



WAVE

Water Based Aid, Value, Engagement

Supporting many millions of lives, Lake Tanganyika is one of the world's great natural ecosystems; holding nearly a fifth of our planet's fresh water, it is also a significant source of industrial minerals, timber, oil and gas. Today, the future of the lake and its basin hangs in the balance. There is serious potential for a downward spiral into conflict and terrorism, disease, and reckless extractive exploitation, thus leading to increased human misery, insecurity, the destruction of rare habitats, and the devastation of livelihoods.

Yet there is also cause for hope.

The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic (LTFHC) has found new and effective ways of working in this isolated region by developing efficient models for healthcare delivery and health systems building, by improving supply chains and communications capacity and by promoting smart, cross-sector development. Importantly, we have become a trusted partner, intermediary, facilitator and knowledgeable consultant for those with a stake in Lake Tanganyika and its future.

Water Works

The LTFHC has been operating in sub-Saharan Africa for half a decade, mainly in the Lake Tanganyika Basin, bringing healthcare and other services to millions of isolated people.

Our work has been made especially effective by rediscovering three fundamental truths:

- **Water** is what supports the livelihoods of the millions of people living in the basin, uniting ethnically disparate communities
- **Water** is the essential resource that fuels the entire eco-system, including the Congo Basin and the world's 'second lung' – the forests of the Congo
- **Water** provides the most effective means of transporting people, supplies and care facilities across this isolated region where there are few good roads, rail or air links, and few telecommunications networks

Using the lake itself as a highway, the LTFHC team continues to deliver medical care, distribute vital supplies, revitalize lakeside clinics and enable new communications networks. This work has extended to disease mitigation programs, education and, for the first time, the gathering of valuable health data.



In the process, we have succeeded in establishing strong, trustworthy relationships with all the key stakeholders in the region – from tribal chiefs to multinational executives and ministers of state.

We know we have made a good start, but there is so much more to accomplish. We plan to do so by building a very special state-of-the-art hospital ship that provides education, information, and medical services to the communities and growing international work force bordering the lake.



Five Key Challenges

The Lake Tanganyika Basin, one of the last great undeveloped regions on Earth, faces at least five key challenges:

Disease

The Lake Tanganyika Basin is falling far behind the rest of Africa in healthcare, with epidemic malaria, cholera, typhoid and measles, high maternal and child mortality rates and overall life expectancy hovering between 45 and 48 years.

Curing Disease

The LTFHC project has created a model for a hub and spoke supply system that can deliver medical supplies, skilled care and training to previously abandoned areas. The proposed ship will become a referral partner for more complex cases, better diagnostics, access to surgery, eye and dental care, medical records, and supply logistics.

Lack of Infrastructure

Rugged terrain combines with meager or, more often, no infrastructure to make contact and distribution near to impossible for millions of people across several thousand square miles. With no telecommunications networks, calling for help in an emergency is hopeless.

Curing with Communication

Traveling from shore to shore between communities and countries, our new floating clinic will improve the lake's overall supply and communications. The ship won't just carry doctors and drugs but also news, ideas, supplies, working high frequency radios – and hope.

The Knowledge Gap

Barriers of language and dialect, mutual distrust, an almost non-existent communications infrastructure, and the absence of reliable data all combine to create a vast knowledge gap about this globally significant region of Africa.

Curing Ignorance

The LTFHC has already built and is now extending its networks of influence, contacts and local knowledge. This has made us the prime go-to source for any donor governments, philanthropists, non-profit organizations and multinational corporations that need to understand the complexities and stakes at play in the Lake Tanganyika Basin.

Conflict and Instability

The long series of bloody wars and continuing skirmishes fought for more than 20 years in and around the lake have left between three and six million dead, with countless millions more injured, traumatized and displaced. They've also created a security and development vacuum rendering this fragile region vulnerable to armed rebel groups and vicious warlords with growing affiliations to global terrorist networks.

Curing Conflict

The LTFHC's unique eyes and ears on the ground provide us a valuable role in promoting improved communications and greater cooperation between different communities and ethnicities, as well as increasing the transparency of the basin. Our existing program also provides presence, knowledge and contacts that create crucial bridgeheads for those seeking to engage with the governments and peoples of the region.

Resource Paradox

Lake Tanganyika has bountiful natural resources: fresh water, fish, and hardwood-rich forests, along with minerals and metals. Recent surveys suggest the basin also possesses large oil and gas deposits under her lakebed. Previous experience has shown that natural resources can blight communities and environments if not managed thoughtfully.

Curing the Paradox

Natural resource wealth can mutually benefit businesses, governments and people when addressed within a framework of sustainable and responsible resource management. Establishing such a framework requires companies and organizations to be able to work within a stable environment in which their risks of entry and operation are mitigated. Here, too, the LTFHC's connections and wealth of knowledge can enable mutual understanding, transparency, cooperation and partnerships.



Vision

Our work to date has made a genuine impact on the health and understanding of the lakeside communities. Now we are expanding our efforts and taking them to the next level with a purpose-built ship designed to transform both the quantity and quality of medical and educational services we can provide. Launching a hospital ship onto the lake will provide effective dispensing, diagnostic and treatment facilities from a specialized vessel designed to serve the basin as a Regional hospital and referral base.

Our ship will also transform the reach and effectiveness of our equally vital work in education, communications, data gathering and advocacy, making us an even more effective partner and source of expertise, insights, data and contacts for those who want to work in this rich and complex region. These capabilities and relationships can then be leveraged to combat the encroaching forces of destruction, while creating a powerful network for positive change and local empowerment.

We can build on what we have already created to help the world understand just how much this resource rich region has to offer, and to continue developing sustainable models for future engagement. Our data gathering and research capacity can also be applied to multiple programs crossing sectoral boundaries. These include the implementation of water security and long-term protection strategies across the basin – one of the last intact ecosystems in the world.

Lake Tanganyika

- The longest and second largest lake in the world, holding almost a fifth of the world's available fresh water
- The basin supports 12-13 million people
- 1,900 km shoreline, sustains over 3.5 million people living on the lakeside
- Bordered by four countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, and Zambia
- One of the last genuinely untouched biodiversity hotspots with 1,500 species, half of which are native to the basin
- 600 unique aquatic species
- Helps sustain the world's 'second lung' – the Congo Basin forests
- Western shore abounds in industrial minerals
- Massive oil and gas reserves
- Limited cell-phone coverage
- Hazardous or non-existent roadways
- The Great Lakes Region has suffered over 6 million dead in multiple wars

Get Involved

The LTFHC is ready to work with organizations that are issue-based or project-based, providing a range of data, knowledge, expertise and the capabilities to help global and local initiatives succeed.

To find out more about our work on Lake Tanganyika, talk to one of our staff, or receive our full brochure, please make contact now:

1646 North Leavitt Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647

+ 1.312.715.8342

www.floatingclinic.org

info@floatingclinic.org

Facebook: facebook.com/LTFHC

Twitter: [twitter.com/@LTFHC](https://twitter.com/LTFHC)