



C H E P s

**CENTRES for
HEALTH &
EDUCATION
PROGRAMMES**

Empowering | Promoting Health, Education and Development | Improving lifestyles

CHEPs 54th Eye Camp

Venue: Garissa County

Donor: Beta Charitable Trust in memory of Suraiya Sarbuland

Date: 16th – 18st February 2017

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.

The Centres for Health and Education Programmes (CHEPs) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Kenya. Our goal is to empower, promote access and improve quality of health and education for the benefit of under resourced individuals and communities.

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.

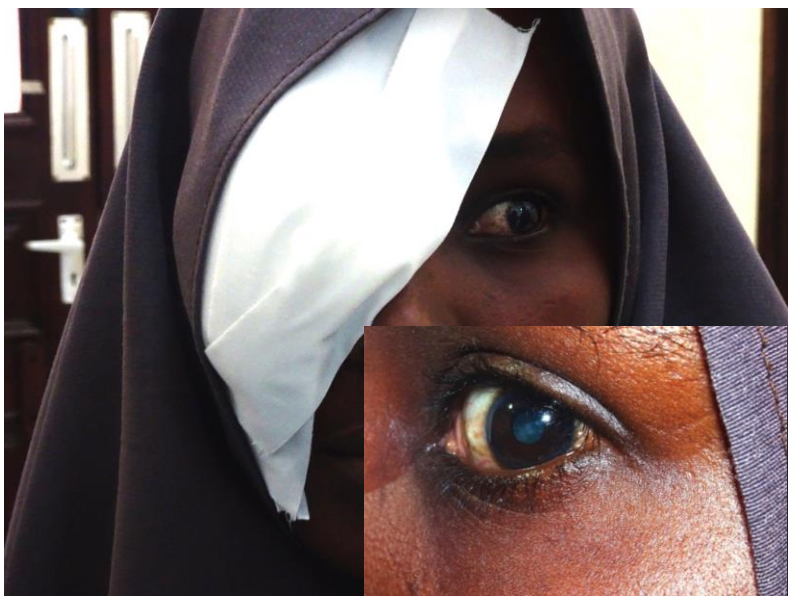
We have so far conducted 54 eye camps in low-income setups across Kenya providing services to over 11,000 needy people. We have treated over 6,700 of them with various eye medications, and providing over 4,000 of them with spectacles. We have also operated over 1000 cataract blind people to restore vision.

CHEPs 54th Eye Camp



Our 54th eye camp was held in Garissa with the aim of serving the neediest of the community. Patients came from very distant villages, many appearing weak and malnourished from the on-going drought.

Halima Yusuf, a 29 year old was among the many deserving beneficiaries. She was born blind and had lived all her life in that state, given that her parents and later her husband could not afford her treatment. She travelled more than 80km from Bangali village when she learnt of the camp accompanied by her uncle. She was delighted to be able to see when her bandage was removed the following day.



Halima immediately after surgery of right eye. Left eye (inset) still blind

Nikolas Mwangani, a 14 years old, class 6 student travelled 200km from Mwingi to seek attention on learning of our camp. He was pricked by a thorn in his left eye last year and stopped seeing with it. His class performance had deteriorated due to this, and he was even forced to repeat a year. We met him 10 days later, when we travelled to Garissa to distribute drought response food aid. He was very glad to see us and expressed his happiness for having regained his vision. He assured us that he would now work hard and improve his grades. He now aspires to become a doctor so that he can help other people as he has been assisted!



Nikolas when he met CHEPs team on his way to Garissa Hospital for follow up checking

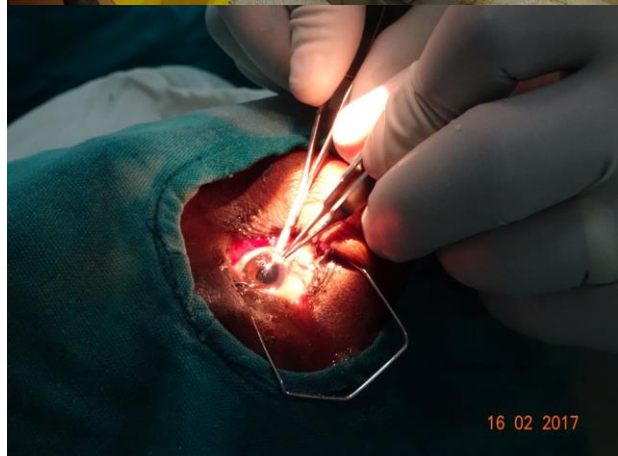
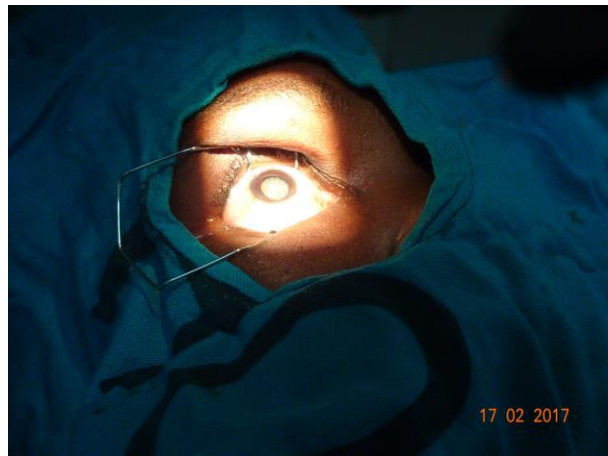
Below is a summary of the services that were offered by the team free of charge:

- Cataract surgeries to restore vision – 189
- Other eye surgeries (pterygium exision) – 1

On follow up of the operated patients, all the surgeries were successful and the patients had their vision restored. No complications have been reported, and all the beneficiaries have expressed heartfelt gratitude. Most of them were elderly, and weak 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.

Photographs of the outpatient camp:









The team

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to Beta Charitable Trust for sponsoring the camps. This sponsorship went a long way in restoring the vision of needy people. Many of the beneficiaries were noted to be malnourished, and it is believed that having their vision restored will reduce their dependence and enhance their ability to fend for themselves during this drought period. We look forward to more collaboration in future.