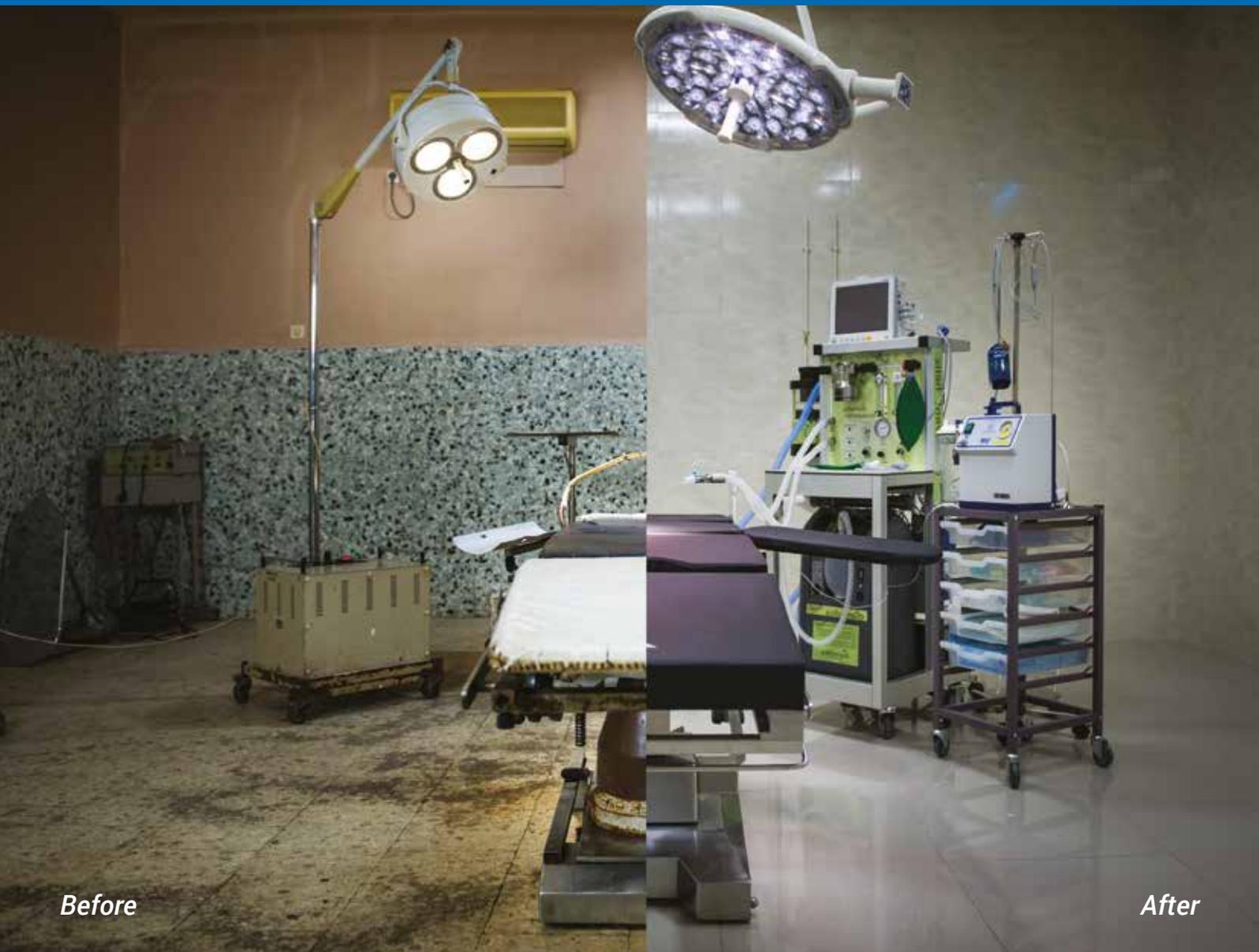


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# Medical Aid International

Supporting Healthcare in Low Resource Environments



*Before*

*After*

Simplifying the complex; delivering the solution



# Making a difference



In the early 2000s, our Managing Director Tim Beacon was in Uganda visiting a hospital, which was doing amazing work but with limited resources. Tim, having worked in operating theatres and being a national manager in medical device distribution at the time, knew that there was so much basic equipment that this hospital could benefit from. He came home, sourced the equipment they needed and sent it out to the hospital, so that they could function **safely** and at a **higher capacity to keep on changing lives**. This remains the fundamental objective of our organisation.

Tim developed this model and Medical Aid International became a full-time operation, sending a combination of procured new equipment and recycled donated equipment to facilities across the world. We have now given advice, equipment and training across Africa, South America and Asia working on both healthcare and disaster relief projects.

Sourcing **suitable equipment** and **maintaining** it in working order is a problem for remote **rural clinics** and larger **urban hospitals** alike in Low to Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Imported equipment may be prohibitively expensive, unsuitable and local supply chains may be non-existent. Charities often step-in to provide aid, but the equipment sent is not always appropriate for the environment it is going to; it may require electricity or gas supplies that are unreliable in the area, or maintenance that the receiver does not have the capacity to provide.

