

Annual report 2023



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This chapter provides an overview of the structure of this annual report. Furthermore, it elaborates on the background as to why this report has been written.

1.1 Structure of the report

This report discusses the following topics; the mission and vision of Eye for Zambia, local team, board members and governance structure. This is followed by a report on the 2023 activities and the strengthening of human resources of the foundation. In the next chapter, the profit and loss statement will be discussed which is followed by the balance sheet. This annual report also provides insight in our plans for next year. The final chapter comprise the conclusion and the approval of the board. All valuta as shown in this report are Euros unless stated otherwise.

1.2 Background of the report

The main purpose of this report is to provide (financial) accountability to its stakeholders. The Eye for Zambia foundation was established in 2016. The foundation is ANBI-certified by the Dutch Tax Administration.¹ Eye for Zambia is registered with the following number: 856314924.²

At least 90% of the efforts of an ANBI have to be focused on the general good. If in a calendar year the sum of someone's gifts to ANBIs exceeds 1% of the Dutch threshold income, the excess, with a maximum of 10% of that income, is deductible income. In order to maintain this ANBI-status, it is of crucial importance to provide the necessary information throughout this annual report



Figure 1 Macha Mission Hospital main entrance

¹ The Dutch Tax Administration can designate an institution to be a "Public Benefit Organisation" (Dutch: Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling, ANBI).

² <https://www.eyeforzambia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ANBI-gegevens-1-1.pdf>



Figure 2 The Eye Clinic

Chapter 2 Mission and Vision

This chapter discusses the mission and vision of Eye for Zambia. Furthermore, it contains information regarding the team involved. The chapter concludes with an in-depth discussion regarding the governance structure.

2.1 *Mission and Vision*

Eye for Zambia's mission is: *Good eye sight for everyone*

This has led to the following mission statement:

"Towards good vision for everyone and improved quality of life for people living with avoidable and treatable blindness in the Macha region"

The Eye for Zambia foundation has contributed to the start-up and establishment of an eye clinic in Macha, Zambia, in strong collaboration with the Macha Mission Hospital.

Improving sight for residents of Zambia has an important side effect. Besides the enormous impact on a patient's quality of life, research shows that every euro invested generates 4 euros in economic profit. That is mainly because a whole cycle of poverty is broken. Children are no longer need to take care of their blind parents so that they can work again and their children can go back to school. This has an enormous positive effect on the economy of Zambia.



Figure 3 Outreach eye screening

Many populations continue to suffer of the consequences of poor access to high quality eye care, leading to vision impairment and blindness.³ In Zambia, a country with over 19 million residents, a significant number of people is blind or visually impaired. In approximately 80% of this group, the eye condition can be easily treated or prevented with e.g. surgery (cataract) or glasses, with an enormous positive impact on a person's life. Furthermore, the number of ophthalmologists within Zambia is limited. Until recently on every million residents, there was about 1 ophthalmologist. Because of efforts of the government together with NGO's, this number is increasing, but still not exceeding 3 ophthalmologists per million. Compared to the Netherlands (44 ophthalmologists per million residents) and the United States (81 per million) this is very limited. Another problem is the lack of knowledge on this subject. Of the people with cataract, 43% is unaware of possible treatment. Also reaching good eye care is often

³ The Lancet Global Health Commission (Volume 9, Issue 4, E4890E/551, April 01, 2021)

impossible due to high transport costs and long travelling distances.

The Zambian government and the Zambia Ophthalmology Society have a great ambition to strengthen the eye care sector. This by creating more training facilities for ophthalmic nurses and ophthalmologists. In accordance with this mission and in collaboration with the above parties, Eye for Zambia contributes to the treatment of patients and the training of healthcare personnel.

In short, good eye care is much needed in Zambia and can make an important contribution to the mission of Eye for Zambia: good vision for everyone.

2.2 *Local team*

Medical staff working in the eye clinic is paid by the Zambian government. The non-medical staff and the staff of the optic shop is (partially) paid by Eye for Zambia.

The Board of Eye for Zambia is formed by the following people (as per December 2023):

- Chairman: B. W. (Bram) van Kooij
- Secretary: L.M. (Laura) Verkerk
- Treasurer: R.T. (Rinze) Beursken
- Member: M.A.M. (Mireille) de Laat

2.3 *Governance structure*

The board of Eye for Zambia is leading in the governance of the foundation. The meetings of the board have a periodicity of at least once every three months. The board amongst others focuses on sustainability of the donations as well as discussing the future strategy. The board members do not receive payment for their work for Eye for Zambia.

