



# Kwale District Eye Centre Biannual Report July–December 2010

## Funding continues to decline

We rely on donations so, to match our reduced income, we have had to drastically cut staff numbers, field activities, training and the number of vehicles.

We have been forced to redefine our targets, expecting to achieve fewer cataract operations, less integration of low vision and blind children into society and school, and fewer patients treated.

There was some improvement towards the end of the year, but adequate funding remains the

key issue as to how much we can do to help those in need.



Thomas Cook UK help children with visual disability

We work with all manner of people, both locally and internationally.



Braille machines reach blind kids in school



Without help Saumu and many other children like her would have remained blind for life

## Skills Development

In order to provide quality care we keep our staff abreast of new skills and technology.



Theatre staff receive refresher training on the use of the GA machine

Our Nurse-In-Charge attended a Training of Trainers (TOT) course to enable her to transfer skills.

We sent two nurses for a 3-month skills up-grading course in Ophthalmology. They topped their class with an excellent performance.



Joseph and Philip display their trophies awarded for the two highest grades on the course.

Two staff from Low Vision attended a 2-week training in Moshi, Tanzania.

## Low Vision & Education

We continue to identify more children with low vision each year. These children still face stigma and discrimination.

Currently we support 469 children with severe visual impairment in our programme, of whom 130 have albinism.

We are happy to report that we received some support for the work of this programme from the



Mr. Verkaart and Ms. Mbogo of Verkaart Development Team present a cheque to Dr. Roberts & Catherine to help visually impaired children with albinism. The donation is for three years.

Verkaart Development Team.

This enabled us to expand the team; we recruited a Vision Therapist to help with the increasing number of children who are being identified as suffering from incurable poor vision.



Agnes, our new vision therapist, learns to ride a motorbike to get around in the field

We hope that many more individuals and organizations will continue to give support.

## Rehabilitation of Irreversibly Blind

This programme was the worst affected by the cuts in funding.

Children and young adults who are irreversibly blind need to receive training to realise their full potential.

If this does not happen, they will revert to their old lives, where they are discriminated against and stand almost no chance of realizing their basic human rights- to an education, employment and a normal life.

### School Integration

Despite being totally blind, these children attend a normal school. They need teachers trained in special needs; both low vision and Braille.

These children were lucky enough to have a teacher but they still needed Braille machines and paper.



Luck was on their side, as funding was received for Braille machines and papers for their school work.

## Staff

A number of staff welcomed new family members and we congratulate them all.

Lilian Nyaboga, our OCO/Cataract Surgeon became a first time mother.



Lilian with her new born baby, Kantai

Trained in Nairobi, Dr. Briesen worked with us for two years until September 2009, when he left for Germany.

Dr. Briesen married in a colourful wedding held in Nairobi.

We wish Sebastian and Jael a lifetime of happiness.



Dr. Briesen and Jael

## Eye Camps

In remote areas where no static eye services exist, we work closely with the community and local authorities to ensure that the socio-economic burden of avoidable blindness is reduced.

### Wundanyi Camp—150 kms NW of Mombasa

In response to a request from the local Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the area MP, 55 people received sight-restoring cataract surgery.



Some of the patients after surgery

### Rhamu Eye Camp

In response to a request by the local community through The Sayyid Abass Foundation, we travelled 1,200kms to Rhamu, a village near Mandera in the far north-east of Kenya, not far from the border with Somalia and Ethiopia. Patients turned up in huge numbers. Most of them were blinded by cataract.



Patients line up for surgery as the police keep vigil and order

In this hot, dusty area, with only solar power available, the team saw over 1,200 people and performed 234 cataract operations in only six days.

21 year old Sowda had been totally blind for six years. She had to be led to the camp.

After surgery she described how wonderful it was to see again after six years of darkness. Sowda did not have her second eye done because there were too many other blind people who needed surgery. We hope to operate on her second eye on our next visit.



Sowda before surgery



after surgery – looking forward to a brighter future

Now she can marry and lead a normal life. No one had wanted her when she was blind.

## Infrastructure

### Training Centre

Renovation of a dilapidated building on the compound was completed and awaits the first trainees for the ophthalmic skills upgrade course.



Completed trainee hostel

## Donation boosts team spirit

The wall around the eye centre was badly in need of repainting. It's state did not reflect the excellent work being done within the Centre.

A donation of 240 litres of quality paint, very generously donated by Basco Products (K) Ltd, motivated the staff to apply some other skills and, together, we painted the 340 m perimeter wall a radiant white.



