



2026  
Issue # 7

ZAMBIA FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

# Wings of Hope

## NEWSLETTER

*Stories of care, aviation and outreach across Zambia*



COVER STORY · INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Recapitalisation

*Inside the Government programme remaking the Zambia Flying Doctor Service into a modern healthcare institution — new aircraft, vehicles, wards and hospitals.*

MEDICAL CORNER

Four lives flown to safety

SURGICAL CORNER

55 minutes in Mwanabombwe

CEREMONIES

Healthcare at the Kuomboka

— A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR



**Mrs. Luyando Mbilika Shimalukwe**

CHIEF EDITOR  
LEGAL SERVICES & CORPORATE  
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

**W**elcome to this edition of the ZFDS newsletter.

It gives me great pleasure to connect with you through this platform, which serves as an important channel for sharing our achievements, initiatives and impact of our work.

This publication highlights the important work, achievement and progress made across our institution.

I wish to commend all members of staff for their dedication and unwavering commitment to the mission of ZFDS. I hope you find this edition informative. Enjoy the read.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Chief Editor



**Catherine Chanda**  
EDITOR  
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER



**Juliet Mumba**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



**Lovemore Sondashi**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



**Trina Sianyeuka**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



**Aaron Tembo**  
EDITOR

## — FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# A year of building, flying and reaching further

**T**he reforms of 2025 and 2026 have been a defining period for the Zambia Flying Doctor Service. Under the Government's recapitalisation programme, our institution has acquired new operational assets, modernised hospital infrastructure and extended specialised care into communities that have long sat beyond the reach of the health system.

From the commissioning of refurbished wards at the James Lawless AeroMED Hospital in Ndola to the opening of the Kenneth Kaunda AeroMED Hospital in Itawa, every milestone in these pages reflects a single conviction: that no Zambian should be left without access to quality, dignified and life-saving care because of where they live.

**As we reflect on the progress made, I am proud of the dedication, resilience and commitment demonstrated by our team and partners. Together, we have continued to advance our mission, strengthen our impact, and deliver meaningful results for the communities and stakeholders we serve.**

In this edition you will read of mothers reached in Lufwanyama, of miners cared for in Luapula, of a four-year-old in Chama who can use her hand again, and of crews who flew through the night so that critically ill patients could reach specialist care in time. You will also meet the captains, paramedics and engineers whose discipline makes each of those missions possible.

I extend my gratitude to the President of the Republic, the Ministry of Health, our Board, our cooperating partners and every member of staff. The transformation captured here is ours together — and the work of reaching every community continues.

---

*“A life in a rural area is as important as a life in urban areas of Zambia.”*

---



## In this edition

---

Institutional Development

---

Stakeholder Engagement

---

Medical & Surgical Corners

---

Aviation Corner

---

Traditional Ceremonies

---

Wellness & Social Responsibility

— INSIDE THIS EDITION

# Contents

**01 Institutional Development 04**

Recapitalisation · Government support · Healthcare in the mines

**02 Stakeholder Engagement 08**

New theatre in Ndola · Donations · Maternal health

**03 Medical Corner 10**

Four aeromedical evacuations

**04 Surgical Corner 12**

Chama · Luyaba · Mwansabombwe

**05 Aviation Corner 14**

Mufulira airstrip · New captains

**06 Traditional Ceremonies 16**

Kuomboka · Nc'wala

**07 Wellness Corner 18**

ZAF Marathon · Doctors' Day

**08 Social Responsibility 19**

St. Anthony Children's Village

THE HALF-YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

**384,384 Zero**

Patients seen across all health centres

Maternal deaths under ZFDS management

**K1m**

Invested in the Ndola surgical & dental units

**2**

AeroMED hospitals commissioned this period

**55 min**

Two surgeries, one teenager, Mwansabombwe

**3**

Race distances run at the ZAF Marathon

**103**

Children supported at St. Anthony's Village

**4**

Critical evacuations in the Medical Corner

# 01. Institutional Development



## ZFDS Unveils first pressurised air ambulanced

The Zambian government through the Ministry of Health has officially commissioned a new air ambulance to strengthen emergency medical services in remote and rural parts of the country. On 29 December 2025 then Health Minister Dr Elijah Muchima unveiled the Beechcraft King Air B200 aircraft at the Zambia Flying Doctor Service headquarters at Peter Zuze Airport in Ndola.

This addition represents a major advancement in the government efforts to provide equitable life saving healthcare especially in areas where road access remains a challenge.

Speaking at the well attended commissioning ceremony Dr Muchima described the occasion as a moment of great achievement.

“Today is a day of immense pride for our health sector. We are gathered here to witness the addition of this Beechcraft King Air 200 aircraft to the Zambia Flying Doctor Service,” he said.

He further noted that the new dawn government inherited a service with only one functional aircraft and a large backlog of maintenance issues. The Minister described the aircraft as more than just equipment.

“It is a symbol of hope. It will allow patients in remote areas such as Shangombo Mafinga and Tumbama to reach critical care within the golden hour,” Dr Muchima stated.



The Health Minister emphasised that the acquisition forms part of a broader K167 million recapitalisation programme for the Zambia Flying Doctor Service. He highlighted that the King Air B200 is the first pressurised fixed wing aircraft in the fleet capable of operating at higher altitudes and speeds while offering a stable environment for patients and medical teams.

Dr Muchima praised the leadership of ZFDS Chief Executive Officer Dr George Nguni and his team for their dedication and efficiency in transforming the service. He urged other government institutions facing operational difficulties to emulate the example set by ZFDS.

Dr George Nguni in his remarks expressed gratitude for the government continued support. He pointed out the remarkable growth in service delivery noting that outreach activities have expanded dramatically from just three missions per year to eight concurrent missions each month reaching over 144000 patients across more than 50 districts in 2025 alone.

The CEO stated that the new aircraft will greatly enhance the organisation capacity to provide timely emergency evacuations and routine outreach services to hard to reach communities.



Senior government officials who attended the event included Copperbelt Deputy Provincial Permanent Secretary Daniel Kamenga Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Dr Kennedy Lishimpi and various provincial health leaders. They all welcomed the development as a concrete demonstration of the New Dawn Administration commitment to universal health coverage.

