



Mending Kids Overseas Surgical Mission Report

Maputo, Mozambique August 18 – 28, 2016



Sidney, age 1, enjoying a snack while recovering from surgery

Critical Surgical Care for Sick Children

Mending Kids gives sick kids life-saving surgical care while advancing education and training towards medical self-sufficiency in their communities.

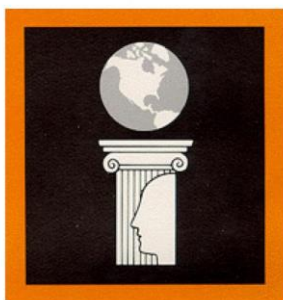


Mending Kids Director of Research and Strategy, Karissa, with volunteer John, visiting patients and spreading smiles throughout the burn ward.

MIRACLEWORKERS

**We are grateful to our sponsors and friends
who made this mission possible!**

THE
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**Dr. David Kulber
Dr. Manish Champaneria**

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MedShare

The MedShare logo features a stylized globe with a green hand-like shape at the bottom, all within a circular frame.

+map **we are**
INTERNATIONAL **health**
and hope



KCI
The Clinical Advantage

The KCI logo features a stylized blue 'K' made of horizontal lines, followed by the letters 'CI' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

MTF Musculoskeletal
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MOZAMBIQUE

Where in the world

Mozambique is located northeast of South Africa on the Indian Ocean. It is a nation of 21 Million people, 14 million of whom are children. A former Portuguese colony, the nation gained its independence in 1975. As a result, the majority of the Portuguese population suddenly deserted the country, erasing public service and infrastructure.

Once a destination for wealthy South African travelers and globetrotters, and known for its breathtaking coastline, Mozambique fell into a civil war between 1977 and 1992. A million lives were lost and the beautiful country was devastated. For over twenty years, Mozambique has been struggling to rebuild its infrastructure and replenish the ranks of medical and educational professionals.

To complicate things, the recent discoveries of vast natural gas fields has infused the nation with enormous amounts of cash, none of which seems to be immediately earmarked for pediatric health care. However, Mozambique is determined to regain a care system, so it is timely that Mending Kids is working to train native doctors in Maputo.

The Children

As a result of extreme poverty, young children are often left unattended for long periods of time while parents leave home to seek a subsistence lifestyle. Young children are often left to care for even younger siblings and babies.

Since most heating and cooking is done over an open, indoor fire, it is common to see young patients show up with massive, scalding, third-degree burn wounds in the winter months of June, July, and August. If they survive, their wounds often go untreated for days or months.



Dr. David Kulber visiting Judcia in the recovery ward during rounds.

MISSION OVERVIEW

The 2016 surgical mission to the Maputo Central Hospital 'MCH' marks Mending Kids' fourth year of providing plastic and burn reconstruction in Mozambique. This year our team provided critical surgical care to 13 children. Over the past four missions, we have mended 70 children.

Starting this year, Mending Kids partners with ReSurge International- an organization providing plastic and burn reconstruction worldwide. A collaboration between Mending Kids and ReSurge brings together a comprehensive surgical team complete with surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and occupational therapists. Additionally, the partnership allows multiple teams to visit MCH throughout the year, rather than one mission per year. The repeated visits will affirm ongoing training and local capacity building.

During the August mission, Dr. David Kulber and Dr. Manish Champaneria (ReSurge) engaged in peer-to-peer training with the four available plastic surgeons in all of Mozambique. By training all four surgeons, our impact will extend to the entire nation. Outside of the operating room, our nurses Sandra Rodriguez and Katie Osborn (ReSurge) trained local burn nurses on proper wound care techniques to optimize healing. And our occupational therapist, Pam Silverman (ReSurge), brought innovative techniques to the burn ward to help rehabilitate patients who suffered from chronic burn injury.

While individual patient care and training local providers will remain the primary focus for Mending Kids missions, we recognize the need to also engage government leaders in strengthening their country's surgical system. This year, we had the distinct privilege of meeting with members of the Ministry of Health of Mozambique; specifically, the Director

of Public Health and the Director of Health Services. During this meeting, Dr. Kulber, Dr. Champaneira, and Mending Kids' Director of Training, Research & Innovation, Karissa Nguyen, advocated for greater prioritization of surgical care at the policy-making level. A dialogue for the creation of a contextually-tailored national surgical training program to build up the healthcare workforce was also initiated. We will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to bring this initiative into fruition.



Dr. David Kulber provides training for
Local surgeon, Dr. Celma Issufo



The Mission Team

Dr. David Kulber, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, Cedars-Sinai Medical Group, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Manish Champaneria, Attending Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, PeaceHealth Medical Group, Vancouver, WA

Dr. Michelle Dee, Pediatric Anesthesiologist, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Heidi Sarkozy, Physician Assistant, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Cedars-Sinai Medical Group, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Susan Hendrickson, Resident Surgeon, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, London, England

Dr. Maria Sacras, Pediatric Surgery Resident, Hospital de Dona Estefania, Portugal

Kathleen Osborn, RN, University Healthsystem Consortium, Chicago, IL (ReSurge)

