

**Report on Medical Humanitarian Mission to Fish Town, River Gee County,
Liberia**

***Organizations: Organized by Liberia Physicians and Surgeons Without Borders
(LPSWB) & Liberia Medical and Dental Association (LMDA)***

Sponsor: Cllr. Kunkunyon Teh, Esq & Foundation

Date of Departure from Monrovia: October 31, 2024

Date of Arrival in Fish Town: November 3, 2024

Implementation Period: November 4 - 9, 2024



Team Composition

Team Member	Specialization/Role	Affiliation/Location
Dr. M. Peter George	Consultant General Surgeon, County Health Officer & Head of Department Surgery	Emirates Hospital, Gbarpolu County
Dr. Michael Kempeh	Specialist General Surgeon	J.F.K. Medical Center
Dr. Arthur Wuoh	Specialist General Surgeon, Medical Director	C.B. Dunbar Referral Hospital, Bong County
Dr. Levi Korheina	Specialist Anesthetic Physician, Medical Director	Liberia Government Hospital, Bomi County
Dr. Masuah Kokro	Specialist Family Medicine, County Health Officer	River Gee County
Dr. Luah Yardanmah	Specialist OBGYN, Medical Director	Fish Town Hospital
Dr. John T. Sarboah Jr.	Medical Officer	Military 14 Hospital
Dr. Wawakoh	Chief of Medical Staff	Fish Town Hospital
Roland Karnley	Certified Nurse Anesthetist	Emirates Referral Hospital, Gbarpolu County
Roger CorCor	Certified Operating Theater Scrub Nurse	Emirates Hospital, Gbarpolu County
J.F.K. Eye Department Team	Specialized Eye Care Services	J.F.K. Medical Center

This team comprised highly skilled professionals who collaborated to ensure the success of the six-day Community Outreach Eye Screening Program and Surgical Intervention in River Gee County.

1. Collection and Preparation of Materials



On **October 31, 2024**, all necessary materials and medical supplies were collected from Bunty Pharmacy at ELWA Junction by Dr. George, the team lead for the Liberia Physicians and Surgeons Without Borders (LPSWB). The following day, **November 1, 2024**, all materials were packed, labeled, and organized into four vehicles generously provided by our prime sponsor, **Cllr. Kunkunyon Teh, Esq.** Volunteers were informed to assemble at the **A'la Lagune Resort** between 12:00 am and 1:00 am for departure.

2. Departure and Initial Journey



The team departed from Monrovia at **2:44 a.m. on November 2, 2024, and arrived in Ganta, Nimba County, at 5:16 a.m.** There, the vehicles made a brief stop for refueling. Unfortunately, no food options were available for volunteers at that time, so we continued our journey.

3. Rest and Meals in Saclepea

We reached **Saclepea, Nimba County, at 7:27 am**, where food was purchased for the team. Fifteen plates of food, including pepper soup, “rice and beans,” and a local dish “GB,” were served to the team. We departed from Saclepea at **8:15 am**.

Between Saclepea and Tappita, we encountered a major obstacle: getting stuck in the mud.

4. Challenges En Route to Zwedru



After overcoming the muddy stretch, we reached **Tappita** at **11:24 am** and arrived in **Nellah Town** by **12:42 pm**, where commercial trucks were also stuck. The truck drivers assisted us in moving forward, recognizing our mission's humanitarian purpose. We entered **Grand Gedeh County** at **1:26 pm**, where we went through immigration, and shortly afterward, we encountered another delay in **Glodialialy Town**, getting stuck from **2:16 pm** to **5:45 pm**. During this delay, one of our vehicles, with plate number A64679, suffered a fuel tank issue. We arrived in **Zwedru City** at **8:33 pm** and met with **Dr. Manneh**, the Medical Director of Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital, who kindly hosted our team.

5. Vehicle Servicing and Continued Journey to Fish Town

On the morning of **November 3, 2024**, our vehicles were taken to a local garage in Zwedru for servicing and necessary repairs. Departed from Zwedru at **11:52 am** on a smoother road and reached **Kaloken, the commercial hub of River Gee County**, at **1:39 pm**. By **3:30 pm**, we arrived in **Fish Town**, where we were warmly welcomed by **Dr. Masuah T. Kokro, County Health Officer, and the local chief elders of Fish Town**, which took 4 hours. We visited Fish Town

Referral Hospital that evening to set up the operating room and arrange our surgical materials, and we were welcomed by the hospital administration led by **Dr. L. Yordanmah, Medical Director of the Fish Town Hospital, River Gee County.**

6. Commencement of Medical and Surgical Activities

On **November 4, 2024**, we began our medical mission at Fish Town Referral Hospital, which included:

- **Surgical procedures**



- **Medical consultations**



- **Ophthalmology screening exercises**



We were able to treat numerous cases, providing essential medical care and surgical interventions to the local community.