For rural communities in provinces such as Luapula Western Muchinga and Northern where poor infrastructure often delays critical care this new air ambulance will cut response times from days to mere hours. Medical evacuations that previously depended on difficult road journeys can now be completed swiftly and safely. This investment aligns with President Hakainde Hichilema broader health agenda which focuses on infrastructure renewal and bringing specialist services closer to the people. The revitalised Zambia Flying Doctor Service with its upgraded Ndola aeromedical hub now stands stronger than ever ready to fulfil its historic mission of bringing the doctor to the patient regardless of how remote the location may be.

## — THE RECAPITALISATION PROGRAMME

# A modern healthcare institution takes shape

*A Government recapitalisation drive is reshaping the Zambia Flying Doctor Service — new aircraft, vehicles, refurbished wards and two commissioned hospitals are widening access to care in urban and rural Zambia alike.*



**A new chapter.** New utility vehicles, ribboned for handover, join the ZFDS fleet under the Government recapitalisation programme.

**T**he Zambia Flying Doctor Service is undergoing a historic transformation through the Government's recapitalisation programme, aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and expanding access to quality medical services across the country.

Championed through the Ministry of Health, the initiative has seen ZFDS acquire critical assets, modernise infrastructure and expand services in both urban and rural communities. Government recently handed over a staff bus, utility vehicles, fuel bowsers and a truck to enhance service delivery and operational efficiency.

The programme has also funded the renovation and upgrading of hospital infrastructure at the James Lawless AeroMED Hospital in Ndola, where newly refurbished male, female, maternity, paediatric and VVIP wards have been commissioned. In a further expansion of the institution's footprint on the Copperbelt, Government officially opened the Kenneth Kaunda AeroMED Hospital in Itawa.

**The former Minister of Health Hon. Dr. Elijah Muchima during the official opening, described the programme as a major milestone towards the Government's vision of equitable, quality healthcare for all citizens, praising the ZFDS Board, management and staff for their commitment to transforming the institution into a modern and responsive healthcare provider.**

— NEW ASSETS ON THE GROUND

The handover placed a fleet of new vehicles in service among them a branded medical bus, fuel bowzers, cargo trucks and a line of utility pickups extending the institution's reach for outreach, logistics and emergency response.

*“The transformation at ZFDS demonstrates what visionary leadership, teamwork and Government support can achieve.”*

HON. ELISHA MATAMBO · COPPERBELT PROVINCE MINISTER



Fuel bowser & cargo truck for aviation logistics.



A line of utility pickups for field operations.



Cessna Caravans ready on the apron at first light.

ZFDS Board Chairperson Dr. Rosemary Kumwenda explained that recapitalisation is not only improving infrastructure but also creating sustainable revenue-generating platforms to support outreach in rural and underserved communities. The institution, she said, remains focused on a financially sustainable model capable of supporting emergency evacuations, outreach and specialised care across Zambia.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. George Ng'uni reaffirmed the institution's commitment to efficient, reliable and accessible care through both aviation and medical operations. He acknowledged Government's continued support, noting that the programme has significantly improved operational capacity and that modern equipment, rehabilitated facilities and strengthened aviation will sharpen the institution's ability to respond to emergencies and reach hard-to-reach areas.



— A MINISTERIAL VISIT TO THE HEAD OFFICE

# Government reaffirms its support as the Service widens access



**Rain or shine.** Minister of Health Dr. Alex Katakwe is received at the ZFDS Head Office in Ndola, with a Cessna Caravan on the apron beyond.

**T**he Zambia Flying Doctor Service has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering equitable, accessible and quality healthcare to all Zambians particularly those in hard-to-reach communities following a visit by Minister of Health Dr. Alex Katakwe to its Head Office in Ndola.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. George Ng'uni said the institution remains committed to complementing Government efforts through innovative medical and aviation services aimed at saving lives and reducing referral challenges in underserved areas.

Dr. Katakwe noted that ZFDS continues to play a critical role in improving access to quality care, especially in rural and remote parts of Zambia where medical support is often limited. He reaffirmed Government's support towards strengthening the Service's operations and capacity as it responds to emergencies, conducts outreaches and facilitates specialist care.

ZFDS expressed gratitude for the visit and reiterated its pledge to continue providing effective, efficient and timely healthcare to every Zambian.



— A NEW FRONTIER FOR OUTREACH

# Healthcare descends into the small-scale mines

*ZFDS is carrying lifesaving care into Luapula's remote mining communities — places that have long sat beyond the reach of specialised medicine.*

**T**he Zambia Flying Doctor Service is redefining healthcare delivery in Zambia's expanding small-scale mining sector, bringing care directly into remote communities across Luapula Province. The vision was highlighted during a high-level tour of Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital in Mwanabombwe District by Minister of Health Dr. Alex Katakwe.

CEO Dr. George Ng'uni outlined a model of integrated outreach and emergency response tailored to miners in hard-to-reach areas already proven through a partnership with Zambia Gold Company, where personnel are deployed to mining sites for medical support, emergency stabilisation and occupational health.

While major mining firms often maintain structured health systems, he noted, small-scale miners remain among the most vulnerable, working in isolated settings where emergencies can quickly turn fatal without immediate help.

*“Our mission is to bring medical personnel directly to where small-scale miners work ensuring no one is left without access to lifesaving care.”*

**DR. GEORGE NG'UNI · CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

ZFDS is ready to sign further Memoranda of Understanding with mining operators, deploying rotating teams supported by helicopter and fixed-wing evacuations. The Presidential directive to establish airstrips in every district, Dr. Ng'uni added, will strengthen referral access for remote communities. Dr. Katakwe described the initiative as a timely, practical response to the country's growing mining activity.



**On tour.** Government officials and stakeholders at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital, Mwanabombwe.

# 8,750

patients attended to since ZFDS assumed management of the facility

# Zero

maternal deaths, alongside expanded specialised services

From the skies above to the mines below, ZFDS is proving that no community is too remote to receive quality, dignified and lifesaving care.



