KWALE EYE CENTRE
Quality eyecare for all

Second Quarter 2026

It Takes a Village to Restore Sight

Introduction:

Every restored sight begins long before the operating theatre. It starts with an outreach worker travelling dusty roads, a reassuring smile at reception, a volunteer giving their time, a surgeon guided by remarkable equipment, and generous supporters who make it all possible. In this edition, we'd like to take you behind the scenes to meet some of the extraordinary people—our "Angels"—whose compassion, dedication and quiet acts of kindness help transform thousands of lives every year. Thank you for being part of their story.

Sitting quietly outside the operating theatre waiting for their turn. Many have travelled hundreds of kilometres from Kenya's most remote villages. They are nervous, but beneath the fear is hope.

For these children, poor vision has stolen their childhood. They haven't been able to see a teacher's writing on a blackboard, recognize their mother's face from across a room, or play safely with friends. Our specialized paediatric unit is filled with toys, games, and gentle staff to make this terrifying moment feel safe. These brave young patients are the entire reason we exist. Restoring their sight doesn't just heal their eyes; it gives them their childhood, their education, and their future back.

Gasper

One Man. Thousands of Journeys

The dirt road to the remote village doesn't care about age, bad knees, or scoliosis. For Gasper, every bump is a reminder of the body he fights against daily—but also of the promise he made twenty years ago when he joined KEC. Gasper has spent three decades ensuring the rural poor don’t lose their sight to preventable blindness.

Arriving in the village, there is no clinic—only the harsh sun and a large, sun-bleached water tank in the centre of the square. Gasper unrolls a worn eye chart and tapes it flat against the curved plastic, transforming a water source into a beacon of hope.

With a biro in hand and a lifetime of patience, he calls out to the gathering crowd. He isn't just checking eyesight; he is searching for those hidden in the shadows—the grandmother who can no longer see her grandchildren, the child falling behind. As he guides an elderly man through the rows of letters, Gasper’s voice is steady and warm. For Gasper, this makeshift wall is where isolation ends and a clearer, brighter future begins.

From Fear to Hope

"Welcome to Kwale Eye Centre." These words, spoken with a warm smile, are the first step on a journey from darkness to light. Behind the reception desk, the mission begins long before a doctor picks up a scalpel. For frightened patients facing the unknown, a reassuring voice changes everything.

The greatest reward? Witnessing the exact moment the patches come off after cataract surgery. Seeing tears of joy turn into wide smiles as clear vision returns makes every long hour worth it. We aren't just administrators—we are the hands that guide you in, and the friendly faces that celebrate your return to the seeing world.

Spreading the Light

Mishi Nassir, our PR & Marketing Manager, connects with the community at the Kwale County SDG Mini-Olympics, raising vital awareness on how regular eye check-ups can prevent permanent blindness.

Eye Health Matters

Walking in Darkness to Understand the Light

Laughter quickly turned into shock as our students and volunteers put on blindfolds and gripped white canes. Trying to navigate the world using only sound and touch is a humbling reality check.

This exercise isn't just training; it builds deep empathy. Every day, we meet patients living in this exact darkness. Some are waiting for a routine surgery to restore their sight; others arrived too late, their vision stolen forever by advanced glaucoma. By stepping into their shoes, our volunteers become passionate advocates. Most blindness is preventable. A simple eye check can save a life of darkness—let's catch it before it's too late.

Leading the Field

Lilian shares our clinical insights and data at a national conference for clinical officers and eye care professionals, helping elevate care standards across the region

So far in 2026:

Equipment Spotlight: The Operating Microscope

This machine is the unsung hero of our theatre. This particular microscope, our absolute favourite, was manufactured by Scan Optics in Australia and carried all the way to Kenya by a volunteer in her hand luggage! It features an incredible teaching attachment that allows both a student and an expert to see into the eye together. This is a vital tool for the hands-on guidance required as we train the next generation of Kenyan eye surgeons.

Outreach Clinic Update:

Our community based workers are on their motorbikes and enabling people to reach us.

Volunteer Corner:

Our mobile outreach teams continue to travel deep into rural communities, bringing free screenings and life-changing treatment to thousands who cannot afford or physically manage the journey to our main hospital.

A massive thank you to our incredible volunteers who dedicated their time, comfort, and energy this quarter. Volunteer Mark Barnes went out into the field with Hamadi to visit Mwanaidi during her post-surgery recovery.

Miracles Witnessed:

Ibrahim can see again! Justeen and Dr. Helen shared a wonderful giggle celebrating his recovery, while Lydia is seeing much better now, though she still requires our ongoing medical support.

How You Can Help

We cannot fight this battle against blindness alone. **A gift of just £60 funds a cataract surgery that completely restores a person's sight.** Please help us keep our doors open for the vulnerable children, mothers, and grandfathers who need us most. Your generosity literally brings people out of the dark.

Thank you for being a vital part of our family!

- **Website:** www.eyesforeastafrica.org
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/eyesforeastafrica
- **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/eyesforeastafrica
- **Email:** welcome@kwaleeye.org