

MAF's Grand Cess service resumes

The people of Grand Cess in south-eastern Liberia are happy to see MAF planes again.

According to acting MAF Country Director Leon Prinsloo, 'We're not just landing planes, we're opening doors. MAF is committed to serving the most isolated, and Grand Cess is a clear example of how aviation can break barriers to healthcare, education and hope.'

For communities cut off by rough terrain and impassable roads, the return of our service again enables humanitarian workers, government staff and medical teams to reach inaccessible communities.

Grand Cess, a remote coastal town located approximately 370km from Monrovia, has about 3,000 people.

The area is known for its fishing and subsistence farming, with

villagers growing cassava, rice and plantains. The return of the plane, says Mayor Francis Charles Jr, is a lifeline.

Before the resumption of flights, ill or injured patients were forced to travel long distances on motorbikes, unfortunately causing fatalities.

'It's very difficult for us here,' Mayor Francis continues. 'The referral hospital is in Cestos, but when the roads are bad, there's no way an ambulance can get through. We really appreciate MAF because, in about an hour, you're there.'

'Elderly people, who aren't able to ride when the road is bad, get to travel by plane, which is much better.'

According to the mayor, however, there are challenges. 'We only have

two people working on the airstrip and facilities. They do the cleaning and everything else. The terminal was built by the community, but now the roof is leaking, the seating isn't good, and there's no proper protection for windows and doors.

'There were no flights for almost a year. But when we were asked to clean the place, we realised something good was about to happen, and we knew the aircraft was going to come.'

Give thanks that we've been serving remote communities in Liberia since 2015. Please pray for our passengers, personnel and planes, and the airstrips that play such a vital role in MAF's ministry. Without suitable strips, MAF planes cannot land – leaving vulnerable villagers cut off from the outside world.

Malaria campaign

Every minute, a child in Africa dies from malaria – a curable disease. And during the wet season, malaria only gets worse. Find out more about how hospitals like Noah's Place Mission Hospital rely on MAF to fly medicine to help save lives. Please visit www.maf-uk.org/malaria25

Prayer WhatsApp Channel

MAF has launched a new prayer WhatsApp Channel where you can be notified of up-to-date prayer requests from our programmes and staff. Sign up to follow MAF's prayer channel here – www.maf-uk.org/pray