Sandra Rodriguez, LVN, Cedars-Sinai Medical Group, Los Angeles, CA

Pam Silverman, LVN, Resurge International, San Francisco, CA

Daniel Belshe, Missions and Outreach Manager, Mending Kids, Burbank, CA

Karissa Nguyen, Director of Research and Strategy, Mending Kids, Burbank, CA

Anum Ali Muhammod, Research and Strategy Intern, Mending Kids, Burbank, CA

John Grieco, Volunteer, Vancouver, WA

Louie Kulber, Volunteer, Los Angeles, CA

Zeke Dee, Volunteer, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Celma Issufo, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, Maputo Central Hospital, Mozambique

Dr. Pedro Santos, Plastic Surgeon, Matola Provincial Hospital, Mozambique



Yolanda, age 2 and mother



Dr. Dee says goodbye to Juliao and sleepy Rosa after successful surgeries

The Children

Paulo	Age 13	Release of scar contracture
Gaudencio	Age 2	Contracture release and skin graft
Rosa	Age 3	Release of 3 rd and 4 th digits syndactaly
Juliao	Age 7	Release of scar contracture
Valter	Age 14	Nasal Reconstruction
Neusa	Age 1	Release of neck contracture
Carima	10 months	Contracture release and skin graft
Sidney	11 months	Contracture release
Amelia	Age 17	Forehead reconstruction
Arlove	Age 6	Dorsal flap
Nuno	Age 4	Nasal reconstruction
Yolanda	Age 2	Resection of perineal and vaginal tumor and skin graft
Judcia	Age 4	Release hand contracture and graft

Paulo, age 13

When Paulo was 9 years old, he was burning trash outside his home when a container exploded. He was severely burned on the right side of his body sustaining burns to 20% of his body.

Paulo spent a year at a district hospital receiving basic wound care that included fluid replacement and bandage changes. He was finally referred to Hospital Central de Maputo in the capital of Mozambique where he has waited 2 years for a contracture release surgery that would allow him to bend his arm again.

The Mending Kids surgical team and Dr. Celma Issufo were able to release the scar tissue on the first day of the mission, giving Paulo full mobility again.



Paulo visiting with volunteer John, nurse Sandra and the hospital nursing team in recovery.



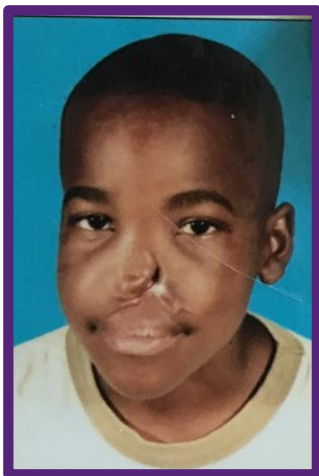
Gaudencio, age 2

At 11 months old, Gaudencio accidentally touched hot coals, severely burning his small hand. His mother brought him immediately to Hospital Central de Maputo for basic wound management of the burn.

Unfortunately the initial treatment for his wounds healed with contractures that would require surgery to release the scar tissue. Gaudencio has waited 15 months to receive a contracture release surgery. His surgery was a success and once healed, this playful little one will have full use of all five fingers.

Gaudencio models his donated bear from BearGivers.

Válter, age 14



Válter before receiving reconstructive surgery.

Válter, or Váva by those who know him best, lives in the district of Moamba in the south of Mozambique. Five years ago, at age 9, Válter was diagnosed with Noma (also known as cancrum oris), a rapidly progressive disease that is often a gangrenous infection of the mouth. The disease mainly affects children under the age of twelve in underdeveloped communities in Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 140,000 new cases are reported each year with 90% of the cases leading to death.

After waiting three months for the infection to improve, Váva's family sought care at the local district hospital only to be told they would have to wait another two to three months for an appointment. Therefore, his mother took him straight to the Central Hospital of Maputo where he received basic wound care and bandages.

Váva lived for the next 3 years with bandages on his face until 2014 when a local community organization, Luz Verde or Greet Light, helped send him to Portugal for treatment. With the use of antibiotics, palliative care and improved nutrition, the hospital was able to stop the progression of the disease, and Váva was sent back home to heal.

For Váva, the physical effects of noma were permanent and would require reconstructive plastic surgery to repair. In 2015, Luz Verde once again sent him abroad to Ethiopia where he would undergo two surgeries to reconstruct his nose using part of his rib cartilage.



Váva hanging out with Mending Kids volunteer Zeke before surgery.



Even with the surgery, Váva still struggled to breathe and gain full functionality of his nose as the nostrils were closed.

During the July 2016 mission, with the help of Luz Verde, Dr. Celma Issufo and Mending Kids surgeon Dr. David Kulber, Váva was provided with a nasal reconstruction and is currently recuperating back at home in Moamba.

Válter after receiving nasal reconstruction.



Families waiting to be seen on surgical evaluation day.



Nurses Katie (ReSurge) and Sandra with Neusa, age 1, returning in 2016 for a second surgery with Mending Kids to release scar contracture giving her full mobility of her neck



Sidney, age 11 months with volunteer Louie Kulber



Judcia, age 4, doing physical therapy with occupational therapist, Pam (ReSurge)

FINAL NOTE

Mending Kids' lead surgeon, Dr. Kulber perfectly summarized the 2016 mission to Maputo, Mozambique:

"...it was a highly successful mission from both an educational standpoint and patient care standpoint. An international, multitalented group who worked extremely well together in a synergistic manner."



Judcia, age 7