

Annual report 2024



Houten, Mei 2025



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A personal notice from the board about 2024

To our great sorrow, we had to say goodbye to our chairman Bram van Kooij. He passed away in February 2025. For the last six years he was a driving force on our board and in the last four years in the position of chairman. Bram, you had a network for everything, and because of your efforts many patients can see again in Zambia. You also visited Zambia several times to support the local team and treat patients as an ophthalmologist. You did this with passion and dedication, very inspiring for us and for the Zambian team. A few quotes from the ophthalmology team in Zambia: "Doctor Bram was an extra ordinary person who touched the lives of everyone he met". "He was so caring, understanding, kind and loving towards the patients and staff. He always put people's needs first before his".

Bram, we are forever grateful for all you have done!



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 2024 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 into our plans for next year. The final chapter comprises 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 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 Eye screening

Many populations continue to suffer from 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% are unaware of possible treatment. Also reaching good eye care is often 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 are 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 Kooij⁴
- Secretary: L.M. (Laura) Verkerk
- Treasurer: R.T. (Rinze) Beursken
- Member: M.A.M. (Mireille) de Laat

The Board of Eye for Zambia contains the following people as per January 2025:

- Chairman: L.M. (Laura) Verkerk
- Secretary: M.A.M. (Mireille) de Laat
- Treasurer: R.T. (Rinze) Beursken

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

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

⁴ Bram passed away on February 6th in 2025. More information on p.3.

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).

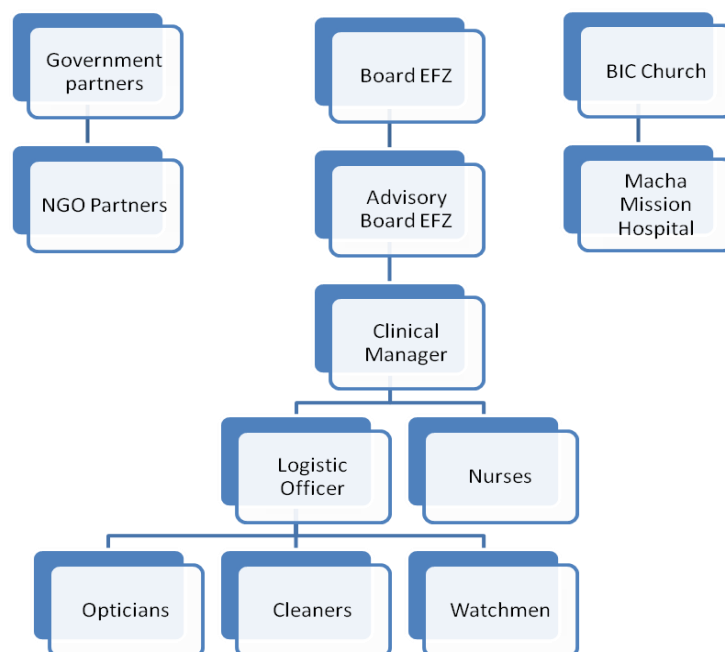


Figure 3 Organogram December 2024. NGO partners vary from international NGOs to Zambian based NGOs. BIC Church and Macha Mission Hospital are the Zambian partners of Eye for Zambia, which the workers also have to report to.

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 to the local management in 2020. For more details, see paragraph 3.1.



Figure 4. Eye assessment



Figure 5. Testing visual acuity

Chapter 3 Clinical activities 2024

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 two 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.
- 2023: Komana Siasikabole was sent to school for technical training so that he could better maintain the equipment of the eye clinic.
- 2024: Abraham Mudende passed his ophthalmic nurse training. Anton Simfukwe started his ophthalmic nurse training. Also Eye for Zambia helped raise funds for the renovation of the wards of Macha Mission Hospital, so that eye patients can be helped accurately after an operation.

There is regular contact to ensure mutual involvement between the Netherlands and Zambia. A representative of Eye for Zambia visits the eye clinic 1-2 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 after cataract surgery

3.2 Out patients and outreaches

The total patient numbers of 2024 were more than in 2023. Every year we are able to reach more people.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Q1 New	161	235	661	570	628	709	1645	758	1300
Q2 New	303	569	560	757	519	700	1029	1221	1012
Q3 New	353	624	850	487	739	575	1034	1051	1139
Q4 New	205	552	617	746	986	1300	724	1128	1333
Total New	1022	1980	2688	2560	2872	3284	4432	4158	4784
Total Including Reviews	n/a	n/a	4248	4185	5147	5050	6691	6707	7274

Figure 8 Overview of the number of patients per quarter and totals (2016-2024)



Figure 9 outreach screening

3.3 Age and sex distribution

The numbers of patients in Macha were skewed toward under 20s. This is consistent with the population pyramid in Zambia. The median age in Zambia is around 16.5 years. Every year about 55-60% of the patients are female and 40-45% is male.

