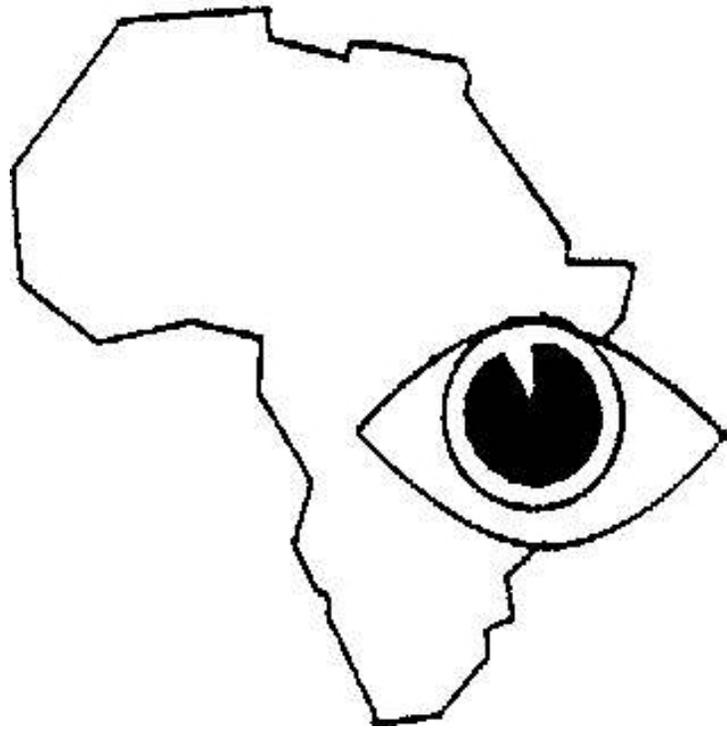


Kwale District Eye Centre

Bi-Annual Report Jan-Jun 2013



Telescope to help me see!



“Diani Rules
fundraising weekend



New Tuktuk

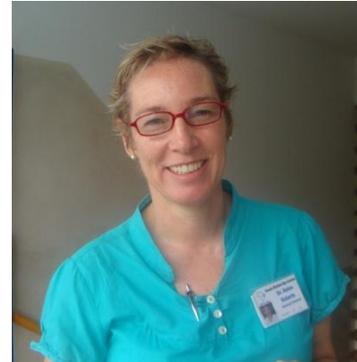
A WORD FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

When we began 20 years ago it quickly became apparent that most people couldn't overcome the barriers which prevent them from reaching our care.

That's essentially why the rate of blindness is so high!

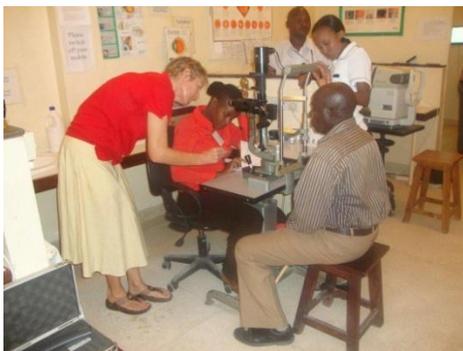
We started a community based programme with screening in the field and transport back to the Centre with few people contributing to their care. Almost all our income was from donors.

Doc in her new Spex!



As the economy on the South Coast changes more people reach the clinic on their own. They tend to have less serious eye disease and are able to pay a small cost for their care. Some are happy to pay more and give back to the project. In order to capitalise on this we opened an optical workshop and have recently expanded in Diani.

In order to continue to be able to offer affordable services to those who most need it the focus is sustainability without losing sight of our vision and mission.



Team work

Dr Helen, Lillian (OCO – Surgery), George (Nurse in Charge) and Caroline (Nurse) attend a patient

Spex on the Beach

Diani Shopping Centre

Being conscious of the self sustaining issues expressed by outside supporters, we have already introduced two measures to improve ours. Firstly an optical workshop which gives us the capability of dispensing prescription glasses for our patients.

Secondly, opening a weekly clinic within our existing Charity shop in Diani provides local residents and their friends with a service on the doorstep and avoids the need for them to make a 40km round trip to the eye centre.

Both projects have proved popular and are doing well. All proceeds are being ploughed back to the eye centre funds.



