



# Together With Africa, Asia and the Pacific

Mercy Ships Australia Annual Report 2021

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Mercy Ships Australia  
ABN: 30 097 037 922

# Mission & Vision



## Mission

Bringing hope and healing to those without access in developing nations.



## Vision

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

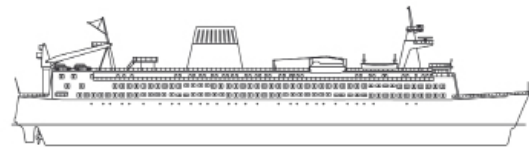


## Impact

In 1990, Mercy Ships turned our attention to sub-Saharan Africa where nearly 93% of the population lacks access to safe, affordable, and timely surgery. Since then, Mercy Ships has conducted 41 field services in 14 African countries, most of which are ranked by the United Nations Development Index as the least developed in the world.

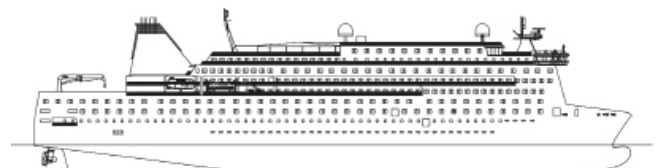
In 2021, Mercy Ships Australia also renewed our attention to Asia-Pacific countries to strengthen endangered and fragile healthcare systems that have been overwhelmed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Our ships



### The *Africa Mercy*

- 5 operating theatres
- 80 patient beds including: recovery, intensive care, and low dependency wards
- Draft 6.0m
- Length 152m
- Breadth 23.7m
- Gross Tonnage 16,572



### The *Global Mercy*

- 6 operating theatres
- 102 acute care beds
- 7 ICU/isolation beds
- 90 self-care beds
- Draft 6.1m
- Length 174m
- Breadth 28.6m
- Gross Tonnage 37,000

It has been inspiring  
to see how this  
organisation has  
navigated these  
challenging times  
with commitment  
and courage.

## From the Chairman, Mercy Ships Australia

Dear Friends,

Over the course of 2021, we've had the amazing opportunity to help change lives during a historically difficult time.

Of course, all these successes were only possible because of the strong relationships we have built across African and Asia-Pacific countries with governments and healthcare leaders who are deeply committed to seeing their healthcare systems sustained and grow.

We are thankful to be invited as part of the journey and celebrate transformations together. The innovations and initiatives we see taking place in our partner nations is exciting to see. And with the addition of the *Global Mercy* to our fleet in the next year, this is only the beginning.

Together, we're living out our mission of hope and healing in new ways while keeping our eyes on the horizon and gazing with eagerness into 2022 and beyond.

We can all be proud of how far we've come together, but I believe in many ways, this is still just the beginning.

God bless and thank you for your support and service.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**Richard Wankmuller**  
Chairman of the Board  
Mercy Ships Australia



**Thank you for  
being a part of  
this journey –  
the best is yet to  
come.**

## From the Managing Director, Mercy Ships Australia

This year, we found that most of the countries we served experienced healthcare needs of its people well in excess of their capacity.

And despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, our goal was to help as many people as we possibly could. Meeting this goal was only possible because of our community of supporters, volunteers, partners and staff – to whom are so very grateful.

This year we provided financial support and volunteers into 11 countries across Africa, delivering life-changing training, surgery, infrastructure, and medical oxygen and equipment donations to people and hospitals throughout the continent.

Across Asia-Pacific we provided PPE (personal protection equipment) supplies and medical equipment into six countries to strengthen and sustain their fragile and overwhelmed healthcare systems.

We saw the *Africa Mercy* receive extensive maintenance that will expand her lifespan for years to come. And welcomed into our fleet the *Global Mercy*. At the start of 2021, she ended her construction phase, and over the months that followed, she was delivered, made her maiden voyage to Europe, and began equipping in Antwerp, Belgium. Our first purpose-built hospital ship is taking form, more and more each day and will sail into Senegal, West Africa in mid-2022.

It has truly been an honour to serve as Managing Director again this year and to be a part of this important journey.

Thank you for being a part of this journey — the best is yet to come.

**Alan Burrell**  
Managing Director  
Mercy Ships Australia



# 2021 in Review

ASIA/PACIFIC 2021

2021 was a complicated year for healthcare around the world. In developing nations, where human and material resources are normally scarce, the global COVID-19 pandemic threatened to decimate local healthcare systems.

Having identified the urgent need to support these health services through the crisis, Mercy Ships Australia began looking for corporate and philanthropic partners to supply the needed PPE and equipment and local partners in the developing countries in Africa and Asia/Pacific to receive and distribute these resources.

These resources would protect the healthcare workers who were already at risk and in short supply in countries like Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji, Tokelau & Niue, and help them to identify and treat COVID-19 patients more effectively.

During 2021 Mercy Ships Australia received and shipped supplies and equipment worth more than \$1.5 million dollars.

We would like to thank all of our donors and supporters who enabled us to support healthcare services in so many developing nations during 2021.

