



# General Surgery | Program Fact Sheet



Edouard, Togo  
Hernia

## Deformities in Developing Countries

### Why is the need so extreme?

For the poor in developing countries, 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 high-income countries grow to the point of debilitation, preventing people from working or attending school. The consequence for many is a lifetime of disability and rejection.



Claire, Congo  
Goiter

In the African nations where Mercy Ships serves, healthcare systems struggle to meet the needs of the population, including surgery. For many people, if surgery is available, it is often located in urban areas and cost-prohibitive. According to the World Health Organization, there is a critical shortage of all types of medical providers in developing countries. Because of these limitations, general surgical needs such as hernias and goiters plague this region's adult and pediatric populations.



Patient Screening

## Transformational Healthcare through Onboard Surgical Programs

### Bringing Hope and Healing

Mercy Ships increases access to healthcare throughout the world. Through the deployment of the world's largest, non-governmental 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.



Onboard Surgeries

### Surgery

Mercy Ships seeks to relieve the burden of disease and affliction among the poor and outcast by providing specialized, corrective surgical interventions for conditions 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-changing transformation.



Recovery Ward

### 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.

*Lives transformed through hope and healing...*

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. Mercy Ships programs offer holistic support to developing countries, striving to make healthcare accessible for all.

For more than 40 years, Mercy Ships has sought to deliver medical excellence with integrity and compassion to countries with the world's worst medical systems.

### Accomplishment

Through all of the surgical programs, Mercy Ships has performed more than 95,000 life-changing or life-saving operations including hernia repairs and tumor removals.