



Photo by: Kelly Fogel

# Mozambique Burn Mission

August 11-17, 2019

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## MISSION SUMMARY

Hello Ohana! We have just returned from our inaugural mission to Mozambique, and to say it was a success would be an understatement! Our mission was filled with smiles, excellent energy, and passing on the spirit of Aloha to everyone we came in contact with during the entirety of our week there.

Our team of dedicated surgeons, pediatric anesthesiologists, physicians, physician assistant, nurses, and volunteers worked tirelessly to provide 30 complex surgeries to men, women, and children in one week. We operated at two hospitals simultaneously (Maputo Central Hospital and Matola Provincial Hospital) to maximize our time in country. Surgeries performed included: release of burn contracture of the feet, knees, elbows, and wrists, and cleft palate reconstructions. Our team included members from ReSurge International, Drs. Dorothy Gaal and Ron Gemberling, and Dr. Tobi Yerokun with the Children's Burn Foundation.

Because teaching is at the core of our mission statement, our team worked alongside Mozambican surgeons, nurses, and specialists to provide quality care. Countless wound debridements, dressing changes, splint applications and teaching of proper therapy after care were performed at both hospitals. By the end of the trip, local providers were able to perform most of the procedures themselves. We even started a research project using Mepilex/Mepitel dressings for burns and donor sites that the local nursing staff will continue after our departure. We plan to publish our findings and results in scholarly journals.

To advocate for global surgical care, Drs. Kulber and Dee met with members of the Ministry of Health to promote greater prioritization and allocation of resources of surgical care in Mozambique. We are ecstatic to have the support of the Ministry of Health and look forward to many more successful missions.

This mission could not have been possible without YOU, our generous donors and sponsors. You are the unsung heroes of this mission. We hope you can see from these pages the tremendous impact your generosity has provided, and we hope to see you on a mission soon. From the bottom of our hearts, MAHALO!

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SURGERY



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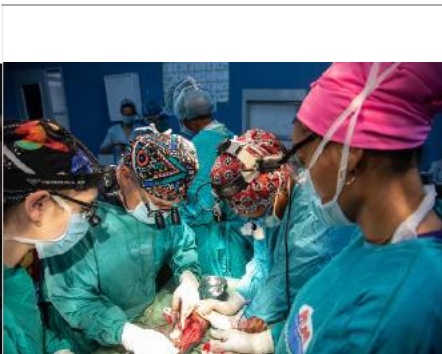
B



C



D



E



F

- A** Dr. David Kulber performing hand reconstruction surgery.
- B** Procedure to release contracture of finger.
- C** Dr. Michele Dee calms a young, terrified patient on the operating table pre-op.
- D** A child's foot with severe contracture due to burn injuries.
- E** Dr. David Kulber teaching Dr. Celma Issufo advanced surgical techniques.
- F** A successful release of contracture of the foot surgery allowing the patient to walk again post-operation.
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## EDUCATION



In addition to teaching healthcare providers how to treat burn wounds, Ohana One volunteers went into the community to educate members of the public about burn prevention and immediate burn care. Our goal is to reduce the annual incident of burn accidents.

Seen here, our team of Dr. Tobi Yerokun, Dr. Susan Hendrickson, Nurse Deborah Lanza, and volunteer Hailey Chen visited Casa Do Guaito primary school in Massaca to give a presentation and live demonstrations about burn prevention and wound care. With only three burn reconstruction surgeons in the entire country and a long back-log of patients, prevention and early wound management education is key. Thank you to the Children's Burn Foundation for donating handouts and educational materials.

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## ADVOCACY



Ohana One is dedicated to increasing the priority of surgical care in the communities we serve. We advocate for increased access to safe surgical and anesthesia care for all, which includes dedication of local resources to equipment, medicines, and training in their facilities. As such, we meet with members of the Ministry of Health and other political leaders when possible to discuss how Ohana One can assist in this process.

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## PATIENT CARE

Throughout the week Dr. Anthony Chen and nurses Katie Osborne, Sandra Rodriguez, Deborah Lanza, and Len Sterling worked side-by-side with the medical staff from the burn wards teaching proper wound care techniques, wound debridement, dressing changes, and occupational therapy. The work they do is crucial to the health and surgical outcome of the patients. Without proper post-operative care, little can be gained from the surgery. Hannah Trinidad and Haben Berihun, both medical staff from Cedars Sinai Medical Center, were instrumental in customization of splints for our patients.

Equally integral in the success of the mission are our non-medical volunteers. Non-medical volunteers spend time with the families and comfort the patients. Their compassionate attitudes and smiling faces brighten up the ward and help patients recover. A special thanks to the incredible Kelly Fogel, whose pictures captured many of the behind the scenes of mission life.



PATIENT HIGHLIGHT



Meet Aleandro, a 4 year old boy from Matola province. Aleandro suffered serious burns when a pot of boiling water spilled on him when he was playing inside the house. Due to the shortage of qualified burn surgeons, he waited a week to receive surgery. After surgery, Aleandro was all smiles and back to his cheerful self.

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## PATIENT HIGHLIGHT



Meet 9 year old Vanessa who suffered burns from a mosquito net she sleeps under. The mosquito net blew against the flames of the candle on a shelf over her bed and caught on fire. There are no burn centers in her rural town and so she and her family had to travel two hours to get to Matola Provincial Hospital. She waited a week to receive surgery. Vanessa is recovering well and on the mend.

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## SURGEON HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Celma Issufo is the lead plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Maputo Central Hospital, and one of 3 plastic surgeons in the entire country. Dr. Issufo is a dedicated surgeon and advocate for burn victims. She was recently recognized by the Pioneering Women in Reconstructive Surgery Initiative by ReSurge and SkinCeuticals. The initiative provides access to the most expert technical training, leadership development, and mentor support to the first generation of local women reconstructive surgeons in developing nations, and fosters the building of essential networks required for safe surgical care.



Dr. Pedro Santos runs the plastic and burn unit at Matola Provincial Hospital. He was the first Mozambican surgeon to obtain the COSECSA certification. He is trained by Dr. Kulber year-round using smart glass technology and live tele-proctoring. He is leading the way in surgical innovation. He was named a Surgical Outreach Surgeon by ReSurge International, which will help him obtain further training opportunities and sponsorship to attend international conferences.

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