**350,000**

Examination gloves

**250,000**

N95 respirators  
and surgical masks

**180,000**

Isolation gowns

**50,000**

Litres of hand  
sanitiser

**33,000**

Face shields

**114**

Infrared  
thermometres

**2**

Abbott I-stat bedside  
blood analysers

*Below:* Health workers receive donated supplies in Papua New Guinea.



This year, one of  
our goals as an  
organisation was  
to help as many  
people as we do  
during a normal  
year.

AFRICA 2021

3,138

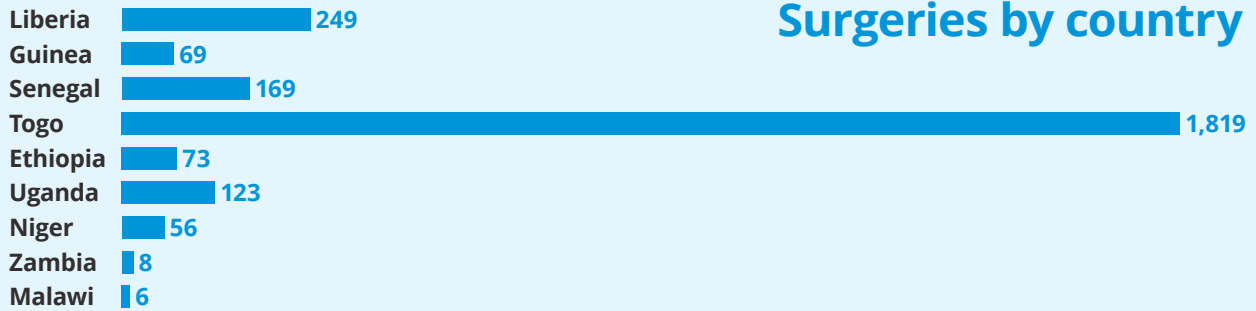
Total surgical procedures

16,067

Dental procedures

2,526

Basic oral health instruction



## Medical Capacity Building

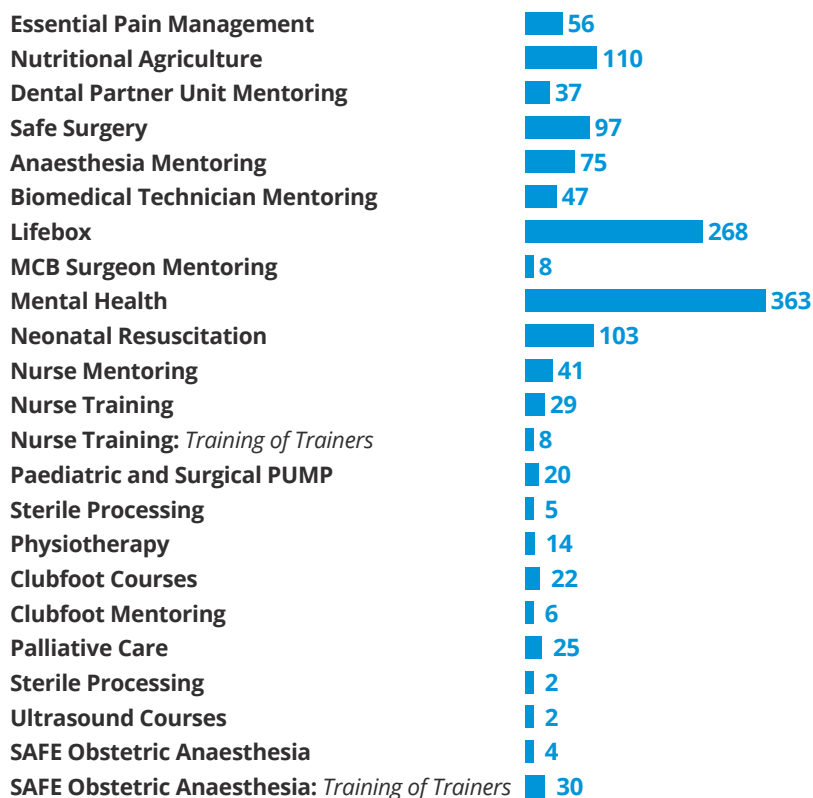
1,343

Medical Capacity Building participants trained

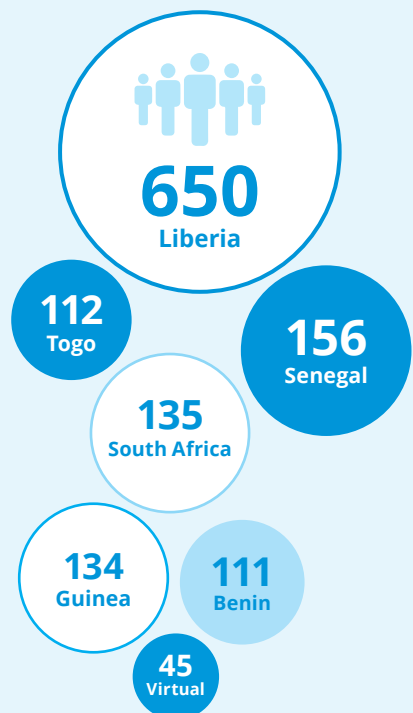
157,812

Total number of participant training hours

### Courses presented and total number of participants:



### Participant numbers by country:



# The Journey of the *Global Mercy*

This was a historic year for Mercy Ships, as our first purpose-built hospital ship, the *Global Mercy*, completed construction and officially joined our fleet. Building a ship during a global pandemic meant overcoming many obstacles, but we persevered with one vision in mind. Through our new vessel — the world's largest civilian hospital ship — Mercy Ships will be more than double its impact in host nations.

