

# **BWIAM CATARACT CAMP REPORT HELD ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Bwiam secondary eye unit under the auspices of the entire board and management of Bwiam General Hospital would like to seize this rare opportunity to thank the National Eye Health Programme and partners noticeably the two Davids and their spouses for sponsoring this camp. I was thrilled by your act of magnanimity for raising the funds to help seventy-five needy patients regain their sight and by extension their independence. Your physical presence during the camp shows the level of commitment to help humanity and it also boosted our morale to diligently carry out our work with more vigour. The same sense of gratitude and appreciation also goes to the NGO **Cataracts Are Curable-Gambia – The Gambian Project** through Mr. Jim Phillips and his team for their fruitful partnership with the NEHP and The Gambia as a whole.

To all the visiting surgeons from the NEHP secretariat, Mr. Bakary Dibba, Mr. Mustapha Jagne Mr. Alasana Touray and Mr. Abdoulie Ngett from the Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre (SZRECC), we sincerely register our gratitude for the moral and professional support that you provided to us during the camp.

Finally, Bwiam Eye Unit staff will want to thank the administration through the hospital administrator for their immense support throughout both the screening and the camp. To the ever-committed staff of the unit, your sacrifices during these two days of the camp have not gone unnoticed and thank you.



## LIST OF OPERATED PATIENTS IN BWIAM CATARACT CAMP NOVEMBER 2022

NO.	DATE	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	SEX	NATIONALITY	DIAGNOSIS	PRE.OP VA		POST.OP VA		PRE.OP FBS
								VR	VL	RE	LE	
001	11th/11/22	Seedy Badjie	65years	Buram	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	3/60	6/36	6/24	6/36	5.5mmol/L
002	11th/11/22	Seedy Nyassi	79years	Bajagar	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	HM	6/36	6/12	4.7mmol/L
003	11th/11/22	Juka Sallah	70years	Buduck	M	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	5/60	HM	5/60	6/18	6.6mmol/L
004	11th/11/22	Amadou Bah	65years	Chabai	M	Gambian	BE: Cataract	PL	HM	6/24	HM	5.8mmol/L
005	11th/11/22	Tijan Ceesay	64years	Sibanor	M	Gambian	BE: Cataract	3/60	1/60	3/60	6/12	4.9mmol/L
006	11th/11/22	Bakary Jatta	64years	Bujilling	M	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	HM	HM	6/24	HM	6.3mmol/L
007	11th/11/22	Kebba Boye	70years	Wassadu	M	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	HM	1/60	6/36	1/60	5.9mmol/L
008	11th/11/22	Babanding Dibba	68years	Jali	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/6	6/12	6/6	6.6mmol/L
009	11th/11/22	Modou Cham	56years	Conteh	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	1/60	6/12	6/24	6/12	5.4mmol/L
010	11th/11/22	Modou Dumbuya	70years	Bambara	M	Non-Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	6/36	6/18	6/36	5.1mmol/L
011	11th/11/22	Isatou Kujabi	51years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	PL	6/36	6/12	4.5mmol/L
012	11th/11/22	Fatou Badjie	62years	Wassadu	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	5/60	6/36	6/36	6/36	4.7mmol/L
013	11th/11/22	Fatou Bojang	65years	Kampant	F	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	1/60	HM	6/18	HM	6.4mmol/L