— A FOUR-YEAR TRANSFORMATION

# How ZFDS transformed healthcare from the sky

*In Zambia's remote provinces, where the nearest clinic can be a half-day away and an emergency is measured in hours, ZFDS has grown from a modest emergency-response unit into one of the country's most impactful rural health-delivery organisations.*



Outreach teams bring care directly to remote communities.



Light aircraft reach airstrips far beyond the road network.



In 2022, those 32 evacuations and 6,969 people reached marked a quiet, determined beginning. A year later the model had shifted — from responsive to proactive, emergency-only to comprehensive care — as evacuations nearly tripled to 94 and outreach leapt to 105,433.

The momentum held. ZFDS reached 127,982 of the hardest-to-reach communities in 2024, and by 2025 recorded its highest year yet: 131 evacuations and 144,000 people reached across Luapula, Western and Northern provinces.

*From 32 evacuations to 131, and from 6,969 people to 144,000 in three years — for the Zambia Flying Doctors Service, the sky is not the limit. It is the road.*

Zambia's most remote citizens were never beyond the reach of care. They just needed someone willing to fly.

# 02. Stakeholder Engagement

## ZFDS Delivers Lifesaving Care in Major SADC Regional Exercise

*Multidisciplinary Teams Provide Comprehensive Health Services Across Four Southern Province Districts*

The Zambia Flying Doctor Service (ZFDS), operating in collaboration with the Zambia Air Force (ZAF), participated in Exercise Blue Lugwasho 2025, the Southern African Development Community's regional aviation and emergency response drill. From September 13 to 19, ZFDS deployed multidisciplinary medical teams to Sinazongwe, Mulobezi, Mwandwi, and Namwala in Southern Province, delivering essential health services to thousands of patients in communities with limited access to care.

The exercise provided an operational platform for ZFDS and ZAF to demonstrate the practical value of their partnership, with ZAF aviation assets enabling the medical teams to reach districts that would otherwise require lengthy ground travel.

### Medical Services Delivered

ZFDS teams provided a full spectrum of medical services covering the diverse health needs of remote populations. General consultations screened patients for both communicable and non-communicable diseases including hypertension, diabetes, and respiratory infections. Eye care teams conducted screenings and distributed free reading glasses, while dental teams provided extractions and oral hygiene education.

ZFDS also deployed obstetric and gynaecological specialists for maternal health reviews, orthopaedic specialists for trauma and musculoskeletal assessments, and diagnostic teams equipped with point of care laboratory testing and ultrasound capabilities.

### Community Impact

Thousands of patients received preventive screenings, enabling early detection of chronic conditions. Pregnant women accessed antenatal care and obstetric assessment. Children received paediatric consultations and treatment for acute illnesses.

### Social Support Component

In partnership with Children International Zambia, ZFDS integrated a social responsibility component into the exercise. Hygiene kits containing soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products were distributed to adolescent girls and women in Mwandwi District, addressing health and dignity alongside clinical care.



## Regional Collaboration Model

Exercise Blue Lugwasho was hosted by the Zambia Air Force and brought together the Zambia Military Medical Personnel, district health offices, local leadership, and SADC aviation model experts. This integrated civilian military partnership model demonstrates how emergency preparedness drills can simultaneously serve as vehicles for genuine community health delivery.

Exercises like Blue Lugwasho validate our operational readiness while creating immediate, measurable benefit for communities. Every deployment strengthens our capacity to respond to future disasters while addressing persistent healthcare gaps in underserved areas.



# ZFDS and Chililabombwe Municipal Council step up cholera prevention efforts at Kasumbalesa Border

The Zambia Flying Doctor Service (ZFDS), in partnership with the Chililabombwe Municipal Council (CMC), launched a comprehensive cholera prevention and sensitisation programme at Kasumbalesa Border Post, reinforcing Government efforts to safeguard public health in one of the country's busiest transit points.

The initiative, brings together health professionals, local authorities and cooperating partners in a coordinated response aimed at preventing the outbreak and spread of cholera within the border community. The programme focuses on promoting good sanitation practices, raising public awareness and improving environmental health conditions.

As part of the intervention, ZFDS and CMC teams conducted intensive community sensitisation activities with support from a full complement of ZFDS personnel. The campaign was aimed at educating residents, traders and travellers on cholera prevention measures, including safe water practices, proper waste disposal and personal hygiene.

To strengthen preventive efforts, ZFDS mobilised chlorine supplies from cooperating partners, including Trade Kings and the Chinese Association of Zambia, for distribution within the community. The programme also included liming activities using materials donated by Chilanga Cement and Neelkanth Mining to help disinfect high-risk areas and improve sanitation standards.

In addition, staff from ZFDS and CMC joined hands in community clean-up exercises and mass garbage collection campaigns aimed at creating a cleaner and healthier environment. These activities reflect the Government's commitment, through the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, to preventing disease outbreaks through community-driven public health interventions.

The launch was attended by several dignitaries, including Copperbelt Province Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo, represented by Acting Copperbelt Permanent Secretary and Ndola District Commissioner Ms Precious Njekwa. Also present were Chililabombwe Mayor Mr Lucky Sichone, District Commissioner Mr Kelly Jibinga, Copperbelt Provincial Health Director represented by Dr Christopher Dube, ZFDS Chief Executive Officer Dr George Ng'uni, and Chililabombwe Town Clerk Ms Shila Songolo.

Beyond the immediate cholera prevention activities, the project will also facilitate the rehabilitation of existing ablution facilities and support efforts to improve access to clean water in partnership with the Chililabombwe Municipal Council.

ZFDS remains committed to supporting the Ministry of Health in delivering quality healthcare services and strengthening disease prevention measures to ensure healthier communities across Zambia.



## 02 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## PARTNERSHIP

## — A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN NDOLA

# An operating theatre for Ndola

Improved access to specialised care is becoming a reality for thousands of Zambians following the official opening of a fully refurbished and upgraded operating theatre at the AeroMED James Lawless facility in Ndola.

The state-of-the-art theatre was commissioned by Minister of Health Hon. Dr. Elijah Muchima alongside Copperbelt Province Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo, before Government officials, healthcare professionals and stakeholders.

The refurbishment was made possible through a partnership between ZFDS and Indo Zambia Bank, which invested **K1 million** towards upgrading the hospital's surgical and dental units. Dr. Muchima praised ZFDS for its continued transformation and commended the bank for its strategic investment in medical infrastructure.