The Advisory Board of Eye for Zambia has the following members, who are also volunteers: Drs. S. Verkerk, ophthalmologist, and Dr. T. Verkerk-Brussee, optometrist. They advise both the board of Eye for Zambia and the clinic in Macha, which is managed by mr. Elton Munguya, clinical manager. Directly under the clinical manager are the nurses, and the logistic manager who is responsible for the other personnel. Mr. Munguya is the clinical manager and also the paramedical ophthalmologist, which makes him accountable for the eye clinic towards the management of Macha Mission Hospital (both the Head of clinical care and the Medical Superintendent).

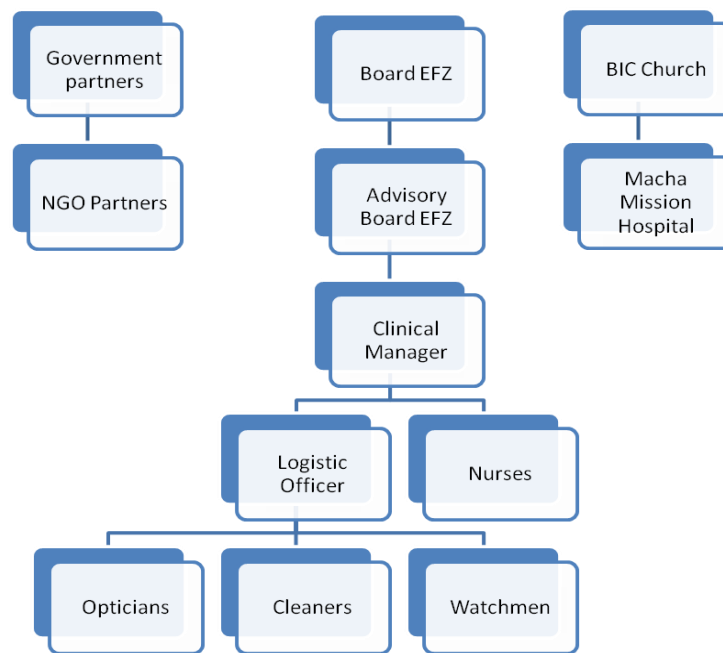


Figure 3 Organogram December 2023. NGO partners vary from international NGOs to Zambian based NGOs. BIC Church and Macha Mission Hospital are the Zambian partners of Eye for Zambia, which the workers also have to report to.

2.4 Clinic transferred to local staff

In January 2017, Eye for Zambia started their activities in Macha Mission Hospital. After training the local staff, setting up protocols, establishing an optic shop and so much more, the clinic was transferred the local management in 2020. For more details, see paragraph 3.1.



Figure 4. Eye examination of patient



Figure 5 Nurses in training removing eye patches from operated patients

Chapter 3 Clinical activities 2023

3.1 *Introduction*

In January 2017, Eye for Zambia started their activities in the Macha Mission Hospital, Choma district, Southern Province, Zambia and surroundings. The Dutch ophthalmologist Samuël Verkerk and optometrist Tamara Verkerk – Brussee were sent to Zambia to set up the eye clinic together with the local staff. The local staff was trained to run the eye clinic, protocols were set up, an optic shop was established and so much more was achieved.

A chronological list of activities:

- 2017: The outpatient clinic was active and cataract operations were performed.
- 2018: Logistics were improved and cataract services expanded. The optical shop provided prescription glasses. Construction of a new eye clinic has started.
- 2019: In September, both the outpatient clinic and the optical shop were moved to the new building. A few months later the operating room was put into use.
- 2020: Clinical activities continued despite COVID-19. In April, the eye clinic was fully transferred to the local partners, with the ophthalmologist and optometrist returning to the Netherlands. The head of local management is the clinical officer: Mr. Elton Munguya.
- 2021: Eye for Zambia focused on capacity building and sent 2 employees (Elton Munguya and Abraham Mudenda) to school for an upgrade of their diploma.
- 2022: Elton Munguya completes his upgrade and becomes medically licensed in ophthalmology. The same year, one of the nurses (Luyando Munachilala) was sent to school to become an ophthalmology nurse.

There is regular contact to ensure mutual involvement between the Netherlands and Zambia. A representative of Eye for Zambia visits the eye clinic 2-4 times a year. In this way, local developments are monitored and ideas can be exchanged about the (future) policies of the clinic.



Figure 6 Patients who have been operated on (cataract surgery) by the Macha eye clinic



Figure 7 Patient received new glasses in order to help with photophobia complaints

3.2 Out patients and outreaches

The total patient numbers of 2023 were comparable to 2022, even though Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM) stopped supporting the outreaches of the Eye Clinic. This was because Eye for Zambia funded the outreaches.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Q1 New	161	235	661	570	628	709	1645	758
Q2 New	303	569	560	757	519	700	1029	1221
Q3 New	353	624	850	487	739	575	1034	1051
Q4 New	205	552	617	746	986	1300	724	1128
Total New	1022	1980	2688	2560	2872	3284	4432	4158
Total Including Reviews	n/a	n/a	4248	4185	5147	5050	6691	6707

Figure 8 Overview of the number of patients per quarter and totals (2016-2023)



Figure 9 Happy 20 year old patient who was helped with cataract surgery which enabled him to get his eye sight back

3.3 Age and sex distribution

In 2023, the numbers of patients were skewed toward under 20s. This is consistent with the population pyramid in Zambia. The median age in Zambia is around 16.5 years. 56% of the new patients was female, 44% was male, which is comparable to previous years.