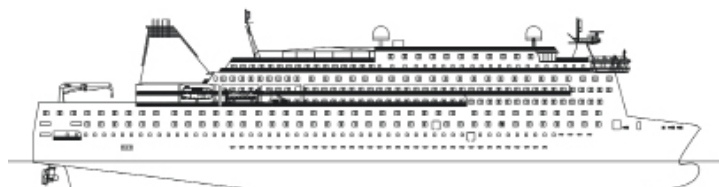
When 2021 began, the vessel was in Tianjin Xingang shipyard in China completing the final stages of her construction under the expertise of our partner, Stena RoRo.

On April 30, we celebrated as she completed her third and final set of sea trials, marking the *Global Mercy* as officially seaworthy.

On June 16, Mercy Ships representatives as well as officials from the shipyard and partnering organisations gathered to celebrate the completion of the *Global Mercy*'s construction. The new vessel was officially ours! "This day is a dream come true — not only for us, but for those we serve," said founder Don Stephens.

Shortly after, she set sail to the open seas for the first time as she began her delivery voyage from China to Belgium. Along the way, the vessel made several key stops:

- The ship sailed through **the Suez Canal**, where she was granted free passage thanks to the generosity of the government of Egypt. This gift was coordinated by our partners in Senegal, including H.E. President Macky Sall.
- Next, on September 2, the *Global Mercy* paid a visit to **Malta**, the nation where she is flagged.
- Finally, on September 12, the *Global Mercy* arrived in **Antwerp, Belgium**, where she will remain for equipping until early 2022. Next, she will sail to the Port of Rotterdam to welcome visitors aboard before finally living out her purpose in Africa.



**18 Dec 2015**

Keel Laying in China

**30 April 2021**

Passes Final Sea Trials

**16 June 2021**

Delivery from Shipyard

**Q1  
2022**

Equipping and PR events in Europe

**Q2  
2022**

Planned Sail to Senegal, West Africa

*Right:* The *Global Mercy* was equipped with state of the art hospital equipment in 2021, while the *Africa Mercy* received extensive maintenance that will extend her lifespan for years to come.





## Mercy Ships is committed to environmental sustainability, including:

- Energy-efficient LEDs in light fixtures
- Low sulfur marine fuels help reduce contaminants
- Sailing at low speeds between ports to reduce carbon emissions
- Complying to international (MARPOL 73-78) standards, which regulate what ships do with waste, oil, sewage, garbage, and air pollution
- Filtering AC condensation for technical use, reducing potable water use by 50%, and using high-efficiency systems to reduce energy consumption by 15%.



# Responding to COVID-19 across Africa

## COVID-19 Policymaking

In response to the pandemic, Mercy Ships created an internal COVID Medical Advisory Group focused on adapting to the latest medical information and creating safety-focused, responsible policies. These health and safety policies will continue to be instrumental in both our ships serving in Africa safely.

**This year, with the help of generous partners, Mercy Ships received and supplied 817,300 units of PPE valued at more than \$1.6 million to 11 African countries.**



*Above:* Volunteer staff carrying supplies for donation.

Dr. Pierre M'Pele, Africa Bureau Director



## In Dr. Pierre M'Pele's Words

"Leading the Africa Bureau [during the pandemic] was very tough. But we seized the opportunity and made sure that we can support African countries to deal with the COVID-19 response together.

We had a plan, and we implemented the plan by making donations of PPE valued at more than \$1.6 million to 11 African countries. That was with the aim of protecting our counterpart health workers.

We also supported Senegal with their national response against COVID-19.

The pandemic demonstrated that we need to continue supporting Africa to strengthen the healthcare systems.

We now have a ship with all the facilities to not only provide free surgeries, but also to focus more on capacity building and make sure that we bring African colleagues to do surgery on board. We work as a team. It's kind of a dream."





## A life transformed: Sekouba

It was just an ordinary morning when 10-year-old Sekouba first noticed a tiny lump in his mouth, no bigger than a button. He showed it to his mother, M'mahawa, who told him not to worry.

"Maybe it will go away on its own," she said.

But it didn't. Over the course of the next year, the lump grew, eventually forming a tennis ball sized tumour filling Sekouba's cheek.

People began to taunt him, asking, "What's that in your mouth?"

To shelter himself from the endless teasing and stares, Sekouba dropped out of school and confined himself to his home.

Every day for nearly two years he would wait anxiously for his brothers to return home from school so that he could continue to learn.

The family was at a loss for what to do before they heard about a hospital ship coming to their country. He and his mother travelled three days to where the *Africa*

*Mercy* was docked in search of help for his condition, but Sekouba held out hope.

After surgery, the sight of Sekouba's healing face brought his mother endless joy.

"Every time I pray, I thank God for this ship," M'mahawa said. "I don't know what we would have done without it."