<b>014</b>	11th/11/22	Yaya Sowe	60years	Kampassa	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	3/60	6/24	6/12	6/24	6.2mmol/L
<b>015</b>	11th/11/22	Aisha Badjie	70years	Bujingha	F	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	HM	PL	HM	6/18	5.6mmol/L
<b>016</b>	11th/11/22	Saiku Kaba	80years	Jalambery	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	5/60	6/36	6/24	5.8mmol/L
<b>017</b>	11th/11/22	Awa Bah	50years	Dobong	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/9	1/60	6/9	6/18	6.2mmol/L
<b>018</b>	11th/11/22	Saidou Jallow	80years	Somita	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/24	6/36	6/24	6.1mmol/L
<b>019</b>	11th/11/22	Malamin Tamba	56years	Sintet	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/18	PL	6/18	6/24	6.7mmol/L
<b>020</b>	12th/11/22	Pateh Bah	45years	Kampassa	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	PL	6/36	6/18	6.4mmol/L
<b>021</b>	12th/11/22	Sulayman Camara	80years	Jarrol	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	CF	6/36	6/18	6/36	6.3mmol/L
<b>022</b>	12th/11/22	Binta Bajo	80years	Kulikunda	F	Gambian	BE: Cataract	2/60	HM	2/60	6/36	5.7mmol/L
<b>023</b>	12th/11/22	Nuha Dampha	80years	Brikamaba	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/60	1/60	6/60	6/24	5.0mmol/L
<b>024</b>	12th/11/22	Mustapha Bojang	55years	Santanba	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	1/60	6/18	6/12	6/18	6.3mmol/L
<b>025</b>	12th/11/22	Lallie Beyai	58years	Brikama	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	5/60	6/24	5/60	6.7mmol/L
<b>026</b>	12th/11/22	Amadou Sowe	67years	Brikama	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	3/60	6/36	6/12	6/36	5.2mmol/L
<b>027</b>	12th/11/22	Lamin Colley	70years	Killy	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	6/36	6/18	6/36	5.6mmol/L
<b>028</b>	12th/11/22	Ebou Sanyang	76years	Chabi	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	HM	6/36	6/24	6.0mm/L
<b>029</b>	12th/11/22	Tamsir Samba Ann	69years	Buduck	M	Non-Gambian	LE: Cataract	5/60	HM	5/60	6/24	5.5mmol/L
<b>030</b>	12th/11/22	Kaddy Camara	58years	Janack	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/36	6/36	6/36	5.3mmol/L
<b>031</b>	12th/11/22	Nyima Sanyang	60years	Janack	F	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	3/60	CF	3/60	6/9	4.7mmol/L
<b>032</b>	12th/11/22	Musa Jarju	73years	Bujinha	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	3/60	6/36	6/18	6.6mmol/L
<b>033</b>	12th/11/22	Malick Badjie	59years	Monom	M	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	1/60	3/60	6/36	3/60	6.5mmol/L
<b>034</b>	12th/11/22	Dawda Leigh	63years	Kiang	M	Gambian	BIL: Cataract	HM	3/60	6/24	3/60	5.6mmol/L

<b>035</b>	12th/11/22	Abdoulie Trawally	76years	Wassadu	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	5/60	6/24	5/60	4.8mmol/L
<b>036</b>	12th/11/22	Sulay Sowe	65years	Sibanor	M	Gambian	BE: Cataract	3/60	HM	3/60	6/18	5.8mmol/L
<b>037</b>	12th/11/22	Penda Ceesay	59years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/60	PL	6/60	6/12	6.5mmol/L
<b>038</b>	12th/11/22	Limam Gibba	50years	Sibanor	M	Gambian	BE: Cataract	HM	3/60	6/36	3/60	5.9mmol/L
<b>039</b>	12th/11/22	Babucarr Sanyang	85years	Sibanor	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/60	6/12	6/60	5.9mmol/L
<b>040</b>	12th/11/22	Malick Surr	70years	Ahadulai	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	5/60	CF	5/60	6/24	5.5mmol/L
<b>041</b>	12th/11/22	Binta Camara	90years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	BE: Cataract	1/60	2/60	6/36	2/60	5.9mmol/L
<b>042</b>	12th/11/22	Isatou Makalo	72years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/12	1/60	6/12	6/18	6.9mmol/L
<b>043</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Sutay Jammeh	60years	Janack	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	6/18	6/36	6/18	5.5mmol/L
<b>044</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Wonto Drammeh	73years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/9	2/60	6/9	6/36	4.8mmol/L
<b>045</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Sulayman Danso	65years	Sibanor	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/24	6/12	6/24	6.4mmol/L
<b>046</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Isatou Fabureh	60years	Bulanjor	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/12	6/36	6/12	5.4mmol/L
<b>047</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Nyima Jallow	57years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/18	PL	6/18	6/12	6.0mmol/L
<b>048</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Penda Colley	72years	Nyamina	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/9	HM	6/9	6/24	5.7mmol/L
<b>049</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Alagie Bah	77years	Kanuma	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	1/60	6/36	6/36	6/36	4.8mmol/L
<b>050</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Abdoulie Colley	70years	Bulanjor	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	3/60	6/12	6/24	6/12	5.0mmol/L
<b>051</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Daboye Gibba	60tears	Somita	F	Gambian	LE :Cataract	6/24	2/60	6/24	6/24	6.6mmol/L
<b>052</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Dobally Sonko	75years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/18	PL	6/18	6/24	5.3mmol/L
<b>053</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Masireh Badjie	70years	Luluchor	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/36	6/24	6/36	6.1mmol/L
<b>054</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Kebba Colley	60years	Bulanjor	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/9	1/60	6/9	6/12	6.4mmol/L
<b>055</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Husay Sowe	48years	Tampoto	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/12	6/36	6/12	6.8mmol/L
<b>056</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Fitty Manneh	74years	Sibanor	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	HM	6/36	6/18	5.5mmol/L

