



CENTRES for
HEALTH &
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PROGRAMMES

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CHEPs 44th Eye Camp

Venue: Lamu County Hospital, Lamu

Date: 7th & 9th January 2016

Introduction

It is alarming that 282 million people worldwide have abnormal vision and 14% of them are completely blind. Also of concern is the fact that 90% of visually impaired people live in low-income settings.

CHEPs is on a mission to improve the eye sight of such needy communities and prevent blindness among them. We do so by conducting eye camps, to examine them, conduct tests, and treat their eye diseases thereby preventing progression to blindness as well as provide them with spectacles to improve their vision. We also provide surgeries to restore vision among cataract blind people.

We have so far conducted 43 eye camps in low-income setups across Kenya providing services to over 9000 needy people. We have treated over 5000 of them with various eye medications, and providing over 3000 of them with spectacles. We have also operated over 500 cataract blind people to restore vision.

Our 44th eye camp was held in Lamu Island on invitation by Riyadhha Health Group during the annual cultural festival. Lamu also known as “The Island of festivals” is a UNESCO world heritage site that attracts tourists from all over the world. It however also faces a range of medical challenges including prevalent eye diseases.

The CHEPs team ran the eye department comprised of two separate clinics. An out patient clinic was run at the Riyadhha primary school during which 588 needy patients were treated for various eye diseases while a surgical clinic was run at the King Fahad Hospital where a total of 27 patients underwent eye surgeries.

Outpatient clinic:

Held at Riyadhha primary school the following services were offered by the CHEPs team free of charge:

- Eye drops dispensed to treat various eye diseases – 521
- Spectacles given out to improve vision – 285

- Cataract blindness diagnosed - 60
- Total number of patients served – 588

Surgical clinic:

The team held a surgical camp at the King Fahad Hospital to provide the much needed ophthalmic surgical services. The team conducted the following surgeries free of charge:

- Cataract surgeries to restore vision – 25
- Chalazion surgery to prevent damage to the eye cornea - 2

On follow up, all cataract surgeries were successful with vision restored in the patients. No complications have been reported, and all the beneficiaries have expressed heartfelt gratitude. Most of them were elderly, who had lived in a state of blindness for many years, but could not access treatment as it was not available locally and they could not afford to travel for it. Of note is Elvis Charo, a 9 year old boy who grew up with his right eye blind. This had interfered with normal learning as well as social interaction with other children not only due to poor vision but also due to stigmatization as he was known as the boy with “one eye”.

Photographs of the outpatient camp:



Eye camp in session



Visual acuity examination in progress



Visual acuity examination in progress



Eye camp in session



Consultation in progress



Retinoscopy examination in progress



Slit lamp examination in progress



Medication and spectacles dispensed free of charge



Eye camp in session

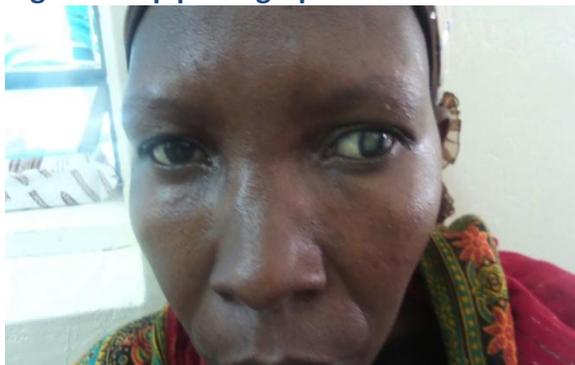


Eye camp in session



CHEPs outpatient clinic team

Surgical camp photographs



Cataract patient before surgery



Cataract patient before surgery



Cataract surgery ongoing



Cataract surgery ongoing



CHEPs team member administers local anaesthesia



CHEPs surgeon prepares to commence surgery



Patient awaits surgery following local anesthesia



Patient awaits surgery following local anesthesia



Patient assisted out of theatre following successful surgery



Patients happily recovering after surgery



Some of the patients following surgery



Some of the patients following surgery



CHEPs Surgical camp team

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to Beta Charitable Trust and Crescent Pharma LTD for sponsoring the camps. We also acknowledge donations of some eye drops from Globe Pharmacy and Harleys Pharmaceutical. Furthermore, we appreciate Riyadhha Health Group for logistical support.