

# Medicine & Love Delivery to Mozambique

By Lin Shinn-Zong, Superintendent of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital

The medical outreach in Mozambique in May, 2019, remained fresh in my mind. I am grateful to the Tzu Chi volunteers in Africa, who are constantly engaged in a tug-of-war on poverty and suffering. Because of shortage in medical supply, most Mozambicans rarely have the

opportunity to see a doctor, and their accumulated physical conditions are predominantly comprehensive. When a local residents came, he complained about knee pain, chest pain, and inability to run. After examination, he was found to have knee degeneration, coupled with



**During his participation in the medical outreach in Mozambique in May, 2019, Supt. Lin Shinn-Zong demonstrated not his expertise in neurosurgery, but instead his comprehensive knowledge and skills in internal medicine and pediatrics.**





**Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital Supt. Lin Shinn-Zong attends to the wound of a child.**

cardiovascular diseases such as high blood pressure. Although the free clinic was multi-disciplinary, every doctor has to take into account the overall conditions of every patient.

“If they can’t come, we’ll go!” On the second day, I went with the medical team to visit Lamego, a village in Sofala Province. I remember a mother, carrying a baby, with three children around her. Her husband unfortunately passed away during the flood in March. There was a piece of cloth covering the baby’s left cheek. I lifted it up and saw a wide wound on baby’s left ear, with the ear barely attached. I asked her to take her children to the free clinic for treatment. At the free clinic, a doctor applied the baby with antibiotics and bandaged the wound. The mother was relieved at last.

After the cyclone, 18 local volunteers from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique,

moved into affected communities, working side by side with the villagers on rebuild their home. In only a week’s time, they inspired 510 new volunteers. Under the scorching sun, they built two makeshift sheds with few pieces of woods and hemp ropes, and hanged the flags in the sheds. In that approximately 650 m<sup>2</sup> stadium, we held our first ever Buddha-bathing ceremony.

Wherever there is suffering, there is love. We have love emerging from the earth and descending from the sky, assembling in Mozambique. We have local doctors joining the outreach. Master Cheng Yen hopes that this year to be the year African overturning its fate, with more volunteers joining the rank, saving themselves and helping others. Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital will also carry out Master’s wishes and continues the endeavor.