

# **Kwale District Eye Centre**

## **Biannual Report**

### **January–June 2011**

#### **Funding Crisis**

We now face the biggest challenge in the Eye Centre's history.

After ten years, Sight Savers International (SSI) have ended their support following a policy change.

SSI enabled us to build up both the skills and infrastructure to offer a very high level of quality comprehensive eye care. This year their donation contributed Ksh6.6 million of our income which funded cataract surgery, medical staff salaries and vehicle running to access patients.

#### **Three times as many blind people found locally!**

To our astonishment our field programme found almost three times as many local people blind from cataract as we had expected!

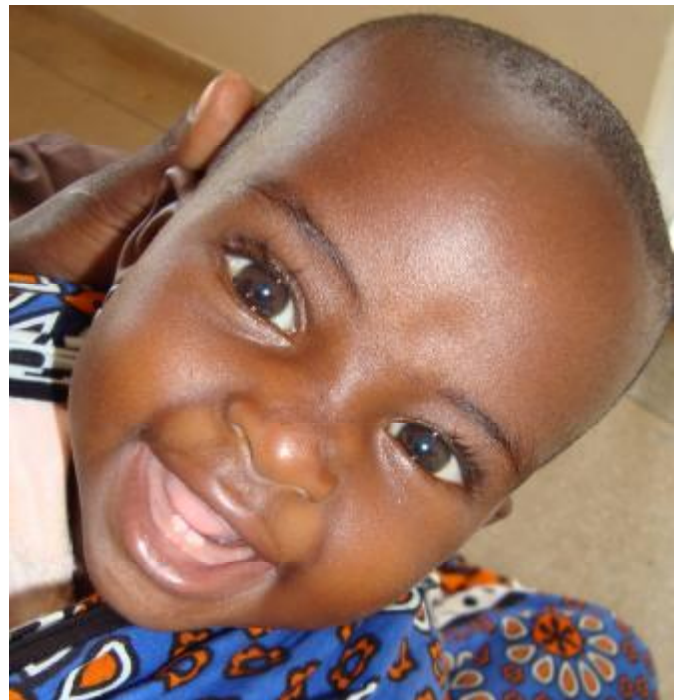


**The smile—The gift of sight**

#### **Preventing irreversible blindness— twice as many glaucoma operations compared to same period last year!**

This disease gradually blinds people without them even noticing until it is too late. In poor rural Africa first line treatment is surgery

#### **“The smile says it all”**



Francis was blind before he had surgery. Now he can see! We have helped 26 children like Francis in the last six months alone giving them sight for life.

## Community Work

We have been much busier this year in the local community.

Attempts this time last year to get field patients to pay towards the costs of their treatment were abandoned as people refused treatment which they said could be obtained elsewhere at no cost.

So despite the financial strains in the charity world and on whom we rely, we have seen more patients in outreach clinics and base and have done more surgery.

Three times as many blind people were identified compared with the first six months of last year.

## School awareness & Screenings

This is a very successful project initiated by a UK visitor and donor. The children who have been through the project and are now aware of blindness issues can now use their knowledge to bring us blind people in their community.



School awareness session

Children are brilliant ambassadors and they break down the barriers preventing people from reaching care including disabled children who had been hidden away by shame in the community.

## Glaucoma

Glaucoma blinds irreversibly. It is crucial to reach the patients at risk as early as possible. Thanks to a UK donor, we have been able to double the number of glaucoma operations during this period.



Patients with glaucoma at a screening

## Follow-up for kids' cataracts

The Standard Chartered Nairobi International Marathon raised funds to allow us to provide eye care including surgery for blind children.

KDEC was appointed to run a pilot programme in the country for the follow-up of these children; both in schools and homes. We have set up tools to capture data at follow-up so that we can measure the progress of each child.

Follow-up of these children after the first year of surgical intervention is vital to get the best possible improvements in sight and to ensure that they get to school and learn.



