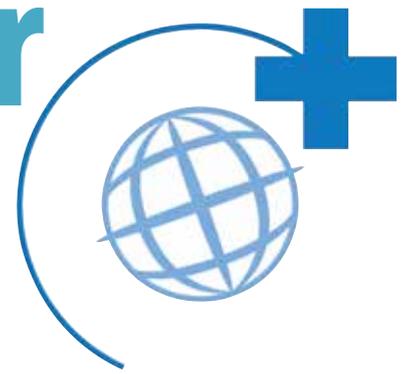


The Messenger

Medical Mission International

Health, Healing & Hope



Travelling doctors transform lives! Updates from Mozambique, Malawi and Botswana

Medical Mission International continues to impact and save the lives of people living in remote areas. The most recent missions dispatched medical teams into multiple villages in the countries of Mozambique, Malawi and Botswana. The missions reach people isolated in rural areas who often have no access to medical care. Many villagers never see a doctor or receive treatment because of factors such as cost, shortages of trained medical staff in impoverished countries, lack of pharmaceuticals and medications, and limited transport or road access to a clinic.

The travelling doctors and medical staff treat as many people as possible in each targeted geographic area for up to two weeks. While in each village, staff provides general medical examinations, dental care, medication and treatment, vaccinations, and optometry, including eye care and surgery. All services are provided free of charge.

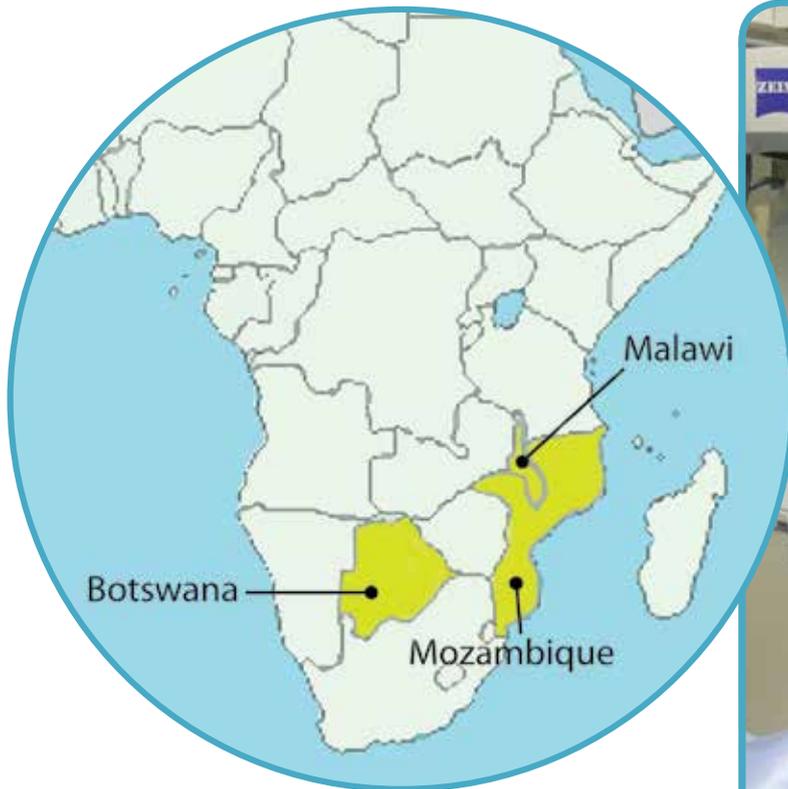
Eye surgeries to treat eye disease, as well as cataract surgeries are a critical component of the missions. These life-altering surgeries, can restore eyesight and positively change the lives of many people who have lost their ability to function independently. "We are able to assist many blind people to see again," says Johan Claasen, who organises the medical outreaches. "Life becomes manageable again when an individual is able to cook, eat, walk alone, plant, wash clothes, and work. Treating preventable blindness allows people to live again without the assistance of others. They can play productive roles in their families and communities." The youngest patient to receive sight restoring eye surgery was in Molepolo, Botswana. Seventeen year-old Refilwe Mofokeng had an accident last year, resulting in a serious injury when a tree branch stuck in her eye. She developed a traumatic cataract, which resulted in blindness in her injured eye. According to Claasen, Refilwe is deeply grateful for the surgery and the ability to see again with her right eye. Her family is also thrilled and more than ten family members congregated to celebrate her successful surgery and accompany her home.



Website: mminternational.org.uk

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Sight Restoring Eye Surgeries Bring Hope To The Blind



Thabiwa Ramatshosa from the Moshopha region of Botswana survived as a subsistence farmer before losing his eye-sight because of cataracts. He said that not being able to see is like being a child again. Helpless. After eye surgery, he was full of joy. According to Claassen, Ramatshosa was grateful that his health and life would improve because he would be able to prepare food and care for himself. He specifically thanked Medical Mission International and its supports. Annie Sto, a patient at the Mbonchere, Malawi outreach, arrived completely blind in one eye, and severely visually impaired in the other. She is a mother of nine children, and one of her sons heard the announcement that doctors were coming near their village and included eye specialists that would be performing cataract surgeries on blind people. After surgery and recovery, when Sto realized she could see again, she sang and danced among the other patients. She said she felt “happy and light” because she can see again.

In addition to sponsoring remote medical missions each year, your contributions also pay for humanitarian cargo shipments of medical disposables that are used in conjunction with the outreaches, and also shared with clinics and hospitals in desperate need of supplies. Our medical teams are truly grateful for the specialized equipment that has been provided through donor support that allows specialized surgeries out in the field, including a mobile clinic trailer used for patient screening and exams, a surgery tent, sophisticated eye surgery equipment and instruments such as a Scan Optics eye microscope, an Inani slit lamp, an A-Scan and Virectomy. “These outreaches are an amazing opportunity to help underprivileged people,” said Claassen. +

Missions Accomplished

Mozambique • Malawi • Botswana

- + 162 surgical procedures, majority of which were cataract surgeries on blind patients
- + 3 surgeries to remove eye cancer
- + 698 patients received prescription eye glasses
- + 212 internal medicine exams
- + 1064+ eye examinations.
- + 200+ indirect eye exams through surgery
- + 474 dental patients
- + 595 Teeth Extractions
- + 350 lives dramatically changed through sight restoring eye surgeries

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