

Improving Medical Care for the Population in Namibia – A Research Project from Philipps University of Marburg

Namibia is an extremely sparsely populated country. The population is concentrated in a few cities in the fertile northern part of the country. Although Namibia is among the wealthier African countries, its economy is characterized by high unemployment and low wages.

At approximately 47 years, average life expectancy is very low. More than 20% of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS. There are only 30 doctors for every 100,000 residents.



This means that many people depend on humanitarian aid from abroad.



The head of the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetology at the University of Marburg, Prof. Dr. Dr. Herbert Kann, runs the project "An Investigation on the Effect of Change of Lifestyle on the Risk of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Osteoporosis in Indigenous Namibians."

Due to the difficult research conditions on site, he needed a mobile medical lab that could function independently of an electrical grid for his research.

The only choice for the on-site medical team's goals turned out to be the **Diasolab® mobile laboratory** from Diaglobal. It was the only tool that met all of their requirements for use under extreme conditions, as Prof. Kann's progress report shows:

„The case was used in a study bearing the title, An Investigation on the Effect of Change of Lifestyle on the Risk of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Osteoporosis in Indigenous Namibians by Dr. Anneke Voigts and Ms. Elisabeth Bothe of MTA in Opuwo (Namibia).

My collaborators were very satisfied with the handling of the photometer and the centrifuging and I was also able to be convinced on the spot of the results accuracy. „





In these investigations, we measured Hb, HDL, LDL, triglyceride and glucose levels. These investigations took place in a room we rented and not at a hospital or laboratory.

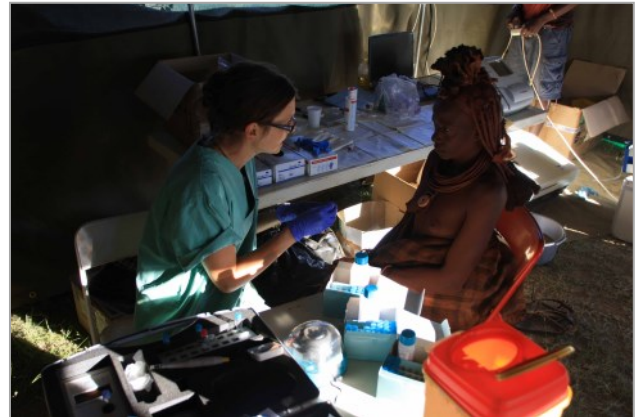
By using this compact, well-equipped solar coffer, we were able to perform accurately many different investigations in a room of minimum space.

My collaborators had previously laminated the instruction sheet "step by step" and were rapidly able to perform many single investigations."

Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Herbert Kann, November 2011



Waiting for the examination



Dr. Anneke Voigts during work



Sometimes also other patients need help



Dr. Anneke Voigts and Ms. Bothe in front of the field office of the endocrinology laboratory of Prof. Dr. Dr. Kann in Opuwo