



Annual Report 2022



Table of Contents

- 04 Letter from the Chair of the Board
- 05 Letter from the Managing Director
- 06 About Mercy Ships
- 08 What We Do Within the SDG Context
- 09 The Building Blocks of an Effective Health System
- 10 2022 in Review
- 12 Direct Medical Care in Senegal
- 14 Medical Capacity Building in Senegal
- 16 The Surgeon at the Forefront of Women's Health
- 18 Building a Better Future: Together with Africa
- 19 Kadidja's New Smile
- 20 Celebrating Hope Across Africa
- 24 Monitoring Our Work
- 25 Looking Forward: Projects in 2023
- 26 An Outstanding Achievement
- 27 Mercy Ships Partners Support the Next Chapter
- 29 The Indomitable Dedication of Our Volunteers
- 30 How You Can Help
- 31 Governance

Cover Image: Cleft lip patient Kadidja and her mother, Ramata.



MISSION

Bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor.



VISION

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



VALUES

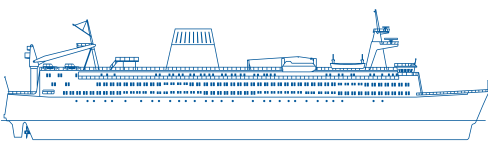
- Love and serve others
- Be people of integrity
- Strive for excellence in all we say and do



THE NEED

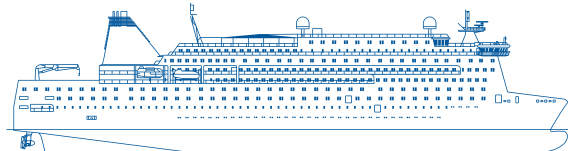
Each year, 16.9 million people around the world die due to lack of access to surgical care. Mercy Ships is an international development organisation that deploys hospital ships and volunteers to developing nations - improving the quality of life for people living with the diseases of poverty, disfigurement, and disability through direct medical services and building the capacities of healthcare systems to meet the needs of the future.

Our ships



The *Africa Mercy*

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



The *Global Mercy*

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

Letter from the Chair of the Board

Looking back on the past 30 years, it's clear that Mercy Ships and our volunteers and partners have made a tremendous difference in the lives of many people in Africa, providing vital medical care, training, and education to those who would otherwise lack access to these services.

The impact of this work is immeasurable, and has undoubtedly had a profound effect on individuals, families, and communities. The addition of a second hospital ship to the Mercy Ships fleet will allow for an even greater impact, as more people will be able to access the medical care and support they need. With this expanded platform, Mercy Ships will be able to serve even more communities in need, and provide vital medical services and training to those who would otherwise lack access to these resources.

By working in close collaboration with partners in Africa, Mercy Ships has been better able to understand the specific healthcare needs and challenges facing these communities, and tailor its programs to meet those needs.

It's inspiring to see Mercy Ships taking a holistic approach to healthcare and recognising the importance of not only providing medical care, but also building the capacity of local healthcare systems. This approach can help to ensure that the impact of Mercy Ships' work is sustainable, and that communities are better equipped to meet their ongoing healthcare needs.

In addition to the new ship, you will read about the groundbreaking baseline assessment which surveyed more than 600 district hospitals throughout Africa and identified existing gaps in surgical, obstetric, and anaesthetic care. This assessment is an important step in understanding the specific healthcare needs and challenges facing communities in Africa, and developing targeted solutions to address those needs.

Thank you for being a part of this journey in 2022, helping us to make such an important difference in the lives of those who lack access to healthcare.



Richard Wankmuller
Chair of the Board

"The impact of this work is immeasurable, and has undoubtedly had a profound effect."





"It is clear that the mission to bring hope and healing has remained strong."

Letter from the Managing Director

As the year began, Africa was facing its fourth pandemic wave. The emergence of the Omicron variant made the situation even more challenging, as this variant is known to be highly infectious.

It was impressive to see that despite facing major health emergencies, including the wild polio outbreak, Ebola and Marburg outbreaks, and cases of mpox, that the region was still able to achieve significant milestones. For example, Togo's successful elimination of trachoma as a public health problem is a notable achievement, as is the rise in healthy life expectancy by almost a decade.

The pandemic environment presented significant challenges during the year but it's clear that the mission to bring hope and healing has remained strong. Mercy Ships Australia continued our pandemic response within the Asia-Pacific region, which was built on the pivotal work we began during 2019, to ease the burden on public health systems in our region. We continued to provide lifesaving personal protective equipment and supplies as well as essential medical devices. Importantly, we worked to ensure that the safe continuity of health systems remained our core focus.

On a global scale, it was wonderful to see the progress and achievements that Mercy Ships, our volunteers, and partners made during the year. It was truly inspiring to see the two-ship fleet working side by side in Africa. The dedication and commitment of the volunteers and local national staff working on board is truly admirable, and it's heart-warming to hear about the lives that have been transformed as a result of their efforts.

