

MEAK

MEDICAL & EDUCATIONAL AID TO KENYA



MEAK – REPORT TO FONDATION EAGLE EYE MISSION - KAPSOWAR AREA, DEC. 2022

Donor:

Fondation Eagle

Donors Reference:

FF0643

Date of Acceptance:

26th September 2022

Amount of Donation:

USD \$36,280

Duration of project:

December 2022

Estimated beneficiaries:

2212 patients reviewed

256 surgical procedure



PREFACE:

When this project was initially conceived, the intention was to travel to Wajir County in North Eastern Kenya, a very hot and arid place within the Sabena Desert, where temperatures can fluctuate between the mid and upper 30's. We had been informed that there were a large number (circa 180) of people waiting to have cataract procedures. As it happened another ophthalmic team pre-empted our trip and when the funding came through, their mission had taken place.

Various alternative locations were discussed, and eventually the area around Kapsowar in Western Kenya was settled on as an area with a high number of people with existing blinding situations . It was decided to establish two diagnostic centres, at Chesoi and Chesogoch, both in the Cherangany Escarpment and approximately 1 hours driving apart. This area is over 2000 metres above sea level with a cool and windy climate. It was calculated that this mission would prove appreciably less expensive than the original destination, in view of the reduced travelling time and costs and diminished logistical difficulties it would present.

Preparations:

The team decided that we should employ our normal practice of hiring two vehicles for the mission – one larger lorry that contained all the camping equipment, tents, sleeping bags, mobile showers and toilets, catering equipment , food and all the medical supplies and equipment. The second vehicle was a Land Cruiser that was used to shuttle patients and provide transport for purchase of supplies whilst on site. Both vehicles came with drivers. A cook and kitchen helper were also included.

Approx ten days before the mission was due to start, all the medical and food supplies were purchased and collected. The medical team was appointed and instructed, and communication with the mission destinations established. MEAK's coordinator visited the area on two occasions to liaise with the local ophthalmologist. A major financial saving for the mission was made as a result of the involvement of the local ophthalmologist who was able to make an initial list of patients from his existing waiting list, and who will also be able to carry out the post operative checks which are made after 4 - 6 weeks.



The mission was carried out between the 25th November and 4th December 2022.

Difficulties:

It was not appreciated how difficult the journey turned out to be from Nairobi to Chenoï, taking 8 hours of very hard going, on poor and extremely hilly terrain. The team arrived in the early evening, pretty exhausted and after setting up the camp, wasted no time in eating and getting into bed.

The usual practice of using the small Land Cruiser was employed, visiting outlying shambas, and seeking blind or partially blind, patients suitable for cataract surgery. The difficulties of the terrain and accessibility made this very arduous, but the number of people who would not have had their eyesight restored had it not been for this 'shuttle' service made the effort worthwhile

Achievements:

During the nine days of the mission we were able to achieve the following results

- 2,212 patients received eye examinations
- Carried out 248 cataract operations
- Bilateral operations were performed on 6 patients of these patients
- Carried out 6 tarsal plate rotations procedures for trachoma sufferers
- Removed 2 foreign bodies from eyes
- Dispensed 273 pairs of reading glasses
- Dispensed 20 pairs of Photo Chromatic reading glasses
- Dispensed 250 pairs of sunglasses
- Dispensed approx. 3200 doses of various medical eye drops

Conclusion:

Bearing in mind the decision to operate in this area was taken without the usual time for preparation and negotiations, MEAK considers it an outstanding success. More than 250 people have received eye surgery, returning them from blinding disabilities to useful and contributing members of their families and communities

44 patients were left needing further cataract procedures as a result of us running out of inter ocular lenses and other medical supplies. The local community have beseeched us to return at a future date to complete these, and further, as yet unidentified, patients.

**Actual costs:**

Amount of original donation **\$36,280.00**

Expended on medical supplies Ksh 394,061

Expended on Motor Fuel Ksh 108,206

Expended on food for team and patients Ksh 129,990

Expended on allowances for medical team
and support staff Ksh 757,000

Expended on miscellaneous purchases Ksh 12,610

Total **Ksh 1,401,867**

In U S Dollars **\$12,300.00**

Cost of hire of Lorry, tents, sleeping bags, ✓

Kitchen equipment etc with drivers

and support staff **\$ 4,050.00**

Cost of hire of Land Cruiser and driver **\$ 1,395.00**

Total Expenditure in US Dollars **\$17,745.00** **\$17,745.00**

Total underspend **\$18,535.00**