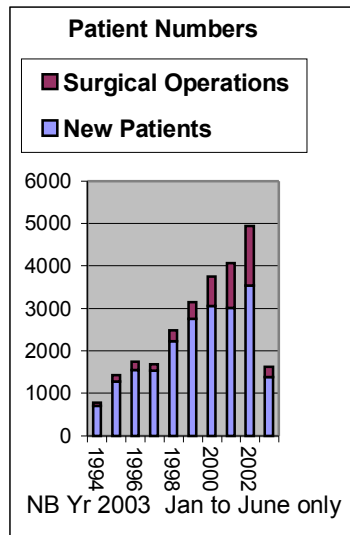


EYES FOR EAST AFRICA (UK)
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1053222
SUMMER 2003 NEWSLETTER

Patient numbers

Since opening in 1993 patient numbers have increased dramatically:-



Dr Helen wins a Prize!

Over 300 entries were submitted in a recent, global photographic competition, one category of which was entitled 'Images of Children who are affected by conditions of Blindness'. It was organised by the London based International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. The judges, including Royal photographer Lord Lichfield said the entries were of a very high standard. Dr Helen's photograph of Rashid, was chosen as a runner up in the competition and will be displayed in the four worldwide exhibitions to be staged in September and October. Rashid became permanently blind from Vitamin A deficiency

after contracting measles, as his mother did not understand the need for immunisation.



The venue will be in London, Sydney, New York and Zurich. We hope that you will have the opportunity to visit. Exhibition details will be available soon from the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, on 0207 927 2974 or their website www.v2020.org.

Stories from the Eye Centre

Using a white cane

The picture below shows Rosemillia, the Eye Centre administrator being taught how to use a white cane to walk unguided. Teaching her is Mr Harun Lwangu of the Kenya Society for the Blind. She is entering Kwale District Eye Centre from the car park and is on her way to reception to register herself as a patient. If her sight can be restored the Eye Centre will do so. Most patients cannot afford to pay but no

patient remains blind for lack of money. The Eye Centre then access the poor patients fund. Very few people can afford the real costs of surgery. If her sight cannot be restored she will enter onto the rehabilitation programme. A map of where she can be found will be completed and a field opened. The Community Based Worker for her area will visit her at home and a rehabilitation plan with targets and activities made out. Once she has learnt to use the white cane she will need to find some way to earn a living. Perhaps, through the use of Braille. Fortunately, all she required, was removal of her eye pad and she is busily employed at KDEC.



Maria

Maria was identified as being blind by the Eye Centre Receptionist who went to visit Maria's parents when the child was only 3 months old. She knew the parents only slightly, and had gone to congratulate them on the birth of their first child. Both the parents had accepted Maria's blindness and were

learning to live with a disabled child. The parents had some education and refused all attempts by their parents to make them attend the traditional healer. At her home, 22 km from Kwale District Eye Centre, the sad parents had reached the painful decision that they should hide the child away. So when our receptionist visited them again to find out why they had not attended KDEC the child was nowhere to be seen. She did not know them well enough to risk alienating them by asking where the baby was. She reported back to KDEC and our community based programme was mobilized immediately. The community based worker for the area and the field eye nurse visited the family. They took care to be friendly. Again there was no sign of the baby and to gain the topic was not discussed. They visited later that week and again and again and gradually gained the confidence of the parent who asked burning questions. 'Can you help with our blind baby'. Delightedly the KDEC reps said that they could. The parents and their baby went back with them to KDEC. Maria regained her sight by cataract surgery and has been followed up for over 5 years now. She is top of her class. Thanks to hard work and a lot of

patience from the field staff. Imagine what Maria's life would have been like without Kwale District Eye Centre.



Fund-Raising

In Kenya fund-raising continues to be of major importance to Kwale District Eye Centre

Golf competition. Ksh250,000. (£2,136)

How Eyes for East Africa (UK) spent your money since November 2002

(Main items only)

£7,800 in donations direct to Kwale District Eye Centre to cover Nurses salaries, the Poor Patient Fund, Field Staff salaries, generator maintenance, essential office equipment.

£1,573 on medical instruments/equipment.

£200 medical insurance for the Clinical Medical Officer.

£117 web-site maintenance.

£180 Royal College of Ophthalmologists registration fee for Medical Director.

We also keep a reserve of approx £2,000 – £3,000 in the account for emergency use.

Website

The website now includes an easy to use facility to make donations 'on-line'. In addition we have an on-line shop selling mugs and T shirts in a choice of sizes and colours with the EFEA logo, a range of books about Kenya and wildlife jigsaws. All purchases provide EFEA with a small charitable contribution. If help is needed in visiting the shop, please contact us at the address below.

DONATIONS

Should be sent to
Eyes for East Africa (UK)
C/o Jane Burrage,
28 Cross Road,
Southwick, West Sussex,
BN42 4HF

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM

The above address,

Or email

jab@jburrage.freemove.co.uk

o.uk

or

Our web site at

www.eyesforeastafrica.org