Thank you to our supporters, staff, volunteers, and partners for all the work that you and the entire Mercy Ships team do to make a difference in the lives of those who lack access to healthcare, and for your unwavering commitment to bringing hope and healing to those in need.

Alan Burrell
Managing Director



About Mercy Ships

Globally, 5 billion people lack access to surgery

As a result of this lack of access to surgical care, more than 16.9 million people die each year. Every day, children and adults in some of the poorest communities die from causes that can easily be treated in hospitals in nations like Australia. 1 in 8 children will die before they have the chance to go to school.

Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships is an international development organisation, using hospital ships, in-field services and volunteers to deliver:

- 1. Direct medical care, dental care and surgery to those without access**
- 2. Education, training, and mentoring of local healthcare workers**
- 3. Improvements to healthcare infrastructure**
- 4. Humanitarian aid, PPE supplies and medical equipment**

Our model is based on transformational development and as a result, we have witnessed thousands of changed lives for more than 42 years.

We believe transformed lives can, and do, change nations. We witness the profound impact of free surgeries, as our volunteers restore hope to patients and their families.

We see the potential of local medical professionals to inspire, build up, and transform their surgical systems and take care of their populations.

This Mercy Ships International Programs Strategy is based on current global health frameworks. It describes our theory of change and oversees the direction of our programs.

Image: The Africa Mercy and Global Mercy together in Dakar, Senegal.

As a surgical non-governmental organisation working across eight different surgical specialties, our programs focus on improving the quality of life for people living with disease, disfigurement, and disability.

We achieve this through direct medical services, whole person care, and building the capacity of surgical systems to meet the needs of the future.

We have a unique part to play in the attainment of key Global Goals, such as Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing. We will achieve this by directing our programs to three key strategic aims:

- 1. Decreasing the burden of unmet surgical need;**
- 2. Improving outcomes for patients by supporting surgical systems to become more effective, efficient, and responsive;**
- 3. Engaging with governments and policymakers at local and national levels.**

To achieve these aims, we align our transformative work with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) approach.

This approach strives to strengthen health systems in a uniform way so that they improve community health, are responsive to the needs of their populations, have social and financial risk protection, and are efficient and well-governed.

We will align activities to contribute to one or more of the 6 WHO HSS 'Building Blocks' in our country engagement strategies:

- 1. Service delivery**
- 2. Health workforce**
- 3. Health information**
- 4. Medical products and technologies**
- 5. Health financing**
- 6. Leadership and governance**

To achieve this, we create 5-year Country Engagement Plans based on 3 areas of operational focus: direct medical services; medical capacity building; and engagement with governments and policymakers at the national and local level.

These plans enable Mercy Ships to walk alongside host nations in their journey towards health systems strengthening, working in partnership to understand the existing capacities and developmental needs of surgical care systems. Based on our level of relationship and partnership with each country, plans allow for longer-term capacity building to strengthen the surgical system.

We believe that transformed lives lead to transformed systems and communities. Moreover, when communities are transformed, so are nations.



Image: Mariama, orthopaedic patient, at the Mercy Ships HOPE Centre.

What We Do

Within the Global SDG Context



We know all too well that for people living in most developing nations, access to essential surgery is oftentimes limited.

The signing of the WHO's Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 has given all nations a road map within which to grow and thrive. The ambitious goals seek to promote mutual flourishing of all peoples, economies, and environments by 2030, placing equal importance on the health and wellbeing of individuals, populations, and the earth and her resources.

Of the 17 goals, Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3) is a key priority to Mercy Ships. From maternal, infant, and child mortality, to road traffic accidents and non-communicable diseases, surgery has an indispensable role to play in attaining SDG 3 targets. As surgical and anaesthesia specialists in eight specialties — plastic reconstructive, maxillofacial, paediatric orthopaedic surgery, general surgery, paediatric general surgery, women's health (including obstetric fistula), ophthalmic, and dental — our programs focus on attaining the greatest health outcomes for patients requiring surgical treatment in the countries in which we work. We accomplish these outcomes through direct medical services and medical capacity building to meet the needs of the future.

We know all too well that for people living in most developing nations, access to essential surgery is oftentimes limited, unaffordable, and carries high risks with variable outcomes. Too many people live with their ailments for longer than they need to, because the service they need is not available or too expensive. Our programs provide relief from suffering through direct medical services, while also investing in the health infrastructure and workforce to develop surgical skills and expand surgical service provision nationwide.



The WHO 'Building Blocks' Of An Effective Health System

- 1. Service delivery:** Good health services are those which deliver effective, safe, quality health interventions to those that need them, when and where needed, with minimum waste of resources.
- 2. Health workforce:** A well-performing health workforce is one that works in ways that are responsive, fair, and efficient to achieve the best health outcomes possible, given the available resources and circumstances. This means having sufficient staff, fairly distributed, who are competent, responsive, and productive.
- 3. Health information:** A well-functioning health information system is one that ensures the production, analysis, dissemination, and use of reliable and timely information on health determinants, health system performance, and health status.
- 4. Medical products and technologies:** A well-functioning health system ensures equitable access to essential, scientifically-sound medical products, vaccines and technologies of assured quality, safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness.
- 5. Health financing:** A good health financing system raises adequate funds for health in ways that ensure people can use needed services and are protected from financial catastrophe or impoverishment associated with having to pay for them.
- 6. Leadership and governance:** A well-managed health system ensures strategic policy frameworks exist and are combined with effective oversight, coalition-building, and regulation, with appropriate attention to system-design and accountability.

