



# Medical Needs

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.*  
1 Corinthians 2:4

1 Our amazing nurse, Salamatu, currently staffs two medical clinics year-round. Over the past six months, she has seen a 20% increase in patients, with that number continuing to rise. This is great news! People are utilizing the resources within their communities (a promising step toward ultimate sustainability). However, it also means that our nurse is overworked, and she often runs out of medications and supplies. We don't have enough in the monthly budget to continue treating this increase in patients; people who desperately need medical attention. A significant percentage of the women being seen are pregnant, and require special care and attention. Sierra Leone is the most dangerous country in the world for a pregnant woman. Many mothers bleed to death from complications or die later from infection. We witnessed this first-hand during our clinic day earlier this year, in the village of Ropolon. We saw one-month twins by the name of David and Mamusu, they were very under-nourished and being cared for by their grandma. The twins' birth mother had recently died from an infection related to the birth of her children. We were able to provide some formula to improve the infants' nutrition, but we were not able to do much more. These cases are unfortunately all too common in Sierra Leone.

**A high need is for a part-time midwife, who can exclusively follow the pregnant women in the village. In addition, a higher monthly allowance is essential to the care of all these patients.**

## Their Reality

At 53 years, Sierra Leone has the lowest projected life expectancy of any nation in the world by 2 years.

The country has the highest rates of maternal and infant death of any nation in Africa.



## Our Vision

At the Bridge of Hope, we strive to not only tell people about Jesus, but to demonstrate His power and love. We do this by supporting the greatest physical needs of the most vulnerable, with the ultimate goal of creating a sustainable health system where it is most needed.

For the past ten years, The Bridge has partnered with an inspiring team of medical providers in-country. Though much has been achieved to support the health of the people in Makeni, we know there is still much to be done. Through conversations our team had while there this past February, our partners identified the highest needs of the local population. We would like to take this opportunity to share the three most dire needs with you.

**2** In 2017, we had a conversation with the doctor that we partnered with at a local hospital in Makeni. We asked him what happens at the hospital when a patient is brought in with a life-threatening snakebite. With tears in his eyes, he told us the heartbreaking reality that there is nothing they can do for these patients. They die. That same year,



the World Health Organization finally listed snakebites as a highest-priority neglected tropical disease; less than 5% of patients receive lifesaving anti-venom treatment. We have access to this lifesaving anti-venom, but it is expensive (often requiring up to eight vials per patient), and requires that we partner with a local hospital to set up a

protocol. This past year we were able to treat this man in our Ropolon clinic who had received two snake bites a week prior (pictured above). With more resources we would have the potential to provide this life-saving care year round.

## A high need is for snake bite anti-venom and resources to provide the training necessary to treat snake bites in the Sierra Leone health facilities.

**3** This past medical clinic in February 2019, we had to turn away dozens of patients who needed life-saving surgeries. A surgery (from intake to discharge), costs anywhere from \$75 to \$150. As it stands now, we do not have the ability to cover all of these costs and we have to turn away patient after patient who desperately need surgical intervention. This is devastating not only for the people who need these surgeries but also for our team, both African and American alike.

## A high need is for an increased monthly surgery budget.



If you feel as if God has placed it upon your heart to help with one of these needs, any support would be put to incredibly good use. Please visit [www.thebridgeofhope.us](http://www.thebridgeofhope.us) and select one or more of the following options:

**\$125/month for a part-time Midwife.  
\$50/month for additional medication and supplies.**

**\$85 for a vial of anti-venom.**

**\$100 for a surgery, start to finish.**