Bill was born totally blind. Now he can see so well that he can pick small items such as rice grains from the floor.

## Working with Stakeholders in Low vision / Education

We brought together parents of visually disabled children and gave them the opportunity to interact and share ideas and experiences.

In our quest to integrate visually impaired children into mainstream education, we trained more teachers on skills in dealing with such cases in schools.

23 teachers were trained in aspects of low vision and Braille. The teachers ensure that children maximise their learning in school and make themselves available to help these children.



Empathy. Teachers learn how it feels to have poor vision.

The teachers admitted that they do not always pay attention to slow learners, who may be visually impaired children. They vowed to improve on this.

### Maua gets help

Maua is a 3-year old in our Deaf Blind Programme. As well as being deaf and blind, she is also epileptic and suffers from TB. She cannot sit unsupported. She cries endlessly and her poor mother is at her wits end. Recently, her mother was invited to our

meeting. She brought Maua along.

Maua was amazed by the new environment and this kept her quiet for a few hours. Then she burst out crying, interrupting the whole workshop.



Maua with mother at workshop

When she was given a cup of tea and some bread, Maua gulped the tea and gobbled down the bread then instantly was quiet.

Her mother, a widow with three children, was surprised. She thought the child cried incessantly because of her

multiple disability. It did not occur to her that Maua might be hungry!

The little milestone developments in the lives of these children mean a lot. Community work is all about follow-up, counseling and sharing experiences and information for the benefit of the clients. This is difficult work.



Deaf Blind officer teaching children how to communicate with a deaf/blind child from their village. This breaks their isolation

## Staff

### Staff Retreat to build a high performance team

On the weekend of 19th March the 46-members of KDEC staff gathered for a 2-day retreat

The aim was for us to remind ourselves of the roles and responsibilities we play and how each contributes towards the achievement of the organisation's vision.

George, the facilitator from PEAK Performance International, used different practical, fun, interactive games to get this message across.



Team work on the beach



This ensured maximum interaction and bonding and we were encouraged to undertake critical thinking and working beyond our normal boundaries.

With Michael Bolton's rendition of "Lean on Me", the KDEC team held hands as they sang along and promised to forge ahead, relying on each other in order to meet the organisation's objectives.

At the end of the 2-day retreat, the staff reported to work the following Monday with great energy and zest.

## Training

Training is perhaps the most important aspect we do—passing skills to younger people who can carry forward quality care.

During this period, a student pursuing a post graduate qualification in Ophthalmology from the University of Nairobi and an Ophthalmic clinical Officer spent one week each at the Centre in the Low Vision department and refraction Unit.



Dr. Humphry examining a child in the clinic

We are grateful to the visiting specialists from UK & Germany who visit at their own expense and continue to offer mentorship to the staff at the Centre.



Prof. Shuette taking students and staff through examination

## Taita Clinic

One year after we opened the satellite clinic in Taita, the response from the community has been encouraging.

We have linked up with other medical services in the area at medical camps and are gradually getting the word out that there is now specialised eye care available nearby.



Patients at Taita Clinic learn how to look after their eyes after surgery

Mwatate Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has been instrumental through organisation of medical camps and referring patients to the clinic.

At present, this is housed in two rented rooms. We plan to buy land and establish a small purpose built eye clinic.

## Visitors to the Eye Centre

- Dr. K. Schafer, & 15 doctors, Germany
- F. Lorenz
- K. Renken, Germany
- Mr. Raju, Neptune Group of Hotels
- P. Coner & S. Carone, Croatian International TV
- H. Gunther, Germany
- K. Pottgen, Germany
- Dr. S. Taman, Toronto, Canada
- F. Teschke, Canada
- Y. Januwala – Brisbane, Australia
- I. Dew, Maryland USA
- S. Borwen, Hong Kong
- C. Kinsch – Germany



Rodah Mwambonu, Branch Manager of Housing Finance Mombasa branch with colleagues present the cheque and food staff to KDEC staff

