

## Surgeries & Health Care

Mercy Ships provides free, specialized operations that save lives, improve quality of life and restore hope.

### Reconstructive Surgery

Volunteer facial reconstructive and plastic surgeons remove deforming tumors, correct cleft lip and palates, fix congenital abnormalities, and increase mobility for those disabled or disfigured by burn contractures, scarring, noma, or leprosy.

### Obstetric Fistula (Childbirth Injuries)

Emergency care for childbirth is unavailable in most cases, resulting in death or disability. Birth injury fistulas require specialized procedures to provide relief from the chronic humiliation of constant urinary leakage. Mercy Ships surgeons repair fistulas and afterwards provide women with new dresses and headdresses as symbols of their restored lives.

### Blindness

Most of the world's blind live in poor nations where eye care is inaccessible. Mercy Ships ophthalmic surgeons perform free cataract operations restoring sight to the blind. Additionally, doctors correct pterygium, strabismus and eyelid deformities and remove painful or ugly blind eyes, replacing them with prostheses. Ophthalmic educators train local medical personnel in primary eye care.

### Dental

Dental service is almost non-existent in many of the countries Mercy Ships visits. Mercy Ships conducts free mobile dental clinics, providing relief from infected or rotting teeth, doing extractions, and giving fillings and performing restorative work. Additionally, teams provide dental hygiene education and training of local personnel.



## Community Empowerment

Mercy Ships partners with locals to rebuild and improve the health of their communities.

### Rehabilitation & Reintegration

Mercy Ships assists the disabled and displaced in restoring functionality for work and life. In conducting personal and community development programs for the disabled, Mercy Ships helps disabled persons reach a place of self-reliance by teaching skills training and providing financial support for micro enterprise, in addition to physical rehabilitation.

### Education & Skills Training

Mercy Ships helps break the cycle of disease through prevention and knowledge. Community health education teams train students in basic health and hygiene, first aid and HIV/AIDS prevention. Additionally Mercy Ships teams teach literacy and the opportunity to learn a marketable skill. Agriculture programs and women's empowerment projects contribute to sustainable community development. Mercy Ships mentoring program provides one-on-one training of local surgeons and other health professionals.

### Water Projects

Mercy Ships helps to alleviate water problems by digging wells and repairing existing water systems in villages without access to potable water. Trainees receive education in how to dig wells and take care of the wells and pumps. Teams also work with villagers to build latrines and teach them about waterborne diseases and sanitation options.

### Construction

Working with local leaders, Mercy Ships teams assess community needs and furnish skills, planning, and materials for building projects such as schools, clinics, orphanages, etc. The fact that residents are actively involved gives the local community a strong sense of ownership. Local workers provide most of the work, furnishing them with a source of income and pride in accomplishment.