



MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The staff threw a surprise party to celebrate Dr. Helen's 60th birthday! A large eyeball-shaped cake was enjoyed by all and presents of a headband and bracelet, made in the colours of Kwale Eye Centre, given to her.

In Kenya, 60 is considered to be very old and one should be resting at home surrounded by one's grandchildren. All very different to European culture, nonetheless, the attainment of such an age is an opportunity to step back a little and test out the succession plans for the Medical Director.

'I am not going anywhere' says Dr. Helen 'but neither do I wish to get in the way of change. I have seen institutions prevented from moving forward by 'founders' disease' and that isn't going to happen here. Kwale Eye Centre needs to continue way beyond all of us!'

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It's an interesting job being Chair and I am proud to be helping in any way I can in our mission of delivering quality eye care to all.

The staff, both at base and in the field, are welcoming and open minded and it's always a pleasure to meet the many happy patients I come across in my daily life.

We have helped a lot of people but could have done none of this without you, our donors and supporters. Thank you



Putting together the next Strategic Plan
'It's exciting looking forward' says Fran (left)
'and looking at how far we have come since the last one was written five years ago' comments Amos
If you would like a copy please e mail us

WORLD SIGHT DAY



To celebrate we screened and treated over 300 people for free at Kombani, 5km up the road.

CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK



Without customers (or in our case patients and their carers) we would not be here, so this was a great opportunity to celebrate with them. Here we see Justeen, Community Based Programme Manager, in her beautiful African dress, cutting a cake with a patient for everyone to share.

Getting the best visual function for our patients VISION THERAPY



In our last newsletter we featured Rukia and her cataract surgery. She can see now, but, because she has a plastic lens inserted in the eye rather than her anatomical one, she cannot focus at different distances. (Left) Here we see her having her need for spectacles measured.

She needs follow up for life and, because we offer comprehensive care, we work with her family, her preschool teachers through

the County Education systems, to ensure that she not only gets to school but gets extra support from the teacher. 'It's about the whole child', explains Dr. Helen.

(Right) Children show off their cool shades which protect them from sunlight after their surgery.

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME



(Left) Naomi, (middle) Hamadi and (right) Dena, three of our Community Based Workers doing what they do; teaching about eye health, checking out people at risk, following up those who have had treatment and ensuring that children with eye problems get a chance at education, just like anyone else..



Taking the services to the people..Screening at Kenya Ferry.. visiting post ops at Vuga.



Our Community Based Workers get around on motorbikes, enabling them to reach far and wide into the poor, less accessible areas of Kwale County.

THEATRE



State of the Art Machinery..

A very generous donor replaced our phaco machine. This machine is 'state of the art' from Switzerland and what else would you expect us to operate on your very precious eyes with! Charity does not mean poor quality. Here we see the engineer, up from South Africa, put it through a rigorous check. It is working perfectly.

TRAINING

..the most important thing we do long term



(Left) Violet, Clinical Officer, and Fortune, an optometrist in training, say goodbye to the Team as they leave for their final exams.



(Left) Medics who manage childrens' health visit the Eye Centre as part of a training to enable them to recognise and refer children with eye problems early.



(Right) Community Health Volunteers learn the very basics of eye disease so that they can recognise and refer.

..and training our own team



Staff training in customer care



Dr.Vogel visits from Germany to teach us



Team building exercises are fun and encourage warm relationships

OPTICAL



Sometimes, all that is required for a child's life to change is a pair of spectacles! Being able to see well in class changes a child's performance and, often, personality, as they gain confidence in their ability and the world around them.

From left - Eunice, two new friends; one with allergy, one with high myopia, and Seif with an accommodative squint, pictured here with Fred Optician.. all need spectacles to function well.



Anne Jervell from Right to Sight visits a child health clinic at Diani Government Hospital. The parents learn how to look after their eyes and what to do with their child should they develop an eye problem.

