

2019

# ANNUAL REPORT



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# ABOUT KCCO

## ELIMINATING AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS IN AFRICA

The Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) was established in 2001 in response to the VISION 2020 initiative, a global campaign aimed at eliminating avoidable blindness by the year 2020, the product of a series of consultations between the WHO and NGOs working toward blindness prevention.

## VISION

Our **vision** for eye care in Africa is a continent where all Africans can access high quality, patient-centered eye care, provided by Africans in well-functioning systems.

## MISSION

Our **mission** is to strengthen African health systems and partnerships through the provision of eye health training, the conduct of research, the facilitation of planning, and change implementation to achieve the goals of VISION 2020 and GET 2020.

## IMPACT

- Building capacity to strengthen existing eye health systems and to spur local innovation
- Facilitation of planning and change implementation at different levels of the health system
- Epidemiological and operational research to inform practice, program and policy

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS



KCCO succeeded in carrying out its multi-pronged mission across Africa in 2019.

**In the fight against trachoma**, KCCO continued to make great strides in 2019 in helping districts in Northern Tanzania to achieve their trichiasis elimination targets. KCCO was recognised by the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust for its contribution towards trachoma elimination in Tanzania. The Minister of Health of Tanzania presented a gift to KCCO Tanzania as a mark of appreciation and Dr. Paul Courtright, on behalf of KCCO and as the Sightsavers Trachoma Technical Lead for the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, attended a reception with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace in late 2019.

In 2019, KCCO also expanded its capacity strengthening activities in eight African countries to develop and manage organizationally sustainable eye care programs.

In the area of pediatric eye health, KCCO received a new grant from USAID, in partnership with the Benedictine Eye Hospital in Tororo, Uganda. This grant, which combines **research and programmatic activities** reaching the most vulnerable populations of Uganda, aims to provide evidence-informed recommendations on how to improve childhood blindness programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Still in the area of capacity strengthening, KCCO staff and collaborators, who are also serving as Honorary Professors in the Division of Ophthalmology at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and members of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Trachoma, provided scientific guidance and supervision for several projects involving UCT master of public health students.

There are no silver bullet solutions on the journey to eliminate preventable blindness in Africa. We are grateful to our like-minded donors and partners for the support provided (list of donors presented on page 11).

**ROBERT GENEAU**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
KCCO INTERNATIONAL

Handwritten signature of Robert Geneau in black ink on a white background.

**EDSON ELIAH**  
DIRECTOR  
KCCO TANZANIA

Handwritten signature of Edson Eliah in blue ink on a white background.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019

**Over  
9 000 adults received  
cataract surgery  
(47% women)**

**Over  
110 000 adults  
screened and  
treated (51%  
women)**

**Approximately  
1 600 surgeries  
performed on  
children (41% girls)**

**Over  
33 000 children  
screened and  
treated  
(51% girls)**

**Four new  
Trachomatous  
Trichiasis programs  
launched in  
Kilimanjaro Region,  
Tanzania**

**Launch of USAID  
project  
"Following  
up Child Cataract  
Patients in Uganda"**

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# OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosting a **cross-learning meeting of the Global Sight Initiative** held in Singida (Tanzania) in October, bringing together partners from six mentee hospitals located in Tanzania (4), Benin (1) and Uganda (1);
- Participation in the **2019 IAPB Council of Member** meetings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;
- Recognition by the **Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust** of KCCO's contribution towards trachoma elimination;
- Joining the Nourseen Foundation and the Egyptian health authorities for a **Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign** for trachoma elimination in the district of Matai. This was the first district-wide MDA in Egypt.



*Above: KCCO and Seva Foundation representatives together with the Dodoma team during an outreach on World Sight Day in October 2019.*

# VISION 2020

KCCO CONTINUED ITS MENTORSHIP ROLE WITH VISION 2020 PROGRAMS, SUPPORTING 10 MENTEE HOSPITALS IN BENIN, ETHIOPIA, MADAGASCAR, TANZANIA AND UGANDA AS PART OF THE GLOBAL SIGHT INITIATIVE (GSI).

## VISION 2020 PROGRAMS - 2019

Vision 2020 program	Screened and treated			Cataract surgeries		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Vakinankaratra Region, Madagascar	5,080	7,761	12,841	333	338	671
Atsinanana Region, Madagascar	1,297	1,767	3,064	474	507	981
Sava Region, Madagascar	3,919	4,803	8,722	239	187	426
Mara Region, Tanzania	3,382	3,499	6,881	109	73	182
Singida Region, Tanzania	3,460	3,623	7,083	330	362	692
Lira Region, Uganda	7,226	11,059	18,285	691	695	1,386
Amhara Region, Ethiopia	13,918	7,670	21,588	256	185	441
Mwanza Region, Tanzania	5,500	5,487	10,987	559	454	1,013
Bourgou Region, Benin	7,616	6,512	14,128	1,564	1,213	2,777
Dodoma Region, Tanzania	2,934	3,885	6,819	347	370	717
<b>All sites combined</b>	<b>54,332</b>	<b>56,066</b>	<b>110,398</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>9,286</b>

KCCO continued its mentorship, monitoring and evaluation activities through regular visits to the partner hospitals. In 2019, there was a greater emphasis on cost-recovery mechanisms based on the lessons learned from the partner hospitals in Madagascar in this area.