7. Strike by Nurse Anesthetists and Impact on Services

On **November 8, 2024**, the Nurse Anesthetists went on strike, significantly affecting the pace of surgical cases, as we only had one anesthesiologist available. This disruption caused delays, but the team continued to provide services as efficiently as possible.

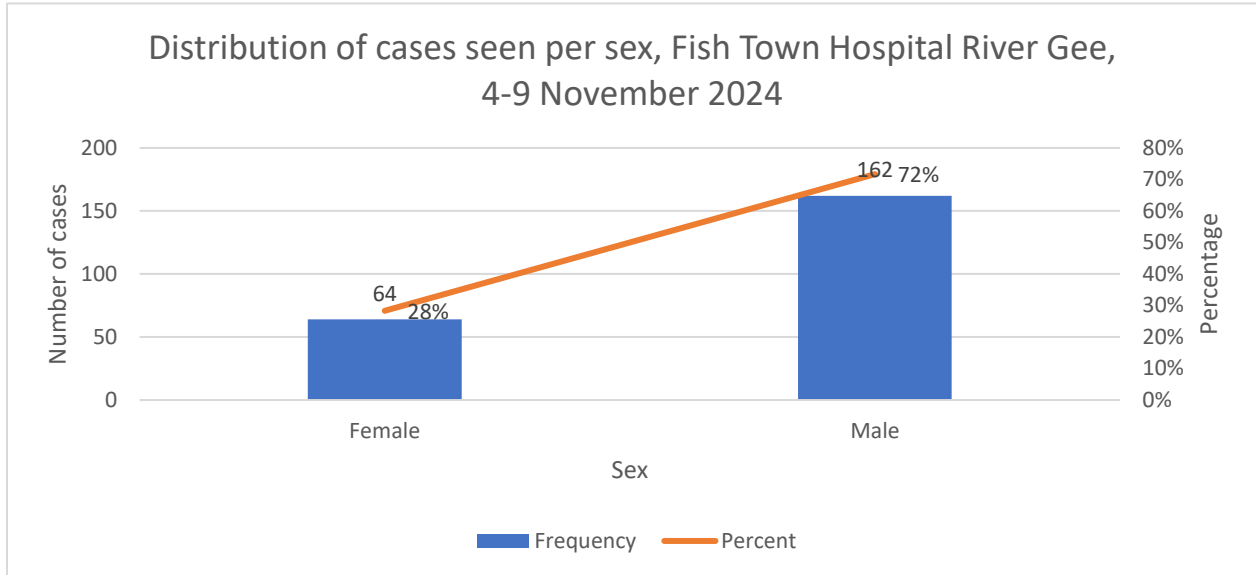
Patient Data Analysis.

➤ **Ophthalmology Patients Data Analysis**

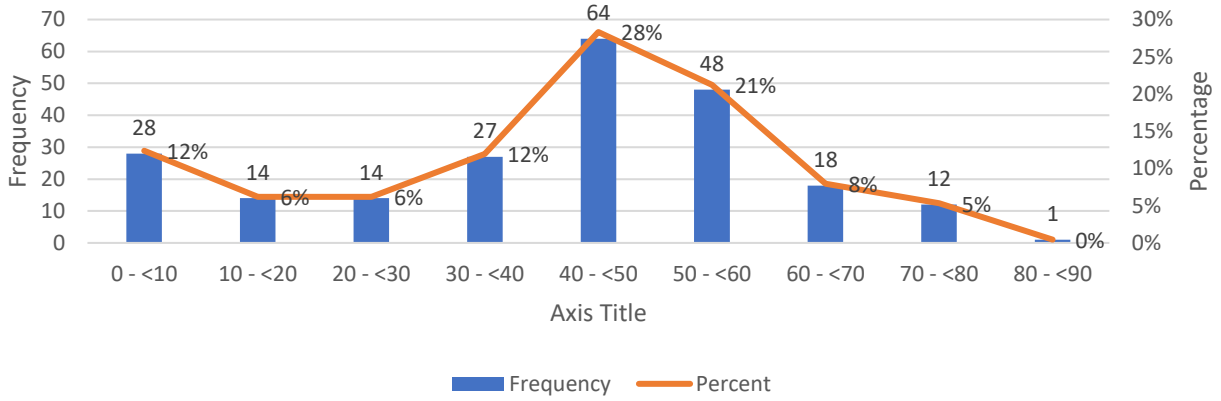
Summary of Cases	Number of Cases
Cataract	93
Glaucoma	12
Pterygium	45
Corneal Scar	20
Refractive Error	312
Dry Eyes	42
Total Patients Screened	524

