



# ***Patient Care in Underserviced Areas***

CMDA CFCPS Joint National Conference 2024

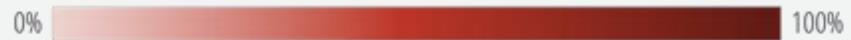
# MERCY SHIPS

- Mercy Ships International HQ based in USA,
- 16 international offices, including Canada,
- Mercy Ships Global Association based in Switzerland,
- Africa Service Center being created in Senegal
- Country engagement teams located in several African countries.



# WHY AFRICA?

Proportion of population without access to safe, affordable surgery



\*The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery

# CONSIDERATIONS IN DELIVERING PATIENT CARE IN UNDERSERVICED AREAS

Availability of essential workforce, equipment & supplies.

Infrastructure deficits:

- Electrical supply,
- Water supply,
- Medical waste,
- Road infrastructure,
- Port infrastructure (at least for Mercy Ships).



# SHORT-TERM SURGICAL TRIPS

A collaborative model where surgical teams are transported into regions grappling with high burdens of specific diseases.



They work with in-country physicians, sharing the responsibility of immediate follow-up care.



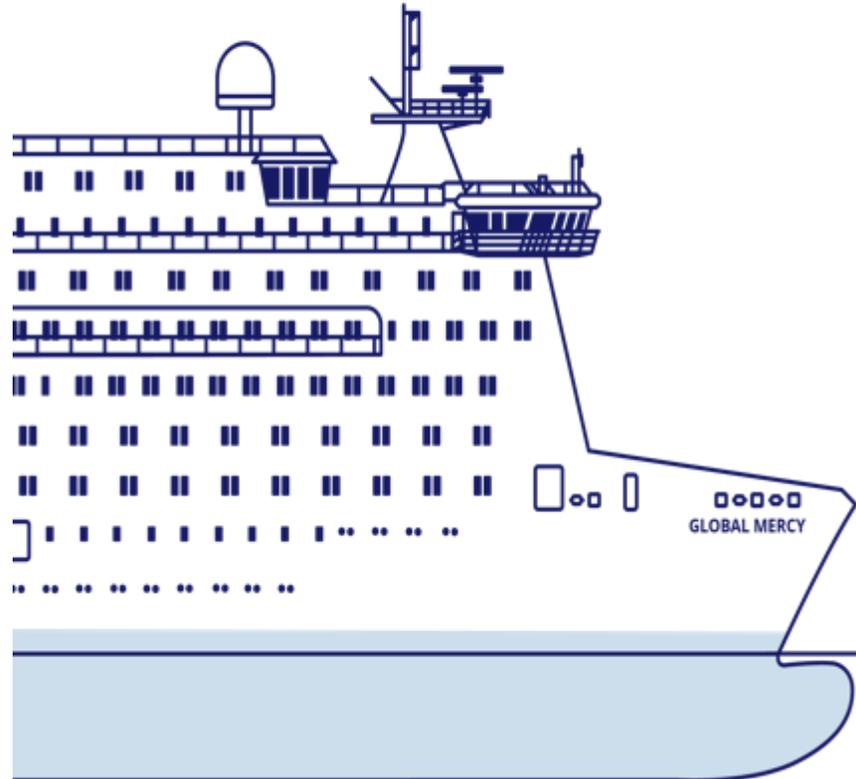
These missions, often equipped with their own tools, often revisit the same region in subsequent years, fostering strong partnerships with local hospitals and ministries of health.





# SELF-CONTAINED SURGICAL PLATFORMS

- Mercy Ships operates hospital ships that carry an entire infrastructure, including pathology and radiology. This enables them to offer a wide range of surgeries, from general, plastic reconstructive, orthopedic, maxillofacial to obstetric fistula surgeries.



**MOBILITY**



**STABILITY**



**PLATFORM FOR  
EDUCATION & TRAINING**



**ECONOMY  
OF SCALE**



**SECURITY**



**COMMUNITY  
FOR CREW**

# SPECIALITY SURGICAL HOSPITALS

- A standard model for surgical delivery by NGOs is that these platforms establish an entire physical plant, either new or within an existing structure, dedicated to treating one or a few related surgical conditions.



