



Eyes for East Africa (UK)



Supporting Dr Helen Roberts
and the Kwale District Eye Centre (KDEC) in Kenya

Registered Charity No: 1053222
Honorary Ophthalmic Consultant: Mr Roger C Humphry MD FRCS FRCophth

Autumn Newsletter 2011

Funding Crisis hits KDEC

For the past 10 years KDEC has received up to 30% of its annual funding requirements from Sightsavers International (SSI). This vital funding has helped KDEC to develop the skills and infrastructure necessary to provide the range of surgical and community eye care services it does today.

The economic downturn means that SSI has reduced resources and funds available, and SSI have reacted to this by making changes to their funding policy. One of the major changes is a move away from supporting direct service provision for eye health such as done at KDEC. The consequence of this is that KDEC will no longer receive any funding from SSI after December 2011.

The huge gap in funding this leaves means that support from EFEA for KDEC is more important than ever.

Donations can be made in various ways as described on the website. We are also looking for your knowledge of Companies, Trusts or Charities who would be willing to support KDEC.

Low Vision Training



We reported in the last Newsletter that Thomas Cook Children's Charity UK had made a donation of £5,000 to support the Low Vision programme. Here you can see KDEC staff enjoying part of their training from a low vision specialist. Many children were assessed during the two days and KDEC staff have learned how to optimise their assessment techniques to ensure the best outcome.

Regular Donations

EFEA would like to thank all the Charitable Trusts and individuals who continue to make regular contributions in support of KDEC.



Here we see Pahe who was able to benefit from cataract surgery thanks to a UK donor who makes regular contributions to EFEA of £30.

If you would like to make a regular monthly or yearly contribution to EFEA, please contact Jim Crow at the address overleaf for more information.

The receipt of a regular income to KDEC from EFEA is now especially important in the light of the funding withdrawal by Sightsavers International.

We would like to encourage all our supporters to consider making a planned regular contribution, no matter how small.

Eye Give

With Christmas not far away, please consider supporting EFEA with the purchase of a gift from the Eye Give range.

Gifts cost as little as £10, and you can be sure that the purchase of your gift will benefit someone in Kenya in need of eye care.

All gifts are available via the website or by requesting information on the Eye Give scheme from Abigail Dodds by telephone on 0121 378 1796. Next month we will be sending you information on the gift and card options for the Eye Give gift shop.



Lives changed by support from EFEA

The generous donation from an EFEA supporter has helped to change the lives of many people, including those shown below.



This 68 years old lady had been blind in right eye for six months, and was losing the sight in her left eye.



This 75 year old gentleman had been blind for 5 months. He can see once more after cataract surgery to both his eyes.



The ladies and gentleman pictured above have all benefitted from cataract surgery.

Funding Grant from Sylvia Adams Trust

In May 2010, KDEC received a sizable grant from Sylvia Adams Trust. This grant was awarded through the efforts of EFEA (UK).

The money from the grant was to support a project to carry out sight restoring cataract operations.

KDEC has now completed the project, and we thank the Sylvia Adams Trust for their support of KDEC.

Sad News

It is with sadness that we learnt of the death of Mrs. Ans Verkaart on 26th July in Holland.

Ans was the wife of Mr. Jan Verkaart and co-founder of the Verkaart organization, with whom KDEC have worked for many years.

Ans will be remembered by KDEC for her great contribution to the low vision project, especially to those with albinism.

Her support to KDEC continues, as donations from her funeral were given to the low vision project



Donations, Fundraising and Contact Details

On-Line Donations: On-line donations can be made securely via our website using a credit card or PayPal. Donations can also be made via the Charity Aid Foundation Eye website at www.cafonline.org

Other Donations: If you would like to make a donation to EFEA by cheque, standing order or direct debit please ask Jim Crow (address below), for the necessary details.

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Eye Give: We offer a range of 'virtual gifts' perfect for birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions. For more information visit the shop page on the website.

Easy Fundraising: Register with Easy Fundraising and EFEA benefits from a cash-back donation whenever you when you buy goods on-line from a wide range of well-known retailers, such as Amazon, Argos, M&S etc. It doesn't cost you a penny as the donation comes from the retailer, and can be up to 15% of the purchase price. It's easy to use and free to register. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk for more information on how to get into the easy fundraising habit.

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Gift Aid allows charities to reclaim the basic rate tax you have already paid on the money you donate. It can increase the value of your gift by up to 25p on every pound.

These benefits are of great value to the Charity. If you are a British taxpayer, please remember to complete a gift aid form with your donation. Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from the website and are also available from Jim Crow (address left).