Additional Outcomes	Number
Patients Referred	170
Glasses Dispensed	301
Not Received Glasses	11
Normal Patients	42

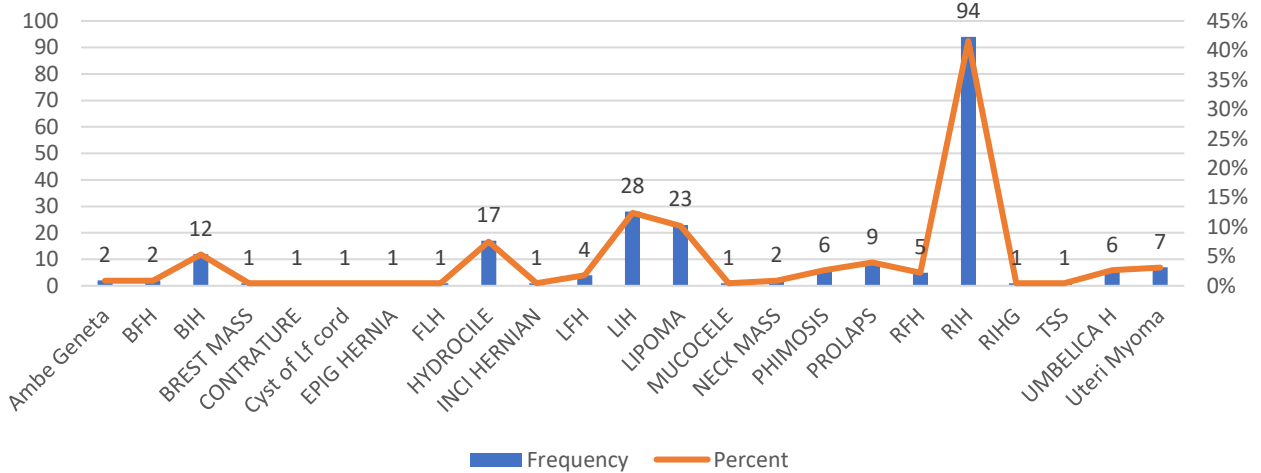
➤ Surgical Patients Data Analysis



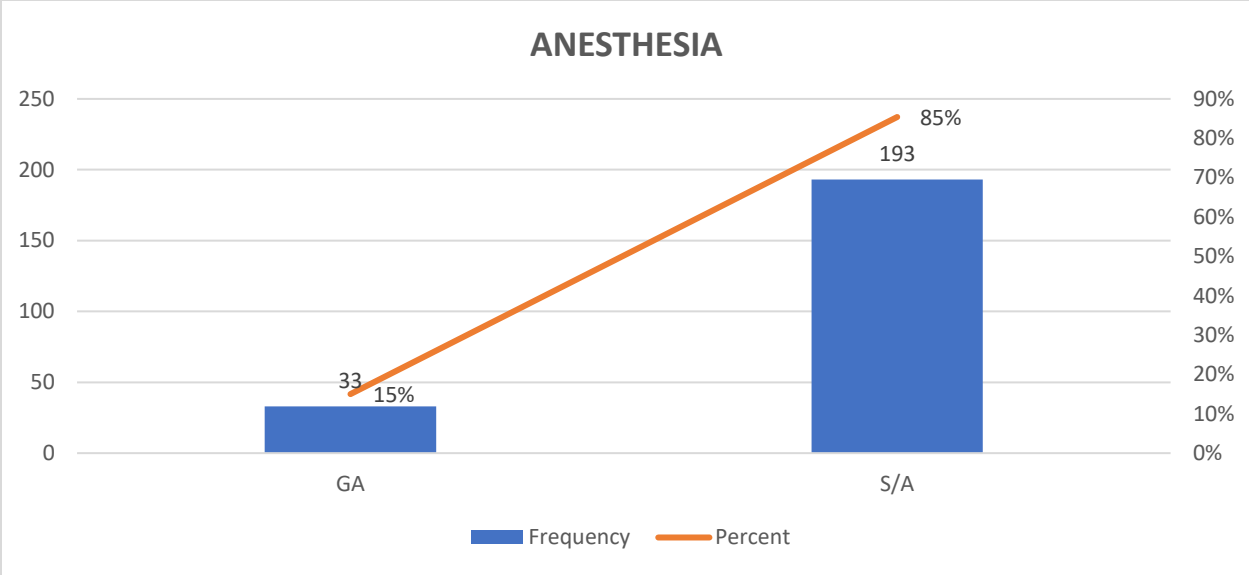
Distribution of cases seen per age categories, Fish Town Hospital River Gee, 4-9 November 2024