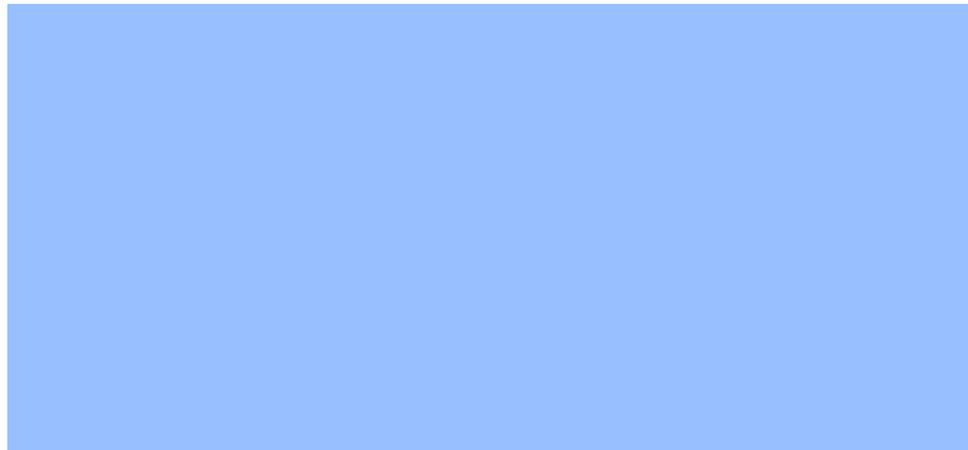
A high-angle photograph of three surgeons in a sterile operating room. They are wearing blue scrubs, blue bouffant caps, and white surgical masks. They are focused on a patient lying on the operating table. A large, circular surgical light fixture is visible above them, casting a bright light on the surgical site. The background shows the sterile environment of the operating room, including various medical instruments and equipment.

