



**GIFTED SIGHT BY BCT**

**GARISSA EYE CAMP**

**25<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

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## Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Beta Charitable Trust and for sponsoring this camp. The support went a long way in providing much needed ophthalmic services to the needy people of Garissa 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 71 eye camps in low-income setups across Kenya providing services to more than 17,700 needy people. We have treated over 13,100 of them with various eye medications, and providing over 5,800 of them with spectacles. We have also operated over 2039 cataract blind people to restore vision.

Our 71<sup>th</sup> eye camp was held in Garissa which is located 370km 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 appearing weak and malnourished.

## The eye camp

The team held the surgical camp at the Garisa County Referral Hospital to provide the much needed ophthalmic surgical services. The team conducted **134 surgeries** to correct and restore vision. Among them, 2 children with bilateral congenital cataract.

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.

## Surgical camp photographs



Setting up the theatre

## Examination of patients



Patients are examined for blood pressure, blood sugar, and ophthalmic examination and biometry. Those that qualify for surgery were registered and their consent taken.

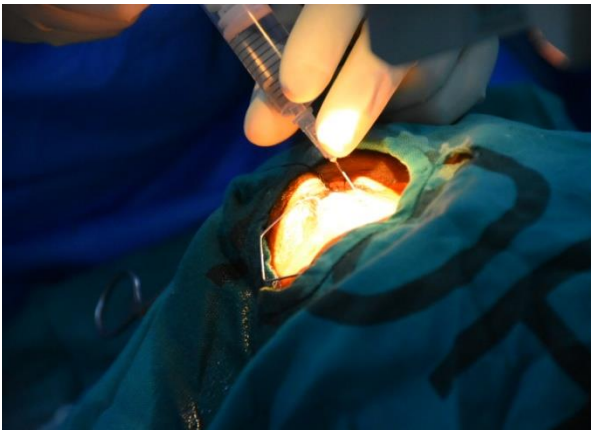
**Preparation and administration of local anesthesia**

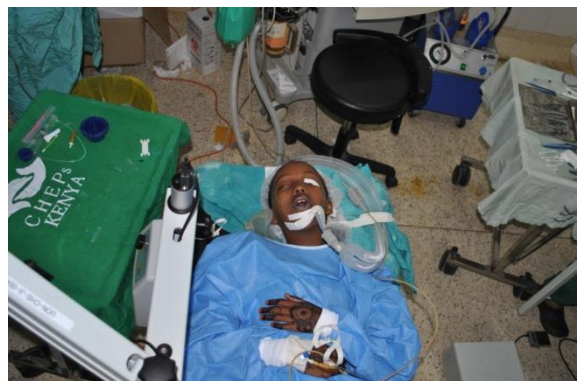


**Patients waiting at the lounge**



Performing the surgeries









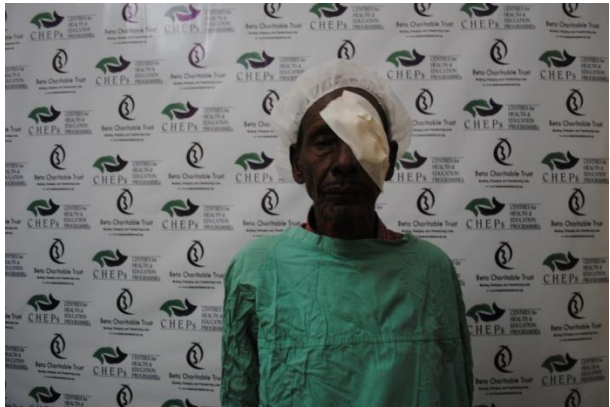
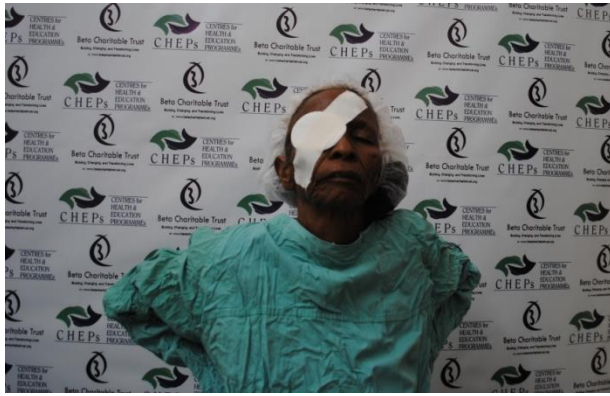
# Post operation







































Post operation, patients being counseled and reviewed





The team that made the camp a success