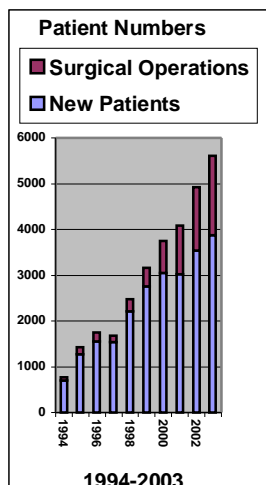


**EYES FOR EAST AFRICA (UK)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1053222**  
**SPRING 2004 NEWSLETTER**

**Patient numbers**

Since opening in 1993 patient numbers have increased dramatically:-



**A New Record at KDEC**

Figures just released show that Dr Helen Roberts and her team set a new record by carrying out over 1500 cataract operations at KDEC in 2003. Asked to comment she said " this work will enable more families and individuals in Kwale District to lead more useful lives in the community" '

**Old and New**

Kwale District Eye Centre in 1993:



Kwale District Eye Centre to-day. In 2003 a low vision unit was built which was sponsored by Ireland Aid. The building gives an area for assessment of low vision children, a job which usually takes an out patient

nurse an average of one hour. Now he can do this difficult job away from the hustle and bustle of the main clinic. These give optimum conditions.



To celebrate the 10th anniversary on 3rd October, the trustees of EFEA(UK) arranged for a cake to be made in Kenya by Alliance Hotels Ltd, and delivered to the Eye Centre where it was a complete surprise to all the staff, who quickly arranged a party and enjoyed the 3kg cake!



**The Story of Johnathon**

Johnathon now aged 8 became blind when he was about 2. His family live so far from medical help that, after the herbalist said that there was nothing to be done, the family accepted that.

Johnathon learnt to get around with what little sight he had but he couldn't play with the other children. Some years later his right eye became very painful. He was crying all night long and his parents decided that this could not be allowed to continue. At great expense they travelled

100 kms to Kwale District Eye Centre. They had heard rumours of an eye centre somewhere in the district but did not know exactly where it was. Eventually they found it. Sadly it was too late to save little Johnathon's right eye.

It had to be removed. The cataract in his left eye was removed and a lens inserted into the eye. Now he has only one eye, but he can see! The world is not at all as he had imagined it. He had not understood the concept of colours at all. He identified large objects by texture, now he has to learn them by shade, colour and shape. Johnathon will need a lot more help and follow up by the low vision team so that he can go to a normal school and adjust (he has 8 years to catch up on) to his newly found vision. The cost of following up a child like Johnathon is about £100 per year.



**The Story of Joseph**

Joseph, now age 5 was born blind due to cataract. No one knows why. His mother did not understand why her son did not smile at her like other babies. Finally, having had no success with the local herbalists and witch doctors, she heard that there was a community based worker (CBW) from Kwale District Eye Centre

visiting the village 10 km away that Thursday. She strapped Joseph to her back and off she went. She queued for hours amongst 800 other people who were eager to have their eyes checked as well. Finally she reached the eye worker who took one look at Joseph and explained 'you will take this child for eye surgery, he has cataracts'. 'How do you know?' she asked 'none of the witch doctors could help and he's far too young to have an operation'. It took a lot of patience and explanation before the mother was convinced to bring Joseph for surgery nearly 3 months later. The CBW had visited her and spoken to her relatives so often that he had become quite a friend of the family. Four years later, after surgery to both eyes and a lot of intensive follow up by our low vision team, both at home and at school, Joseph can see. He goes to a normal school and can play with his friends. Joseph will need follow up for life, but he can see. If he had not had treatment he would have been blind. It cost about £70 to do the surgery on both eyes and about £100 per year to follow him up.



#### **Fund-Raising**

In Kenya fund-raising continues to be of major importance to Kwale District Eye Centre, recently they have raised:-

£2,700 at a Golf Competition  
 £2,300 Diani Rules (type of 'It's A Knockout')  
 £2,177 Eye Go Fishing (Fishing competition)

How Eyes for East Africa spent your money since summer 2003:-

£200 compulsory medical insurance for the eye surgeon  
 £1,618 on medical instruments/equipment  
 £7,100 directly to the Eye Centre.

#### **Website Update.**

The site has been redesigned to provide a simpler menu structure. A News Page has also been introduced to provide monthly updates of events at KDEC. The number of donations attributable to the website have increased including some from anonymous donors. On line shopping continues to provide EFEA with a small commission from sales. The number of people accessing the site worldwide, continues to increase with 2235 unique hits from 43 countries during 2003.

#### **Shopping for Charity**

Have you heard about the excellent recipe book produced by Kingswood School, Bath which is sold in aid of the Eye Centre? It's now available through EFEA (UK). Please contact Jane Burrage for details. The recipe book is the latest addition to the range of goods sold for the benefit the Eye Centre. They include tee-shirts and mugs with the charity logo, a

wide range of books, East African kikoi (a type of sarong), all available through the website.

#### **Making the most of Donations to EFEA**

**Gift Aid Scheme.** Donors are reminded that EFEA(UK) can increase the value of most donations made by UK taxpayers by 28%, if donors complete a simple form under the UK Government Gift Aid Scheme. For higher rate tax payers, they too can benefit by reclaiming Income Tax on the difference between the basic rate of tax and the 40% rate for any donations made from personal income. These benefits are of great value to the charity and if you have not already done so, please ask for a Gift Aid form available from Jane Burrage, at the address at the end of the Newsletter.

**Wills.** Have you ever thought about leaving EFEA(UK) a legacy in your will? We hope you have. At present less than 5% of the adult population include a charity in their will. Please think about us.

#### **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](mailto:jab@jburrage.freemove.co.uk)  
 or our web site at  
[www.eyesforeastafrica.org](http://www.eyesforeastafrica.org)

