Now, volunteers go into rural areas to seek out patients. Additionally, collaborations have been formed with other organizations to help fund travel.

In 2021, Mercy Ships partnered with Madagascar to support the country's pandemic response by donating emergency Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as well as working with local nonprofits to support several ongoing humanitarian projects.



MERCY SHIPS' LEGACY IN MADAGASCAR



6.425+

life-changing surgical procedures



52,395+

dental procedures



2,000+

professionals trained in their area of expertise



84,110+

direct beneficiaries



*as of July 2023