Most sites increased the number of cataract surgeries by more than 10% in 2019 vs 2018. Those that did not faced temporary human resource challenges, such as the retirement of an ophthalmologist, and KCCO is working with local authorities on both short-term and long-term solutions.

Our thanks to **Seva Canada** and **Seva Foundation** for their continued support of the the KCCO mentored Vision 2020 programs.

# REDUCING GENDER INEQUALITY

KCCO HAS BEEN THE LEAD ORGANIZATION PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY IN EYE CARE SERVICE DELIVERY IN AFRICA. TO HELP ADDRESS THE GENDER GAP IN EYE CARE, KCCO CONTINUED TO WORK WITH ITS PARTNERS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT GENDER-SENSITIVE STRATEGIES.

## SCREENING AND SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS REALIZED DURING 2019 FOR THE TWO MICROFINANCE SITES IN TANZANIA

Site	Total patients		Nb of community members referred by MF		Total cataract		Nb of cataract patients operated		Total TT		Nb of trichomatous trichiasis (TT) patients operated	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Mara	2219	2402	122	158	50	49	28	38	0	0	0	0
Ngorongoro	5420	7859	1875	2528	34	59	13	26	46	250	23	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>7639</b>	<b>10261</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2686</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>115</b>

With support from **Seva Canada**, KCCO-trained microfinance (MF) members in Ngorongoro District (Arusha Region) and Mara Region referred **4683 (57% women)** patients to both cataract and trichomatous trichiasis camps in the area.

In Mara Region, an evaluation and re-training of the MF members allowed the women to share their experiences and success stories from working in the field. Members agreed that the refresher training was valuable as they continue to refer patients to outreach camps and the Regional Referral Hospital.



*Above: Active MF members with T-shirts inscribed with "Balozi wa macho", which translates to "the ambassador of eye care activities".*

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# STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND BUILDING CAPACITY IN AFRICA

**KCCO PURSUED ITS COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN EYE HEALTH SYSTEMS SO THAT ALL AFRICANS CAN ACCESS HIGH QUALITY PATIENT-CENTERED EYE CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY AFRICANS THROUGH WELL-FUNCTIONING SYSTEMS.**

KCCO hosted an annual cross-learning meeting which brought together participants from partner hospitals supported by Seva Canada and Seva Foundation through the Global Sight Initiative (GSI) program on cataract treatment. The programs shared the targets they achieved for the year 2019, and set new ones for 2020. They also shared some unique challenges faced and action points they plan to put in place to solve them. Many thanks to Seva Canada and Seva Foundation for their support of the programs and for making this meeting possible.

KCCO also completed a number of consultancies in 2019 to assist international foundations and non-governmental organizations with the design, implementation and evaluation of eye health programs. Through its ties with graduate training activities at the University of Cape Town, there was an increased focus in 2019 on diabetic retinopathy and diabetic management systems (see Research and Evidence, page 10).



**Above: Participants from the Global Sight Initiative supported programs gathered in Singida, Tanzania for a cross-learning meeting.**

# CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS AND LOW VISION

KCCO CONTINUED TO PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS ACTIVITIES AND TO SUPPORT CHILDHOOD AND EYE HEALTH PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

## SCREENING AND SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS IN 2019

Sites	Total Screened		Total surgeries							
			Cataract Surgeries		Glaucoma		Other Surgeries		Total Surgeries	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
BEH/Tororo	2848	2603	109	66	23	35	276	203	388	304
LSFEH/ Blantyre	2918	2674	64	49	48	4	248	126	360	179
Burundi	6330	6675	45	27	8	11	77	70	130	108
Madagascar	4146	5212	23	33	4	5	58	46	85	84
<b>Combined (Total)</b>	<b>16242</b>	<b>17164</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>675</b>

In **Tororo, Uganda**, strong mobilization efforts by the Benedictine Eye Hospital for the screening of children in the communities and at schools took place in parallel with the training of teachers to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to identify and manage learners with low vision. **5,451** children were screened and **692** children received surgeries.