Here at Medical Aid International we provide tailored solutions, for the needs of each individual project. These context-appropriate solutions have proven to act as a catalyst in enhancing medical practice across the developing world.



## Context appropriate equipment

We provide a wide range of equipment, all tailored to the needs of your project. We also have some in-house designed solutions, below:

### The EcoClave™

Sterilisation is one of the most important practices in medical care, but unfortunately, it is one of the most neglected in LMICs. This is often due to a lack of training in the area, but also because standard autoclaves use too much electricity, which is both expensive and often unreliable.

**Our solution:** a self-contained wood burning stove, housing a pressure-cooker autoclave. The aluminium frame distributes heat around the cooker, making the EcoClave™ more efficient, safer and cheaper to run than its alternatives.

### Digital X-Ray

X-Ray is an essential capability in any substantial healthcare facility. Facilities in LMICs often lack access to a supply chain for consumables, such as X-Ray film and developing chemicals. Our solution is to provide a digital X-Ray system, with battery back-up, alongside a laptop, so that images can be seen instantly, manipulated and easily sent to others for a second opinion.

### Operating table

Our CE marked operating table has been designed by our team to overcome the challenges often faced in LMICs. It is manually operated and easy to transport with a wide range of attachments, so that it can be configured to suit all types of surgery.

To find out more about any of these solutions, or the wide range of other products we can supply, please visit our website.





## Biomedical Engineering Training and Support

**We have found that the healthcare facilities we visit desperately need Biomedical engineering support.** So often, hospitals have 'engineers' or 'technicians', who are full of enthusiasm and willingness to learn, but who lack the knowledge, skills or equipment needed to service, test and repair equipment.

Biomedical engineers are the backbone of any clinical setting, as without safe and properly functioning equipment, life changing healthcare cannot happen.

In 2015 we ran our first Biomedical Engineering training programme, partnering with Mercy Ships in Madagascar. Since then we have run these courses annually across Africa. This **City & Guilds accredited** course consists of a 4-week theory programme, followed by 4 weeks of practical training.

This course has proven invaluable to those who have taken it so far. For example, previous students based in Haiti have reported that since the course, they have been able to fix 80% of their broken equipment. This is not only **empowering** for the engineers, but it also stops hospitals from procuring unnecessary equipment; providing both a **financially and environmentally sustainable** solution.

We now deliver the theory content of the course through an **online training programme**, this allows us reach more students and give flexibility. Those who complete this online programme, then take part in our Practical Training course, to gain their accreditation.

As an organisation, we like to stay in touch with our delegates, to hear the outcomes of their training and to provide **additional support** where needed.





## Orthopaedics

The treatment of orthopaedic conditions, congenital or traumatic in LMICs is extremely under resourced. Whilst many of these conditions can be treated conservatively, most require specialist implants and instrumentation. Here at Medical Aid International we provide implants, instrumentation and instruction for the full range of trauma implants and total joints to treat these conditions. We work closely with World Orthopaedic Concern to promote orthopaedic education and services in the LMICs. We currently have one Orthopaedic distribution point in Africa, with expansion plans in place to develop this area of our work.

## Complete solutions

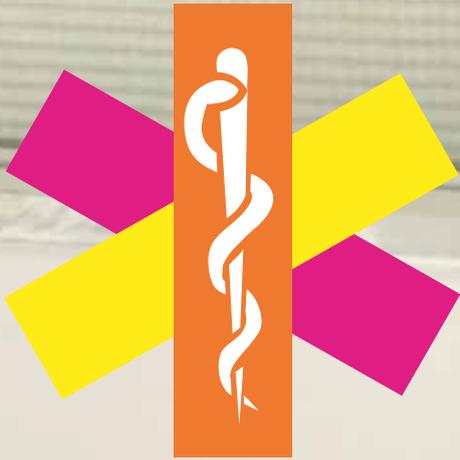
Our experience, knowledge and vast network of suppliers enable us to support and guide a project from concept to completion. We offer **consultancy** on projects large and small, we **repair**, **procure** and **donate** appropriate equipment, make the **logistical** arrangements to get it to your location and can, if required, **install** it in-country with our team of Biomedical engineers, who will be on hand to give **maintenance support** once your project is complete.

## What we do/how can you be involved:

One of the unique things about our organisation is our hugely discounted pricing, which allow limited budgets to stretch further. Our great relationships with suppliers along with the generous donations of unwanted equipment allow us to give great value for money.

Our team of Biomedical Engineers service, test and repair all equipment before we send it out. We also give 'gifts in kind' with each project, to maximise value and impact.

**If you or your organisation has medical equipment/supplies that you no longer require, please do get in touch.**



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**If you or your organisation would like to get involved, please contact us:**

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