

Construction

Mercy Ships Programme Fact Sheet

Updated January 2012



*Lives transformed
through hope
and healing...*

Construction of Facilities in Developing Nations

Hospitals, clinics and schools in developing nations commonly fall short of the need. Years of war have often deteriorated buildings, and ageing infrastructure is unable to meet the burgeoning need.

Improved access to health care

Most of the time, health care is inaccessible for those who are living in developing countries. For some, the cost of receiving health care is too high, while for others hospitals are too far away or just plain non-existent. In war-torn nations, many existing hospitals and clinics have been looted or damaged, making them useless to the local population. By constructing and equipping medical centres, plus coordinating and expanding the provision of health care, proper access to treatment will improve.

Statistics

- The highest rates of child mortality continue to be found in sub-Saharan Africa, where 1 in 8 children dies before their fifth birthday.
- Nutrient deficiencies can lead to poor mental development, a compromised immune system, numerous deficiency-related illnesses, poor maternal outcomes, and even death.
- The impact of these diseases on the health system and the economy of a country are significant.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest proportion in the world of people living in extreme poverty, according to the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

Transformational health care through Construction Projects

Bringing Hope and Healing

In communities lacking resources, Mercy Ships helps turn vision into reality. Together with local leaders, governments and the national ministries of health, development teams assess community needs and provide skills and the material for building projects. Projects include building hospitals, clinics, and other public facilities.

Mercy Ships manages and hires local day workers to get largely unemployed people back to work. During construction phases, teams train local community members in building skills. The fact that residents are actively involved in Mercy Ships projects gives the local community a stronger sense of ownership.

Medical projects

Our main goal is to improve the local health care infrastructure and to increase access to health care. Mercy Ships has supported various medical projects such as the construction of:

- a youth health centre to provide young people with a safe place to receive treatment and education
- clinic facilities and equipment for service
- a new maternity unit to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health

Accomplishment

Completed over 1,100 community development projects focusing on water and sanitation, education, infrastructure development and agriculture.



Gaye Town Medical Clinic
Gaye Town, Liberia



**New Maternity Unit
in Tema Polyclinic**
Tema, Ghana



**Ashaiman Youth
Health Centre**
Tema, Ghana



**Tenegar Clinic
Health Centre**
Tenegar, Liberia