This year, the Centre Tertiaire de Sante Oculaire de l'Enfant (CTSOE) in **Burundi** set out to improve the referral process of children identified by Ophthalmic Clinical Officers (OCOs) working for vision centers in five provinces. Promotional activities conducted in communities and schools for the blind drastically increased awareness of the services offered by the CTSOE. A total of **13,005** children were screened and **238** received surgery.

In **Madagascar**, all four partner hospitals continued to invest in building bridges with communities for the early identification of children with visual impairment. 9358 children were screened and 169 children received a surgical intervention

In **Malawi**, the Lions Sight First Hospital organized the training of over 300 community key informants. Through the program the hospital enabled the hospital screened **5,592** children and provided **539** surgeries.



Above: Mercy, a young girl, being tested in Tororo, Uganda during one of KCCO's site visits.

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# ADDRESSING TRACHOMA GLOBALLY

## KCCO SUPPORTS TRACHOMA ELIMINATION EFFORTS IN TANZANIA AND GLOBALLY

In Tanzania, KCCO continued to serve as a local implementing partner for Sightsavers International and The END Fund for the achievement of district-level trichiasis elimination targets. KCCO was recognised by the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust for its contribution towards trachoma elimination in Tanzania. The Minister of Health of Tanzania presented a gift to KCCO Tanzania as a mark of appreciation

With funding from Sightsavers International, KCCO and the International Trachoma Initiative (drug donation program), a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign with Zithromax® was conducted in the district of Matai in Egypt. The campaign was a success, thanks to the leadership of local health authorities and the Nourseen Foundation as a local implementing partner.



**Above: A team of community drug distributors visit a household in Egypt, under the watchful eye of a donkey.**

KCCO Microfinance and Eye Care Coordinator, Fortunata Shija, and our Tanzania Director, Edson Eliah attended the Neglected Tropical Disease Control Programme's Annual Joint Planning Meeting in Dar es Salaam (photo below). As an NTD program implementing partner, KCCO runs trachoma programs in four regions in Tanzania.



**Above: The official launch day for a new trachoma program in Tanga.**

KCCO, through its affiliation with the Division of Ophthalmology at the University of Cape Town as WHO Collaborating Centre for Trachoma, continued to support institutional capacity building of key actors towards trachoma elimination. KCCO also completed a number of international consultancies. Among others, Dr. Geneau and Mr. Eliah conducted a capacity building workshop on MDA in Zimbabwe and Dr. Geneau contributed to several initiatives designed to generate new learnings and preferred practices for trachoma elimination. Dr. Courtright continued to serve as the Sightsavers Trachoma Technical Lead.

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# RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

**ALL KCCO ACTIVITIES ARE EVIDENCE-BASED AND KCCO CONDUCTS OPERATIONAL RESEARCH TO GENERATE EVIDENCE USED TO IMPROVE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES.**

The USAID project “Following up Child Cataract Patients in Uganda” was officially launched in November 2019. This is a partnership with the Benedictine Eye Hospital located in Tororo. The two-year project aims to improve high-quality access to pediatric eye care in the Eastern Region of Uganda. Research activities include a retrospective chart review and data collection involving children (and their families/caregivers) who were operated for cataract over the past 5 years.

Stephen Maduabuchi, a student supervised by Dr. Geneau and Dr. Caleb Mpyet at the University of Cape Town, presented his research, titled "Health System Analysis of Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Services in Nigeria - The Case of Akwa Ibom State" at the COECSA conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

Through a grant from COR-NTD (USA), KCCO and the Tanzanian Ministry of Health conducted an ethnographic research project to better understand the barriers to equitable access to MDA among nomadic populations in Tanzania and Kenya. Ultimately, our goal is to use the evidence generated to design specific interventions that could improve the reach and impact of MDA campaigns in both countries.

The IAPB Council of Members conference held in Dar es Salaam provided an opportunity for KCCO's Program Officer, Peter Kileo, to share how KCCO and Seva GSI use data in the planning and management of programs.

KCCO participated in the Tanzania Ophthalmology Society congress that took place in Dar es Salaam, bringing together eye care practitioners from across Tanzania.