Image: Local surgeon Dr. Keita Balla is mentored on board the *Africa Mercy*.



2022 in Asia-Pacific

Many developing nations in the Asia-Pacific region struggle constantly with a lack of equipment, materials and personnel. The COVID pandemic threatened to exhaust those already limited resources, leaving public hospital systems in many nations without any means of treating seriously ill patients.

In the absence of suitable Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and supplies, medical staff risked their own health and that of their families in order to treat patients. Desperately understaffed hospitals began to struggle even more.

Mercy Ships Australia recognised this need and during 2021 and 2022 delivered over \$3 million worth of supplies and equipment to Pacific nations.

In total, fourteen shipping containers were sent to Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, and neighbouring nations. We also supported the construction and equipping of a much needed Community Health Centre that will cater to the multiple healthcare needs of the community in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

Image: Samoan Australians help Mercy Ships staff load medical supplies bound for Samoa and neighbouring countries.



21

Tonnes of PPE and Supplies



180,000

Rapid Antigen Tests



\$1.5m+

Equipment and Supplies to Asia-Pacific



2022 in Africa



7

Countries with
Active Programs



3,936

TOTAL Surgical Procedures



9,465

TOTAL Dental Procedures



1,200+

Volunteers



2,545

TOTAL Medical Capacity
Building Participants



200+

Local Staff
In Senegal



224,459

TOTAL Medical Capacity
Building Participant Hours



186

Local Partners

Images: Sira before and after surgery on the Africa Mercy in Senegal.

Direct Medical Care in Senegal

One Promise Fulfilled, Many Lives Changed

One of the greatest celebrations of hope took place February 1 when, after two years of waiting, the *Africa Mercy* arrived at the Port of Dakar, Senegal. She was greeted with music, dancing, and pure joy — because everyone present knew what the moment signified. There had been fears that Mercy Ships would not return, and her arrival was a symbol of a lasting commitment to the people of Africa — a promise fulfilled for hundreds of patients awaiting surgery.

With COVID-19 health and safety measures in place, the field service was soon underway. When the first patient, Sokhna, stepped on board to receive surgery, she said she wasn't nervous: "I feel just peace and joy."



Image: Sokhna, the first patient of the Senegal field service.

She had her eyes set on the light at the end of the tunnel: returning home, where her husband would see her healed from her cleft lip for the very first time.

Many patients would soon follow Sokhna up the gangway, with 695 people receiving operations on board the *Africa Mercy* this year. Meanwhile, 764 healthcare professionals received key training through a variety of Medical Capacity Building courses in Senegal, from safe surgery and sterile processing to palliative care, mental health, and more.

"Although Mercy Ships never really left Senegal, it was an honour and a blessing to return in 2022. This return would not have been possible without the partnership of the Senegalese government, which continued to walk closely with us through a difficult season. On behalf of Mercy Ships, I would like to extend a special thank you to President Macky Sall for his friendship and support, which enabled us to once again bring hope and healing to Senegal."

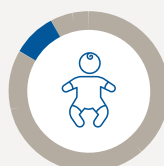
— Gert van de Weerdhof,
Chief Executive Officer



765
TOTAL Surgeries



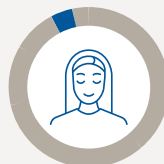
296
General Surgeries



68
Paediatric
Specialised General Surgeries



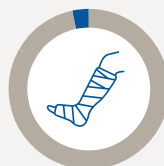
252
Maxillofacial Surgeries



34
Women's Health Surgeries



90
Reconstructive Plastic Surgeries



25
Orthopaedic Surgeries

Image: Aissatou, 4 years old, after surgery to repair her cleft lip.

Medical Capacity Building *in Senegal*

We are grateful both ships served in Senegal in 2022. Lives continued to be changed through surgeries and training on the *Africa Mercy*. Valuable training programs were also conducted on board the *Global Mercy*.

More than 1,000 Senegalese healthcare professionals participated in courses including SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia, safe surgery, palliative care, nurse mentoring, and mental health, equipping them with the skills to strengthen their systems from within.



