Lake of HOPE!

Lake Tanganyika isn’t just home to amazing wildlife, three million people live in villages dotted along its shoreline. In total, more than 12 million people live in its basin (the land surrounding the lake), relying on its water for their food and livelihoods...

NG KIDS meets a lady who’s helping the people living in and around the oldest lake in Africa...

Hard to reach

Living in one of the most remote regions in the world, many of the communities in the Lake Tanganyika basin are extremely poor. Some are refugees from war-torn regions, others are former child soldiers. Surrounded by high mountains and impassable terrain, there’s virtually no access to some lakeside villages by road, an extremely limited mobile phone connection and no internet. And if you get poorly, finding a doctor is hard. Only basic healthcare centres are dotted around the lake. Most existing clinics, called ‘dispensaries’, do not have running water or electricity.

Health heroes

Fortunately, an organisation called The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic (LTFHC) is hoping to improve healthcare for people living in the basin — by building a hospital on a ship!

Water recovery

The £30m floating hospital that the LTFHC is planning to build will contain two operating theatres, a hi-tech laboratory, examining rooms, an intensive care unit and an in-patient department — just like a regular hospital.

Helping hands

Importantly, the hospital ship will also act as a teaching centre, training local healthworkers so they can take their newfound skills back to the local clinics surrounding the lake. “We know Tanganyika is a large lake and that we can’t be everywhere at all times, so that’s why we need to raise the overall standard of healthcare in the entire Lake Tanganyika basin,” says Amy. “We’re already training healthcare workers in rural health centres, installing solar lighting and improving radio communications around the lake.”

Great work, Amy. Good luck with the project!

The lake is vital to the people living in its waters.

Fishing is an important part of life for people living on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

One in four children living around the lake die before the age of five — but the LTFHC is working hard to change that.

Amy Lehman, the American doctor in charge of the LTFHC, is already helping hundreds of kids in local communities!

The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic is already helping local staff so they can continue the LTFHC’s vital work.

The Lake Tanganyika basin is rich in oil, gas and minerals used to make mobile phones.

To find out more about the Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic and to donate, swim over to floatingclinic.org now!