


Lake of HOPE!

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

 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...

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. **Malaria** is still the number one killer here, and life-threatening diseases include cholera, typhoid and measles.



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



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*! "People think the idea of a floating hospital is crazy," laughs **Amy Lehman**, the American doctor in charge of the LTFHC. "But it's exactly what the communities around Lake Tanganyika want. The idea that an **ambulance** could be a **motorboat** that'll pick you up from the shore and zip you to a hospital ship may seem strange to us, but it's not really that different to what an ambulance does in the UK." Amy and her team are already working with local communities, using boats to transport patients who need operations to health clinics that would otherwise be **inaccessible**. In some cases, these clinics are across the lake in neighbouring countries.

Amy hopes this model ship will soon become a reality!



DID YOU KNOW...?

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



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



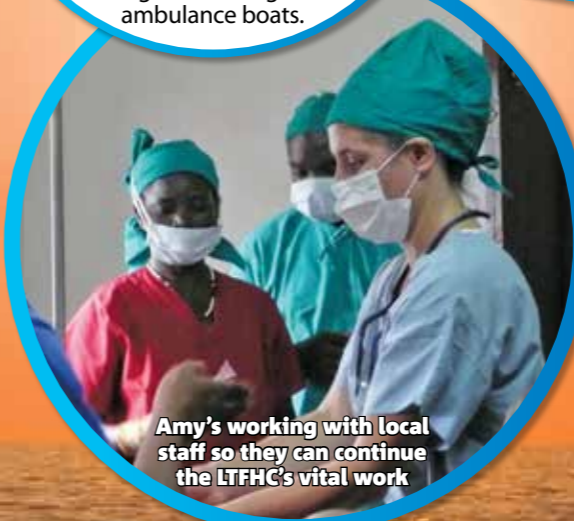
Water recovery

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. Once the money has been raised, the 65m-long ship will travel around the lake, stopping at communities for a week or two. They'll respond to emergencies using small ambulance boats.

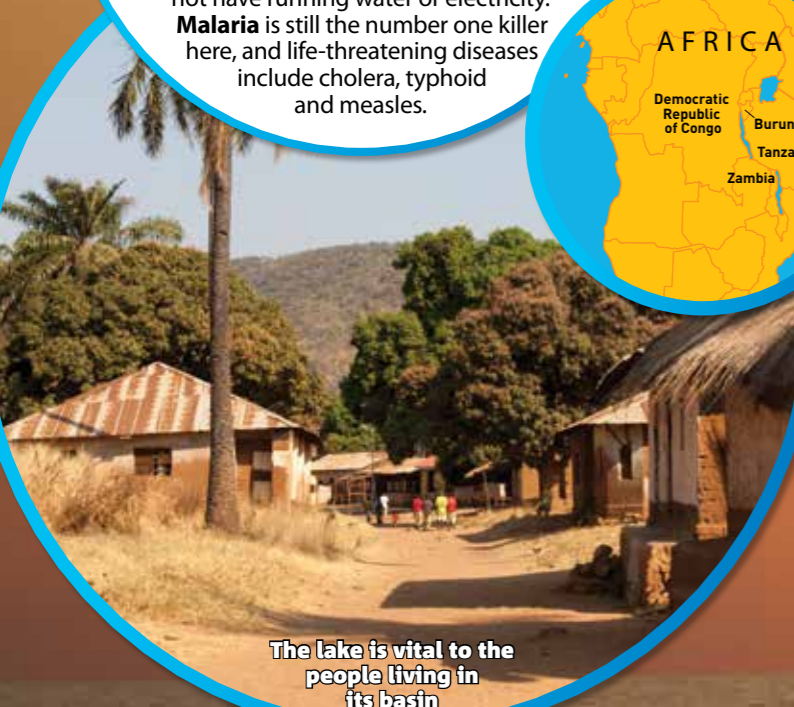
The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic is already helping hundreds of kids in local communities!

Helping hands

Importantly, the hospital ship will also act as a **teaching centre**, training local healthworkers so they can take their new-found 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!



Amy's working with local staff so they can continue the LTFHC's vital work



The lake is vital to the people living in its basin



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