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THROUGH RESTORING  
VISION**

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**GIFTED SIGHT BY BCT  
CHEPs 86th EYE CAMP  
ELGIYO MARAKWET  
15th JUNE 2019**

**Sponsored by**



**Beta Charitable Trust**

## **Acknowledgement**

We are grateful to Beta Charitable Trust for sponsoring this camp. The support went a long way in restoring hope among needy people of Elgiyo Marakwet and Kenya at large, by curing their blindness 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 86 eye camps in low-income setups across Kenya providing services to more than 32,000 needy people. We have treated over 22,006 of them with various eye medications, and providing over 10,491 of them with spectacles. We have also operated over 3,471 cataract blind people to restore vision.

Our 86<sup>th</sup> eye camp was held in Elgiyo Marakwet which is located 420km from Nairobi. Elgiyo Marakwet has a total population estimated at 370,000 most of whom live in poverty. Patients came from very distant villages, many appearing weak and malnourished.

## **The eye camp**

The team held the surgical camp at Kapcherop Health Centre, Elgiyo Marakwet West. We had set out to operate on 60 patients that had been screened previously, but unexpected flash floods disrupted the camp on the first day. Only 15 of the patients were able to access the facility and it became necessary to close down the camp so as to avoid exposing the patients and the team to the dangers of floods and landslides, being a very hilly environment.

The few patients that benefited from the surgeries had their vision successfully restored. 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 showing the location of Elgeyo Marakwet

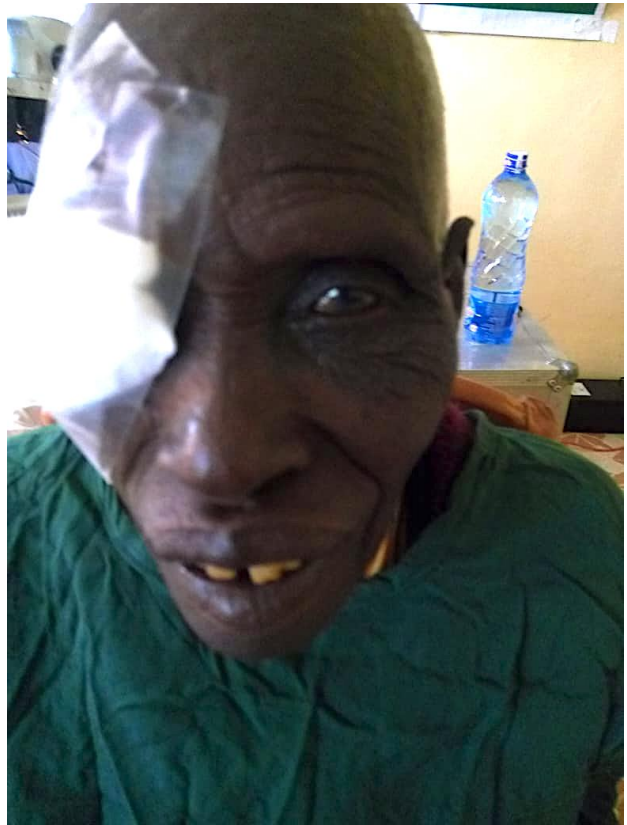
### Photographs















Flash floods on the day of the camp



Flash floods on the day of the camp