View video

<https://mercyships.ca/en/the-need/>

**MercyShips**

***THE FOCUS OF OUR WORK***





# DIRECT MEDICAL SERVICES



Women's Health



Maxillofacial



Orthopedic



Reconstructive Plastic



General

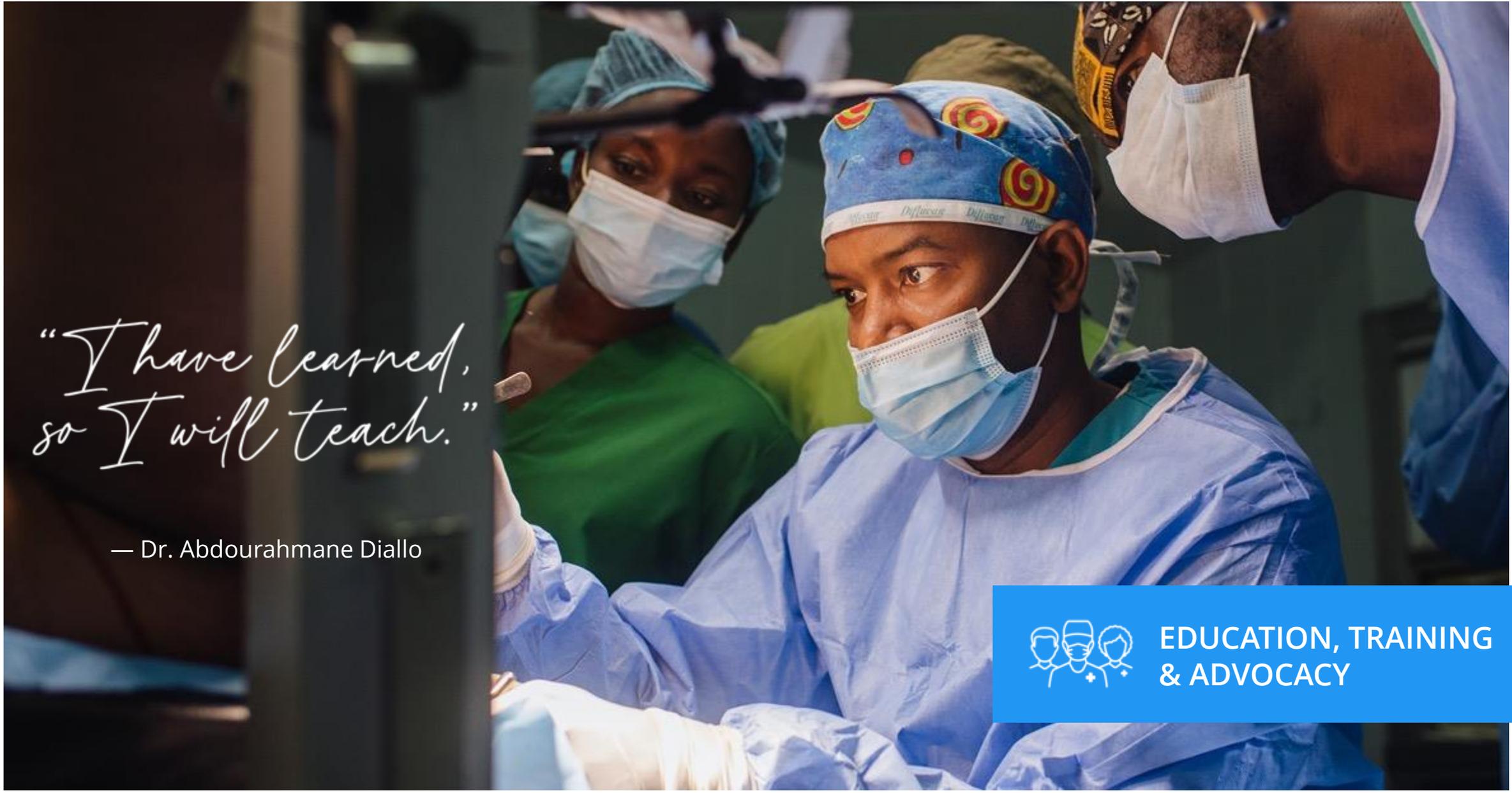


Ophthalmic



Dental





*"I have learned,  
so I will teach."*

— Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo



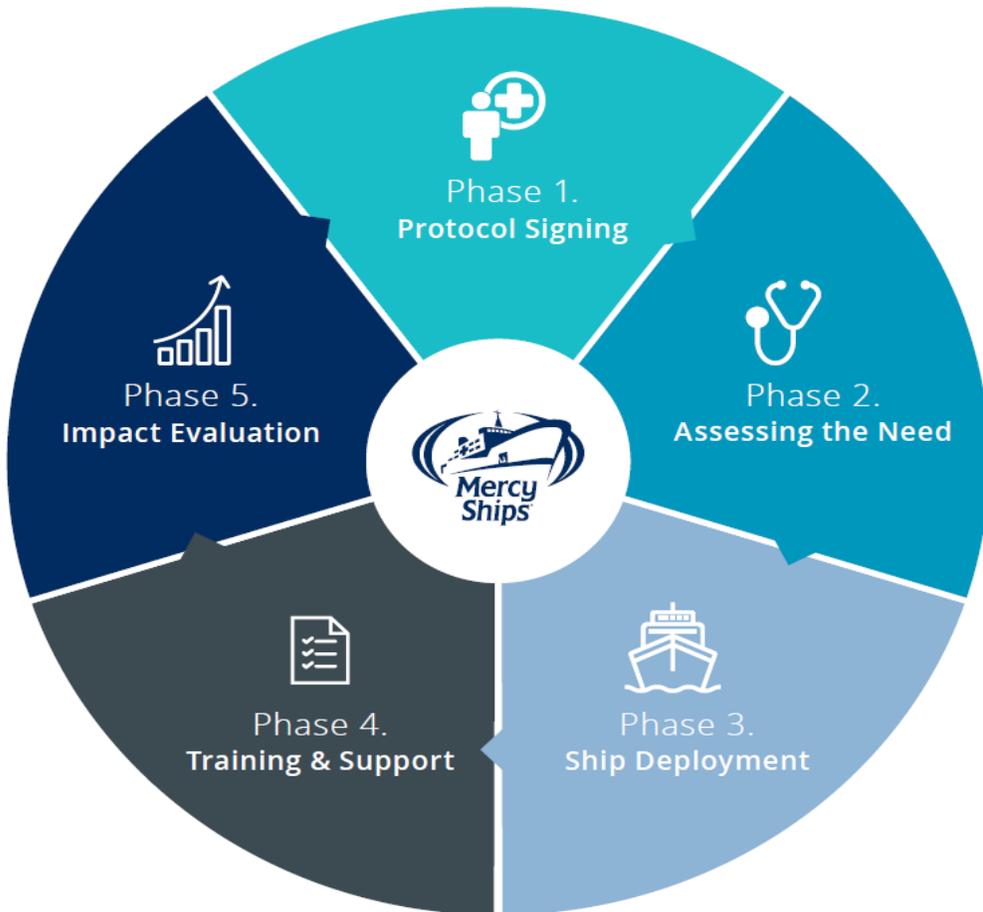
EDUCATION, TRAINING  
& ADVOCACY



Canadian Erin Muyres training local health care professionals



# APPROACH TO PATIENT CARE IN UNDERSERVICED AREAS



Mercy Ships uses a collaborative approach to develop a customized 5-year partnership with every nation we are invited to support.



**NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS**

**HOSPITALS &  
UNIVERSITIES IN  
COUNTRY**

**NATIONAL CREW**

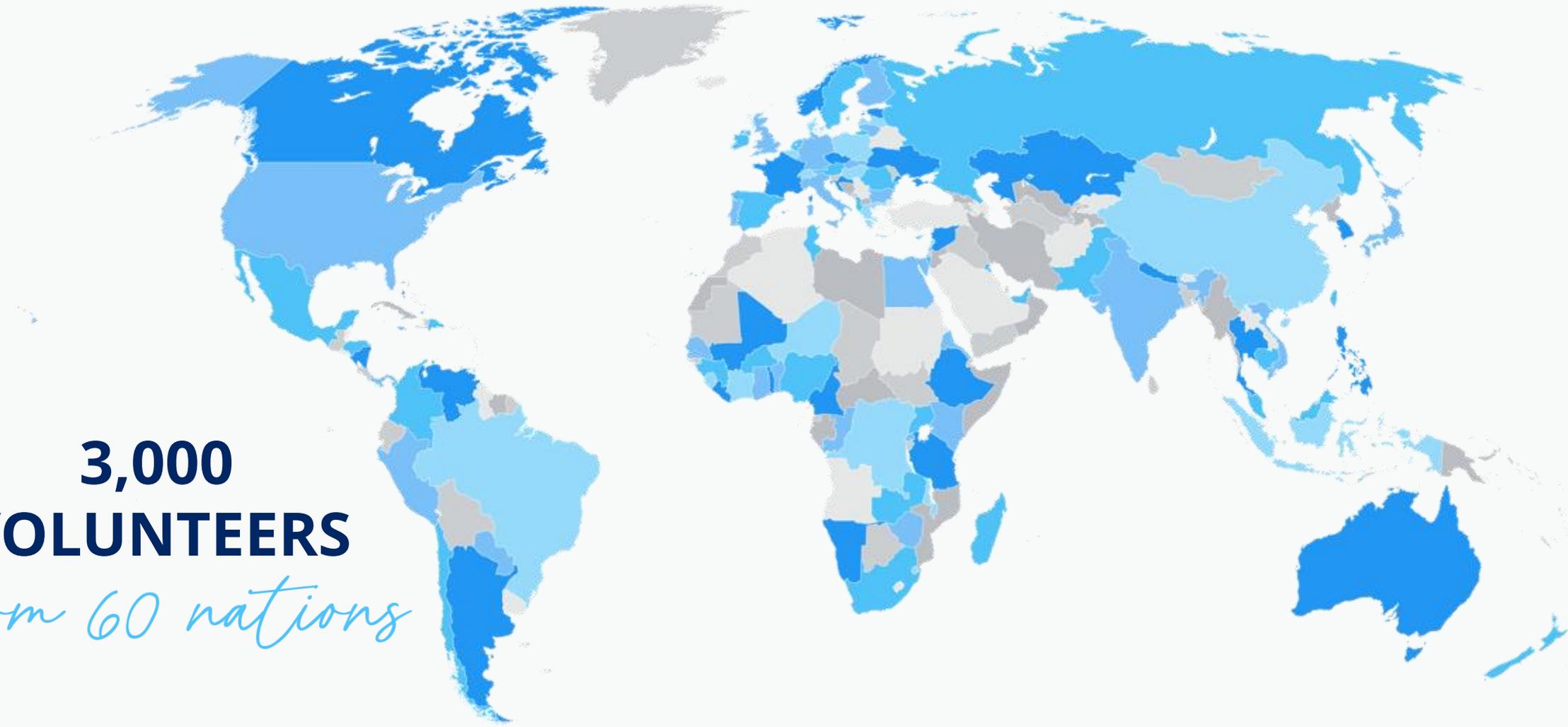




**BRINGING HOPE  
AND HEALING**



**3,000**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
*from 60 nations*





# Global Health Volunteerism

## Examples of Volunteer Profiles

### Physician Volunteers

Physicians in short-term medical missions are more likely to be surgeons in full-time practice, anesthesiologists, or pediatricians, married with no children at home later in their careers. Physicians select organizations based on characteristics such as types of missions, ongoing facilities, and accountability.

- To help or to do something good.
- Adventure.
- Opportunity to educate.
- Special skills for this activity,
- Desire for spiritual interaction,
- Return to simple medicine,
- Need to give back/act on social justice, and
- Learn about cultures/gain world perspective.

### Nursing Volunteers

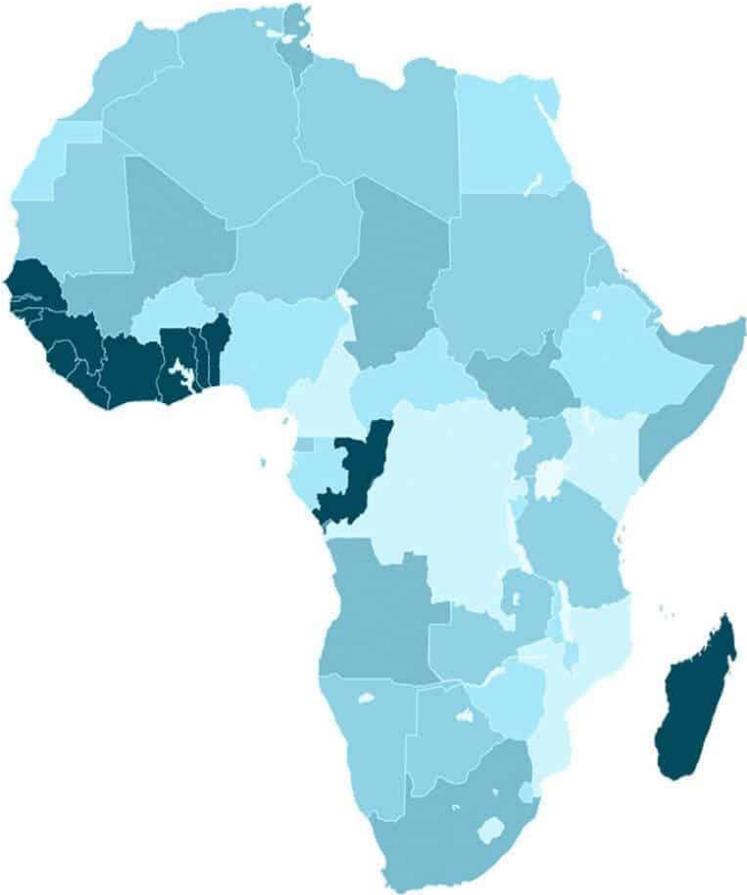
Mercy Ships has a balanced mix of ages; young single participants with few social ties or financial commitments; married couples, some with children; and others who had retired from working in their home countries but had retained registration, including some who had adult children in their home countries. The average age of the Mercy Ships nursing volunteer is about 35 (range: 22–66 years).

Frequently, a nursing volunteer is someone who has experience in a low to middle-income country and has volunteered with Mercy Ships previously.

- Conviction: "I just knew I was meant to be here,"
- Confidence: "I know that I can help make a difference," and
- Courage: "Out of my comfort zone."