In 2021, two years after his surgery, Mercy Ships had a special opportunity to see how Sekouba was doing. Reflecting on his experience, Sekouba said, "Before the surgery, my friends were laughing at me. I was not going to school... After the surgery, people are happy to have me here. I started school again. When I finish my studies, I [would] like to be a doctor."

"I saw a difference in my life before and after," Sekouba continued. "Before the surgery, nobody was approaching me, but after the surgery people were coming close to me! I was happy... because I was healed."

*Images:* Sekouba before and after surgery on board the *Africa Mercy*.



**“We are so thankful for all that was done for our family.”**

## A life transformed: Aminata

Ousman was excited to receive the call from his sister saying that his niece had finally been born. However, that excitement quickly turned into heartache once he learned that baby Aminata had been born with a cleft lip.

As she grew, young Aminata's condition began to cause malnutrition, making her body develop very slowly. At eight years old, Aminata's height and build resembled that of her four-year-old cousins. Because she was ashamed of the way she ate, she refused to eat in public and instead, would only nibble on meals.

After eight years and several failed attempts to find a solution, the family had all but given up – until Ousman heard an advertisement on the radio about a ship that offered free surgeries.

Once Aminata was accepted as a patient, Ousman was excited to make the call to his sister letting her know the fantastic news — Aminata was going to receive surgery! Following the surgery, Aminata was able to heal knowing that her family had never given up on her.

“To give up hope would be the end,” Ousman said. “We did not think about what would happen if she did not get surgery. We held on to the hope we had... Now, she has so many more opportunities, and we are so blessed. We are so thankful for all that was done for our family.”



*Images: Aminata before and after surgery.*



# 650

Participants trained

# 21,965

Participant training hours

## Courses provided to participants:

Anaesthesia Mentoring:

41

Biomedical Technician Mentoring:

33

MCB Surgeon Mentoring:

4

Nurse Mentoring:

41

Lifebox:

268

Mental Health:

119

Neonatal Resuscitation:

103

Nurse Training:

29

Nurse Training: *Training of Trainers:*

8

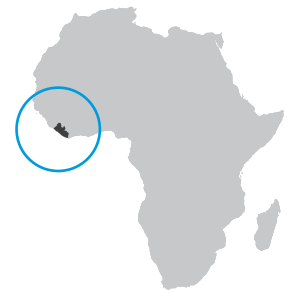
Paediatric and Surgical PUMP:

20

Sterile Processing:

5

## 249 maxillofacial surgeries



## Liberia

With a country engagement team on the ground in Liberia in 2021, Mercy Ships was able to launch and deepen many exciting partnerships. Education was a high priority focus for our programs in Liberia. Over the course of the year, we offered several training courses, including biomedical technician training, neonatal resuscitation, and basic life skills courses.

Mercy Ships also partnered with a local hospital to provide needed anaesthesia equipment and surgical care. Mercy Ships volunteer ENT surgeon, Dr. Doug Schulte, performed 249 surgeries by the end of the year, greatly helping to reduce the surgical backlog formed during the pandemic. Two Mercy Ships volunteer nurses also shared their time and skills to provide care and nurse mentoring to participants like Pris Senah, a registered midwife.

**“I will use [the neonatal resuscitation training] regularly with complicated babies to save the baby’s life.”**

**Pris Senah, Registered Midwife**



Above: Dr. Doug Schulte performs a surgery at a local hospital in Liberia



# Togo

Mercy Ships was active in many projects in Togo this year, including providing a mental health training program as well as supporting our long-time partner, Dr. Abram Wodomé, in establishing a new cataract surgery training institute. Mercy Ships also sponsored 1,000 cataract surgeries through local partners.

## A Sight to See: Dr. Wodomé

Dr. Abram Wodomé is an ophthalmologist in Lomé, Togo. A decade ago, he completed a mentorship on board the *Africa Mercy*. After learning alongside Mercy Ships volunteer eye surgeons, he caught a passion for non-profit work and opened a clinic where he continues to perform free cataract surgeries and train other Togolese surgeons.

In 2012, Mercy Ships provided essential training equipment to the clinic. In addition to the training he received on board, this equipment has helped catapult him forward, enabling him to bring more sight to people blinded by cataracts. As Togo's leading cataract surgeon, Dr. Wodomé provides thousands of surgeries every year to visually impaired patients. Many of these surgeries are performed entirely free of charge.

"The future of eye surgery in Africa looks very bright because more and more people are interested in quality training. It is the basis of everything. When the training is of good quality, the surgery gives good results, and the patients are confident about their practitioners. I think that over the next few years, Africa is promised a better future."

Because of the skill and commitment of Dr. Wodomé, his team, and Mercy Ships Medical Capacity Building program and support, his patients have the hope of restored sight and fulfilling their dreams.

