

Kisii Eye Hospital: February 2020 Newsletter

Outreach Camps

We conducted a medical camp at Suguta Tea Buying Centre, Kisii County. The eye care services that were offered included; eye health education, consultation, refraction, drugs and cataract surgery. We screened 100 patients and performed 10 surgeries.



Patients awaiting eye examination at Suguta Tea Buying Centre



OCO Makamara examining a patient at Suguta Buying Centre

Corporate Social Responsibility

Through the Star Newspaper, we got to learn of a very poor needy family. This family of 10 comes from Kisii County and six of their children and the mother were battling with various eye conditions since birth. They were unable to see.

Monday, February 24, 2020

THE-STAR.CO.KE

NEIGHBOURS APPEAL FOR HELP

Agony of Kisii mum and her six children with rare eye condition

Husband kicked them out for 'bringing curse of myopia' to his family

MAGATI OBEBO
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Villagers at Sengera in Bomachoge Borabu, Kisii county, are appealing for help to a mother and her six children who are battling a rare eyesight condition.

Dorca Morara was kicked out of their matrimonial home by husband Richard Morara who accused her of bringing the curse of blindness to his home.

Dorca and six of her seven children have eyesight defects that have curtailed their ability to see. The children do not go to school as a result.

Villagers say the minors are endowed with natural intelligence but have been reduced to begging for food.

Florence Mongina, a neighbour, said their generosity has severely been tested over the years and asked the government to help.

"We are constantly helping them but it can't be enough. Any help to this family is highly welcome," Mongina said yesterday.

Doctors in Kisii say the children would be nursing partial blindness. Failure to seek treatment can worsen the situation, warned Melinda Shah, an optician.

Dorca's troubles began in 2007 when her firstborn son was diagnosed with the condition. Two years later, the second child, also a son, was confirmed to be suffering from the same condition.

Then the third, the fourth, the fifth and sixth child followed. For Dorca, the center could not hold any longer.

Her angry husband kicked her out of the home, saying she was the source of the curse visited



upon his children. "It was a truly testing moment for me but I obliged and left," Dorca said.

The husband then married another wife but they disagreed after a short stay before he recalled Dorca. Their lastborn son is the only child who has survived. Dorca hopes he doesn't get diagnosed with the condition. She keeps hope alive.

The eye defects are thought to be generational given her grandmother also had the condition. Although Dorca's father and mother did not suffer from it, the grandmother's condition suggests it is generational.

"This is a situation that can be transmitted from one generation to another," Dorca said. She appealed for help to her children.

With some funding, she says, they can be helped to realise their potential. "They love to go to school, they even hide to go to

nearby schools which lack specialist teachers," she said.

The nearest school is in Kiomiti in Masaba South constituency, tens of kilometres away from Dorca's home in Kenya.

The family lives in an old shanty that is threatening to collapse. Dorca says all but the eldest child slump on the cold muddy floor every night.

The house's iron sheets have large gaping holes. "At times the children are forced to huddle into a corner and wait for the rains to subside," she said.

Dorca relies on menial jobs for survival but she says people no longer call her to dig in their farms because "they claim I uproot their crops given my poor eyesight."

"Some just don't pay me. Others say I will pay for the crops I had accidentally uprooted as I removed weeds in the shamba. In all these we have learned to trust in God."

Dorca Morara with her children in their home in Bomachoge Borabu, Kisii county /MAGATI OBEBO

'IN ALL THESE, WE HAVE LEARNED TO TRUST IN GOD'

Kisii Eye Hospital offered free consultation services for this family. 3-year-old Samwel Onyanchar's vision was found to be okay. 5-year-old Esther; 8-year-old Ruth; 10-year-old Zainabu and 12-year-old Happiness together with their mother Dorcas have been diagnosed with Cataracts in both eyes and need to undergo Cataract surgery as treatment. 15-year-old Danson and 13-year-old Joyvena had posterior capsular opacity [after-cataract] from a previous cataract surgery done. They needed posterior capsulotomy and anterior vitrectomy. Treatment will be availed after the family accepts to undergo surgery as there seems to be fear of undergoing surgery from the family as well as when funds can be available for the eye surgery procedures to be performed.



Dr. Patrick Ruhagaze, Dorcas Mong`are with 7 of her children and a well-wisher after eye examination, when they visited Kisii Eye Hospital.

University of Nairobi Ophthalmology Elective Programme

Dr. Eric Mbugua is undertaking a 2 month elective ophthalmology training programme at Kisii Eye Hospital. He will also benefit from the Right to Sight Small Incision Cataract Skills Refinement Training Programme.



Dr. Erick Mbugua on the left with optometry intern Mr. Kuchio (right) at Kisii Eye Hospital



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