

2011 Field Service in Sierra Leone

The time has arrived for the *Africa Mercy* to return to West Africa – with new generators, new air conditioning units and other systems that were fitted over the year-end break. These new fittings will last the life of the ship (maybe 20-25 more years).



Large holes were cut in the side of the *Africa Mercy* in order to install the new generators

This will be our fifth visit to Freetown, Sierra Leone. Because *Mercy Ships* desires to reach "the poorest of the poor," additional screenings were held in the surrounding provinces before the ship's arrival. This is the first time *Mercy Ships* has done something like this prior to the field service.



One of the new *Man* generators being installed

A total of five screenings were held: one in the eastern province of Kenema, the northern province of Makeni, and the southern province of Bo, as well as two cities: Koidu and Kabala. They were held at the government hospital in each of these locations. Dr. Tony Giles (a maxillofacial surgeon and regular short term crew member) and his wife Ann led the screenings and Joan Kotze, Operating Room scheduler, coordinated the surgery dates.



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE



Population: 5.2 million
Median age: 19 years
Life expectancy: 48 years
Government: Constitutional Democracy



In 2004, the *Anastasis* (now retired) docked in Freetown, Sierra Leone. These photos were taken during that Field Service.

Mercy Ships returns to Sierra Leone
 1993, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2011

While in Sierra Leone, *Mercy Ships* will provide **FREE** surgeries to men, women, and children. Our doctors, nurses, and crew members come as volunteers to help those who are suffering.

We are here to help!

February – November 2011

Flyers and posters were distributed and the *Mercy Ships* Advance Team worked with the local radio stations for the broadcasting of announcements in local languages. On the first day of screening *Mercy Ships* saw over 1,500 people - many coming with issues related to eyes and dental (even though these were not advertised). A larger screening will take place in Freetown after the *Africa Mercy's* arrival in the country.

A general poster like the one enclosed, distributed throughout Sierra Leone



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