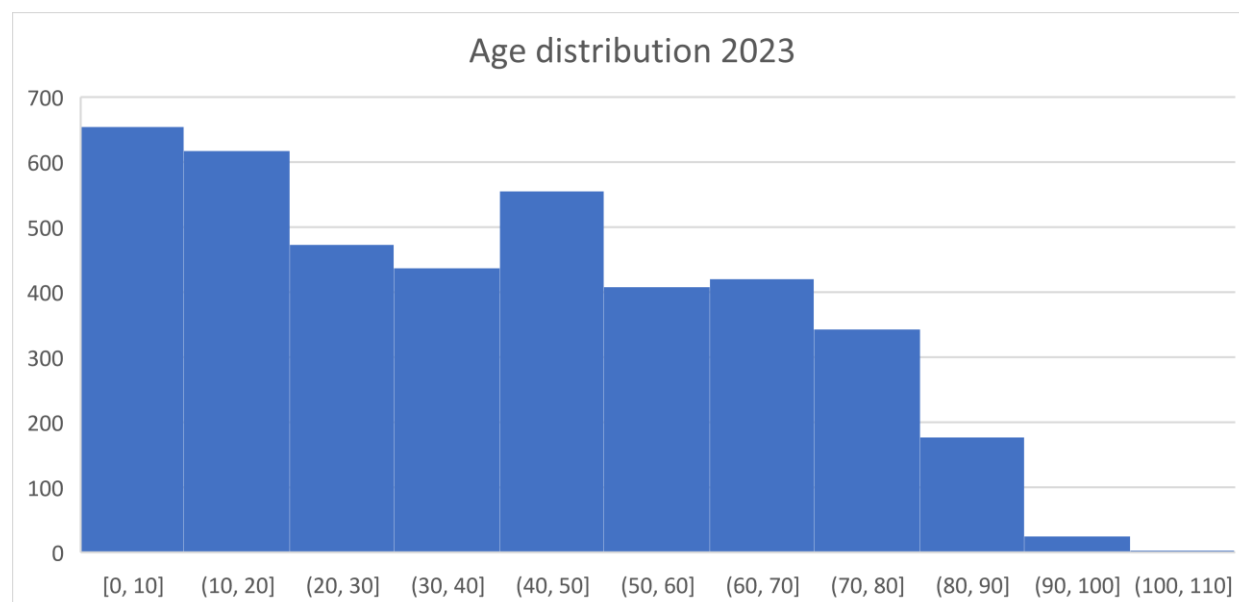


Figure 10 Age of patients

3.4 Operations

In 2023 the number of operations was higher than previous years, mainly because of the help of CBM, who participated in outreach programmes and operating camps.

Procedure	Total
Small incision cataract surgery	210
Other cataract surgery	1
Evisceration	2
Excision and Chalazion	40
Repair	12
Trachoma surgery	14
Pterygium	36
Foreign Body removal	48
Others	18
Total	381

Figure 11 Numbers of patients per treatment

The total number of SICS (small incision cataract surgery) was 210; and the number of other cataract surgeries 1. Just like other years, excisions of conjunctival growths and eviscerations (removal of the eye) were common operations. It is striking that the number of trachoma surgeries has been increasing in the past years. Probably this is because the outreaches are going farther into rural areas than before.

All surgeries took place at Macha Mission Hospital. The Eye for Zambia team did not perform procedures at other clinics. Most surgeries were done by the cataract surgeon and visiting ophthalmologists.



Figure 12 Cataract surgery observed by students



Figure 13 Screening patients during World sight day 2023

3.5 *Training and capacity building*

Training of staff is a core value of Eye for Zambia. Effort has been made to recruit and select the most suitable people to work with the Eye for Zambia team. Elton Munguya was sent to Tanzania in 2017 to be trained as a cataract surgeon. His two year training was sponsored with help from Eye for Zambia. His training finished in August 2019. Because of new requirements of the Zambian government, he had an upgrade of his diploma to a Bachelor's degree in Ophthalmology in 2021. During the whole year he was at school in Lusaka at Levy Mwanawasa University.

