

CHEPs 76th Eye Camp 1st – 6th October 2018 Kiambu County, Kenya

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Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) for sponsoring this camp. The support went a long way in providing much needed ophthalmic services to the needy people of Kiambu County and Kenya at large, thereby correcting their vision and empowering them. We look forward to more collaboration in future.

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. Vision impairment can create great difficulty among people and limit opportunities in education, employment and social engagement. It contributes greatly to lost productivity and poverty among communities. Many eye health problems can be prevented and treatments are among the most successful and cost-effective of all health interventions provided the intervention is timely. Major causes of visual impairment include: refractive error; age-related macular degeneration; cataract; diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

CHEPs is on a mission to improve the eye sight of 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 reversibly blind people such as cataract patients, as well as surgeries aimed at preventing blindness such as patients suffering glaucoma, which leads to irreversible blindness.

We have so far conducted 76 eye camps in low-income setups across Kenya providing services to more than 22,211 needy people. We have treated over 16,000 of them with various eye medications, and providing over 8,100 of them with spectacles. We have also operated over 2,537 cataract blind people to restore vision.

Our 76th eye camp was held in Kiambu County which neigbors Nairobi. Patients came from very distant villages, many appearing weak and malnourished.

The eye camp

The team held the camp at the Kiambu level 5 Hospital to provide the much needed ophthalmic surgical services. The turnout of patients was close to 3000. All patients were attended to with some 1,500 received spectacles and other 2,000 received eye drops to treat different conditions. The team also conducted **135 cataract surgeries and 6 pterygium excision.**

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 due to financial constraints.



Map of Kenya showing location of Kiambu County

Gallery

Registration of patients





Administration of local anesthesia





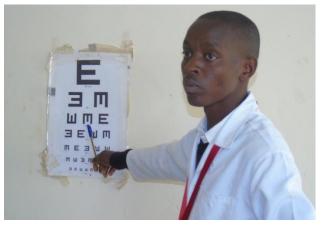
Patients waiting at the lounge





Taking Visual Acuity





Performing the surgeries









P. O. Box 23608-00100 Nairobi, Kenya | info@chepskenya.org | www.chepskenya.org