We have had a great deal of support from the south coast residents who now not only call in to drop off donations for sale but also bring their friends for spectacles and an eye check. We've had a lot of support from Gillian Caplan of Spex in the City, a high class optical shop in Covent Garden, London and from Wir Helfen in Africa who continue to help with the local optical workshop..



Our inspiration..."Spex in the City"
One day...we will look like this!



NEWS

Taita Clinic

The Clinic in Mwatate, Taita County is located in an area where most people tend toward small scale agricultural businesses. While poverty remains an issue, its severity differs from that which we see at the Coast. Access to care remains a challenge but a community based programme along the lines of that we run at the coast is not the answer here.

The emphasis on the best way to bring eye care to patients Taita is different to that at the eye centre. At Mwatate, patients are encouraged to make their own way to the clinic and our activities are focused on education rather than providing services in the field.



Professional glasses displays, focused outreach activities and satisfied patients, all work to create sustainability

Other News

Strengthening Relationships. . .

Kwale County Health Stakeholders Forum continues to focus on the need for greater collaboration between public and private sectors. The newly-appointed Minister for Health of the county, Mr. Chiguzo Athmani, is especially interested in working with and empowering Community Based Organisations.

We set up this health forum 18 years ago and it is still very active, giving advice, expertise and, where possible, budgetary support to the County Health Plan.

We are part of the task force that will write the annual plan for the County for 2014.

Staff Training. . .

Sarah Lucie, a Consultant Ophthalmologist based in the UK, came with her team to train on retinal diseases especially diabetic management.



Dr Imran Yusuf, Dr Sarah-Lucie Watson, Dr Hannah Cunningham (Visiting ophthalmologists) & our Dr Helen Roberts take the clinical department through screening, identifying and treating patients with diabetes for their eye disease



Visit by Orthoptie sans frontieres.

May 2013

Laura LECOMTE

Vanessa SEBAG

Djessila FERH



Making a Difference, One life at a Time. . .

Children will do anything to avoid household chores, yet for 10 year old Fatima Swalehe it was a constant reminder of her limitations. Having been born with the Morning Glory Syndrome, a congenital anomaly of the optic disc, to perform the most basic activity was a challenge owing to extremely poor vision. She once got lost on her way home from the village shop, children her age avoided playing with her and she was excluded from participating in family activities. She was relegated to a corner of the house and eventually not even allowed to leave.

The community did not help either, the family was shunned, it was assumed that the mother brought this misfortune to the family; a less than perfect child is the mothers responsibility.

Mbeyu, Fatima's mother met a friend at the local women's group who told her about Kwale District Eye Centre. She then met a member of our staff who subsequently arranged for a community based worker to visit her home. Fatima required therapy from our vision therapist. She was given refractive glasses, advised to sit 2 metres from the blackboard to be able to see better.

Raising awareness,
Binti Nassoro Mwambindo,
Community Based Worker



Fatima's life has improved immensely. She can now walk confidently to and from the shop without missing her way back home. In school, her class performance has improved in leaps and bounds especially her reading and writing. At home, she is now allocated domestic duties just like her 4 other siblings.



"Oh God you are wonderful, I did not imagine seeing my daughter helping me washing utensils, thank you " said Mbeyu during a recent visit.

Mbeyu no longer needs to spend time at home watching over Fatima. She can now engage in income generating activities while Fatima comfortably goes to school. This is a welcome relief to the family who were dependent on the father's weekly wage of Kshs 1,700 (or US \$20).



Fatima does the dishes



At school, Fatima is fortunate to have a dedicated contact teacher who helps her in class. This is a reflection of the school's sensitivity in striving for inclusion of children with special needs. Regular visits by our vision therapist enable continuous evaluation of her learning progress and functional vision. The therapist engages teachers on areas of intervention such as the recommended sitting distance and aspects of the teacher's handwriting on the chalkboard.

In the last 20 years of our existence, the nature of patients that we receive at the clinic continues to change. With health education, changing attitudes of the local population and a general interest by different stakeholders in health issues, we have seen a tremendous change the nature of diseases presenting and number of patients arriving when it is too late to help.

Families like Fatima's still exist and need support. Our Donors continue to help us make this happen. With more children educated and their parents enlightened the family dynamics in our region is changing.

We welcome your support!



Bilateral Cataract Surgery



Thank you!

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