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REPORT ON EYE SCREENING AT DANKUNKU

The attached is a report on community outreach eye screening conducted by **Gui-Mam Eye Care Association** in partnership with **Cataracts Are Curable** to support the vulnerable people who cannot afford financial eye services.

For your perusal whilst we solicited your usual cooperation and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

.....
Abdoulie Ngett.

GUI-MAM EYE CARE ASSOCIATION



Acknowledgment

Gui-Mam Eye Care Association wishes to take this opportunity to show our sincere appreciation to **Cataracts Are Curable Foundation** for financing our community outreach eye screening in

Dankunku. Since our partnership began **Cataracts Are Curable Foundation** have been offering the maximum support needed by Gui-Mam ranging from transportation, medication, feeding of patients and etc. On behalf of the entire association, we say merci beaucoup and hope to work hand in glove with your organization in our subsequent screening.

Our profound appreciation to the village development committee (VDS) and Alkalo of Dankunku Village.

Introduction

Gui-Mam eye care association is a charitable association registered under the Attorney General chambers and since our foundation in December 5th, 2019. We have been offering free eye screening in different parts of the Gambia. The association has well trained Ophthalmologist, ophthalmic nurses and other experience health care personnel who are license to operate in the country. The goal of this association is to reduce the prevalence of eye condition especially cataract and to render free eye service in the Gambia.

The following are some of the activities we conducted as an association to be succinct.

- Health education on eye diseases, their prevention and management
- Visual acuity for patients that show up for our screening
- Routine eye examination
- Intraocular pressures checks for patients suspects with Glaucoma
- Dilated funduscopy for patients suspects with Glaucoma
- Administration of treatment for patients with eyes infections like conjunctivitis
- One and one health talk on individual conditions
- Writing of referrals letters for patients who needs treatment to Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre

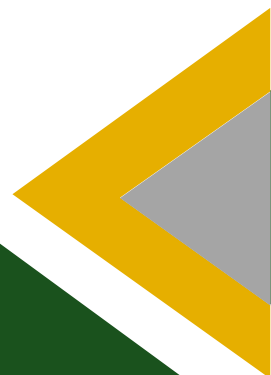
- Booked cataracts patients in our cataracts register (Name, address and telephone)
- Organize free cataracts operations at the communities level
- Follow up operated cataracts cases through the association collaboration with the communities ophthalmic Nurses
- Mobilized fund to finance our activities.
- Doing refractions at the village levels and issuing glasses to our clients.
- Network with Villages development committees VDC for their supports to facilitate our work.
- The Association collaborate with the regional cataracts surgeons during our outreach surgeries and screening.

The association is headed by a president, (Abdoulie Ngett) who is a Senior Ophthalmic Nurse. Mr. Ngett is a visionary leader with a lot of positive quality and experience. The following are the members of the association and their position in the association.

Name	Job title	Position in the association
Sambou Mbye (author)	Programme Officer OHSU	Secretary General
Pierre Mendy	Senior Ophthalmic Nurse	Cashier
Karafa Marong	Cataract surgeon	Vice President
Sunkary Badjie	Ophthalmic Nurse	PRO

The eye screening activity was done in a duration of two days. The team travelled to Niamina Dankunku on Friday 5th of May 2023 and all the logistic arrangement were done on the very day, the screening proper continued on Saturday 6th of May 2023. The team travelled back to the Greater Banjul Area on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Dankunku Village, Niamina Dankunku District, Central River Region was the community visited but patients from the following villages Babou Jobe, Jessadi, Si Kunda, Sambang, and other Villages.





GUI MAM
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Below are patient queuing for treatment





The table below shows the statistics of the eye screening in Dankunku

EYE CONDITION	NUMBER OF CASES
Mature cataract	11
Immature cataract	12
Pteryguim	10
Glaucoma	8
Allergic conjunctivitis	59
Refractive errors	16
Other	23
Total	139

At the end of the screening, eleven cataract patients were referred to Bansang eye unit for cataract operations. Because the number of cataract cases were not enough for a cataract camp, nine patients were referred to Sheikh Zayed Eye Care Centre for further review. Eight cases of glaucoma, registered during this outreach, were referred to Sheikh Regional Eye Care Centre for consultant review and management.

Constraints

1. Inadequate sensitization of patients about the date of the screening. The date of the screening was sent to officer in charge of Dankunku Health Center to inform the villagers, during their reproductive and child health clinics.
2. Lack of transport, the association doesn't have its own vehicle to transport its volunteers to the communities during outreach eye care services.



Stories

There was a patient who had bilateral entropion trichiasis and she needed urgent lid operations. We contacted Bansang Eye Unit and the patient was given money to pay for surgery fees and her transport to Bansang Eye Unit.

Another patient was supported with cash to travel to the Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre, for further review and management.

Recommendation

1. The screening dates should be aired to radio and TV station to reach high number of people in a short time.
2. Our partners to support Gui-Mam eye care association with trekking vehicle to reach the most remote areas in the country.

Conclusion

The Dankunku screening was successful and the association was able to mobilized good number of volunteers. Health care instruction was given before the screening and patients were properly screened. Drugs were given to patients who needs it and glasses dispensed.