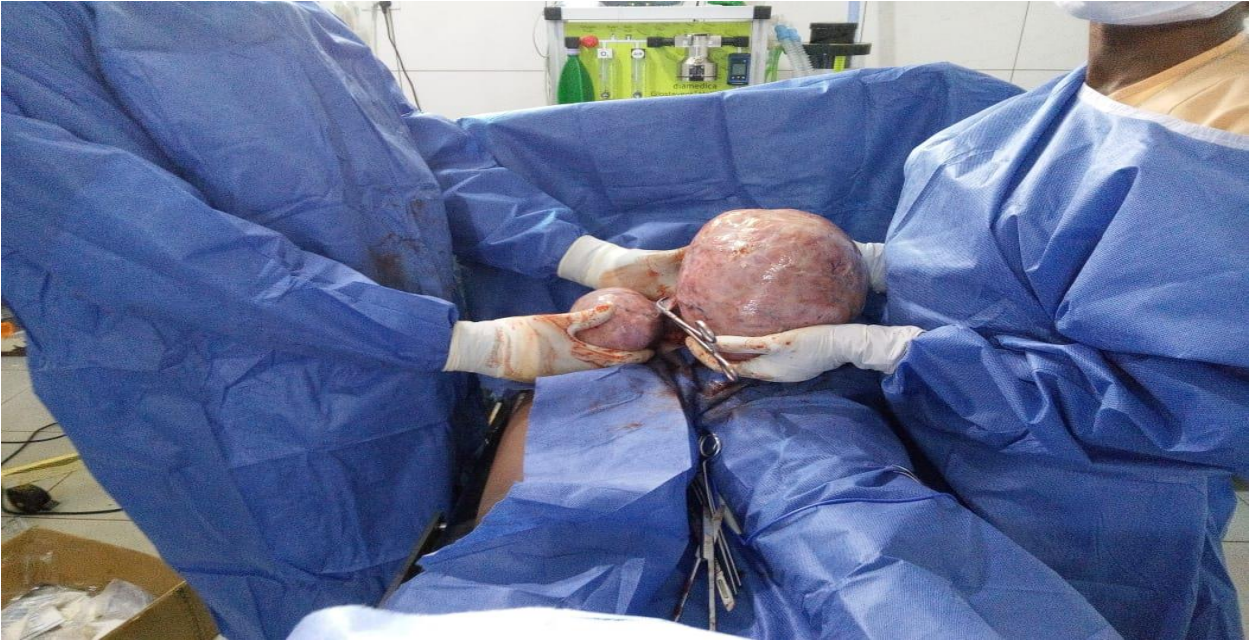
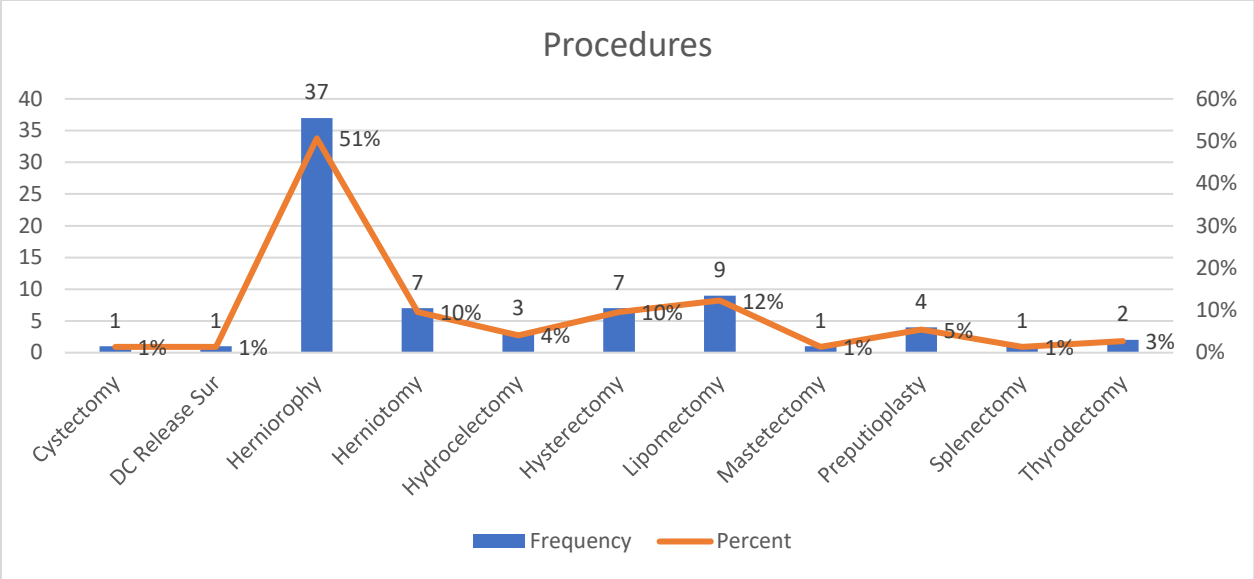