**"I used to say, 'if you give someone fish to eat, you feed him for a day. If you teach him to fish, you feed him for his whole life. But if you teach people how to teach other people, then you feed a village for a whole generation.'"**

Dr. Wodomé

Dr. Abram Wodomé, Ophthalmic surgeon



# 112

Participants trained



# 4,763

Participant training hours

## Courses provided to participants:

MCB Surgeon Mentoring:

■ 4

Mental Health:

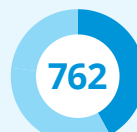
108

# 1,819

ophthalmic surgeries completed in Togo in 2021:



Togo cataract surgery teaching institute: 410



Cataract surgery campaign: 762



Sight.org partnership: 647





## A life transformed: Hounsigbo

For more than three years, Hounsigbo lived in total darkness, cataracts clouding her vision in both eyes. Before, Hounsigbo had been busily working in her village in Togo, going every day to the forest to cut trees and weave mats out of their branches, selling them to earn a living. But now, the 70-year-old spent her nights and days in a small room in one of her children's homes, completely dependent on her family to survive.

That's where Dr. Abram Wodomé comes in. In a city not too far from Hounsigbo, this surgeon restores people's sight in a mere seven minutes. For years, Mercy Ships has been partnering with him, sponsoring surgeries at his clinic for people who might otherwise not have access.

Hounsigbo had heard about Dr. Wodomé's clinic, but she doubted she could afford it. Fortunately, her grandson, Louis, was determined to get her help regardless of their financial situation.

Soon, Louis' faith was rewarded. Hounsigbo was approved for surgery, and before she knew it, she was in Lomé and going into the operating room. The

next day, when her bandage was removed, Hounsigbo immediately laughed out loud, then ran into the next room to give Dr. Wodomé a hug. She could see everything!

She is no longer dependent on her children and grandchildren: now, she is free to return to work and take her place as the matriarch of the family. "I have been given grace to live again," she says.



*Images:* Hounsigbo before and after surgery.



156

Participants trained

37,584

Participant training hours

### Courses provided to participants:

Anaesthesia Mentoring:

34

Biomedical Technician Mentoring:

14

Clubfoot Courses:

22

Clubfoot Mentoring:

6

Nutritional Agriculture:

55

Palliative Care courses:

25

Sterile Processing Courses:

2

Ultrasound Courses:

2

Mercy Ships provided 169  
surgeries in Senegal in 2021:

General surgery:

56

Ophthalmic surgery:

113



## Senegal

Mercy Ships programs continued to transform lives throughout this year, training participants in sustainable agriculture practices through our nutritional agriculture project, as well as running various MCB and infrastructure projects and continuing to support projects through funding support. We also partnered with the Ministry of Health and local hospitals to provide surgeries locally to patients who have been awaiting care.

### The Sustainable Impact of Food for Life

Meet Birima, a student at the Food for Life course. He, along with a group of more than 30 fellow students, developed a foundation in the world of agriculture, including agroecology, nutrition, and food processing.

The course empowered him to begin his own food production business. He started his venture with the equivalent of \$53 AUD — and it has already bloomed into a thriving, sustainable local business.

“Having this knowledge allows me to be independent and take care of my own food supply,” says Birima.



Above: Birima, Food for Life course participant.



## A life transformed: Marie Madeleine

Marie Madeleine always loved school – and refused to let her condition slow her down. As a child, she developed an abnormally tight muscle contracture in her leg, leaving her with a severe limp when she walked. Despite this difficulty, Marie Madeleine continued making the short journey to school.

“My hope is for her to be like every other girl with a backpack going to school,” said her grandmother. “But we couldn’t afford surgery, so we just waited for a miracle.”

One day, that miracle arrived in the form of news from a neighbour in their village, who told them about the *Africa Mercy* arriving in the Port of Dakar. Soon, Marie Madeleine had a surgery scheduled and an end dream in sight: walking back into school.

**“My hope is for her to be like every other girl with a backpack going to school.”**

Two years after her surgery, Marie Madeleine is walking better than she had in years. Many things have changed in this bright 14-year-old’s life, but one thing has remained the same — she still loves to learn!

“She is going to school and she says she wants to be a doctor!” says Marie Madeleine’s mother. “She wants to help people back like she was helped.”



*Images:* Marie Madeleine before and after surgery.





# Guinea

Mercy Ships has been actively engaged in Guinea ever since our previous service in 2018-2019, and this partnership has continued in 2021. This year, some of our key projects included ongoing investments and training at the Gamal Abdel Nasser University dental clinic and maxillofacial surgery training center, as well as surgical and biomedical training, infrastructure, and equipment donation projects.

**“Through this program with Mercy Ships, I realise that the dental field is not a small profession, but a noble one. It is an important part of taking care of community health.”**

“This dental program really helped me to improve in the dental field. When Mercy Ships came, we understood that there is a huge difference between talking about theory and taking practical simulation courses. Thanks to Mercy Ships, today we really recognise ourselves as dentists.”

**Francois, a student at the Gamal Abdel Nasser University dental school**



*Above:* Francois, training in the simulation lab.



## Dr. David Ugai

Dr. David Ugai first joined the Mercy Ships dental team in 2012. His passion for safe dental care and quality training led him to lead the dental training program at Guinea’s Gamal University, in collaboration with university leadership and local partners. This year, with the help of Dr. David, Mercy Ships continued training 37 future dentists at the post-graduate dental program in Guinea.

