

# General Surgery

## Mercy Ships Program Fact Sheet

### *Deformities in Developing Nations*



Edouard, Togo  
Hernia



Claire, Congo  
Goiter

#### **Why is the need so extreme?**

For the poor in developing nations, accessing necessary medical and surgical care is extremely difficult due to their remote location, lack of medical facilities and financial constraints. Conditions that would be treated in the early stages in developed nations grow to the point of being life-threatening. The consequence for many is a lifetime of disability, rejection and sometimes even death.

In West Africa, few countries have functional healthcare systems, which include hospitals, clinics, medical providers, etc. According to the World Health Organization, there is a critical shortage of all types of medical providers in developing nations. Due to the lack of general and specialized healthcare, general surgical needs, such as hernias and goiters, plague this region's adult and pediatric populations.

### *Transformational Healthcare through Onboard Surgery Programs*

#### **Bringing Hope and Healing**

Mercy Ships increases access to healthcare throughout the world. Through the deployment of the world's largest, private hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*, Mercy Ships works with host nations to strengthen the local healthcare system, while serving the dire and immediate needs of the host country.

Mercy Ships collaborates with local governments and ministries of health to improve national healthcare infrastructure. Mercy Ships partners with local healthcare workers and nurses to provide training and educational opportunities in appropriate techniques. In addition, Mercy Ships contributes to the long-term eradication of preventable diseases and resulting extreme conditions by conducting community health education programs. Mercy Ships programs offer holistic support to developing nations striving to make healthcare accessible for all.

For more than 35 years, Mercy Ships has been delivering medical excellence with integrity and compassion to countries with the world's worst medical systems.

#### **Surgery**

Mercy Ships seeks to relieve the burden of disease and affliction among the poor and outcast by providing specialized, corrective surgical interventions, such as hernias and goiters, through the General Surgery program. Mercy Ships works in partnership with local and national governments, as well as with a variety of partners and physicians in the country, to provide specialized surgeries that will facilitate life-enhancing and, in many cases, life-saving transformations.

#### **Accomplishment**

Through all of the surgical programs, Mercy Ships has performed more than 82,000 life-changing or life-saving operations including hernia repairs and tumor removals.

#### **Recovery & Counselling**

Patients recuperate under world-class care in the ship's hospital ward and outpatient care in the Hope Center, where they are also provided with opportunity for moral and spiritual support. Mercy Ships aims to provide a caring, holistic environment to facilitate patient recovery.



Patient Screening



Onboard Operations



Recovery Ward

*Lives transformed  
through hope  
and healing...*