

# Eye Corps, Inc. Operating Report

December 31, 2024



We are delighted to report that with the support of our valuable donors, Eye Corps continues to expand and bring sight to the blind in sub-Saharan Africa. Eye Corps has realized a significant increase in surgeries over this time last year and we are proud to report that we have exceeded our annual goal of 1000 cataract surgeries in 2024.

*For the period of January through December we are happy to report **1,563** successful cataract surgeries, performed through eye care services being provided in Tanzania.*

## Highlights & Outreach Camps:

Our annual fall trip to the Ruvuma region of Tanzania signaled the end of our outreach activity for 2024. We went out on a high note having screened over 2,000 people in the region and completing 298 eye surgeries over the course of our 8 surgical days.

We were fortunate to partner with a fellow NGO in the region for this trip and had a wonderfully positive experience. The Hope Alliance is an NGO based in Park City, UT who focuses on refractive error and dispensing of glasses. They joined us for the screening portion of the trip as we visited 14 villages in and around Songea. As a team we screened for cataracts and other eye complications for referral to the surgical camp at Songea Regional Referral Hospital and dispensed 1,504 pairs of reading and sunglasses. Serving the people of these villages was one of the highlights of this trip for all involved.



We had a good size team for this outreach, engaging with over 20 in-country ophthalmic health professionals in the capacity of hands on surgical trainers and mentors. Additionally, three residents from MUHAS joined us and rotated through the various surgical stations while receiving hands-on training for biometry and general patient care.

The quarter's outreach activity was rounded out during the month of November with three local programs in Lindi spearheaded by Eye Corps Doctor Mwita Bokango. In total across all three regions, over 4,300 patients were screened in November alone with over 400 cataract surgeries performed.

We look forward to starting 2025 off strong with our first stop in Kilimanjaro slated for March. We will travel to the Same district of the region for a 5-day surgical camp at Same District Hospital under the guidance of Eye Corps Doctor Peter Mlundwa and his team from the Mawenzi Regional Referral Hospital Eye Department.

#### Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (Eye Department) ("MUHAS")

Eye Corps remains focused on providing educational resources to complement local residency programs and continued medical education curricula by providing opportunities for additional quality training and skill transfer.

Our program has been thoughtfully designed around the following three main pillars of learning, which are applicable in both postgraduate and continuing education environments.

- Continued Education: As we see 2024 come to a close and begin thinking ahead for 2025, Eye Corps will be shifting our focus to the Visiting Professorship program at MUHAS. After several very successful trips by our team in 2024, it is clear that the residents at MUHAS have prioritized the in-person, hands-on training provided as part of these visits. Eye Corps has identified many acclaimed ophthalmic professors and health care professionals who are eager to participate.

Under the capable supervision of Roger Furlong, Medical Director and Jane Durcan, Director of Education Resources, we are excited to kick off the year with trips planned as early as May. We continue to garner interest from the global ophthalmic teaching community and are gaining participants, including from Tufts University Medical School and medical institutions abroad in India and the U.K.



- Wet Lab Development and Training: Use of the surgical training lab which resides at MUHAS continues to be a valuable resource for the resident program. We remain focused on efforts to develop a Virtual Wet Lab curriculum which will integrate intensive lab training into the overall training program with the intent of substantially improving the surgical training that the residents receive. Members of our Education Resource Committee are curating materials to progress this vision forward.
- Outreach Surgical & Teaching Camps: Eye Corps continues to work with the MUHAS residents to build upon their knowledge as well as their surgical skills. The residents will continue to volunteer at Eye Corps' sites and outreaches throughout 2025.

#### Eye Corps' Vision for 2025



We spent valuable time and consideration formulating our path forward for 2025. The following three areas represent our primary areas of focus for the coming year:

#### **Humanitarian Work**

We feel strongly that with the successes found at our surgical camps in 2024, the Eye Corps model for Outreach Training Camps has been proven. We will place priority in 2025 on developing standard operating procedures to facilitate replication and increased successful surgeries across all our five regions. Our goal is to boost our numbers by 1,000 cases in 2025 with the support of the HCP Cure Blindness Reach project.