<b>057</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Musukoi Tamba	65years	Janack	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/24	6/36	6/24	6.7mmol/L
<b>058</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Samba Jallow	78years	Jarrol	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	6/24	6/18	6/24	4.9mmol/L
<b>059</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Mariama Dampha	60years	Aronkong	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	3/60	6/12	6/18	6/12	5.4mmol/L
<b>060</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Karafa Sanyang	72years	Wassadu	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	1/60	6/36	6/24	6.3mmol/L
<b>061</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Alieu Kanteh	80years	Wassadu	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/24	6/12	6/24	5.3mmol/L
<b>062</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Momodou Bah	70years	Wassadu	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	1/60	6/36	6/18	6.6mmol/L
<b>063</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Dembo Sanyang	60years	Wassadu	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/24	3/60	6/24	6/12	5.5mmol/L
<b>064</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Mai Badjie	50years	Kampassa	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/18	6/24	6/18	6.2mmol/L
<b>065</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Maimuna Keita	60years	Kanuma	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	6/12	6/18	6/12	5.9mmol/L
<b>066</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Alagie Camara	80years	Bambara	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/24	2/60	6/24	6/36	6.6mmol/L
<b>067</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Sheriff Njie	60years	Bullunt	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/12	1/60	6/12	6/24	5.8mmol/L
<b>068</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> /11/22	Musa Kamara	55years	Jakoi	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	2/60	6/36	6/24	6/36	6.6mmol/L
<b>069</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Hawa Sabally	67years	Chabai	F	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/24	6/36	6/24	6.9mmol/L
<b>070</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Suntu Saidy	50years	Joren	F	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/12	2/60	6/12	6/24	5.0mmol/L
<b>071</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Lamin Konteh	66years	Ballen	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	3/60	6/18	6/18	6/18	6.7mmol/L
<b>072</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Ousman Bojang	51years	Killy	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/36	1/60	6/36	6/12	5.7mmol/L
<b>073</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Njemeh Jobe	50years	Buduck	F	Non-Gambian	RE: Cataract	PL	6/36	6/18	6/36	6.0mmol/L
<b>074</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Omar Gibba	72years	Siwol	M	Gambian	RE: Cataract	HM	6/24	6/24	6/24	5.8mmol/L
<b>075</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> /11/22	Mamut Jeng	56years	Sibito	M	Gambian	LE: Cataract	6/12	2/60	6/12	6/18	4.7mmol/L



## **INTRODUCTION**

Our modern world is built on our ability to see. Without vision, many of us would struggle to learn, to read, to participate in school, find work and to live life to the fullest. Today, at least 2.2 billion people have vision impairment and, of these, at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed. This is estimated to cost the global economy over US\$3 trillion every year in lost productivity and health and social care.

Vision is a universal issue. Everyone, if they live long enough, will experience at least one eye condition in their lifetime which will require appropriate care. By starting to calculate both the met and unmet needs, the World Report on Vision demonstrates the magnitude of eye health conditions and establishes eye health as a global population health issue. Cost-effective health solutions exist. Eye care is an area of health care with many highly cost-effective interventions for health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. This includes refractive errors and cataract which can be corrected overnight by a simple pair of glasses or low-cost surgery. But this is not just a health issue. The World Report on Vision recognizes the important contribution of eye health to the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting the close links between eye health and virtually every major issue in development, from education and economic growth, to reduced inequality and sustainability. Accordingly, it calls for a more holistic approach to eye health that necessitates a co-ordinated, multi-sectorial response. The report reflects on the progress to-date and remaining challenges for eye health; and provides a roadmap for countries and their development partners to delivering ‘integrated people centered eye care’ (IPCEC) as part of their commitments to achieving UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by the United Nations in 2015. **{World Vision Report-2019}**





cataracts are  
**curable**  
*the gambian project*

Cataract camp at: **BWIAM**      Date: 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

[www.cataractsarecurable.org](http://www.cataractsarecurable.org)

**BWIAM GENERAL**

## **PRE-CAMP SCREENING**

Bwiam secondary eye unit through the **NEHP** got some funding from one of its partners {an organisation called **CATARACTS ARE CURABLE CURABLE**} to conduct community screening for patients with cataracts and other eye conditions within the five {5} district of Foni. The activity was commenced after receiving the funds.

This was done by first making series of announcements on the local community radio as well as moving from one community to another. The screenings were done from morning to the late afternoons so as to cover as many communities as possible per day.

In total, fourteen {14} communities were screen in seven different days and over three hundred {300} people were seen during the visits. Out of this figure, seventy five {75} of them had cataracts that need surgical intervention while the rest had other eye ailments.