Copperbelt Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo said the theatre would significantly strengthen the institution's capacity to provide specialised services across the province and beyond, applauding the leadership of ZFDS for its vision in building a modern, responsive provider.

Indo Zambia Bank Managing Director Mr. Brajesh Singh reaffirmed the bank's commitment to initiatives that improve lives and strengthen Zambia's health sector. CEO Dr. George Ng'uni and Board Chairperson Dr. Rosemary Kumwenda reaffirmed the Service's resolve to deliver quality, affordable care to every corner of the country.



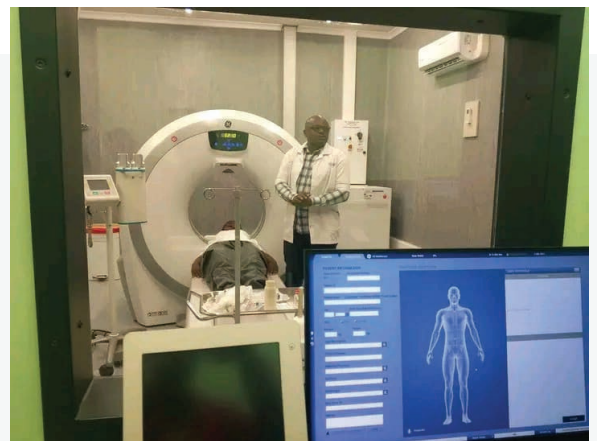


## ZFDS Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital Commissions CT scan and Expands Paediatrics Services in Luapula Province



The Zambia Flying Doctor Service (ZFDS) has achieved a significant milestone with the commissioning of a state of the art CT Scan machine at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital, marking a major breakthrough in advanced diagnostic imaging for the province.

The newly commissioned CT scan is capable of performing contrast-enhanced studies and positions Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital among the few facilities in Luapula offering high precision radiological services. This development is expected to drastically reduce referral burdens and shorten waiting times for patients who previously had to travel long distances for specialized imaging.



## Enhanced Radiology Department

The Radiology Department at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital now provides comprehensive services, including contrast-enhanced CT imaging, improved diagnostic accuracy for trauma, cancers, internal injuries, and complex medical conditions. The new equipment enables faster turnaround times for patient management and provides critical support to clinicians in emergency, surgical, and outpatient departments. The CT Scan strengthens the hospital's capacity to respond to critical cases, directly supporting ZFDS's mandate to deliver quality healthcare to remote communities.

### Increased Access and Improved Service Delivery

The commissioning of the CT Scan and operationalization of the Paediatrics Ward represent a significant expansion of key service points at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital. These developments further the facility's goal of delivering comprehensive healthcare close to communities while supporting ZFDS's ongoing efforts to strengthen specialized services in newly upgraded facilities, reduce maternal and child mortality aligned with Presidential Delivery Unit priorities, and improve access to emergency and routine healthcare across rural Zambia.

## Fully Operational Paediatrics Ward

ZFDS has established a fully functional Paediatrics Ward, expanding specialized care for children in Mwanabombwe and surrounding districts. The new ward features dedicated bed capacity with baby cots and children's beds, improved service points for pediatric care, and enhanced monitoring and treatment spaces for childhood illnesses. These improvements enable the hospital to adequately manage neonatal and paediatric conditions, thereby reducing preventable complications among children.

### A Step Forward for Luapula Province

Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital continues to emerge as a major health facility transforming healthcare across Luapula Province. With advanced imaging capabilities, enhanced paediatrics care, and ZFDS's strong operational presence, communities that previously lacked access to specialized services can now receive quality care within their locality.



## CIZ & ZFDS: A Partnership That Reaches Every Child

In the remote villages of Zambia, where roads disappear into dust and clinics are hours away on foot, two organizations have come together with a shared vision: ensuring that no child is left behind when it comes to healthcare.

Children International Zambia (CIZ) and the Zambia Flying Doctor Service (ZFDS) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding, forging a partnership that combines compassion with logistics, donations with delivery. Together with support from the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ), they are transforming what it means to bring healthcare to the unreachable places.

### The Puzzle That Needed Solving

The challenge was obvious but complex. The ZFDS had the expertise skilled doctors, medical equipment, and most crucially, the ability to reach remote communities by air. But expertise and transportation alone weren't enough. Children and families in these distant villages didn't just need doctors; they needed the essentials that healthcare requires. Medicines that weren't available. Hygiene products that communities couldn't access. The basic supplies that we take for granted in urban centers.

This is where CIZ stepped in with thier country director Ms. Doras Chirwa. A nonprofit dedicated to breaking cycles of poverty by supporting children and youth, CIZ understood that true healthcare access meant providing not just treatment, but the tools for prevention and dignity.

"An adult can walk to a clinic, but how do we handle a child who cannot?" asked Dr. George Ng'uni, CEO of the ZFDS. "This partnership will help us ensure no one is left behind."



## Two Organizations, One Mission

The partnership works because it honors what each organization does best. ZFDS brings the doctors, the planes, and the specialized medical expertise. CIZ brings the donated medical supplies, the hygiene kits, and the pharmaceutical products that communities desperately need.

When the ZFDS flies into a remote clinic, they're no longer arriving empty-handed. They carry with them the gifts of CIZ soap and shampoo for communities where clean water itself is precious. Feminine hygiene products for adolescent girls and women who have long gone without. Medicines and specialized supplies that can make the difference between health and suffering.

### A Real Difference in Real Places

The impact is already visible on the ground. At the Masese Rural Health Facility in Mwandu, essential hygiene kits arrived through this partnership. For the first time, vulnerable adolescent girls and women in that community had access to products they needed not as a luxury, but as a basic requirement for their health and dignity.

But this is just the beginning. The partnership's Product Donations Program ensures that pharmaceuticals and specialized medical supplies flow regularly to children and families across the country. Each donation becomes part of a larger outreach strategy, coordinated with the ZFDS's specialist medical missions.

