

## SURVEY REPORT FROM SAMBANG AND ENVIRONS

### THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

The survey was originally planned to take place in April, 2023. However, due to some circumstances beyond control, it could not happen. One of the reasons for rescheduling the survey was that I wanted to grasp an opportunity:

A long-time working partner of the National Eye Health Programme, **One-Sight**, proposed to make a donation of very good quality glasses for both reading and distance to be given out free of charge to people, but only on condition that they must be refracted before glasses dispensed. The NEHP was assigned to trek to the rural communities with support from **One-Sight** to dispense these glasses to the needy. Both NEHP and One-Sight agreed to conduct this exercise in the North Bank Region. Having been privileged to the information, I went into negotiation with the NEHP to persuade them to go with me to Sambang for the survey even though the exercise was meant only for the North Bank Region. I am grateful to Mr. Sarjo Kanyi, program Manager, NEHP, and team for supporting my idea and thereby encouraging me. All I was asked to do was to adjust the fuel cost for the bus from Farafenni to the south bank and then to Sambang, feeding of the staff involved and of course lodging for the five staff for the 2 nights. As a result, I had to join the public bus to meet up with the team in Soma and forgo the proposed distribution of sunglasses at Sambang.

This was a huge opportunity for the people of Sambang and surrounding villages. Lots of people had the opportunity to receive reading glasses to read their Quraan. Those who were short sighted included some children and others received glasses for distance. Normally such glasses would only have been available at the SZRECC, meaning they would have to travel there and at a cost.

So, we were doing the survey and refraction in the same room. We had 3 different stations, I sat on the first desk; everyone in the queue had to pass through me for initial screening. If I suspected refractive error, they were passed to the next station where the refractionist prescribed glasses, at the final station glasses and drugs prescribed from station 1 and 2 were dispensed.

I recorded details of patients requiring cataract operations. Everyone had their vision tested before I saw them. It was all well organised.

A total of 215 people were screened for different eye conditions ranging from dry eyes, vernal conjunctivitis, cataracts and pterygium. We saw lots of the previous cataract patients that we treated the last time, they were enjoying their vision and some of them receive surgery on their second eye this time. It was unfortunate that I could not afford to give out sunglasses as initially planned due to change of plans. We've booked 33 mature operable cataracts for operation as soon as possible + 3 cases of pterygium which needs excision as well. So, therefore, 33 operable cataracts are waiting for surgery and 3 pterygium excisions. Unfortunately, I did not find out from Mr. Muhammad Kinteh, the **One-Sight** rep. in the team, as to how many glasses were dispensed.

Generally, it was an interesting exercise; the people were so excited for the opportunity to have for the first time reading and distance glasses being dispensed in their communities. Also, drugs given for the commonest conditions of allergies and dry eyes were dispensed at no cost. On our second day of screening, we were presented with a he-goat for lunch by the villagers at Katamina Village. We, as the screening team headed by Mr. Bakary Dibba, the deputy program manager, felt honoured by the communities of Sambang and surroundings.

We, remain indebted to **CATARACTS ARE CURABLE** and **ONE-SIGHT** for their foresight in making it possible for the rural poor to have access to quality eye-health services at their doorstep at no cost. As for us, the eye-health workers, words cannot express our gratitude; for you make it possible for us to reach out to the hard to reach rural poor Gambians.

**Thank you**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>AGE</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>DIAGNOSIS</b>	<b>VISION</b>
<b>NDUNGU SABALLY</b>	64	F	SAMBANG VILLAGE	RE.CATARACT	1/60
<b>JARRA KUYATEH</b>	63	F	SAMBANG VILLAGE	LE. CATARACT	2/60
<b>YERRO JALLOW</b>	67	M	GAINAKO KUNDA	BIL. CATARACT	6/60 5/60
<b>SIRA SOWE</b>	69	F	SAMBANG	<i>BIL. CATARACT</i>	6/60 5/60
<b>PATEH JALLOW</b>	72	M	GAINAKO KUNDA	RE.CATARACT	1/60 6/9
<b>KUMBA JAWO</b>	70	F	KATAMINA	RE. CATARACT	1/60 3/60
<b>NJATOU JAWO</b>	60	F	MALI KUNDA	BIL.CATARACT	4/60 HM
<b>KEJAW SONKO</b>	70	F	KATAMINA	BIL. CATARACT	1/60 3/60
<b>JARI JALLOW</b>	56	F	SARE SAIDOU	BIL. CATARACT	1/60 HM
<b>SARRU SANYANG</b>	66	F	KATAMINA	RE. PTERYGIUM	6/9 6/6
<b>NYIMA JADAMA</b>	76	F	KATAMINA	RE.CATARACT	HM 6/24
<b>MAMA CHAM</b>	80	F	KATAMINA	LE. CATARACT	6/60 1/60
<b>MARIAMA KEBBEH</b>	60	F	MALI KUNDA	LE. CATARACT	6/18 HM
<b>TAKO JALLOW</b>	59	F	MALI KUNDA	RE. CATARACT	HM 6/60
<b>KADDY SONKO</b>	56	F	KATAMINA	BIL. PTERYGIUM	6/24 6/6
<b>FATOU DAMPHA</b>	70	F	KATAMINA	BIL. CATARACT	HM 6/60
<b>TAMBA CHATTY</b>	80	M	PINAI VILLAGE	BIL. CATARACT	2/60 HM
<b>ALKALI JALLOW</b>	30	M	KOLLY KUNDA	BIL. PTERYGIUM	6/12 6/6
<b>KITIM SONKO</b>	80	F	KATAMINA	RE. CATARACT	HM 6/36
<b>NYAMUNKA DAMPHA</b>	80	F	KATAMINA	LE. CATARACT	HM 6/24
<b>FAYE CEESAY</b>	65	F	KATAMINA	RE. CATARACT	2/60 6/36
<b>KUMBA SONKO</b>	69	F	KATAMINA	BIL. CATARACT	1/60 HM
<b>MBAYE JADAMA</b>	79	M	KATAMINA	BIL. CATARACT	3/60 HM
<b>FATOU MATA CONTEH</b>	66	F	KATAMINA	LE CATARACT	HM 3/18
<b>KEBBA NJUKA</b>	70	M	CHOYA	BIL. CATARACT	PL HMX
<b>ALIEU NJIE</b>	77	M	CHOYA	LE. CATARACT	6/36 HM
<b>FENDA BAH</b>	72	F	SARE BEROUM	BIL. CATARACT	HM 6/60
<b>SIRA JALLOW</b>	63	F	SARE BEROUM	RE. CATARACT	2/60 6/24
<b>BINTA SOWE</b>	59	F	SARE BEROUM	RE. CATARACT	HM 6/36
<b>SAIKOU SAIDYKHAN</b>	15	M	DANKUNKU	RE. CATARACT	HM 6/6
<b>YERRO SOWE</b>	69	M	SARE BEROUM	BIL. CATARACT	PL HM
<b>NYIMA SIRE BAH</b>	59	F	CHOYA	LE. CATARACT	6/36 HM
<b>PATEH JALLOW</b>	63	M	CHOYA	LE. CATARACT	6/60 HM
<b>MANLAFI JALLOW</b>	77	M	CHOYA	BIL	HM HM
<b>MAMA JALLOW</b>	68	F	CHOYA	LE. CATARACT	6/36 3/60
<b>BIROM SOWE</b>	70	F	SOWE KUNDA	BIL CATARACT	3/60 1/60



Queueing for examination



Alasana recording eye test results



Refraction



Dispensing glasses and medication