'It's so important to get children seeing as quickly as possible', explains Anne, 'the nerve pathways in the brain need a crisp, clear image to develop. So, if a young child has an eye problem, we need to solve it quickly'.

FUNDRAISING



Diani Rules is back after a break during Covid and the Eye Go Fishing soon after. Both events enjoyed a huge amount of local support from people who took part or gave to the event. 'It's not just about raising money' explains Dr. Helen, 'it's about connections, ownership of 'our local Eye Centre' and a reminder that you can have fun and help others'.



We were honored to have the Chairman of our UK Registered charity Eyes For East Africa UK visit with his family.

PATIENT STORIES



Have you ever seen anyone so happy to be washing dishes! Mbeyu had been a cheerful, happy character until she became blind. Gradually she lost confidence. 'I am useless' she moaned when we first met her 'I can't help with the chores, contribute to looking after the grandchildren, what am I still here for?'

Here she is after cataract surgery, back home, regaining her self respect and back to feeling a valued member of the family.



A delighted Mary smiles back at her mum



Mary's mum could not understand why her daughter did not smile back at her when she held her in her arms. At only 4 months old Mary underwent sight-restoring cataract surgery. She will always need strong spectacles to see well, and she will, like all children who undergo cataract surgery, need follow up for life.

David became blind from the same cause when he was older than Mary. Because his eyes were bigger we were able to implant lenses so he can see adequately without spectacles but, if he wants to see well for reading and at a computer, he will need spectacles.

Both children are at risk of glaucoma and other complications; cataract surgery is only the beginning of giving them care.



Emmanuel

Everyone knew that if you wanted new clothes, curtains, sheets you went to the best tailor in town, Emmanuel.

Emmanuel had always enjoyed sitting on his verandah with his trusty sewing machine creating things for people to wear, look at, sleep in. He was the centre of the village, as everyone had to pass his door on their way to the main shop and back, so he was always the first to know what was happening.

But Emmanuel's stitching became poor and, gradually people stopped bringing him fabric to sew. He was going blind. He did not know what to do. Eventually he became too embarrassed and ashamed to sit on his veranda. What was the point in life when he couldn't work, had no position in the community.

Here we see him back at work, again a feature of village life.



When Dr. Helen visited him he would not let go of her hand until he was satisfied that she had understood that Kwale Eye Centre and our supporters had changed his life.





Cataract is still the commonest cause of blindness here in poor rural Kenya. And surgery the only solution.

WORK DONE 2022



44,882
Awareness



36,552
Patients Seen



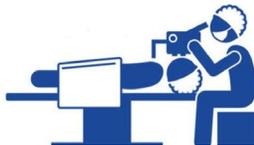
115 children
Low Vision



1,892
Reading Glasses



1,664
Cataract Surgeries



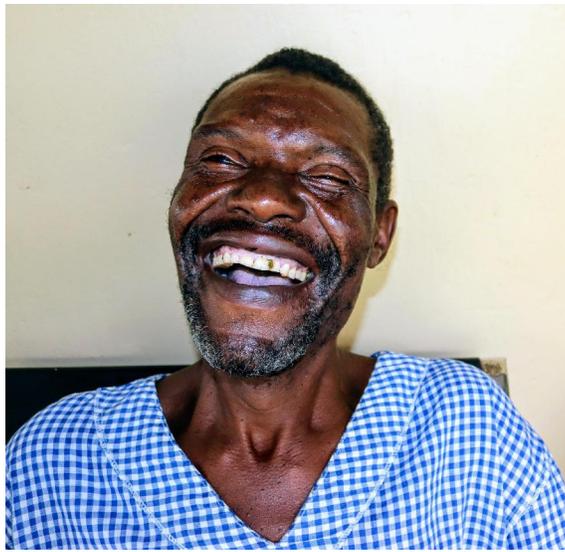
127
Children Surgeries



36
Glaucoma & Laser Surgeries



1,699
Distance Glasses



The Gift of Sight

We could not have helped these people without your support

THANK YOU

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