Together, ZFDS and Children International Zambia are demonstrating that sustainable healthcare delivery in remote communities depends on more than clinical intervention. It requires the kind of coordinated, resourced, and consistent partnership that puts the right support in the right hands at the right time.



### Leaving No One Behind

What makes this partnership special isn't just the coordination it's the commitment. Both organizations understand that healthcare isn't one-size-fits-all, and that children have unique needs. A young girl needs different support than an infant. A teenager facing health challenges needs dignity alongside treatment.

By combining CIZ's donated resources with ZFDS's remarkable ability to reach the unreachable, the partnership creates something greater than the sum of its parts. It creates hope. It creates access. It creates the possibility that a child born in a remote village has a chance at a healthy future, not because of geography, but despite it.

## — A PARTNER IN THE FIELD

## Children International Zambia steps up its support

ZFDS has commended Children International Zambia (CIZ) for its continued support towards improving healthcare delivery in vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. Director of Legal Services and Corporate Affairs Mrs. Luyando Mbilika Shimalukwe expressed gratitude at the handover, noting that the donation would significantly benefit rural and underserved communities where access remains a challenge.

The support, she said, directly aligns with the Ministry of Health's mission of bringing quality healthcare closer to the people. The donation was made to both ZFDS and the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ).



**In the community.** A ZFDS field team at a public health outreach point.

## — REACHING EXPECTANT MOTHERS

## A maternal health lifeline for Lufwanyama

**Z**ambia continues to grapple with maternal mortality, particularly in rural areas where pregnant women face long distances to care, limited supplies and inadequate nutrition.

Against this backdrop, ZFDS launched the distribution of donated items and nutritional supplements to expectant mothers in hard-to-reach parts of Lufwanyama District — at Nkana Rural Health Centre, St. Joseph's Mission, Mukutuma and Mukumbo Rural Health Centres.



CEO Dr. George Ng'uni reaffirmed the institution's commitment to outreach, emergency evacuations and the rehabilitation of abandoned airstrips. Copperbelt Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo commended the contribution, while Provincial Health Director Dr. Charles Mwinuna credited sustained partnerships with continued reductions in maternal mortality.

The programme — supported by partners including Children International Zambia — will continue nationwide, with the next phase set for Luapula Province during the monthly surgical camp at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital.

### WHERE CARE REACHED

Nkana Rural Health Centre

St. Joseph's Mission

Mukutuma Rural Health Centre

Mukumbo Rural Health Centre

Helicopter services now allow ZFDS to reach these communities far more rapidly than before.

— WHEN MINUTES DECIDE OUTCOMES

## Four lives flown to safety

*ZFDS crews carried the most critical of patients to specialist care by Caravan and by helicopter, day and night.*



The Caravan fleet — workhorse of ZFDS aeromedical evacuations.

## EVACUATION 01

KASAMA → LUSAKA

### An infant, an airway, and no time to lose

A child of one year and nine months suffered a blocked airway after inhaling a groundnut, with severe coughing and reduced air entry. Travelling with a 50-year-old man with a spinal injury from a road accident, both needed specialist care in Lusaka.

A Caravan flown by Deputy Director of Aviation Mr. Patrick Kawanu, with Co-pilot Ms. Chanda Mumpangwe, carried them to the University Teaching Hospital under continuous monitoring.

CREW · KAWANU · MUMPANGWE · PARAMEDICS  
BANDA & NACHAMBA

## EVACUATION 02

KITWE → LUSAKA

### Conjoined twins, two days old

At the request of Kitwe Teaching Hospital, ZFDS evacuated two-day-old conjoined twins diagnosed with dicephalus parapagus and in respiratory distress for specialised neonatal care at the University Teaching Hospital.

Director of Aviation Services Lasford Manchisi flew the Caravan with Co-pilot Elvis Kite, while paramedic Susan Banda and midwife Herman Mwale kept the twins stable throughout. Mother and babies were safely handed to a specialist team in Lusaka.

CREW · MANCHISI · KITE · BANDA · MWALE



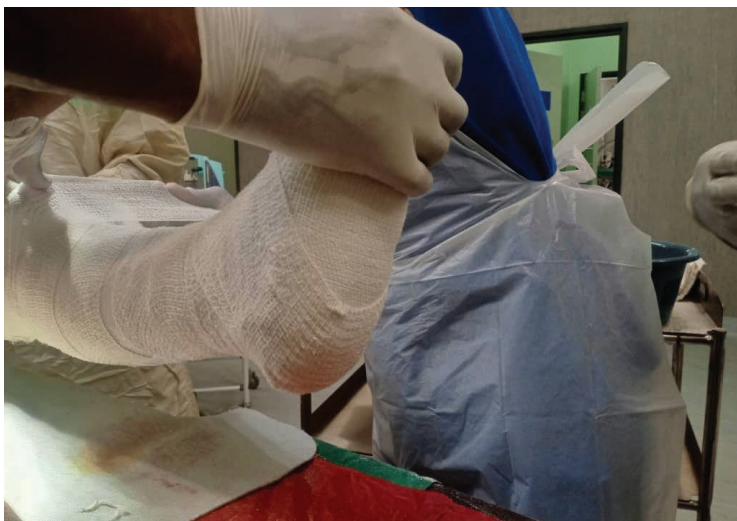
## Specialized Care Surpasses Target

### *ZFDS Executes Specialized Missions, Exceeding Goal by 150%*

The Zambia Flying Doctor Service (ZFDS) has delivered exceptional performance in its commitment to specialized care, successfully executing nine specialized outreach missions, a remarkable 150% achievement of the quarterly target. This surge in specialized activity focused on complex surgical, orthopaedic, and diagnostic services delivered directly to high need, remote communities across the country.

## Life-Saving Surgeries Transform Namwala

The most intensive specialized mission took place at Namwala District Hospital on September 23 as part of Exercise Blue Lugwasho 2025. A surgical team led by NTH Consultant Surgeon and Oncologist Dr. Seke Kazuma performed 14 surgeries in a single day, delivering critical interventions to the district.



## ZFDS Brings Specialist Surgical Care to Communities in Need

During recent medical missions, ZFDS teams provided critical surgical services at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital. An emergency Caesarean section successfully resolved foetal distress and delivered a healthy baby. A 46 year old mother of two underwent a hysterectomy to treat a severe fibroid condition. In the paediatric ward, surgeons corrected a broken arm in a five year old girl and removed extra digits from a nine month old baby with polydactyly.