1,006
Unique MCB
Course Participants



49,368
Participant Course
Hours

● *Global Mercy*
● *Africa Mercy*

PARTICIPANTS

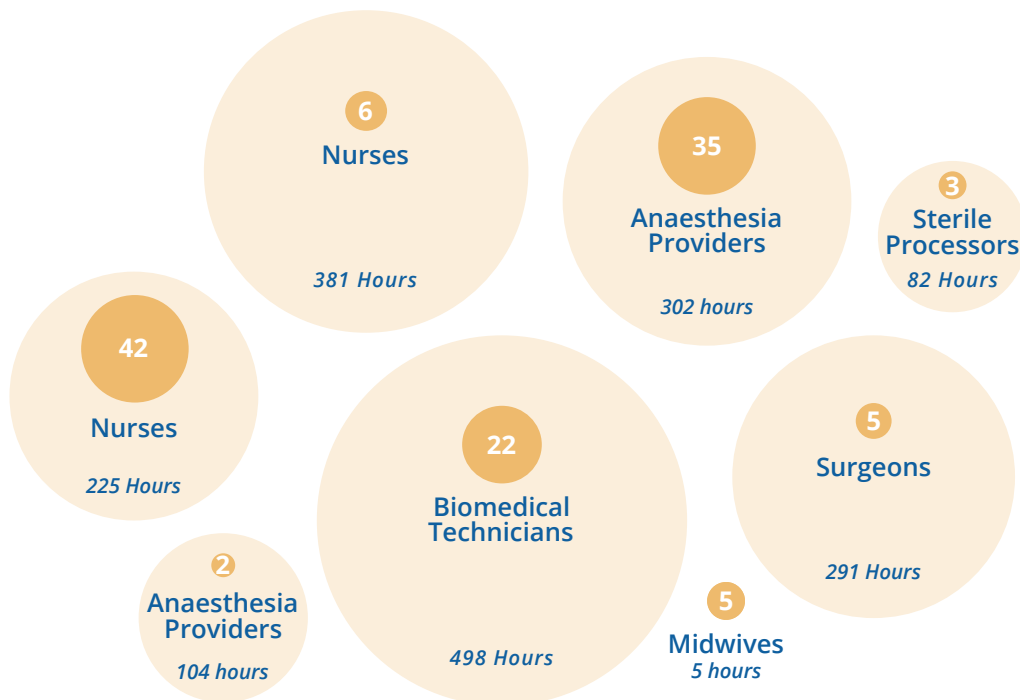
19	Biomed Anaesthesia Training
19	Biomedical Technician Course
20	SAFE Paediatrics Anaesthesia (7 Training of Trainers)
20	Palliative Care — Mental Health — Update and networking day
21	Dental Course
21	SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia (6 Training of Trainers)
21	Sterile Processing
22	Palliative Care — Introduction to Palliative Care
27	MSSI Nurse Training (5 Training of Trainers)
27	Primary Trauma Care
29	Essential Surgical Skills (5 Training of Trainers)
33	SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia
37	Regional Anaesthesia
39	Ultrasound Course (10 Training of Trainers)
47	Palliative Care — Sensitisation in Palliative Care for Spiritual Leaders
65	Nutritional Agriculture — Food For Life
69	Mental Health — Understanding People, Mental Health, Trauma, and mhGAP Intervention Guide
92	Neonatal resuscitation (15 Training of Trainers)
146	Palliative Care Course (16 Training of Trainers)
299	Safe Surgery Course



115
Unique Mentoring
Participants



1,887
Participant
Mentoring Hours



Mentoring Participants



Participant Hours

Image: Senegalese surgeons during the Essential Surgical Skills training course on board the *Global Mercy*.

Dr. Charlotte Polle-Kaliti

The Surgeon at the Forefront of Women's Health



"...we can train local surgeons to pick up the mantle, we have a pool of experts who will continue with the work."

Growing up in a small village in Kenya, Dr. Charlotte Polle-Kaliti watched her neighbours, especially pregnant women, go without the healthcare they needed.

"I remember seeing a lot of suffering and disease," she said. "Women die giving life. You lose your life to gain life. And then those who survive, those who are lucky, end up having fistula."

Dr. Polle-Kaliti would later become the first person from her community to go into medicine. Today, she's the sole female fistula surgeon in Kenya — one of only 11 in total.

She's served on board with Mercy Ships three times, including this year in Dakar, where she performed 34 surgeries. Fourteen of those were fistula repairs.

"There are those who can give a coin, and there are those who can give their skills," she said.

But to Dr. Polle-Kaliti, training is just as important as performing surgery.

"You don't want to just come and help a few women and leave," she said. ***"The fact that we can train local surgeons to pick up the mantle, we have a pool of experts who will continue with the work."***

As part of the MCB program, Dr. Polle-Kaliti recently had the opportunity to mentor Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo, a urologist from Senegal. He's now bringing that knowledge back to Hospital General De Grand Yoff in Dakar.

"That's the beauty of this mentorship; it will have a trickle effect," he said. ***"I have learned, so I will teach."***





Building a Better Future *Together with Africa*

The International Symposium was a culmination of months of planning and deliberations. It started with a critical baseline assessment study on the state of surgical, obstetric, and anaesthetic (SOA) care access in Africa by the scientific committee in partnership with participating countries and other organisations. The study, the first of its kind in Africa, collected data on factors related to the provision, access, and operation of surgical, obstetric, and anaesthetic health care systems



Images: (top) The Ministerial Summit during the International Symposium. *(above)* Dr. Serigne Gueye Diop, Presidential Advisor, is greeted by Gert van de Weerdhof, Mercy Ships

in 28 of the 47 nations of sub-Saharan Africa, as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

During sessions held throughout the Symposium, there was a push for greater collaboration and partnership to help address the complex issues and challenges plaguing SOA care access in Africa.