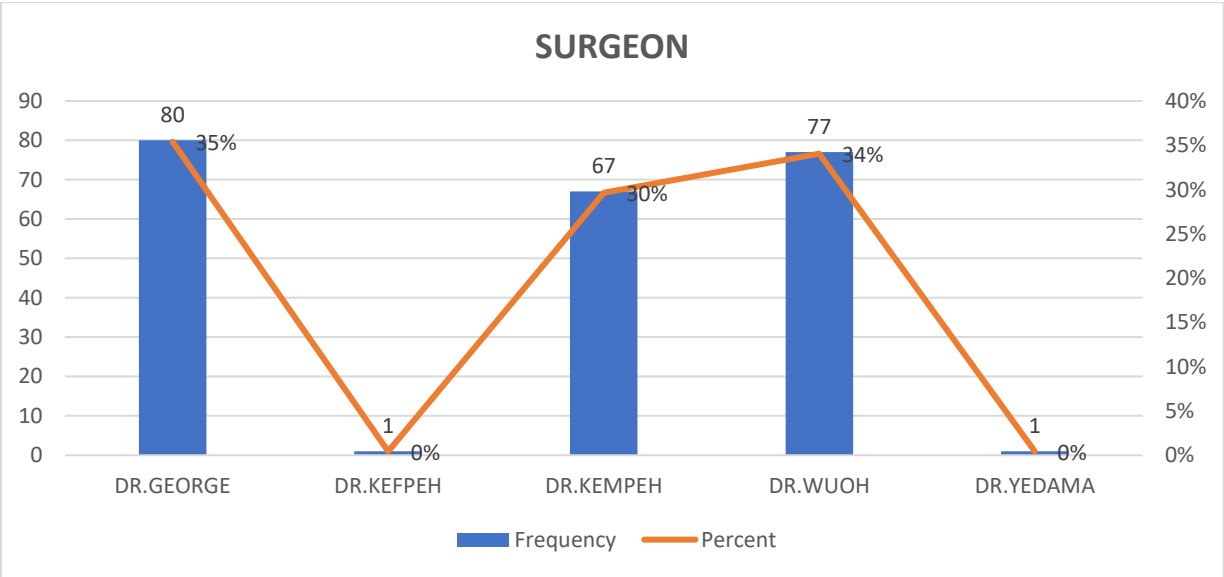
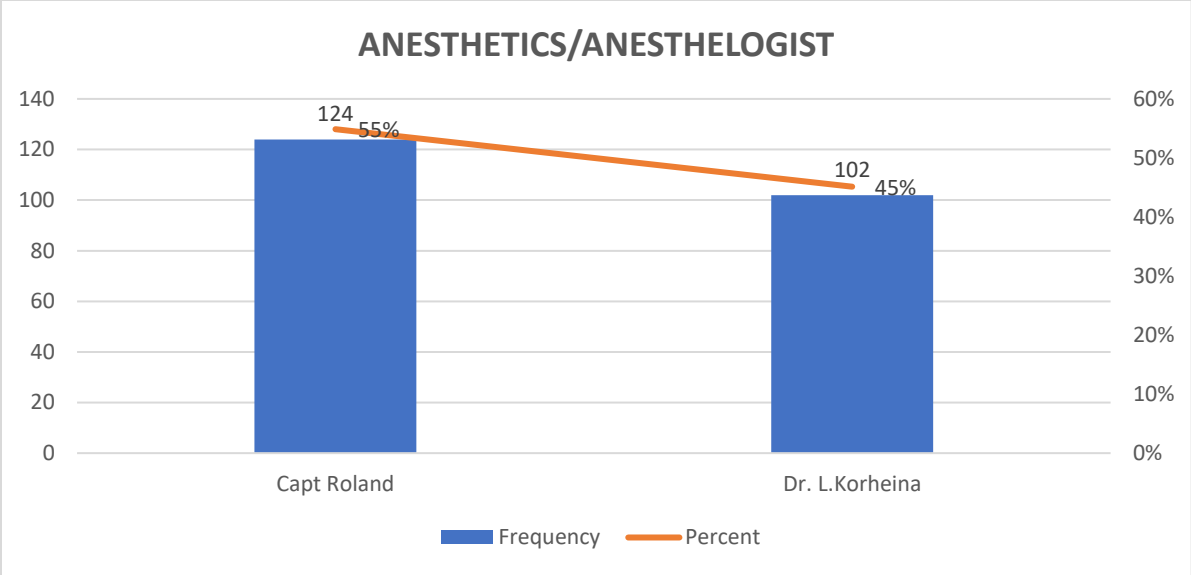
Dignosis