“I enjoy working with students. I enjoy helping them realise their potential and seeing that light bulb turn on when they get a procedure right. I can’t do much by myself — but if I can teach people to do much, much more, that’s going to make a bigger impact.” **Dr. David Ugai**

# 134

Participants trained



# 30,680

Participant training hours

## Courses provided to participants:

**Dental Partner Unit Mentoring Program:**

37

**Safe Surgery:**

97

# 69

Through the expertise of Mercy Ships partner and former trainee, **Dr. Raphiou Diallo**, we were able to provide 69 surgeries in Guinea this year.



## A life transformed: Gamai

Confort never imagined the morning she put on a pot of boiling water to make some rice for her hungry daughters would be the start of a mother's nightmare.

One-year-old Gamai, who had just started walking, toddled past the pot knocking it over as she fell. Confort rushed Gamai to the local hospital but were only able to afford some ointment for the pain. Not knowing what else to do, they reluctantly watched their little girl grow over the next few years with contracted hands and arms, severely limiting her mobility.

Then one day, Confort learned of an opportunity for people to receive restored mobility from an operation — a specialty of Mercy Ships. When the ship arrived in Guinea, Confort made the brave journey with Gamai — then 4 years old — out of the family compound to the *Africa Mercy*.

"Now I am a different woman," Confort said. "I am filled with happiness that being hidden will not be Gamai's future."

In 2021, a few years after her surgery, Gamai's father says his young daughter remains completely full of life —



whether she's helping around the house or dreaming of becoming the next president. "Before she was so weak... today she is so active. She can do movements that she couldn't before. It was like she was in jail, but today I can say that she is free."

*Images:* Gamai before and after surgery.



Above: Dr. Tertius Venter with a young patient

## Uganda, Niger, Zambia, Ethiopia & Malawi

In 2021, Mercy Ships brought surgical care to patients in need of hope and healing in an exciting new way. Through new partnerships, four long-term Mercy Ships volunteers offered life-changing care to patients in Uganda, Niger, Zambia, Ethiopia and Malawi for several weeks at a time.

Dr. Tertius Venter and Dr. Sarah Kwok were both thrilled to represent Mercy Ships and use their skills to serve. Dr. Tertius spent several weeks in Niger and Ethiopia performing plastic reconstructive surgery on children as well as assisting with the mentoring and training of surgeons.

Dr. Sarah — who split her time between Uganda and Ethiopia — saw hope and healing come to life through these partnerships. “The children often have complex neurological problems, which makes caring for them challenging. By walking alongside the team here, we are setting high standards of care and ensuring the patients get the very best they deserve. The team is transforming lives and giving patients a future filled with hope and expectations of a normal life,” said Dr. Sarah Kwok.



Dr. Sarah Kwok, volunteer anaesthesia supervisor





## 266 surgeries

Mercy Ships sent volunteers to five different hospitals in Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Uganda, and Zambia. In addition to mentoring local healthcare professionals, Mercy Ships volunteers were able to perform a total of 266 surgeries:

### 📍 Ethiopia:

34 orthopaedic surgeries

39 reconstructive plastics surgeries

### 📍 Malawi:

6 reconstructive plastics surgeries

### 📍 Niger:

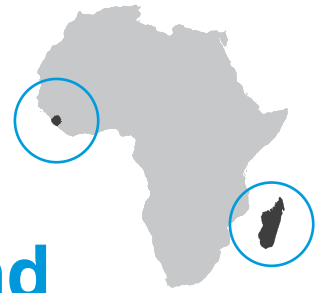
56 reconstructive plastics surgeries

### 📍 Uganda:

123 neurosurgeries

### 📍 Zambia:

8 orthopaedic surgeries



# Madagascar and Sierra Leone

Mercy Ships programs continued in Madagascar and Sierra Leone, where we partnered with local nongovernmental organisation Freedom From Fistula. Through this partnership, we were able to support surgical care, education, and empowerment for women suffering from an obstetric fistula.

An obstetric fistula occurs during an obstructed labour when emergency care is unavailable.

Women suffering from obstructed labour often struggle until the baby dies. During this agonising process loss of circulation causes tissue to die, leaving large gaps between the birth canal and bladder or rectum, causing incontinence. Most women and girls suffering with obstetric fistula are ostracised by their families and communities as they smell and are constantly wet. They must live as outcasts. Fistula is all but eradicated in the developed world. In contrast, it occurs to thousands of women and girls in Africa every day.



*Above:* Fistula patient, Mireille after surgery on board the *Africa Mercy*.

# South Africa



In South Africa, Mercy Ships focused on promoting mental health with an innovative new mental health training program. Through the course, 105 local healthcare professionals learned practical and sustainable ways to promote better mental health among their patients. Parts of this course focused specifically on mental health among current prison inmates as well as their families.

In addition, Mercy Ships led several SAFE courses designed to promote safer surgery practices.

Meet one of our Heroes of Healthcare, Dr. Gcobani Tuswa, a local surgeon who is transforming cataract care in South Africa.

When Dr. Tuswa came to Mercy Ships in 2009, he received an intensive six-week training on the Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS), an effective and inexpensive procedure to treat cataracts.