This culminated in Ministers of Health, country delegates, and health experts confirming and forming the Dakar Declaration: a historic roadmap to accelerating safe surgical, obstetric, and anaesthetic care in Africa over the next decade.

“It’s a great day for the people of Senegal. We have been waiting for this day for the last two years... it’s a huge opportunity for us to help our people in need of free surgery. We would like to really thank Mercy Ships for your trust, and also for your friendship.”

— Dr. Serigne Diop, Senegalese Presidential Advisor



*"I am so happy.
She looks so beautiful."*

Kadidja's New Smile

At first glance, Kadidja is just like any other child. The 4-year-old girl is happy and energetic. She loves to dance, play, and eat good food. But something was holding her back.

Kadidja was born with a cleft lip. For four years, she endured the shame of looking different than other children. This was painful for both Kadidja and her mother, Ramata. "Since she was born, I refused to take her into the village because the other children would look at her and try to touch her nose and lips," Ramata said.

After three long years of waiting, hope was finally on the horizon. Ramata heard that Mercy Ships would sail to Senegal, so the mother and daughter journeyed to Dakar for surgery.

A week after Kadidja's successful operation, Ramata saw her daughter's new smile for the first time. In that moment, she was overflowing with love and delight.

"I am so happy. She looks so beautiful. When we go back to our village, everyone will treat her like a normal person. She can interact with other children again and she can go to school."



Images: Kadidja and her mother, before and after surgery.

Celebrating Hope Across Africa

While the focus of the field service was on Senegal this year, Mercy Ships remained active in bringing hope and healing throughout Africa.



Niger

This year, Dr. Tertius Venter returned to Niger and performed 47 plastic reconstructive surgeries. This effort fulfilled our 2020 commitment with CURE International to provide surgeries while our ships were out of service due to the pandemic.



47
Plastic Reconstructive
Surgeries



Benin

This year, the Benin-based Food for Life infrastructure project began its second phase of construction on its way to providing a permanent space for students to learn about nutritional agriculture. Meanwhile, Food for Life courses continued, with 34 participants trained in 2022. These projects provide agricultural training and tools to course participants, who learn how to train others in turn, creating a ripple effect of transformation across Benin.



88
MCB Participants



68,561
Participant Hours

PARTICIPANTS

- 24 Essential Surgical Skills Course
- 64 Nutritional Agriculture —Food For Life

Image: Abraham, former Food for Life trainee and now staff member at Phaz Compassion in Benin.

Guinea

Mercy Ships continued its partnership with Hope Ignited to build a paediatric centre of excellence, the first of its kind in Guinea and the site of life-changing surgical care for many years to come.

After partnering with Gamal Abdel Nasser University to run the dental program since 2018, Mercy Ships signed a memorandum of agreement to invest in an expansion of the clinic, allowing even more students to receive hands-on experience and education.

 **36**
Maxillofacial Surgeries


 **147**
MCB
Participants

 **55,894**
Participant
Hours

PARTICIPANTS

-  **13** Medical Education Sponsorship
-  **24** Biomedical Technician Mentoring
-  **110** Dental Partner Unit Mentoring Program



 **2,353**
Ophthalmic Surgeries

 **5**
MCB Mentoring
Participants

 **695**
Participant
Hours

PARTICIPANTS

-  **5** Surgeon Mentoring

Togo

It's been an exciting year of growth in Togo as we continued to partner with Dr. Wodomé's ophthalmic clinic and cataract surgical training program. We also supported the ongoing Cataract Campaign Togo Project, bringing free surgeries to patients around the country.

This also marks a second year of partnership with Sight.org, a Togo-based ophthalmic surgical NGO whose lead cataract surgeon was originally trained by Dr. Wodomé. In 2022, Mercy Ships funded 2,353 cataract surgeries for rural patients, many of whom otherwise lacked access to care.

Image: Dental student Francois training in the simulation lab at Gamal Abdel Nasser University in Conakry, Guinea.





Liberia

In Liberia, programmatic work continued through Mercy Ships' partnership with Lifebox. The collaborative Clean Cut Program helped hospital surgical teams set up quality assurance systems. We also ran a series of SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia courses both online and in person.