- H. Stach, USA
- D. Schneider, Germany
- S. Wiong, USA
- T. Ledersberger, Diani Marine Limited
- Dr. D. Bornfather, Newzealand
- R. New, Baltimore
- T. Kearns, Menzes school of Health Research
- K. P. Hain, Germany
- E. Ngumbi & S. Kahindi, Water Consultant, Mombasa
- Mr. & Mrs. R. Davey, Nairobi
- D. Boyriven, Mbuyu Beach Bungalows
- I. Mohamed, PKF Kenya

- M. Biagini, Roma - Italy
- R. Sennik & Braeburn International school, Year 5 pupils
- C. Yogesh, P. Muasya & G. Chebii, Toyota East Africa
- K. Ender, Nairobi
- R. Kelly, Dublin, Ireland
- B. Petti, Mombasa
- Mr. & Mrs. B. Roberts, UK
- L. Chimera, Safaricom Limited
- John & Ingrid Friesen, Canada
- T. Asad, Kenya Commercial Bank Ukunda
- A. Mbarak, Water Resource Management, Mombasa
- Mr. & Mrs. R. Burkle, Munich Germany
- P. Kimali, Ministry of Public Works, Kwale
- R. Beyeler, Zurich
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Friesen
- K. Friesen, Nigeria
- H. Chincherini—Germano Chincherini Foundation
- N. Nyapara
- Brian & Janet Salkeld
- O. Halpin
- J. Kophy – St. Joseph’s Centre, Dublin
- B. Brinkley & Jo. Santini
- M. Siegfried - Germany
- I. Vusha, Red Cross Society—Ukunda
- J. Muriuki, M. Mitau, R. Murithi, D. Kasiu - Liason Insurance (K) Ltd
- E. Saka & E. Osundwa, Sense International, Nairobi
- M. Odhiambo, Jubilee Insurance
- Dr. S. Nagele, Sr. P. Kimeu & J. Watler, Catholic Archdiocese Mombasa
- D. Davis & C. Vaughan, UK
- A. Knobelspies, Germany
- Dr. & Mrs. H Gaeckle, Germany
- A. Knittel, Germany
- L. Mitcherson, UK
- S. Agarwal, Mombasa
- B. Beya—Ministry of Labour
- Mr. & Mrs. M. Wright, UK
- B. Ouma & F. Barasa, Daisy Eye Cancer Fund, Nairobi

## Fundraising & Publicity

### Twentieth Diani Rules - Fighting Blindness in Kenya

This fun charity sports event on Diani Beach raises money for Kwale District Eye Centre. Sports are football with a rugby ball, volley ball, Frisbee, water ball, an obstacle race and many others.



Battling Blindness- touch rugby for eyes

There is always immense support from local hotels, national companies and businesses and people come from as far away as UK to join in. Ksh350,000/- (approx US\$4,117) was raised this year.

### Making money—Sale of Glasses

We need to capitalise on areas which bring in money and spectacles is one of these. We have increased sale of spectacles by 33% in the last 6 months.



Dr Helen fits Angela with her first pair of spectacles.

## Statistics 2011

<b>EYE CARE</b>	
Patients seen at base hospital and community screenings	8,863
Total operations	824
Of which how many were cataract operations	654
Of whom how many were blind in both eyes	143
Of which how many were glaucoma operations	74
Reading glasses issued	927
Distance glasses dispensed	293
<b>COMMUNITY WORK</b>	
Awareness Creation Meetings	109 meetings reaching 10,552 people
School awareness meetings and screenings conducted	16 reaching 4,128 children and teachers
No. of children in the Low vision Programme	480
No. of children integrated into mainstream education	169
No of blind clients in the rehabilitation programme	531, of which 23 are children
No. of clients in the deafblind programme	29

We are facing huge challenges but the amount of work which needs to be done is not reducing. The Eye Centre continues to evolve so that we can meet the needs of the local people.

Thank you all for your help and support which enable us to do this.

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