



From life-changing surgery **to stronger health systems**

ACROSS AFRICA, THE ASIA-PACIFIC AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Your partnership is helping turn immediate healthcare assistance into lasting local and national capability.

Across Africa and Small Island Developing States in the Pacific and Caribbean, Mercy Ships Australia is working with governments, hospitals and local partners to expand access to safe surgery, strengthen healthcare workforces, improve medical infrastructure and build community resilience. This update shares what has been achieved, what is now underway and where strategic philanthropy can unlock the next stage of impact.



Recent impact at a glance JANUARY TO JUNE 2026

Figures include Mercy Ships field service results and Mercy Ships Australia supported initiatives.



2,307
total surgical
procedures



20,068
hours of
healthcare
training delivered



89
Active
projects
across Africa



9
countries
supported with
medical supplies
and equipment



21
government and
health leaders
engaged



923
farming families
strengthening
food security
and livelihoods

A message from **Alan Burrell**

Over the past three months, I have met with Prime Ministers, Ministers of Health, hospital leaders, philanthropists and strategic partners across developing nations. The message I heard repeatedly was clear: governments highly value immediate humanitarian assistance, but they are also seeking trusted partners who will

listen, remain engaged and help build long-term capability.

That trust reflects the confidence our supporters have helped Mercy Ships Australia build over many years. Together, we are building on life-changing humanitarian assistance by strengthening the people, infrastructure and systems

that make healthcare more resilient. This means that a surgical intervention can transform one life today, while training, equipment and stronger partnerships help many more people receive safe care in the years ahead.

Thank you for being part of this work.



Across Africa: Surgery today, capability for tomorrow

Global Mercy has commenced service in Ghana while *Africa Mercy* continues serving Madagascar. Through these field services and in-country partnerships, Mercy Ships delivers specialist surgery and dental care alongside education, mentoring, biomedical engineering, infrastructure support and health-system strengthening.

Australian supporters help make this integrated model possible. Their generosity contributes not only to an operation, but also to the training of local professionals, stronger clinical practice, safer equipment and greater capacity within partner hospitals.

THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Every operation is accompanied by a wider investment in local capability. Surgeons, nurses, anaesthesia providers, dental professionals and biomedical technicians receive practical training and mentoring designed to strengthen care long after the ships depart.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



FOOD FOR LIFE – SIERRA LEONE

The need: Food insecurity, poor nutrition and fragile livelihoods contribute to poor health and vulnerability.

What the partnership is enabling:

Across 10 communities, the program is supporting 923 farming families, 625 farmers and 10 farmer organisations, while training 650 women and 250 young people in climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods.

The long-term goal: Healthier, more resilient communities with stronger nutrition, incomes and local food systems.



BRINGING SAFE SURGERY CLOSER TO HOME – TANNA, VANUATU

The need: Families on Tanna have limited access to safe surgery and emergency obstetric care, with geography restricting specialist services and referrals.

What the partnership is enabling:

Mercy Ships Australia and the TAFEA Health Care Association are upgrading Lenakel Hospital's operating theatre and developing accommodation to support regular visiting specialist teams.

The long-term goal: Sustainable access to safe surgery, maternal health and workforce development across Tanna and neighbouring islands.



Philanthropy at the table

During recent Caribbean engagements, Alan Burrell was joined by Mrs Margo Hartley OAM of the Margo Hartley Foundation. Together, they met with government and health leaders to hear their priorities directly and explore where practical partnerships could strengthen local capability.

Margo's participation reflects the distinctive role family philanthropy can play:

- engaging alongside governments and communities from the outset
- bringing not only funding, but also long term commitment
- trusted relationships
- a willingness to help shape solutions.

When **essential healthcare** is an island away

Across Small Island Developing States, geography can turn treatable conditions into life threatening delays. Cancer screening may not be readily available. Skilled clinicians may lack reliable equipment. Families can face the cost and disruption of travelling overseas for care that could be provided closer to home.

In recent discussions with Prime Ministers, Ministers of Health and hospital leaders, several shared priorities emerged: earlier disease detection, women's health, dependable medical equipment, biomedical capability and stronger local health services.

From identified needs to lasting solutions

Mercy Ships Australia is now working with local leaders to develop lasting solutions including:

- a multi-country women's screening and early detection initiative;
- targeted medical equipment supported by training and maintenance
- stronger biomedical engineering and healthcare workforce capability
- improved referral, follow-up and regional collaboration.

The opportunity is not simply to fund another shipment or short-term intervention. It is to strengthen the people, systems and infrastructure that allow healthcare services to continue delivering value long after the initial investment.

The opportunity for **strategic** philanthropy

Flexible early-stage funding can help move a government identified need through design, validation and pilot implementation towards responsible scale.

For families and foundations seeking measurable, enduring impact, this is an opportunity to help build locally owned healthcare solutions capable of improving lives for years to come.

The opportunity is not simply to fund an intervention. It is to help build the local capability that continues saving lives long after the initial investment.

Locally owned solutions taking shape

Where strategic philanthropy can **unlock the next stage**

Mercy Ships Australia is building on proven surgical, training and health-system partnerships to expand access to essential healthcare and strengthen lasting local capability. Opportunities now range from helping build the next purpose-built hospital ship for Africa to supporting locally owned healthcare solutions ready for deeper design, pilot investment and responsible scale.



A once-in-a-generation opportunity:

Africa Mercy II

Mercy Ships is building **Africa Mercy II**, a new purpose-built hospital ship based on the proven design of the *Global Mercy*. The ship will succeed the ageing *Africa Mercy* and expand Mercy Ships' capacity to deliver free specialist surgery, train healthcare professionals and strengthen surgical systems across sub-Saharan Africa.

This capital campaign offers individuals, families, foundations and corporate partners an opportunity to help bring an enduring humanitarian asset into service. Philanthropic partners may also explore selected naming and recognition opportunities, aligning a family, foundation or organisational legacy with life-changing surgery and healthcare capacity-building for generations to come.

Earlier detection and women's health

Mercy Ships Australia is working with governments and health leaders across Small Island Developing States to shape multi-country women's health screening and early-detection solutions. The aim is to help more women access timely screening, diagnosis, referral and treatment.

Reliable equipment, oxygen and biomedical capability

Medical technology saves lives only when it is appropriate, dependable and supported locally. Solutions are being developed to strengthen medical oxygen access, biomedical engineering, equipment maintenance and the healthcare workforce required to keep essential services operating safely.

Safe surgery closer to home

In Pacific island communities, geography can severely restrict access to surgery, emergency obstetric care and specialist services. Mercy Ships Australia is supporting locally led hospital improvements and practical models that can bring regular specialist care closer to patients and families.

A partnership shaped around the change you want to enable

REQUEST A BRIEFING

Receive a confidential briefing on one of our priority initiatives and the outcomes strategic funding could enable.

MAKE AN INTRODUCTION

Connect us with a family, foundation, corporate partner or specialist whose interests align with global health and resilience.

VISIT THE WORK

Explore a project or ship visit and meet the people delivering and benefiting from the work firsthand.

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