Conclusion

The Medical Humanitarian Mission to Fish Town, River Gee County, was a resounding success, demonstrating the impact of collaborative efforts among skilled medical professionals, local healthcare providers, and generous sponsors. Over the course of the mission, the team provided essential medical, surgical, and ophthalmological services to the underserved population of River Gee County. With no logistical and operational challenges, only including delays en route and a temporary strike by Nurse Anesthetists, the team remained committed to delivering high-quality care.

The outreach served 524 ophthalmology patients, with 301 pairs of glasses dispensed and 170 patients referred for further care. The surgical and medical consultation services offered by the team addressed numerous complex cases for 277 patients, contributing significantly to the health and well-being of the local community.

This mission highlighted the critical need for sustained healthcare interventions in rural Liberia and underscored the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration to overcome barriers to healthcare access.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen Local Healthcare Systems

- Provide additional training for local healthcare staff, including Nurse Anesthetists, to ensure continuity of care even during emergencies or strikes.
- Establish mentorship programs for local medical professionals to enhance surgical and medical capabilities.

2. Expand Medical Outreach Programs

- Continue organizing similar humanitarian missions in other underserved regions of Liberia.
- Develop a structured schedule for periodic medical outreach activities to ensure consistent healthcare delivery.

3. Enhance Logistics and Support

- Secure reliable transportation and backup vehicles to avoid delays caused by breakdowns during missions.
- Increase pre-departure planning and support to minimize challenges en route to remote areas.

4. Strengthen Community Engagement

- Collaborate closely with local leaders and health authorities to better understand the community's healthcare needs.
- Promote health education campaigns to increase awareness of preventable conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, and refractive errors.

5. Sustain Funding and Partnerships

- Seek additional sponsorships and partnerships to support future missions, including equipment procurement, medications, and supplies.
- Foster long-term relationships with donors and sponsors to ensure sustainable funding for outreach initiatives.

6. Monitor and Evaluate Impact

- Establish mechanisms to collect data and evaluate the impact of outreach missions, focusing on patient outcomes and community health improvement.
- Use these evaluations to refine future outreach strategies and enhance service delivery.

Prepared By:

Dr. M. Peter George, MD, FACS

Team Lead, River Gee Medical Humanitarian Mission

Liberia Physicians and Surgeons Without Borders (LPSWB)