



Medical Director's Message



Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2025, Kwale Eye Centre reached milestones that remind us why our work remains essential. A record 40,662 patients were seen, and 2,677 cataract operations performed, the highest number in our history. Crucially, over 600 of these individuals were already blind by the time they reached surgery. This stark reality underlines a sobering truth: despite more than 30 years since Kwale Eye Centre was founded, cataract, the commonest cause of needless blindness, continues to affect far too many people in our communities.

A particularly encouraging focus in 2025 has been our work with children. We see more children each year, many with preventable or correctable visual problems. Over 850 children were provided with spectacles, directly improving their ability to learn, participate in school, and thrive in daily life. The development of a dedicated specialist children's area, ensures a more child-friendly experience for our youngest patients. Together, these advances represent not only growth, but real, lasting impact - made possible by everyone who continues to believe in and support the mission of Kwale Eye Centre.

These achievements were only possible through the commitment of our staff and the unwavering support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and friends, to whom we extend our deepest thanks.

Dr. Helen Roberts

Medical Director, Kwale Eye Centre

Community Based Programme



Our outreach team remains the vital link between the clinic and the remote corners of our county. In 2025, we reached **38,933 people** through our awareness programs—a testament to our belief that no one should live in darkness simply because of where they were born. By taking eye care to the villages, we don't just find patients; we find mothers who can now see to cook, and farmers who can return to their fields. This year, our focus on education helped break down the myths and fears that often keep the blind hidden away, bringing them into the light of the clinic.

Eye Camps



Our surgical camps are days of transformation. This year, these intensive camps were the primary driver behind our record **2,677 cataract operations**. We traveled to the most underserved regions, setting up mobile units to ensure that poverty and distance were no longer barriers to sight. Seeing the "first sight" smiles of over 600 patients who arrived at our camps totally blind is a humbling reminder that while the numbers are high, the impact is deeply personal.

Low Vision, Children's Department And Optical



Children are our most precious patients, and 2025 marked a milestone in their care. With the opening of our **specialist children's area**, we have created a sanctuary where fear is replaced by play. We performed **160 paediatric surgeries**, but the impact went further: **850 children** received spectacles, and **172 children** were supported through our Low Vision services.



For a child, a pair of glasses isn't just an optical aid; it is the difference between dropping out of school and pursuing a dream.

Fundraising



Behind every restored eye is a donor who chose to care. Our work is entirely dependent on the hearts of those who support us. In 2025, your contributions allowed us to scale our operations to meet the rising demand. Whether through a one-time gift or a long-term partnership, every donation was converted into a surgery, a pair of glasses, or a life-changing consultation. You are the silent partners in every success story we share, and we are profoundly grateful for your trust in our mission.

Visitors, Training & Conferences



Kwale Eye Centre continues to be a beacon of learning in East Africa. We welcome a diverse group of medical students and residents, eager to learn the "Kwale Way" of efficient, high-quality eye care. By participating in regional conferences, we ensure that our team stays at the cutting edge of ophthalmology, while also sharing our 30 years of experience with the wider medical community. Training the next generation is how we ensure that our impact lasts for decades to come.



Right to Sight Norge, funded by the Grieg Foundation, plays a vital role in supporting training of cataract surgeons, helping to ensure that quality eye care is sustained for generations to come.

In addition, Right to Sight also funds eye screenings and cataract surgeries for both adults and children.

Ingvild, eager to understand how these hospital and field-based activities are implemented, visited in January to see the work firsthand. She was deeply impressed by the impact and how essential this support is for underserved communities in Kwale County.



A new donor joins us! A member of the Lions Club in St. Gallen, Switzerland, who was closing a clinic, generously offered to donate all his equipment to Kwale Eye Centre to support the diagnosis and treatment of those in need. In December, he and his team visited Kenya and toured the Eye Centre, where he was impressed by the scale of work taking place and realized just how impactful the donation would be.



We are honoured to partner with the Islamic Relief Gift of Sight Mission who sponsored a total of 450 cataract surgeries. Their support, like that of our other partners, was instrumental in bridging the gap between need and access to eye care. This impact was further strengthened through collaboration with Charity Vision, whose ongoing donation of cataract surgery consumables have continued to support our work.



For the past 15 years, Kwale Eye Centre has been privileged to partner with We Help Africa, a collaboration founded on compassion and a commitment to community care.

Their steadfast support has transformed countless lives through:

- Donations of ward beds, sunglasses and spectacle frames
- Sponsorship of eye screenings and cataract surgeries
- Assistance for referral patients, including provision of medication and glasses
- The establishment of an optical workshop at the Eye Centre in 2012

This year, like every year, a team from Germany visited and brought in more donations in kind.

A Patient's Perspective



The Gift of Seeing

For four long years, Mama Amina lived in darkness, dependent on her daughter for every step and every task. A simple 20-minute cataract surgery at one of our outreach camps changed everything. For the first time, she saw her youngest grandchild's face.

"I was a burden," she said through tears. "Now I can walk to the market on my own. I have my dignity back."

Stories like Mama Amina's are only possible because of generous support. Just £60 can change a life like Amina's by helping to sponsor and support cataract surgery—restoring sight, independence, and dignity to someone who needs it most.

WORK DONE 2025



38,933
Awareness



40,662
Patients Seen



189
Low Vision



3,653
Reading Glasses



2,677
Cataract Surgeries



160
Children Surgeries



104
Glaucoma & Laser Surgeries



2,194
Distance Glasses



Patients Seen

Cataract Surgeries



Thank you!

for helping us to make lives better

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