The advantages of MSICS became evident to Dr. Tuswa soon after his time with Mercy Ships: "When I came home to my hometown, Mthatha, I started working in a public hospital where they were cancelling surgeries because the hospital had a shortage of suturing material. I said, no, we can do this with the MSICS... I showed them how this surgery works and they were amazed. MSICS is now a standard cataract operation procedure at the Mthatha hospital. The four junior doctors that I worked with learnt this procedure and became eye specialists as well. Now they are working in different places around the country."

Dr. Tuswa opened a practice — the only one in the area. "In the future I want to expand the practice. Hopefully I'll be able to open operating theaters and find colleagues to work with. Then we'll be able to help even more people and continue to fight the cataract problem in my country."

**Focused on promoting mental health with an innovative new mental health training program.**



## 135

Participants trained

## 11,627

Participant training hours

### Courses provided to participants:

#### Mental Health:

105

#### SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia:

4

#### SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia:

Training of Trainers:

30



Dr. Odry Agbessi, plastic surgeon



## Benin

With flourishing projects in Benin throughout 2021, Mercy Ships was able to build upon years of partnership with the Ministry of Health and local healthcare professionals. Our projects in Benin this year included running an Essential Surgical Skills and Essential Pain Management course, in collaboration with Dr. Odry Agbessi, former trainee and current partner of Mercy Ships. This year, Dr. Agbessi was honored with a 2021 Leadership Award by a Senegalese non-profit, Speak Up Africa, in honor of her dedication to raising awareness to Africa's pressing health issues.

In Benin this year, we also ran a Food for Life training course and built a Food for Life training center. The new regional campus will facilitate training for local agriculturalists to learn sustainable farming and agro pastoral practices, so they can rebuild, restore, and renew their land. The building of the Food for Life campus was in done in partnership with Phaz Compassion, led by Mercy Ships volunteer Eliphaz Essah.



111

Participants trained

50,127

Participant training hours

Courses provided to participants:

Essential Pain Management:

56

Nutritional Agriculture:

55

**"This is really what I was looking to do in my life. Training young people to be self-dependent, transferring good techniques, and creating a relationship between health, nutrition, and also sustainable agriculture activities. This is something unique that I came across with Mercy Ships and it shaped my vision [for Food for Life]."**

Eliphaz Essah



Above: Eliphaz Essah, with participants from the Food for Life program.



## Volunteers Making Their Mark

This year, we continued to build a solid talent pool of volunteer professionals to support operations of a two ship fleet.

With the *Africa Mercy* returning to Senegal, and completion of the *Global Mercy's* equipping and sail to join the *Africa Mercy*, the capacity for hope and healing will double — as will the need for volunteer crew.



### Finding her purpose: **Deb Duff**

Deb Duff's journey as a Mercy Ships volunteer began with a leap of faith. Just a few weeks after submitting her application, she was accepted and soon travelled from Australia to the *Africa Mercy* to serve in Senegal.

Six months later, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe.

As the ship's Head Receptionist, Deb worked hard to ensure everyone had the correct paperwork they needed to leave. Then, it was her turn to head home earlier than planned.

But Deb knew it wasn't the end of her journey. She thought, "I really wanted to see that two-year commitment fulfilled, no matter where we were."

She intended to take a two-month break, but it ended up being over a year before Deb stepped back on board a Mercy Ship.

Now Deb is back on board, this time on the *Global Mercy* during a historic season for Mercy Ships. She's found that being behind the reception desk is a powerful place to make a difference.

Deb's time as a Mercy Ships volunteer has changed her life and her purpose. She measures it differently now.

"Now I think, what is the value of my life? Not, what can I earn in my life?" she said. "And that's a different thing. What can I give, rather than what can I receive?"

*Above:* Deb Duff on board the *Global Mercy*.



Renier Marx, Chief Electrician

## Keeping the lights on: Renier Marx

Renier Marx, from South Africa, first heard about Mercy Ships and the mission of bringing hope and healing back in the late 1990s, but it was many years before he and his family came aboard.

Renier, his wife Evilin, and their three children joined Mercy Ships as crew in 2011 and moved on board the *Africa Mercy*.

When asked what kept him on board all these years, Renier jokingly said, "Once you drink the water for more than two weeks, you're stuck here!"

In addition to applying his passions to meaningful work, Renier loves serving alongside his family. Evilin, an outpatient nurse, and their children, students in the Academy, all had their place to thrive.

"On board, you can be here with your family, and everyone's working toward the same goal. It drives us. We've all got the same common goal," said Renier.

After years of serving aboard the *Africa Mercy*, Renier was invited to take part in a new challenge with Mercy Ships. Along with his family, Renier has spent the past five years living in a hotel in China to help guide the build of the *Global Mercy* as a project engineer.

Now, as Chief Electrician on board the *Global Mercy*, Renier jokes that his job is amazingly simple — it's all about keeping the lights on.

One of Renier's favourite parts of being on board the *Global Mercy* is the diverse crew from around the world that he gets to meet, saying that diversity on board a Mercy Ship makes it truly unique:

"We're so diverse, and everyone comes with their unique skills and experiences. We all bring a little color to the ship."

