



Kwale District Eye Centre Report July – December 2007

World Sight Day—October 2007—Children learn about blindness.



School screenings start with a visit from Geraldine.



Field worker identifies blind child at antenatal clinic.



‘Goggles’

Our logo for the Liaison Eye Go Fishing breaks all records.



Community Based Programme



The programme took a different approach—undertaking screening of kids in schools and creating awareness of eye disease.

We were helped by Geraldine McBride, an orthoptist visiting from Ireland.

Children are very good ambassadors.

Binti came to KDEC for cataract surgery on the advice of her granddaughter.



Low Vision and Education

Albinos are better protected from the sun's harmful rays, thanks to the generosity of tourists in the local hotels.



Instead of throwing away unused sun-lotion, KDEC worked with the hotels to collect these and distribute to children. Albinos, who also have visual problems, often die young due to sun-induced skin cancer in Africa.

Kambi

When Kambi's mother heard our community based worker speaking at the ante natal clinic (her next child is due in 6 months) she was delighted. Help at last!



But, sadly, we cannot make Kambi see. We can, however, help with his development, especially with his schooling.

Kambi may not be able to see but gone are the days when he would have been taken away from his family to a blind school miles away from home. Now , with back up from the project, he can attend the local school.

Morris

An orphan, was first seen at KDEC when he was six. His teachers were concerned about his performance, because he could not read or write properly.

He was found to be very short sighted and not able to see much at any distance. He could not see the blackboard at all but was too scared to tell the teacher.

He was prescribed spectacles but did not receive them until three years later when our low vision therapist came across him playing near to her house.

His guardian had been unable to afford the specs but did not tell us this. Morris moved and we lost touch until this extraordinary coincidence.



We found a sponsor to pay and now Morris can see.

He has a lot of catching up to do but now he stands a chance.

Rehabilitation



Maria learns to wash clothes; part of normal life, even though she can't see when they are clean.

Deaf Blind

Naturally, with a very active community based programme, KDEC comes across all kinds of disabilities.

Imagine being both deaf and blind.

Well, we found 25 people in Kwale District this year who are both deaf and blind.

Sense International trained our community based workers so that we can help these people.

Sense also trained all our community based workers in basic skills to enable them to work with the deafblind.

Deafblind clients often have accompanying conditions such as epilepsy, so ongoing collaboration and networking with organisations offering this help to overcome difficulties



Deaf/blind project supervisor learns sign language

remains very important. What we need next further to improve our community programme is to arrange ear, nose and throat (ENT) assessments as these facilities are not available anywhere in the district.

Website contact changes girls future

Mesaidi, born with a severe facial deformity, spent 9 months in UK undergoing facial reconstructive surgery.

All this thanks to Facing the World—a UK based charity who contacted us through our website asking if we knew someone who needed life changing facial surgery.



Mesaidi before

and after surgery

After many administrative difficulties Mesaidi and her mother went to UK for nine months where Mesaidi underwent many operations in London with specialists offering their services for charity. After time recovering back home in Kenya, Mesaidi is due to return to UK for further surgery in about five year's time.

Mesaidi has gained much confidence and is better able to face the world now.

Staff

KDEC continued to gain recognition both within Kenya and worldwide.

The University of Nairobi, a major WHO training centre in East Africa for Ophthalmologists, posted a student to us for practical attachment.



Dr. Sebastian Briesen (left), a registrar from the University of Nairobi spent 2 months at KDEC.



Nsanite, our cleaner, was devastated when her house was burnt down.

Here the chairman (KDEC management committee) gives her a present from the staff, enough money to rebuild her house!

Infrastructure

- Minivan and saloon car replaced.
- Three motorbikes for community based workers added.
- Perimeter wall coped and painted.
- KDEC re-painted.

Staff at KDEC have other talents apart from restoring sight—road repair!



The 800 metre dirt road between KDEC and the main road was in bad shape so the staff took to the road filling in pot-holes.

Patients attending the eye centre could not believe their eyes!

Now our tuktuk has a smoother ride.



- Computers upgraded for the rehab & low vision programme and a laptop added to provide central email facility.

Visitors to the Project

- J. Muturi, P. May-Kamau—Association for the Swedish Deaf
- M. Wachira—Kikuyu Eye Unit
- I. Muema, M. Kagiri—Sense International
- V. Eakin—Silver Lining & R. Wallis
- D. Lusava—DO, Matuga
- Dr. M Joose—Holland
- Dr. M. Gichangi—Head, Division of Ophthalmic Services. MOH H/quarters
- D. Chelang'a, B. Ajwang, A. Liban—Primary Eye Care, MOH H/Quarters
- Mr. & Mrs R. Davey
- Staff from Insurance Company of East Africa
- Mr. & Mrs. A. Chipperfield—USA
- Dr. J. Cooper
- B. Miller & Family, UK
- J. Morrissey—CBM I, Nairobi



Dr. J. Dillinger, from Germany examines a child

- Dr. H. Waetric
- Mr. & Mrs. A. Vonlanthen—Austria
- Dr. Miyoge—MOH, Kwale
- Mr. & Mrs Kliep—Germany
- Mr & Mrs Laabs—Germany
- Mr. & Mrs Klien—Germany
- M. Muturi & E. Mumasaba—SSI, Regional Office
- L. Kalnoky—Austrian Red Cross
- S. Mishra—Sense International, India
- A. White, B. Gallie, B. Ouma, C. Okeyo—Daisy Eye Cancer Fund
- F. Schutte—Germany
- Mr & Mrs B. Robbe—Germany
- C. Higgins & M. Moon—UK
- Mr & Mrs Fieldkiercher—Austria
- Mr. & Mrs. H. Chapman
- Mr. & Mrs H. Kurowski—Germany
- W. Thamm—Germany
- W. Knepper—Kruna Foundation, Germany

Fundraising & Publicity

World Sight Day

An annual event marked on 11th October 2007.

This year, we continued awareness in local schools. A painting competition dubbed 'Gift of sight' held on the same day. The winning entry was used to illustrate a greetings card used in the Eye Give programme run by Eyes for East Africa (UK).

Liaison Eye Go Fishing

For the second year now, fishing competition has been named after the overall sponsor, Liaison Group (IB) Limited. The total sum raised from this event was Ksh 429,510/- (Approx. US\$6,136)



Liaison's Coast branch manager, Andrew Kachila hands the sponsorship cheque of Ksh100,000/- (US\$1,429) to Dr. Roberts

Statistics (2007)

Activity	Target (2007)	Done
Eye Care		
Patients seen at KDEC	9,100	9,198
Operations	1,840	1,886
Of which how many were cataracts	1,500	1,578
Of which how many were blind in both eyes	400	463
Glaucoma Operations	40	41
Community Work		
Awareness Creation Meetings	240 reaching 20,000 people	183 reaching 14,684 people
Train traditional healers	50	46
Community Workshops	12 reaching 300 people	12 reaching 295 people
Outreach clinics	130 reaching 9,100 people	92 reaching 8,334 people
Low Vision / Education		
New Cases found	55	59
Integrated into mainstream education	25 (Primary) 10 (Pre-school)	30 11
Primary schools visited	50 reaching 400 teachers	50 reaching 438 teachers
Community meetings held	40 reaching 2,000 people	46 reaching 2,751 people
Follow-up low vision cases	80	95
Rehabilitation		
New Cases found	55	52
assessed (initial)	55	74
No. followed up	100	150
Given home based training	55	37
Rehab training for Irreversibly Blind Persons & carers	80	78
Community meetings held	50 reaching 2,500 people	49 reaching 2,607 people
Integration of visually impaired people into existing social groups	40	15