Hospital management commended the teams not only for the lives saved but also for the mentorship provided to local staff. By working alongside them, the visiting surgeons helped strengthen the hospital's surgical capacity well beyond the duration of the mission.

From 28 July to 1 August, ZFDS organised an intensive Orthopedic Surgical Camp at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital in Mwansabombe. In partnership with specialist surgeons from the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), the team addressed a large backlog of trauma cases. Among those treated were a 17 year old student whose fractured fibula was stabilised and casted, a 20 year old man who underwent surgery for a chronic thumb dislocation, and an 80-year-old woman from Mbereshi who received a full arm cast after a severe road traffic accident.

The missions also included significant eye care work, with teams completing 494 cataract operations that restored sight to hundreds of patients in underserved areas. In Mwandia, medical officers identified a suspected rare congenital condition in a 13 year old boy presenting with a rash and chronic swelling on one side. The case has been properly documented to support his ongoing specialised care.

Access to remote communities improved further with the deployment of ZFDS's new medical helicopter to Chilubi Island District. The aircraft enabled high volume dental, eye, and laboratory diagnostic services in an area that was previously very difficult to reach.

These specialised missions demonstrate ZFDS's continued commitment to delivering complex care while building the skills of local healthcare teams across Zambia.



EVACUATION 03

MONZE → LUSAKA

### General Ozzy reaches care after a head-on crash



**Safely down.** David Banda “General Ozzy” is helped from the ZFDS helicopter on arrival in Lusaka.

Renowned musician David Banda “General Ozzy” was flown to Lusaka after a head-on collision near Monze. Admitted first to Monze Mission Hospital, his evacuation was approved by Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi.

A medical helicopter crewed by pilots Zachariah Mbewe and Timothy Gibbs carried him with abdominal injuries alongside a patient with a fractured ankle. Both were transferred to Maina Soko Medical Centre.

CREW · MBEWE · GIBBS · MEDICAL HELICOPTER

EVACUATION 04

KITWE → LUSAKA

### A race to save a stabbed man's life



**Emergency response.** ZFDS crews stabilise critically injured patients for transfer to specialist surgery.

A 32-year-old man with a penetrating stab wound to the chest had lost more than 1.5 litres of blood and was in severe respiratory distress. He needed an open thoracotomy unavailable locally.

With approval from Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi, Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary, Technical Services, a Caravan flown by Acting Deputy Director Patrick Kawanu and Co-pilot Siphosami Zulu reached Lusaka, where the patient was transferred to the National Heart Hospital for emergency surgery.

CREW · KAWANU · ZULU · PARAMEDICS BANDA & BESA

ON EVERY FLIGHT

*Behind each evacuation stands a constant team — pilots, paramedics and midwives whose steadiness turns a remote emergency into a survivable one.*

ZFDS reiterates its commitment to timely, reliable and accessible emergency medical services across Zambia.

NAMES ON THE MANIFEST

Lasford Manchisi · Director, Aviation

Capt. Patrick Kawanu · Pilot

Susan Banda · Paramedic

Salifyanji Nachamba · Paramedic

Herman Mwale · Midwife

04 SURGICAL CORNER

SPECIALIST OUTREACH

— RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY IN CHAMA

### Rebuilding small hands

A four-year-old girl in Chama District has regained hope for a normal life after successful reconstructive surgery during a ZFDS specialist outreach. At the age of one, she had suffered severe burns from hot nshima on an open fire, leaving scarring and contractures that stopped her right hand from opening. Referred earlier but unable to access care because of cost, hope was restored when a ZFDS surgical team on outreach in Chama identified her condition and scheduled surgery, performing contracture-release procedures to restore movement and function.

Her mother, Bridget, expressed deep gratitude, having feared her daughter — born healthy — would live with permanent disability. The family is now optimistic she will regain proper use of her hand. The intervention was made possible through Government support under the Ministry of Health.



**Careful hands.** A contracture release during the Chama outreach.



**No time to wait.** Managing a rapidly spreading infection at Luyaba.

— LUYABA HEALTH CENTRE

### Early surgery saves a patient from amputation

What began as a minor bicycle fall became a life-threatening infection. The patient reached the ZFDS outreach team at Luyaba with a swollen, severely infected leg after a week of worsening symptoms and home remedies.

Dr. Barnabas Chilomba found severe cellulitis and necrotising fasciitis — capable of causing sepsis and limb loss. General Surgeon Dr. Emmanuel Siachaya performed emergency surgery to remove infected tissue and halt the spread, with Anaesthetist Mr. Jordan Bwalya and Scrub Nurse Ngandu Jongolo. Early diagnosis spared the patient an amputation; he is recovering steadily.

— A SURGICAL CAMP IN MWANSABOMBWE

### Fifty-five minutes that changed a life

A 16-year-old boy in Mwanabombwe has had his life transformed after two complex procedures at ZFDS Ng’anga Bilonda Hospital — a hernia repair and an orchidopexy to correct an undescended testicle, conditions that would ordinarily require referral outside the district. In just 55 minutes, the surgical team completed both operations, sparing the patient and his family the emotional and financial burden of long-distance travel for specialist treatment.

The surgeries were performed by Consultant General Surgeon Dr. Seke Kazuma, assisted by Dr. Christian Mutombo, anaesthetists and theatre nurses who continue to bring specialist surgical services to rural communities. The camp underlined a wider truth: that with the right team and equipment, life-changing surgery can happen close to home.



**Two operations, one theatre.** The team at Ng’anga Bilonda Hospital.

— KEEPING A LIFELINE OPEN IN MUFULIRA

# Inspecting the airstrip that emergencies depend on



**9J KDK** The helicopter that carried the ZFDS team to Mufulira for the airstrip inspection and outreach

**Z**FDS has inspected Ndeke Airstrip in Mufulira District to ensure its safety, functionality and readiness for medical evacuations, assessing its condition and identifying maintenance needed to support uninterrupted emergency operations.