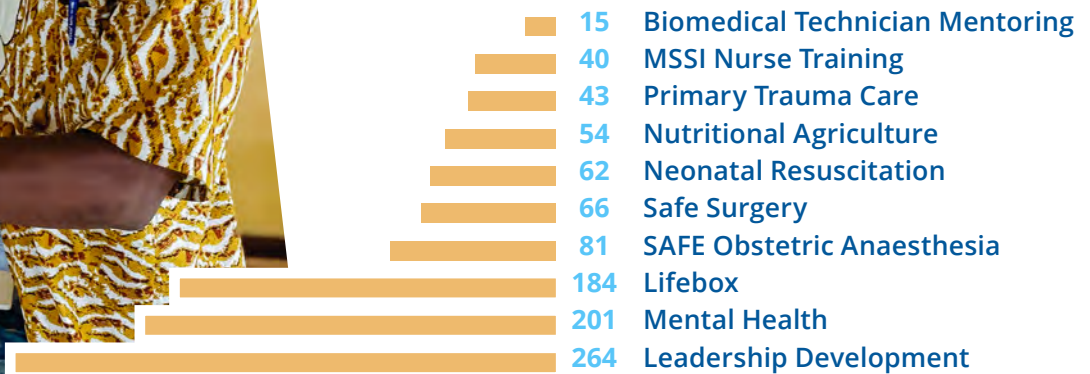


998
MCB Participants



42,433
Participant Hours

PARTICIPANTS



South Africa

According to the World Bank, sub-Saharan Africa has an estimated maternal mortality ratio of 547 deaths per 100,000 live births, over two times that of the global rate. In response to this need, Mercy Ships provided SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia courses in South Africa in 2022, imparting skills and knowledge to course participants as well as training professionals to share these skills with others.



132
MCB Participants



3,948
Participant Hours

PARTICIPANTS



Image: Local trainer and anaesthesia provider, Perry, teaches his fellow anaesthesia nurses in SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia in Liberia.



"It felt like getting an extra gift."

Cire's Life-Changing Birthday Gift

On the morning of his 20th birthday, Cire celebrated in an unusual way: being wheeled into the sterile operating theatre of the *Africa Mercy*. The moment had been years in the making for Cire, who was just 16 when a facial tumour started growing. His family could only wait and hope for a miracle.

"It (the tumour) wasn't beautiful; no one would want to have it on their face," says Cire, who constantly felt uncomfortable in public.

So, he travelled the distance across Senegal to the ship, where his birthday gift awaited as he finally received a life-changing surgery.

A few days later, volunteer nurses threw him a belated birthday party to mark the new year.

"It felt like getting an extra gift. I was grateful for the surgery and then they gave me this celebration. I was so happy," Cire recalled.

During his recovery, the main thing he looked forward to was simple: going back home and showing off the change in his face.



Images: (top) Cire, during his birthday party in the wards. (above) Cire before and after surgery.

Monitoring Our Work

By outlining the parameters in which our Country Engagement Plans operate, and by aligning our transformational strategy with the WHO HSS Framework for Action, Mercy Ships is able to effectively measure the impact of our International Programs. This allows us to quantify our contribution to improved quality of life for people living with disability, disfigurement, or disease in targeted African nations.

We use a set of standardised indicators across each country engagement to collectively measure our impact as a Programs team. Our monitoring framework aligns with the WHO indicators, so that our data is directly relevant for African governments in reporting back on progress against the HSS Framework for Action. We periodically review the International Programs Strategy and make course corrections as needed.

In addition to such indicators, Mercy Ships International Programs also commits to ensuring—and monitoring—that our programs adhere to our Program Principles. While our indicators will demonstrate impact, we cannot focus on impact at the expense of our values.

In addition to the Mercy Ships Core Values, our programs adhere to some common principles. We ensure that our country engagement plans:

- **Work in genuine partnership with host nations, and fully align with their national health and development plans.**
- **Are locally owned and deliver sustainable change so that knowledge is retained in the country after we leave. We seek to actively recruit African workers and trainers for our ships and local learning centers.**

- **Minimise any distortion to the existing surgical ecosystem. For example, since we offer free surgeries, we aim to ensure that our surgical schedule focuses on the most marginalised who are unable to access existing surgical services, so as not to undermine existing surgical providers.**
- **Consider the multiple barriers to service provision and cross-cutting issues, including gender and disability, to ensure our interventions are as accessible as possible and leave no one behind.**
- **Leave space for innovation, learning, and piloting of new ideas.**
- **Adhere to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee criteria of being relevant, coherent, effective, efficient, sustainable, and having measurable impact.**

Our programs will not be able to bring change alone. It is our hope that our targeted programs will demonstrate to governments and other health providers how change can happen, so that they can replicate and scale up efforts. Above all, at the core of all our programs is a desire to see transformation. This applies not only to our partners, but to our own teams as well. We are all on a transformational journey and we believe that nothing is impossible.

The International Programs strategy has laid out a framework within which we focus our activities. It seeks to provide clarity on the work that we do, the change that we aspire to, and the way we approach our work. We want to provide direction to our programs, but not at the expense of innovations.



Looking Forward Projects in 2023

2023 Africa Projects

Senegal / The Gambia / Sierra Leone: Our new hospital ship, the *Global Mercy*, is currently serving in Senegal and The Gambia, providing much needed Direct Medical Services, Education Training, and Mentoring of local health workers as well as infrastructure and the equipping of local medical facilities. In June 2023, the *Global Mercy* will relocate and undertake services in Sierra Leone for 10 months.