## Making history: Captain Taylor Perez

For Captain Taylor Perez, making his mark means serving as the first Captain of the *Global Mercy*. In this new role, Captain Taylor is pioneering a historic new wave for the organisation: "This is where I feel called right now. I have confidence about that."

Captain Taylor was first introduced to Mercy Ships in 1984, when his ship docked near a previous Mercy Ship, the *Anastasis*. This chance meeting that captured Captain Taylor's heart. Since then, he has captained every single one of the Mercy Ships fleet at one point or another.

During a particularly challenging season, Captain Taylor's stability was needed more than ever. Captain Taylor was at the helm during our field service in Senegal when the COVID-19 pandemic broke.

Captain Taylor decided to bring a smile to people's faces by taking on many different roles. You'd expect to see the captain in the bridge — but what about behind the coffee bar? Deciding to embrace the unofficial side job title of barista, Captain Taylor spent his free time volunteering in the café on board.

At the end of the day, Captain Taylor knows he's where he is meant to be during this pivotal moment in Mercy Ships history. "If you want to be stretched and make an impact in the world, this is an amazing place to do it. You are impacting lives in an incredible way."



Captain Taylor Perez

The work of Mercy Ships is only made possible by the generosity of supporters and volunteers.

To help Mercy Ships continue to provide life-changing medical treatments and surgeries, and change the face of healthcare in the nations that the ship visits, here's how you can get involved.



## Follow us

Stay in touch and find out what you can do to help: [mercysipsau](https://www.mercyshipsau.com)

## Find out more

[www.mercyships.org.au](https://www.mercyships.org.au)  
1300 739 899

# How you can help



## Donate

Make a regular monthly donation to Mercy Ships.  
Visit [www.mercyships.org.au/donate](https://www.mercyships.org.au/donate)



## Nominate us

Nominate Mercy Ships as Charity of the Year partner in your workplace, school, church, or organisation.



## Host a speaker

Host a Mercy Ships speaker at your club, church or community group.  
Email [msaust@mercysips.org.au](mailto:msaust@mercysips.org.au)



## Remember us

Remember Mercy Ships in your will. Visit [www.mercysips.org.au](https://www.mercysips.org.au)



## Get involved

Run, jog, walk, cycle, or swim for Mercy Ships by taking part in one of our Challenge Events. Email [msaust@mercysips.org.au](mailto:msaust@mercysips.org.au)



## Volunteer

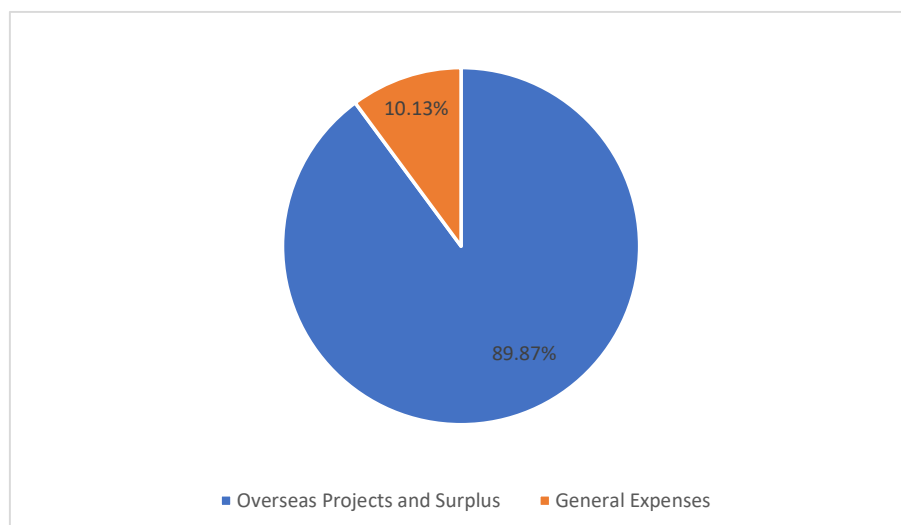
Volunteer on board a Mercy Ship.  
Start your journey at [www.mercysips.org.au/volunteer](https://www.mercysips.org.au/volunteer)





**MERCY SHIPS AUSTRALIA LTD**  
**ABN: 30 097 037 922**  
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	\$
<b>Revenue and Other Income</b>	
Revenue from Grants	12,027
Donations Received	6,904,924
Volunteer Contributed Services	999,809
PPE & Supplies Contributed Goods	1,438,298
Other Income	20,541
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,375,599</b>
 <b>Overseas project related expenses</b>	
Mercy Ships Projects	5,376,353
Volunteer Contributed Services	999,809
PPE & Supplies Contributed Goods	1,438,298
Marketing	245,830
Employee & Related	314,362
Sundry	48,337
	<b>8,422,989</b>
 <b>Administration fundraising expenses</b>	
Marketing	368,745
Employee & Related	471,543
Sundry	72,506
Interest expense, lease liability	696
Depreciation and amortisation	29,485
Audit, legal fees	6,339
	<b>949,314</b>
 <b>Total Outgoings</b>	<b>9,372,303</b>
 <b>Net Current year surplus</b>	<b>3,296</b>





**Bringing  
hope and  
healing**

[mercyships.org.au](http://mercyships.org.au)

