



MEDIA RELEASE

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It's World Sight Day today, the 14th of October.

World Sight Day is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of October. 80% of the 45 million blind people worldwide are over 50 years of age and 80% of the world's blindness can be avoided! Diseases that receive attention under the initiative include cataracts, trachoma, refractive error, low vision, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

The Doctors for Life International, Aid to Africa Team, is currently in Zambia doing clinics in Sipuma, a remote area in the south west, near the border with Angola. We have previously done clinics in other African countries such as Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The team works from a mobile operating theatre mounted on a truck. Traveling can be rough and it's not uncommon to get stuck, especially in the rainy season. Our aim is to reach those people who might otherwise not receive help, because they live in the most remote areas.

Although the team also undertakes general medical and dental work, the main focus of these clinics is to restore sight to those who are blind because of cataracts. Our ophthalmic surgeon members have helped many people see again and we intend to do about eighty eye operations on this trip. We also have other clinics planned for the future.

Doctors For Life International is an association of more than 1800 specialists and medical doctors. DFL endeavors to promote public health by upholding sound science in the medical profession, as well as the constitutional right to freedom of conscience for all healthcare professionals. For more information, please visit www.dfl.org.za