
File Form 754

Portable ophthalmic microscope and cataract surgical instruments for outreach eye surgery camps, Kenya

Interim report for Fondation Eagle – November 2025

Donor name: Fondation Eagle

Fondation Eagle reference: FF 754

Name of Charity: IMPACT UK

Introduction: Your grant is funding urgently needed specialist surgical equipment and the cost of delivering eye services in rural Kenya, to enable sight-restoring operations for people with cataract

Date of grant accepted: 10/04/2025 (funds received by IMPACT UK 17/04/2025)

Amount: GBP 29,689

Conversion rate, date & amount in local currency: GBP 1 = 1.29 USD (06.03.25)

Expenditure: GBP 20,015

Amount carried forward: *GBP 9,674-* GBP 8,912 of this will be expended on the final seven months of eye care delivery and management costs. The remaining GBP 762 which was the result of IEA negotiating a special discount from the supplier of the cataract sets will be used to conduct additional cataract surgeries.

Name and exact location of the project: Mwingi, Kitui County, Kenya

Period of Project: 01/06/2025 – 31/05/2026

Project beneficiaries: Expected beneficiaries = 320 people per year would benefit from cataract surgery and 1,400 would benefit from eye screening services.

Summary of progress made so far:

Having worked in Kitui County since 2013, IMPACT East Africa (IEA) is well-experienced in the delivery of healthcare and disability prevention activities, as well as meeting basic needs for clean water and sanitation locally.

Keen to respond to the needs of the target community and interacting with many people requiring cataract surgery, IEA has been growing the basic eye care services it provides and requested support for an ophthalmic surgical microscope, cataract surgical sets and the running costs of clinics in rural villages in order to do so. Cataracts are a highly preventable cause of sight loss, especially in older people, yet surgery can restore not only vision but also independence and productivity. There were insufficient eye care services in Kitui to meet the obvious need, and a lack of specialist equipment to deliver surgery. Additionally, people are put off seeking cataract surgery in the two Government facilities offering it by the associated costs (travel, accommodation etc.) and the inadequate transport infrastructure which makes it very hard to reach them.

IEA now has an established partnership with the Kitui County Eye Team (collectively nicknamed the 'IEAgles' – pronounced Eye Eagles – by grateful local people) and together they are working to establish a programme of community eye surgery camps to take medical care into outlying areas.

Your support has so far been invested in a portable SO-111TZ table mounted zoom magnification ophthalmic microscope and case, transportation direct from the manufacturer (Scan Optics) in Australia to IEA in Nairobi, two sets of cataract surgical



instruments and the costs of delivering eye screening and surgery over five months. The remainder of the grant will be used in the coming seven months of the project period.

Progress to date:

The portable SO-111TZ ophthalmic microscope has been purchased, transported from Australia and delivered to IEA. Unfortunately, a delay in customs in Nairobi meant that the microscope arrived as a cataract surgical camp in Endau, held in early October, had just concluded but it is scheduled to be used for the first time during surgery on a two-year old child in mid-November.

The child's mother brought her to the camp where she was diagnosed with bilateral congenital cataract, contributing to the girl's inability to walk. Congenital cataract surgery must be carried out under general anaesthetic to ensure the child stays perfectly still during the procedure and because Endau dispensary is not set up for this level of intervention, IEA organised for the child to be referred to Mwingi Level IV hospital, where her operation will be carried out by the IEAgles team.

The microscope will then be used in IEAgles' eye surgical camps going forward.

IEA has purchased two cataract surgical sets and is awaiting delivery. In the interim the medical team is using scant equipment loaned from the medical facilities in which camps have taken place. Having its own equipment will make a huge difference to IEA's capacity and ability to plan its own work without having to rely on borrowing items and work when they are not in use by others.

Eye screening services have taken place in Migwani, Mwingi North, and Endau over the past five months. 398 people have been screened and 148 operations have taken place to restore sight.

The story of the Endau camp held between 18th and 22nd August is illustrative of the conditions IEA and the Kitui County Eye Team face. Endau in Kitui East, is a major catchment for people needing cataract operations. During the pre-camp set-up visit, the IEA team discovered that the Endau dispensary, which would host the surgical camp, did not have electricity, necessitating a reliable alternative source of power to be secured. Moreover, the health facility lacked designated wards, requiring the team to devise innovative solutions to accommodate patients who travelled from distant regions. Despite these challenges, the camp was scheduled, and mobilisation began.



Patients recovering after surgery at the Migwani camp, June 2025



Patients recovering after surgery at the Endau camp, August 2025

More than 200 patients from different regions presented to the health facility, the majority of whom were elderly. Because most of the attending patients had low-income levels, IEA needed to provide additional support for those who required it. All patients attending the camp were attended to, and 63 patients were booked for cataract surgery. Some of the booked patients did not return, while others either

presented with serious health conditions that meant it was not safe to conduct their operation in the dispensary, or changed their minds and withdrew consent when it was time for their operation. The IEA team was able to conduct 51 successful cataract surgeries. In addition, patients who presented with complex conditions were referred for further treatment because it is impossible to carry out surgery under general anaesthetic at Endau dispensary.

There is a huge need for eye care services in this region. The nearest health facility where patients can access eye care services is at Kitui County Referral Hospital, which is 88 km away from Endau, or Mwingi Level IV Hospital, which is more than 100 km away from Endau. Many patients do not seek treatment for their eye problems due to poor road networks, low-income levels, and a lack of reliable transport services. Due to the high number of people needing eye operations, the IEA team returned to Endau in early October when 42 people were re-screened and operated, and 53 new patients were screened.

Further camps are planned over the coming seven months of the project.

Conclusion

The support of Fondation Eagle will revolutionise IEA and the Kitui County Eye Team's ability to deliver eye screening and cataract surgery in the region and ensure that no one misses out on restored vision due to where they live or inability to access existing services, which are few and far between. An excellent start has been made to the project and we look forward to updating you with further progress in our final report.

Expenditure statement:

Item	Budget (local currency)	Budget (GBP £)	Expenditure (local currency)	Expenditure (GBP £)
SO-111 TZ portable ophthalmic microscope, case, international freight, local import and transportation	USD 16,266	GBP 12,609	USD 11,736 (microscope)	GBP 9,098
			KSH 588,830 (freight, duties, local transportation etc.)	GBP 3,511
				Total GBP 12,609
Cataract surgical sets x 2	USD 2,322	GBP 1,800	KSH 174,000	GBP 1,038
Eye screening services for 6 months to include service delivery, drugs and consumables, and transport/fuel around rural communities	USD 17,887	GBP 13,866	USD 7,453	GBP 5,778
Sub total		GBP 28,275		GBP 19,425
Project management @5%		GBP 1,414		GBP 590
Grand total		GBP 29,689		GBP 20,015
<i>Carry forward</i>				<i>GBP 9,674</i>

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.29 USD (06.03.25)

1 KSH = 130 USD (06.10.25)

Signed by: Pascale Noel and Sarah Smith (IMPACT UK Co-CEOs) 11th November 2025