



### **Kadiatou's Story – how your donations are helping to transform lives – thank you from Kadiatou!**

M'Mahawa was forced to develop a unique way of putting shoes on her five-year-old daughter, Kadiatou who suffered from clubfoot and twisted hands.

The loving mother of five would sit with her fragile daughter on her lap, securing sandals to the little girl's feet with some makeshift string and knots. Without the complicated knots, the shoes would slip right off the girl's tiny feet. Neglected from birth and now twisted almost beyond recognition, Kadiatou's condition made her walk on the bridges of her feet instead of the soles.



Without the ability to wear shoes correctly, Kadiatou suffered from the extreme elements found in West Africa, constant wet feet during the rainy season and cracked and sore skin during the dry season. In addition to the pain that her condition caused, little Kadiatou's hands and feet have also caused her to fall behind when trying to keep up with her friends.

"She's as energetic as her brothers and sisters but cannot do as much," M'Mahawa said. "She cannot walk far without cutting herself."

Scared her daughter would spend her life trying to catch up, M'Mahawa was thrilled to hear about the Africa Mercy. She jumped at the opportunity to visit with the nurses onboard to see if Kadiatou was eligible for help. When her daughter was approved for surgery, M'Mahawa was excited that her little princess would finally receive the help she needed.

Still very young, Kadiatou may not fully remember every aspect of her surgery and her reason for being on the ship. But what she will remember is how to tie her shoelaces on her own pair of shoes, which are able to fit her feet!