**Above: Stephen Maduabuchi presents his poster at the COECSA conference in Rwanda.**



**Above: Project on equitable access to MDA- Focus group participants in the district of Longido in Tanzania.**

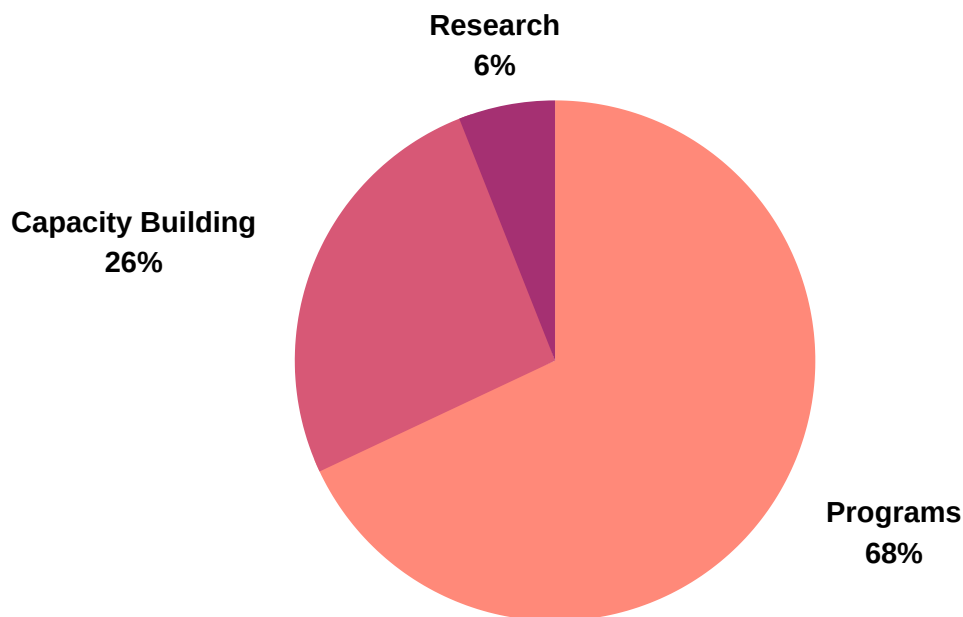
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## EXPENDITURES BY DONOR

US DOLLARS

<b>Sightsavers International</b>	<b>\$637,719.82</b>
<b>Seva Canada</b>	<b>\$374,754.59</b>
<b>Seva Foundation</b>	<b>\$348,263.00</b>
<b>The END Fund</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
<b>International Trachoma Initiative</b>	<b>\$48,734.73</b>
<b>David and Molly Pyott Foundation</b>	<b>\$42,901.39</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,532,378.53</b>

## CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURE



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# KCCO PUBLICATIONS

## ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY KCCO AUTHORS IN 2019

- Flueckiger RM, **Courtright P**, Abdala M, et al. The global burden of trichiasis in 2016. *PLOS NTD* 2019 Nov 25;13(11):e0007835. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0007835
- Gilbert SS, **Courtright P**, Ramasamy D. Expanding and Optimizing Human Resources for Eye Care. In: Khanna RC, Rao GN, Marmamula S, editors. *Innovative Approaches in the Delivery of Primary and Secondary Eye Care*. Cham: Springer International Publishing; 2019. p. 39-55.
- Ravilla T, **Courtright P**, Melgar JFY, Green D. Affordability and Financing for Eye Care. In: Khanna RC, Rao GN, Marmamula S, editors. *Innovative Approaches in the Delivery of Primary and Secondary Eye Care*. Cham: Springer International Publishing; 2019. p. 69-86.

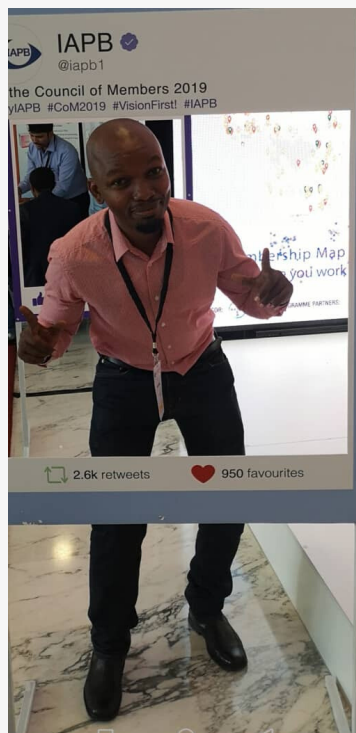
## KCCO TEAM

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND CAN BE CONTACTED AS BELOW.

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# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

MANY THANKS TO OUR STAFF FOR A BUSY AND FRUITFUL 2019!



**Left: Peter Kileo takes a selfie after presenting at the IAPB Council of Members meeting.**

**Right: Masaai children enjoying a lighthearted moment with KCCO field officer Robert Tumsifu who also was married this year (below).**



**Above left: Elizabeth Kishiki, KCCO Childhood Blindness and Low Vision Coordinator and Co-Chair of the IAPB Gender Equity Working Group attended the Women Deliver Conference in Canada.**



**Above right: KCCO Founder Paul Courtright represented the organisation during a reception held to celebrate the progress in global work towards the elimination of trachoma under the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. (Photo credit: Buckingham Palace)**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

THE COVER AND BACK PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE CREDITED TO ELLEN CRYSTAL PHOTOGRAPHY. WHEREVER NOT CREDITED OTHERWISE, PHOTOGRAPHS ARE TAKEN BY KCCO STAFF.



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