3.4 Operations

In 2024 the number of operations was comparable to 2023. The number of cataract surgeries was higher than previous years, thanks to generous donors, who contributed to outreach programs and operating camps.

Procedure	Total
Small incision cataract surgery	236
Other cataract surgery	18
Evisceration	10
Excision and Chalazion	69
Repair	14
Trachoma surgery	10
Others	20
Total	377

Figure 11 Numbers of patients per treatment

The total number of SICS (small incision cataract surgery) was 236; and the number of other cataract surgeries 18. This number was higher because of a visiting Belgian ophthalmologist who has introduced Mr Munguya to phaco surgery (this is a more sophisticated but also more difficult technique of cataract surgery). 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 because of hygiene and logistic difficulties like bringing an operating microscope. Most surgeries were done by the cataract surgeon and some by visiting ophthalmologists.



Figure 12 Cataract surgery



Figure 13 after the operation

3.5 Outreaches

Until 2023, Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) was involved in outreach activities. They discontinued their support and therefore Eye for Zambia stepped in to seek donors for outreaches. In 2024, a total of 14 outreach days were performed, seeing a total of 1619 patients in an outreach setting (13 of 14 days were performed outside of the district, in highly rural areas), and operating a total of 186 cataracts that came out of these outreaches.

3.6 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 to upgrade 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 finished his training in 2024. In 2022, Luyando Munachilala started her training for a 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. It also helped to be more efficient during outreaches.

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 2024 has landed on EUR 12k positive. It remains of crucial importance that financial donations will be received in 2025 in order to continue with eye care. If needed, additional information can be provided.

	2024	2023
<i>Revenues from fundraising private individuals</i>	22.343	38.163
<i>Revenues from foundations and enterprises</i>	62.292	76.476
Total revenues	84.635	114.639
<i>Insurance costs</i>	(605)	(605)
<i>Costs for medicines and equipment</i>	(2.272)	-
<i>Training costs</i>	(450)	-
<i>Travel costs</i>	(3.261)	(4.653)
<i>Other costs</i>	(3.638)	(7.079)
<i>Transferred to local bank account</i>	(63.631)	(71.658)
<i>Fight for Sight / Wilde ganzen</i>	-	(5.954)
Total costs	(73.856)	(89.949)
Result	10.779	24.690
<i>Interest</i>	1.036	479
Result	11.815	25.170

*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-24	Dec-23		Dec-24	Dec-23
Cash and bank equivalents	91.749	80.871	Equity start of the year	80.970	55.800
Interest receivable	1.036	99	Profit/loss current year	11.815	25.170
Current assets	92.785	80.970	Equity end of the year	92.785	80.970
Total assets	92.785	80.970	Total liabilities	92.785	80.970



Figure 17 Happy patient seeing well again

Chapter 6 Plan for 2025

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 2025 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 2025 we will set up a plan towards even more financial sustainability together with our partners. For example not all salaries of the personnel and not all medication are covered by the government, the hospital or the insurance of a specific person. In the coming years we will work together with the hospital and BIC towards even more financial sustainability.

In 2025, 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 the 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

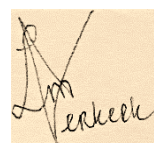
Please note that this Annual report can be qualified as final after it has been signed by every member of the Board of the Eye for Zambia foundation.

Approval annual report 2024 members of the Board foundation Eye for Zambia

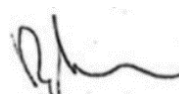
Chairman: B.W. (Bram) van Kooij

*Although Bram van Kooij was the chairman in 2024,
he passed away on the 6th of February 2025 and
therefore was not able to sign this annual report.*

Secretary: L.M. (Laura) Verkerk

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light brown rectangular background. The signature appears to be 'L.M. Verkerk'.

Treasurer: R.T. (Rinze) Beursken

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.T. Beursken'.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.A.M. de Laat'.