Cameroon / Guinea / Benin / South Africa / Togo: Field based services are underway in these nations including Education, Training and Mentoring of local health workers as well as infrastructure and the equipping of local medical facilities.

Madagascar: Our assessment team is working collaboratively with local health authorities in this country to assess the direct medical services needs as well as the health system strengthening needs, prior to the *Africa Mercy* arriving in 2024.

2023 Asia Projects

Samoa: An urgent need to protect the population by combating the presence of dangerous levels of chemical pesticides and fertilisers found in groundwater, locally grown produce, water supplies and locally caught fish.

Indonesia: Provide a medicinal oxygen plant in Sumba, Indonesia which will provide much needed supply to a population of ¾ million people.

India: Build a community health centre that caters to the multiple healthcare needs of the community in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Virtual Healthcare: This project aims to take healthcare to up to 1 billion people living in places where there is no doctor, whilst also providing access to training and mentoring for local doctors

Image: WHO Checklist training in Benin.



An Outstanding Achievement

Mercy Ships Australia managing director Alan Burrell was recently awarded Outstanding Individual of the Year as part of the 2022 Australian Impact Investment Awards. Alan was recognised amongst some of the most outstanding leaders and activities in Australia's impact investment sector and we send him our warm congratulations!

The honour is for an individual that has made an outstanding achievement in the past year to support the growth of the Australian impact investment market. This award recognises an innovation, vision, significant change or development driven by the nominee that could be applied more broadly throughout the impact ecosystem.

Alan believes that making a difference in the lives of people who are unable to access healthcare requires a multifaceted approach. This involves collaboration between healthcare providers, policymakers, philanthropists, and community organisations.

Additionally, Alan supports developing new healthcare delivery models that are designed to meet the specific needs of underserved communities, using innovative technologies and methodologies to reach people in remote areas, and developing new care models that focus on prevention and early intervention to help reduce the burden of chronic disease.

"By working together and taking a holistic approach, it is possible to make significant progress in improving access to care and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life," Alan said.

Image: Alan Burrell (right) is awarded Outstanding Achievement of the Year at the 2022 Australian Impact Investment Awards.

Dell Foundation

Mercy Ships Partners Support the Next Chapter

"The important work of Mercy Ships brings both lifesaving healthcare and deep compassion to communities across Africa."

During 2022, Michael and Susan Dell committed an \$18 million matching grant to help secure funding for this next season of Mercy Ships transformative work.

With the recent launch of the new hospital ship the *Global Mercy*, and serving alongside the *Africa Mercy*, Mercy Ships will more than double its impact in providing free medical care, as well as education and training for some of the world's poorest people in sub-Saharan Africa.

The most current data shows that 93% of people living in the "bottom billions" — in reference to the people who live in low- and middle-income economies in terms of healthcare outcomes — reside in sub-Saharan Africa. This means those suffering from painful, isolating, and often preventable diseases are unable to find the healing they so desperately need.

"We are deeply grateful for this generous gift and commitment from Michael and Susan Dell in support of the Mercy Ships mission to deliver hope and healing in sub-Saharan Africa. We place a high value on such partnerships and are humbled and thankful for their support of our organisation," said Don Stephens, Founder of Mercy Ships.



"The important work of Mercy Ships brings both lifesaving healthcare and deep compassion to communities across Africa. Michael and I are honoured to be part of the next chapter of Mercy Ships, which will bring more opportunities for healing to those who need it most," said Susan Dell, co-founder and board chair of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Image: Michael and Susan Dell of the Dell Foundation..



The Indomitable Dedication of Our Volunteers

Australian volunteer Keren Fuhrmeister joined Mercy Ships in 2019, serving as the Assistant Director of Human Resources on the *Africa Mercy* before taking on the role of Hospital Director. She led the *Africa Mercy* hospital team through unprecedented times due to COVID-19 and continued to work tirelessly to ensure that the field service in Senegal was a success.

In 2022 we were pleased to announce that Keren would transition to the *Global Mercy* as the Hospital Director.

We are eternally grateful for Keren's faithful, dedicated service aboard the *Africa Mercy*. Her move is crucial for the *Global Mercy*'s deployment of its hospital services in 2023. Keren's leadership and experience will ensure that the new hospital on board the *Global Mercy* provides the best possible care to its patients and caregivers. We are thrilled that she will continue to give her talents and servant heart to Mercy Ships.

"2022 is the year that Mercy Ships brought the Africa Mercy back into service! God designed and equipped a unique group of people who stepped into the unknown world of COVID, surgeries, and a renewed field service. Despite the complications and challenges of the 2022 field service, the crew and day crew of the Africa Mercy enjoyed pouring the love of God into the people of Senegal."

— John Mark Bray, *Africa Mercy* Managing Director



"You cannot imagine the joy that I am feeling inside me..."

Eric Diatta The Translator Who Kept Hope Alive

When the *Africa Mercy* left Senegal earlier than expected in 2020, local translator Eric Diatta was the one to share the heartbreaking news with patients — but he held out hope that healing would return.