The exercise was conducted with Mufulira District Commissioner Mr. Evaristo Chilumbu, Council Director of Planning Ms. Ama Ado and District Health Director Dr. Abel Hamonga. Mr. Chilumbu called the airstrip a critical lifeline for evacuations and care in surrounding communities.

CEO Dr. George Ng'uni reaffirmed the institution's commitment to working with local authorities to keep the airstrip operational and safe. "Regular maintenance and inspections are key to sustaining timely and efficient emergency response services," he said.

The team travelling aboard the 9J-KDK helicopter piloted by Col. Zachariah Mbewe and Captain Timothy Gibbs, with Engineer Misha Mwela aboard also distributed donations from Children International Zambia and visited several health facilities. Director of Medical Services Dr. Puta Chisanga attended to a woman in prolonged latent-phase labour and referred her for further care.





# Medical Helicopter Operations Reach Chilubi Island

Chilubi Island is the only district headquarters in Zambia situated on an island with no road access. Located in the Bangweulu Wetlands, it lies 45 kilometres across open water from Samfya, with shallow lake channels, papyrus swamps, and river systems forming its boundaries. The island's terrain has historically limited the type of aircraft that could operate there, confining ZFDS to fixed-wing operations through Santa Maria Mission's airstrip.

On 28 July 2025, ZFDS conducted its first helicopter-supported medical outreach on Chilubi Island. The extension from fixed-wing to helicopter operations expands the programme's reach across the district, as helicopters are not dependent on the existing airstrip and can access health facilities spread across the island's five segments.

The team covered seven facilities during the visit: Santa Maria Mission Hospital, Chilubi Island District Hospital, Nsumbu Rural Health Centre, Chilubi Mainland District Hospital, Mofu Rural Health Centre, Matipa Rural Health Centre, and Mayuka Rural Health Centre. Services delivered included general medical consultations, dental care, eye care, laboratory diagnostics, pharmacy services, and distribution of free reading glasses.

The addition of helicopter capacity to Chilubi operations reduces dependency on ferry schedules for both routine outreach and emergency response, improving reliability of access for a population that has historically faced significant geographic barriers to care.

ZFDS acknowledges the support of the Government of Zambia and the Ministry of Health in enabling this expansion of services.





## A PROUD AVIATION MILESTONE

# Mumpangwe and Zulu take command

ZFDS is celebrating the upgrade of **Captain Chanda Mumpangwe** and **Captain Siphosami Zulu** to the rank of Captain on the Cessna Caravan — a milestone reflecting technical excellence, discipline and dedication to service.

Command is not a matter of flying hours alone; it is sound judgment, resilience and readiness to lead under pressure — ensuring the safety of patients, crews and aircraft on missions to Zambia's most remote communities.

Commanding the Caravan means carrying more than passengers — it means carrying lives, hope and trust on every flight, where timely evacuation can be the difference between life and death.

---

*On behalf of the CEO and the entire ZFDS family — congratulations, Captains. As you take command, may you uphold the highest standards of professionalism and service.*

## 05. Traditional Leaders

### ZFDS Brings Healthcare to Cultural Celebrations

#### *Service Reaches 7,199 Patients Through Traditional Ceremony Outreaches*

The Zambia Flying Doctor Service strategically aligned its medical services with Zambia's rich cultural calendar, conducting targeted outreach programmes at eight major traditional ceremonies across the country. This innovative approach to healthcare delivery combined cultural respect with clinical expertise, reaching vulnerable populations at moments when communities gathered together.

#### *By the Numbers*

ZFDS served 7,199 patients across six documented traditional ceremony outreaches, with additional services provided during September celebrations. The highest patient volumes occurred at the Kwilimuna Ceremony in Mpongwe (1,970 patients) and the Kulamba Ceremony in Katete (1,878 patients), demonstrating strong community engagement and trust in ZFDS services.



### Specialized Interventions:

The outreaches went beyond routine screening. At Ikubi lya bana Munyati in Namwala, ZFDS delivered what staff described as a "lifeline mission" providing critical surgical referrals alongside sight-restoring eye care services that transformed lives in a single day.

### Why This Matters

By embedding healthcare delivery within traditional ceremonies, ZFDS reached populations who might otherwise face barriers to accessing services. Communities gathered for cultural celebrations found themselves with unexpected access to doctors, diagnostics, and eye care turning celebrations into moments of health transformation.

This strategy reinforces ZFDS's commitment to meeting patients where they are, both geographically and culturally, ensuring that healthcare access becomes woven into the fabric of community life across Zambia.



## 06 TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES

OUTREACH

— WHERE THE NATION GATHERS, CARE FOLLOWS

# Healthcare at the Kuomboka



At the ZFDS tent. Community members receive free care during the Kuomboka period in Western Province.

Traditional ceremonies draw thousands from across the country — and offer a rare chance to bring essential services close to communities that are often underserved. ZFDS has made it a priority to partner with these occasions.

This year's Kuomboka in Western Province — marking the movement of His Majesty the Litunga from the flooded plains to higher ground — was no exception. ZFDS established medical operations in Limulunga District while running outreach across several remote districts.

Specialist teams performed surgery in Chama, Serenje and Mwanabombwe — where the March monthly surgical camp was held at Ng'anga Bilonda Hospital — while routine outreach reached Lufwanyama, Chirundu and Chipili. The programme forms part of efforts to reduce referral challenges in line with national priorities on maternal health and universal coverage. The 2026 Kuomboka was held on 28 March.



— A CAMP AMONG THE NGBONI

# A medical camp at Nc'wala



**Open for care.** A ZFDS team offers screening, eye, dental and pharmacy services at the ceremony.

*“The outreach reflects our continued commitment to supplementing Government efforts in effective, efficient healthcare delivery.”*

**MRS. LUYANDO MBILIKA SHIMALUKWE**

**Z** FDS established a medical camp at Mutenguleni Village in Chipata District to provide healthcare during this year's Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony of the Ngoni people.

Led by Director of Legal Services and Corporate Affairs Mrs. Luyando Mbilika Shimalukwe, the team began with a courtesy call on the Eastern Provincial Health Office, where she assured authorities that the Service was fully prepared to provide comprehensive care to the thousands attending.