# HOW TO APPROACH PATIENT CARE IN UNDER SERVICED AREAS



Make a personal commitment to have your intentions and actions informed and shaped by global health ethical principles:

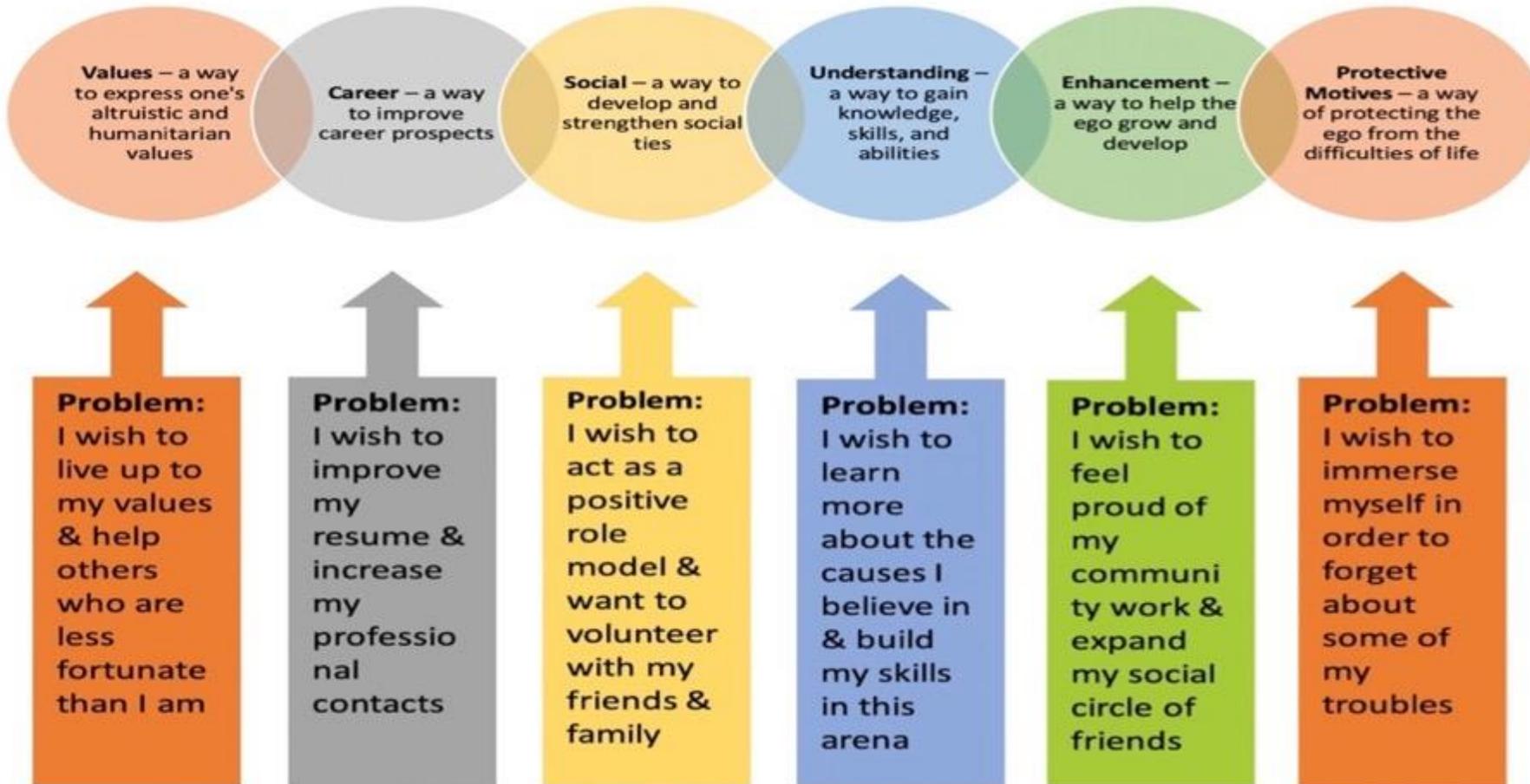
- Humility,
- Introspection,
- Solidarity,
- Social justice,
- Sphere sovereignty.

Be open to adapting how you apply your theory of change. Fall in love with a problem not your solution.

Prioritize time and money to invest in people.



# Global Health Volunteerism



## Determining if a Volunteer Opportunity Is Right for You

Ask Yourself:

*Are you running towards something or away from something?*

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[www.mercyships.ca](http://www.mercyships.ca)



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