

Good Vision

January 2023

Happy New Year!

We hope your 2023 is off to a wonderful start! Here at GoodVision we are so excited for everything that this new year holds for us. In December, our Liberia team members Matee Morris and Sayma Forkay, and our Executive Director in the U.S. Jennifer Hyde, participated in an international country development workshop hosted by GoodVision International in Germany. Participants traveled from GoodVision Projects around the world and met together to share ideas and plan for the future.



Check out this video to meet more of the GoodVision International community and to hear from them what they gained from this incredible opportunity.



"It has exposed me to new people with new ideas...one thing I want to work on...is helping people understand that their eyes are important. Once we are able to care of their eyes we are able to help them in their lives." - Matee Morris

After several years of remote communications due to the pandemic, Jennifer found it was especially motivating to connect in person and share with GoodVision colleagues from around the globe. "The days were long but meaningful," she reports, "and included such topics as:

- Creating a more unified GoodVision International structure
- Developing impact measurement tools that best reflect the good work we are doing
- Strategizing with colleagues in other GoodVision countries and the central administration in Germany to get needed support to allow our project in Liberia to flourish
- Learning from leaders in the global vision charity world about international goals to improve outcomes and how our work fits in.

"And of course, time to get to know each other and enjoy, perhaps, a stein of beer at the end of the day, a lebkuchen (traditional gingerbread), and a gluhwein at the local Christmas market."



Matee Morris, Liberia Program Director, reporting at the Country Development Workshop.



Matee with Marc Zedler, GoodVision Malawi Country Director, and Michael Schubert, Best Practice Team Member.

Matee Morris, Liberia Program Director, especially enjoyed the Country Development Workshop, where she learned what GoodVision teams were doing in other countries. The GoodVision team in Kenya, for example, works in other facilities and organizations, including some where there are no eye care activities. “This concept ... taught me that we can do a lot working with others than our own team.”

Sayma Forkay, Co-Program Director, was also enthusiastic about finally meeting colleagues in person. Upon landing in Germany, Karsten Wolf welcomed them “warmly, with sweets and fruit bags. He took us to Zeitwohnhaus Hotel in Erlangen and ensured our rooms were ready. He also took us to a fascinating restaurant with old-fashion designs.” Personal connections strengthened the value of the work sessions. “I took home some ideas on how countries like Burkina Faso expanded their network and solved their challenges, also how India incorporated others to empower them.”

Despite flight delays, lost luggage, unfamiliar food, and going from summer weather at 30°C to winter weather of -6°C and back again in just a few days, both Matee and Sayma found the trip worthwhile. “We have [updated] our plans with ideas we acquired at the strategy meeting,” Sayma reported. “I am optimistic that we will yield good sales this New Year.” They agreed that visiting the Christmas market was a highlight, although according to Matee, “the place was cold for me! Next time if I am to go to Germany during the same season I [will] know how to prepare.”

We are all eager to take insights from the workshop into the new year, and to make 2023 our best year yet! Thanks to your continued support we plan to reach more people than ever to bring quality eye care throughout Liberia!

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