## MUHAS Continued Education

Eye Corps has made major strides with its partnership at MUHAS since its inception in 2021. We remain committed to expanding our efforts in the wet lab and continuing to bolster the eye department curriculum with lecture materials and our visiting professorship program with the long-term goal of developing an exemplary training center to benefit the residents of Tanzania.

## Collaboration

With our found success with the MUHAS program, we plan to advance our collaborations with other in-country educational institutions, KCCO and KCMC (defined below) to continue to build upon the ophthalmic curriculum being offered to all potential ophthalmologists and ophthalmic clinical staff in Tanzania.

### *Collaborations with Eye Corps*

An important element to Eye Corps' mission in sub-Saharan Africa is collaboration. We believe it is essential to build partnerships to aid in our common goal of providing sight to the people of Africa. Some of our most important collaborations include:



- [University of Utah, Moran Eye Center](#)  
The Moran provides essential education resources and sub-specialty training opportunities for our surgeons as well as plays a key role in our strategic planning for growth in the country.
- [Charity Vision](#)  
Eye Corps could not do what we do without the valuable support of Charity Vision. They are a primary resource for consumables, necessary for successful outreach events. In addition, we value this partnership when discussing ways to effectively develop our training program.
- [See International](#)  
This organization has been active in sub-Saharan Africa for many years and is another very valuable resource to Eye Corps for consumables. They also play a key role for us when navigating in-country government relations. We are grateful for their ongoing support.
- [Vision Health International \(VHI\)](#)  
VHI is a fellow NGO providing eye care in underserved communities around the world who is just entering the landscape in Tanzania. We were fortunate to be connected with them as we were developing our newest Eye Corps site in the Arusha region under the leadership of Dr. Frank Sandi. VHI's relationship with a small village in the neighboring district of Ndombo has been instrumental in establishing the surgery referral model being implemented for Dr Sandi's clinic. We look forward to building our partnership with them while providing eye care to all of those in need.
- [The Hope Alliance](#)  
Hope Alliance is a fellow NGO bringing vision care and eye glasses to people worldwide. While they have been active in Africa for some time, they are new to Tanzania. We are excited to be partnering with them to provide glasses to our outreach patients.
- [Lions Club, Dar es Salaam](#)  
This women led group of volunteers will be an asset to Eye Corps' outreach work in Tanzania. We look forward to partnering with them on screening and glasses for our outreach campaigns.
- [Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology \(KCCO\)](#)  
KCCO is an essential partnership to have when collaborating across NGO's to develop outreach strategies and skill development.

- Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC)

KCMC represents a partnership in education for Eye Corps. As the primary referral hospital for our nurses and technicians in training, we value our collaborative efforts to improve upon the shared training curriculum.

- Muhimbili Hospital

The hospital is home to many of our Muhimbili University residents in training. The hospital plays an essential role in the training process for each student.

## Regional Eye Corps Site Update

(1/1/24 - 12/31/24)

<b>Kilimanjaro Region (Est. 2017)</b> Mawenzi Regional Referral Hospital Eye Corps Surgeon : Dr. Peter Mlundwa Doctors: Grace & Naomi Nurses: Zoe, Nanzia & Agness Optometrists: Sadick & Mathias	<u>Number of Patients Treated*</u> 9349  <u>Number of Cataract Surgeries</u> 511
<b>Ruvuma Region (Est. 2021)</b> Songea Regional Referral Hospital Eye Corps Surgeon : Dr. Charles Peter Hinju Doctors: Imelda Nurses: Rajabu, Helta, Emmanuel & Marietha Optometrists: Baraka & Godlove	<u>Number of Patients Treated*</u> 4172  <u>Number of Cataract Surgeries</u> 478
<b>Lindi Region (Est. 2022)</b> Sokoine Regional Referral Hospital Eye Corps Surgeon: Dr. Mwita Bokango Nurses: Materina, Lea, Marieta, Andrew Optometrists: Latifa, Susan, Emmanuela	<u>Number of Patients Treated*</u> 4179  <u>Number of Cataract Surgeries</u> 479
<b>Arusha Region (Est. 2023)</b> Vision Care Eye Clinic Eye Corps Surgeon: Dr. Frank Sandi Nurses: Optometrists:	<u>Number of Patients Treated*</u> 214  <u>Number of Cataract Surgeries</u> 19
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<p>*Treatment numbers include screening metrics for clinic and outreach activity combined</p>	