



CHEPs 105th EYE CAMP

GARISSA COUNTY

6-8 JULY 2021

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Beta Charitable Trust for sponsoring this camp. The support went a long way in providing much needed ophthalmic services to 127 blind men, women and children of Garissa County, thereby restoring their vision and empowering them as well as equipping medical students with ophthalmic skills. We look forward to more collaboration in future.

Introduction

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.

It is alarming that 282 million people worldwide have abnormal vision and 14% of these 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 prevent, improve or restore the eyesight of people in remote, marginalised and needy communities. CHEPs identifies the beneficiaries through its presence and wide network among these communities. CHEPs eye camps are organised in collaboration with local communities, leaders, hospitals and health workers. During the eye camps, beneficiaries are screened and provided advice and treatment for a variety of eye conditions. Spectacles are provided for refractive errors to improve their vision. Surgeries are conducted to restore vision among those blind due to cataract.

CHEPs has already conducted 105 eye camps among impoverished communities across Kenya providing services to over 44,498 needy people. Over 32,086 have been provided with various eye medications and over 13,726 supplied with spectacles. Over 5,593 surgeries have been performed restoring vision to the cataract blind.

The 105th eye camp was held in Garissa which is located 370 km from Nairobi and 200 km from Kenya's border with Somalia. Garissa has a total population of over 1,020,000 people, most of whom live nomadic lives. Patients came from very distant villages, many of them elderly, weak and malnourished.

THE EYE CAMP.

The CHEPs eye care team held the surgical camp at the Garissa County Referral Hospital to provide the much-needed ophthalmic surgical services. A total of **127 surgeries** were performed to correct and restore vision. Among the patients were 10 children who were operated under general anesthesia, two of them having been born blind and hence saw for the first time in their lives!

On follow up, all cataract surgeries were successful with vision restored in the patients. No complications have been reported, and all the beneficiaries were satisfied with the services and results and have expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in their treatment. Most of them were elderly, who had lived in a state of blindness for many years but could not access treatment due to financial and awareness constraints.

Of note is the added value that CHEPs eye camps provide in increasing awareness of community ophthalmology, as well as improve skills of health workers in ophthalmic services. They provide an opportunity for ophthalmology residents from major institutions including University of Nairobi and Kenya Medical Training College to join experienced CHEPs eye care providers and learn more about community eye health and improve their practical skills in the field.



Map showing the location of Garissa



Patients in the waiting room while wearing masks and maintaining social distance to prevent spread COVID-19



An ophthalmologist in training examining a patient.



Administering local anaesthesia

Operations in progress





Operated patients





