A training for Registered Nursing was funded for Abraham Mudenda and Patience Cheelo as a prerequisite for further studies to become an ophthalmic nurse. In 2021 Abraham Mudenda commenced his studies at Levy Mwanawasa University to become a Bachelor in Ophthalmic Nursing. He will be in training for 3 years. In 2022, Luyando Munachilala started her training for Bachelor in Ophthalmic nursing. In 2023, Anton Simfukwe started his training to become a Bachelor in Ophthalmic Nursing.

In collaboration with Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM), a training for Community Health workers was conducted in 2021. In this way, the quality of basic care of Community Health workers is improved, and they are more proficient to identify cataracts.

The eye clinic also provides practical training for students of the Macha School of Nursing and international exchange students.

Chapter 4 Profit and Loss Statement

This chapter contains the Profit and Loss Statement, please see overview below. Regarding the revenues, a distinction has been made between private individuals and foundations and enterprises.

On costs, the line 'transferred to local bank account' relates to a local bank account that is used for the local expenses. The total result of 2023 has landed on EUR 25k positive. It remains of crucial importance that additional financial donations will be received in 2024 in order to continue with eye care. If needed, additional information can be provided.

	2023	2022
<i>Revenues from fundraising private individuals</i>	38.163	29.953
<i>Revenues from foundations and enterprises</i>	76.476	900
Total revenues	114.639	30.853
<i>Insurance costs</i>	605	605
<i>Training costs</i>	-	1.477
<i>Travel costs</i>	4.653	5.419
<i>Other costs</i>	6.698	11.298
<i>Transferred to local bank account</i>	71.658	57.665
<i>Fight for Sight / Wilde ganzen</i>	5.954	20.000
Total costs	89.568	96.464
Result	25.071	(65.611)

Thank
you 

Chapter 5 Balance Sheet

Below the Balance Sheet per 31 December is shown. The realized result as shown in the Profit and Loss Statement in the previous chapter, is logically part of the equity.

	Dec-23	Dec-22		Dec-23	Dec-22
<i>Cash and bank equivalents</i>	80.871	55.800	<i>Equity start of the year</i>	55.800	121.411
<i>Current assets</i>	80.871	55.800	<i>Profit/loss current year</i>	25.071	(65.611)
			<i>Equity end of the year</i>	80.870	55.800
Total assets	80.871	55.800	Total liabilities	80.870	55.800



Figure 14 The optometrist: Constance Mwale

Chapter 6 Plan for 2024

In the coming year, Eye for Zambia wants to continue working on its core activity, which is to offer integrated eye care to people in the Macha region and beyond. Plans for 2024 stem from the ambitions of the Eye for Zambia board, the ambitions of the local staff and new regulations from the government or Eye Society of Zambia.

In 2024, the focus will be on:

1. Outreaches are a very good way to reach patients. A hiccup in outreach planning is transportation. Transport of health workers to villages and transport for patients requiring specialized eye care at the clinic in Macha. Our goal is to organize good transport facilities for everyone who provides and needs eye care
2. The aim is to grow to at least 6000 unique patients. Patients in the Macha area now know where to find the clinic. However, people who live further away are limited by the great distance to get to the clinic. To see more patients, we will focus more on outreaches and collaboration with other clinics.
3. Various employees participate in courses and training. This will strengthen their knowledge and skills. Two people are training to become ophthalmic nurses.
4. Continuity of care is also an important point of attention. Although remote, as a board we try to keep close contact with the local staff, to motivate them and to see if we can meet their needs. This way we keep them tied to the clinic. We are also strengthening our local network with clinics inimba, Namwala and Choma.
5. Monitoring and evaluation. Because our communication is based on input and data from the local team, we have processes in place to ensure that the eye clinic is working properly and to the standards. Inventory maps, reporting logs and other resources are deployed in this way. Visits by the (advisory) board members will be continued this year.
6. Collaboration with local and international partners remains essential for the eye clinic. This leads to strong partnerships and sustainable funding. This is undoubtedly true for both NGOs and government actors (Eye health Coordinator, Provincial Health Director, the Zambian Ophthalmology Society, and eye care providers).
7. Special target groups (people living with albinism and school students) have been selected to provide ongoing care. This has been agreed because of the special focus on visually impaired in Macha. As a foundation, we want to invest in the clinic that is available to everyone, including vulnerable groups.
8. Efforts are also being made to reduce the risk of dropout, in particular by informing patients in the eye clinic and during outreaches. Working together with ambassadors (previously operated patients) to reduce anxiety receives continuous attention.

Chapter 7 Approval of the Board

Please note that this Annual report can be qualified as final after it has been signed by every member of the Board of the Eye for Zambia foundation.

Approval annual report 2023 members of the Board foundation Eye for Zambia

Chairman: B.W. (Bram) van Kooij



Secretary: L.M. (Laura) Verkerk



Treasurer: R.T. (Rinze) Beursken



Member: M.A.M. (Mireille) de Laat