There were more than 1,000 patients with cancelled surgeries. So, Eric made a schedule and began calling every single patient once a month.

When the ship returned in February 2022, Eric was standing on the dock to welcome her.

After two years and thousands of phone calls, he was finally able to deliver some good news.

"You cannot imagine the joy that I am feeling inside me, not only for me but for the patients who have been waiting," he said. *"Finally, God made it possible for the ship to be able to come back."*

Images: (left) Keren Fuhrmeister, Hospital Director.
(inset) Local translator Eric Diatta.

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

Help Mercy Ships continue to provide life-changing surgeries and change the face of healthcare in developing nations.



Follow us

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

Find out more

mercyships.org.au
1300 739 899

How You Can Help



Donate

Make a regular monthly donation to Mercy Ships. Visit mercyships.org.au/donate



Nominate us

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



Come along

Attend or hold your own event with your local community, church, club, or workplace. Visit mercyships.org.au/partner-with-us



Remember us

Remember Mercy Ships in your Will. Visit mercyships.org.au/give-in-your-will



Get involved

Run, jog, walk, cycle, or swim for Mercy Ships by hosting a fundraising event. Visit mercyships.org.au/fundraise-with-us



Volunteer

Volunteer on board a Mercy Ship. Visit mercyships.org.au/volunteer

Governance

Mercy Ships Australia Board of Directors

Richard Wankmuller BSCE, MSCE
Chair
Non-Executive Director

Karen Binns BNursing GradDipHlthCouns
Deputy Chair
Non-Executive Director

Alan Burrell Bsc, MBA
Managing Director
Secretary

Ernst Scholtz
Non-Executive Director

Chris Thomas BCom, DipGrad, MBus
Non-Executive Director

Kerry Peterson
Non-Executive Director

Mercy Ships Australia Advisory Council

Anthea Iva
Founder
Redstone Marketing & Design

Chris Thomas
Head of Customer Value Streams
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank

Ron Jackson
Human Resources Consultant

Peter Howard
Founder/Principal Consultant
Accord Consulting

Alan Atwell
International Development Consultant

Natalie Herenda
Creative & Implementation Manager
SBS



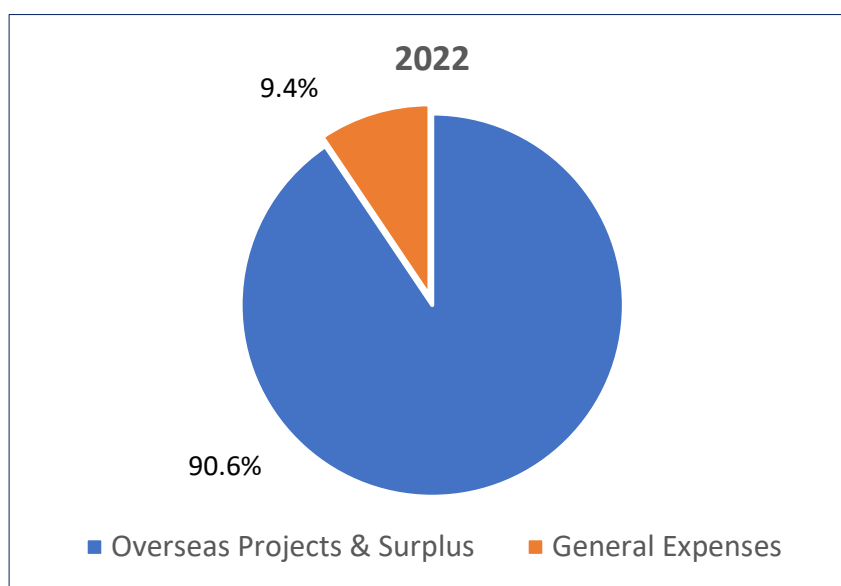
Since 1978:

- 2.86 million+** Direct beneficiaries
- 111,850+** Life-changing surgical procedures
- 530,630+** Dental procedures
- 52,870+** Professionals trained in their field of expertise
- 6,730+** Healthcare professionals trained to train others

Image: Coumba, after surgery to release a burn contracture on her hand and arm.

MERCY SHIPS AUSTRALIA LTD
ABN: 30 097 037 922
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Revenue and Other Income	\$
Revenue	105,699
Donations Received and Contributed Services	<u>12,466,437</u>
Total Income	<u>12,572,136</u>
Overseas Project Related Expenses	
Mercy Ships Overseas Projects	6,622,466
Volunteer Contributed Services	3,852,195
Employee & Related	375,468
Marketing, volunteer raising	256,845
Sundry	<u>102,916</u>
	<u>11,209,890</u>
Administration Fundraising Expenses	
Marketing	385,268
Employee & Related	563,201
Sundry	154,374
Interest expenses, lease liability	8,177
Depreciation and amortisation expense	67,889
Audit, legal fees	<u>6,356</u>
	<u>1,185,265</u>
Total Outgoings	<u>12,395,155</u>
Net Current Year Surplus	<u>176,981</u>



*bringing hope
and healing*