The team later paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Chief Mpezeni IV at Laweni Palace, reaffirming ZFDS's support to the Ngoni community and conveying goodwill from CEO Dr. George Ng'uni, who values the role of traditional leadership in community development.

During the ceremony ZFDS provided free services led by Senior Medical Doctor Dr. Jonathan Masalo — general screening, eye care, dental services, laboratory and pharmacy support. The Nc'wala, held annually in Eastern Province, celebrates the first harvest of the year and draws local and international visitors alike.



# 05. Wellness Corner

## ZFDS STRENGTHENS FIGHT AGAINST NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THROUGH WEEKLY SPORTS INITIATIVE



The Zambia Flying Doctor Service (ZFDS) has intensified its commitment to preventing and reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through the introduction of structured weekly sporting activities as part of its staff wellness programme.

As part of this initiative, employees participate in various sporting disciplines every last working day of the week. The programme is designed to promote physical activity, reduce sedentary lifestyles, and encourage healthy living among staff members.



By integrating sport into the work schedule, Zambia Flying Doctor Service is reinforcing the importance of prevention as a core element of healthcare delivery. The initiative also aligns with broader public health strategies aimed at reducing the burden of lifestyle-related diseases.

Staff engage in activities such as football, netball, volleyball, aerobics, and light fitness exercises, which not only improve cardiovascular health but also enhance mental well-being, reduce stress, and strengthen team cohesion within the institution.



Management has noted that the programme is also intended to create health ambassadors within the service staff who understand and embody the principles of preventive health and can extend these messages into the communities they serve during outreach missions.

The initiative has been well received by employees, who report improved morale, increased energy levels, and stronger interpersonal relationships across departments.



Beyond physical health benefits, the weekly sports programme is fostering a culture of wellness and discipline, reinforcing the idea that healthcare workers must first take care of their own health in order to effectively serve others.

Through this intervention, ZFDS is not only delivering life-saving emergency and outreach services but also actively contributing to the national response against noncommunicable diseases through preventive, lifestyle-based strategies

— POUNDING THE PAVEMENT FOR PURPOSE

## ZFDS joins the 2026 ZAF Marathon



**Wellness from the top.** ZFDS staff and stakeholders at the Zambia Air Force Marathon.

For frontline healthcare workers, physical fitness is a professional necessity. When the Zambia Air Force opened its 2026 marathon, ZFDS answered the call in force — with CEO Dr. George Ng’uni personally leading staff and stakeholders across the 21km, 10km and 5km races.

True to its mandate, ZFDS went beyond running: the institution provided physiotherapy, hydration assistance and medical consumables on the sidelines, embodying the values of care, preparedness and service it champions every day.

— EXCELLENCE THROUGH SPORT AND UNITY

## Netball gold on National Doctors' Day



The ZFDS netball team emerged victorious at the National Doctors' Day tournament at Ravens Club, commemorated under the theme “Celebrating Excellence Through Collective Impact in Healthcare,” which drew professionals from across the Copperbelt.

Activities opened with a 4.5km walk led by Copperbelt Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo, joined by senior dignitaries and CEO Dr. George Ng’uni. ZFDS again provided physiotherapy to participants — its netball win a reflection of the determination, discipline and teamwork that define its approach to care.



— ST. ANTHONY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, NDOLA

# Hope and care for the children of St. Anthony

In a demonstration of compassion beyond clinical care, ZFDS extended its healing mission to St. Anthony Children's Village in Masala, Ndola reaching vulnerable children with medical support, essential donations and heartfelt encouragement as part of its CSR programme and the commemoration of Women's and Youth Month.

Leading the delegation, Director of Legal Services and Corporate Affairs Madam Luyando Mbilika Shimalukwe reaffirmed ZFDS's recognition of the village's role in caring for children with diverse and special needs, pledging a lasting relationship of regular visits and support. Director of Finance Mr. Mulenga Zulu praised the caregivers' dedication, calling their work "more than work a calling."

Management at the village which cares for 103 children, many with special needs expressed deep gratitude. The ZFDS medical team conducted full-day health screenings, including eye and dental assessments, while the visit offered something equally vital: reassurance, attention and human connection.



**Donations delivered.** Staff present supplies funded through voluntary contributions.

# 103

children cared for at the village, the majority with special needs



The donation included mealie meal, cooking oil, cleaning materials, diapers and daily necessities — with additional hygiene kits from Children International Zambia. For the children of St. Anthony, it was a reminder that compassion can heal, restore hope and transform lives, one smile at a time.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**Adamson Chinunga**  
01 MAY 1995 -30 SEPTEMBER 2025

We take a moment to remember our colleague Adamson Chinunga, who remains in the hearts of all who knew him at ZFDS. Though he is no longer with us, his dedication, warmth, and the spirit he brought to his work continue to be felt across our institution.

His memory serves as a reminder of the value of every member of the ZFDS family. We honour his contribution and the time he shared with us.  
Gone but never forgotten. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

# Executive Management



**Dr. George Ngúni**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Dr Chisanga Puta**  
Director Medical Services



**Col. Lasford Manchisi**  
Director Aviation Services



**Mrs Luyando M. Shimalukwe**  
Director Legal Services  
& Corporate Affairs



**Mr. Mulenga Zulu**  
Director Finance



**Mrs. Rachel Hanyimbo**  
Director Human Capital  
Development & administration



**Mr. Mpundu Lubinda**  
Hospital Director-NBH



**Ms. Justina Kapandula**  
Chief Procurement Officer



**Mr. Chama D Chilatema**  
Chief Security Officer



**Mrs. Grace M Kafula**  
Chief Internal Auditor



# Wings of Hope

ZAMBIA FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE · QUARTERLY REVIEW

## OUR CLIENT CARE PROMISE

# We smile, we listen, we care, and we deliver.

### HEAD OFFICE

Plot number 2965,  
Hangar No 1B at Zuze  
Airforce Base, Ndola

### CONTACT

Toll Free +2575 (on Zamtel)  
WhatsApp 0761 092 873  
zfdsadmin@zfds.org.zm

### OUR SERVICES

Emergency medical evacuations ·  
Charter · Medical & surgical  
outreach · Drone delivery of medical  
supplies

