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## DAKTARI FOR MAASAI PROJECT BRINGS DENTAL CARE TO EAST AFRICA COMMUNITIES

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With a massive population of 52 million people, Tanzania has a mere 250 dentists. Residents of the country's many rural communities are forced to walk long distances over difficult terrain to obtain any form of dental treatment and the standards of hygiene at many of these practices remain woefully underdeveloped.



Five years ago, when German dentist Prof Dr Martin Jörgens stayed at [&Beyond Klein's Camp](#), local guide Seleu introduced him not only to the area's fascinating wildlife, but also to the local culture. Seleu took Dr Jörgens to the nearby Ololosokwan Clinic, a ten-room medical facility that was built by [&Beyond's](#) community development partner, [Africa Foundation](#). The visit had such a profound effect on the doctor that he promised the resident physician, Dr Obed, that he would return to set up a dental care station at the facility and thus the Daktari for Maasai (Doctors for Maasai) project was born.

Returning to fulfil his promise, Dr Jörgens and his team conducted the initial trial run of their mobile dental clinic in the communities surrounding [&Beyond Lake Manyara Tree Lodge](#), [&Beyond Klein's Camp](#) and the Ololosokwan Clinic. This experiment proved valuable, as the travelling dentists had to learn to make do without such essentials as electricity and running water, not to mention adapting to the local conditions.



Fully prepared this time, the doctors returned once again with a consignment of surgical suction pumps and other dental instruments for the Ololosokwan and Mayoka Clinics. Word quickly spread among their patients and, in just 14 days, Dr Jörgens and his team were able to treat more than 650 Maasai, including children from local schools.

Daktari for Maasai continues to work closely with [&Beyond](#) and the Africa Foundation to provide much-needed dental work once or twice a year to patients with ailments ranging from cavities and wide gaps to root canals and more. On his most recent visit, Dr Jörgens even brought along a plastic surgeon who was able to conduct a number of successful corrective surgeries.



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#### ABOUT &BEYOND

&Beyond is one of the world's leading luxury experiential travel companies, designing personalised luxury safaris in 15 African countries, as well as arranging bespoke tours in India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Chile and Argentina. The company also owns and operates 33 extraordinary lodges and camps in Africa and India that positively impact more than 9 million acres of wildlife land. Established in 1991, &Beyond takes exceptional care of its guests in order to make a difference; its commitment to sustainable responsible travel, conservation and community empowerment has been globally recognised with multiple awards over the years.

#### ABOUT AFRICA FOUNDATION

Founded in 1992, Africa Foundation has built up a highly successful track record in empowering and enriching the lives of communities living adjacent to conservation areas, specifically in the areas of healthcare, education and enterprise development. It is a registered trust, tax exempt and non-profit organisation, supported by the [Africa Foundation](http://www.africafoundation.org.uk) UK and Africa Foundation USA, as well as &Beyond, lodge guests and other donors. To find out how you can personally contribute to similar projects, please visit [www.africafoundation.org.za](http://www.africafoundation.org.za).

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