Staff put their painting skills to work

This strengthened the spirit of team building and the delighted staff vowed never to hire a painter again!



before

... after



## Visitors to the Eye Centre

- A. Mwandango, Mombasa
- F. Njuguna, Mombasa
- M. Majdan & M. Zakova, Tenava University—Slovakia
- M. Shambe, MOH, Kwale
- E. Schreiner-Gichuhi—Diani
- Regina Kohler, Germany
- N. K. Limo, Nairobi
- G. Ojiambo, Susan Kabogo, Charity Kombe, I. Mghanga, M. Lele - National Bank of Kenya, Portway House Branch, Mombasa
- G. Kareithi, P. Injendi—Citizen national TV (covering a documentary on KDEC work)
- D.V.S.G.Raju & M. Sankur - Neptune Hotels Diani
- Nat Bascom - Country Director, Christoffel Blindenmission International, Nairobi
- P. Ollie, P.K. Muia & K. Maina—Africa online, Mombasa
- M. Mwadena, Diani
- S. Ondicho - Child Welfare Society of Kenya, Ukunda
- James Gitao - Deafblind Program, Nairobi Family Support Services



Mr. H. Gunther, from Wir Helfen in Africa E.v., Germany, presents a donation to the Centre

- Bas en Lae titia & D. Giling, Holland
- Dr. M. Oberniedermayr, Austria
- A. Nazerli, Mombasa
- E. F. Mwangandi, Kwale
- C. Mwangi, Ukunda

- J. Mwangi, Ukunda
- S. Hirani—Hindu Ramsena, Mombasa
- J. Mureithi, Mombasa
- N. Masese & R. Juma—Mombasa
- L. Michael—Germany
- S. Karani & S. Matano—Kilifi
- B. Parekh, Mombasa
- B. Mederer & other 39 tourists from Germany
- B. Mulinge—Jabotelcommunication, Mombasa
- Mr & Mrs. S. Neumann—Germany
- Snr. Mr & Mrs. R. Neumann, Germany



National Bank of Kenya sponsor a screening

- Mr. & Mrs. A, Haber—Germany
- A. Mata—Diani.
- Dr. B. Sourya—USA
- J. Kazungu & L. Musau, Cooperative Bank, Likoni
- Ali Mwaratili - Ukunda
- M. Presente- Sense International UK
- G. Melling - New Zealand
- J. Crow & J. Dean—EFEA(UK) Trustees
- J. Maiden, P. Anderson & N. Thomlee - Soko, Ukunda Youth Polytechnic
- D. Harrison & M. Steenberg—Super Sport, South Africa (covering for projects benefiting from the Standard Chartered Nairobi International marathon)
- B. Dobler—Austria
- D. Koba—Liaison Group IB
- T. Mang'eli—Cannon Assurance Ltd.
- K. Schourmann & H. Willems—Germany

- Mr. & Mrs. B. Robbe—Germany
- Dr. P. Schwendemann—Nairobi
- R. B. Achieng—Diani
- H. Sindeu—NHIF, Ukunda
- Mr. & Mrs. P. Romer—Germany
- D. Jasani—Ashcott Medical Ltd, Nairobi
- G. Paolo—Diani
- B. Mella—Italy
- A. Pierovelutti—UK
- Mr. & Mrs. W. Gauster—Austria
- Mr. & Mrs K. Hetterling—Germany
- A. Gardiner—UK
- M. Kimani & P. Basweti—Kenya Revenue Authority, Mombasa
- D. Mbalu—Barclays Bank, Diani
- B. Miller—UK
- I. Mohamed—PKF Kenya, Mombasa
- R. Ngale—Likoni

## Fundraising & Publicity

### Eye Go Fishing

The annual fishing competition took place at La Marina Restaurant (North Coast) with Ksh366,520/- (US\$4,582) raised for eye care.



Dr. Roberts receive a cheque from the Liaison team

The event main sponsors, Liaison Risk and Financial Services, donated a generous Ksh150,000/- to the event.

Regular visitors to Kenya, Barrie & Cathy Hilton won the overall David Parry Memorial Trophy, fishing from 'Delta'

## Statistics 2010

<b>EYE CARE</b>	
Patients seen at base hospital and community screenings	12,300
Total operations	1,688
Of which how many were cataract operations	1,220
Of whom how many were blind in both eyes	337
Of which how many were glaucoma operations	67
Reading glasses issued	709
Distance glasses dispensed	441
Patients with diabetes screened	1,121
<b>COMMUNITY WORK</b>	
Awareness Creation Meetings	199 reaching 12,549 people
Patients seen in outreach clinics	4,955
School awareness meetings and screenings conducted	13 reaching 1,991 children
No. of children in the Low vision Programme	469
No. of children integrated into mainstream education	166
No of blind clients in the rehabilitation programme	520, of which 23 are children
No. of clients in the deafblind programme	24

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