



Mission report Tanzania 2017 – Ophthalmology clinics at Momella

Beginning April 2017

The Saint Lucy foundation has been planning on setting foot on the African continent for quite a while. Thanks to the collaboration with the “Africa Amini Alama” organization this dream has become true.

The first step undertaken was the construction of a house intended for ophthalmology clinics at Momella, Tanzania, a small village situated between Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro. Up till now no facilities offering ophthalmic care have been set up in this region. We were set upon installing such possibilities as quickly as possible in order to help visually impaired people living in a remote and poor region to restore eyesight and hopefully bring happiness.

After construction work on our one-story building for ophthalmology clinics was finished in April 2017, our first field trip to Tanzania took place. Our journey encompasses recruitment of a local optometrist, festive initiation of the ophthalmology clinics, detailed prevalence analysis of the different ophthalmic pathologies to be found in the local community and preparation of the next steps to intensify our local work.

In September 2017 the Saint Lucy foundation was able to provide the local optometrist valuable instruments in order for him to be able to start the necessary examinations thanks to various donations. The primary goal to provide for regional basic ophthalmic care and to fit all generations with glasses could be achieved.

Saint Lucy’s next goal for 2018 is to organize basic surgical instruments needed locally. On the other hand local competence must be supported and expanded. More additional native experts will be recruited with the goal to exchange know-how between them and the Swiss specialists.