We also collaborated with an organisation called Gui-Mam Eye Care Association which is a local NGO that also embark on free eye screening at no cost to the patients. This particular screening was done in Sibanor village in the Foni Kansala district and more than thirty elderly people were identified to have mature operable cataracts. This formed a huge number of the patients that were booked for the camp in Bwiam Hospital. This particular screening was very well coordinated by the Village Development Committee chairman and the head of the village as well as the president of Gui-Mam eye care and we want to register our deepest appreciation for the collaboration during the activity.

The various “Nyateros” {friends of the eyes} whose communities were identified for the screening were also fully involved in sensitizing the patients for the screening before our arrival and they were very helpful.

During the course of the exercise, all those who needed medications during the screening were given medications free of charge.

Upon receiving the funds for the approved budget to conduct the cataract camp in Bwiam Hospital, patients screened and booked were called and a date given to them to report to the hospital for admissions and eventual surgeries.

### **DAY 1 OF THE CAMP -11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

After the arrival of patients to the hospital, all their bio data was taken and their laboratory work-up {fasting blood sugar} done. This was followed by the arrival of the visiting surgeons and our guests from the UK- Mr David Goss and his team. The theatre was set up and work began in earnest. In the first day of the camp, nineteen patients were operated.

### **DAY 2 OF THE CAMP 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

The second day of the camp saw a large turnout of patients as a good number of patients could not make it in the first day of the surgery. All four surgeons were in theatre on this day and the operations started earlier than the first day. By the end of the session forty-one patients have had their cataracts removed and had an intra-ocular lens implant. During the course of the two days some sixty patients were operated successfully at absolutely no cost to them—thanks to the sponsors. There were fifteen patients who were booked for the camp but due to reasons beyond their control could not make it on the two days of the camp. However the week following the camp they gradually came after seeing some of their community members already had undergone the surgery successfully. These patients were seen and operated as they came and all the remaining cataracts were done successfully on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

## **CHALLENGES**

In most cataract camps it's almost impossible to get all the patients booked to turn up for surgeries on the specified dates due to one reason or another and this camp was not an exception.

Some of the challenges encountered during the camps include the following:

- ❖ Inadequate staffing at the unit
- ❖ Limited equipment available to provide quality eye care service
- ❖ Lack of mobility to conduct routine eye screening in the community as advocated in the concept of Primary Health Care.
- ❖ Misconceptions about surgery in general and eye surgery in particular due to low awareness of the availability of eye health services by the members of most communities
- ❖ Poverty- even when community members are aware of availability of cataract surgery services, they cannot either afford to pay fare to reach service points or cannot pay for their surgery fees.
- ❖ Timing of the surgery- the period of both the screening and the surgeries coincided with the peak of the harvesting season and majority of those screened were farmers. Therefore the turnout for both screening and surgery were affected as most of them chose to go to the farms than attend the screening.

## **SUCSESSES**

- All the patients who benefited from the surgeries got an intra-ocular lens implanted to enhance their post-operative vision.
- Four experienced surgeons were able to attend and took part in the surgeries
- Some of the sponsors and or their representatives of the camp were physically present to witness the process
- All the patients who turned up were operated and fed at no cost to them
- Some of the patients operated were identified to serve as cataract motivators/ambassadors to convince their fellow community members to come forward to get the needed eye care.
- All the patients who benefited from the camp express their joy and appreciation to the sponsors and prayed for their continued wellbeing and that of their families.
- All the patients who were operated had their steroid and antibiotic eye drops, a pair of sunglasses and transport refunds.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the highlighted challenges above, the following points are being recommended:

- ✓ The National Eye Health Unit to closely work with relevant government institutions for training and retention of more eye health workers to meet the ever increasing demand of eye health services.
- ✓ The NEHP to advocate for more partnerships with philanthropists, NGOs and other relevant bodies to acquire more equipment for the eye centres which will enhance delivery of more quality service.
- ✓ Engaged more partners that can help the unit with some kind of mobility to make community outreach easy
- ✓ More community sensitisations on the relative safety and availability of cataract surgery services
- ✓ Engaged partners for more of such activities to be offered to those patients who lack the financial means to pay for surgery
- ✓ To do such activities during the dry season when a good number of people are not engaged in farming activities.



## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Bwiam secondary eye unit got funding from the two Davids and their spouses and Cataracts are Curable to conduct community eye screening and cataract camp for needy and disadvantage patients with cataracts. These two activities were completed within the months of October and November 2022 successfully. Over three hundred patients were screened and seventy-five of them were booked and operated for cataracts.

On behalf of the hospital management and on my own behalf we want to register our sincere thanks and gratitude to the NEHP secretariat and our valuable and reliable partners for funding both activities and restoring the sight of seventy-five human beings.

**Report compiled by:**

**Abdoulie Touray**

**Head Bwiam Secondary Eye Unit**

**Cataract Surgeon {SOMA}**