

REPORT ON CATARACTS ARE CURABLE SPONSORED CATARACT SURGERIES AT THE SZRECC,

FROM JULY TO OCTOBER, 2023.

Cataracts Are Curable (CAC) have continued to make life worth living for many Gambians living in the rural, peri-urban and urban areas.

Blindness has adverse effects on an individual in all the following aspects of health: physical, psychological, psychosocial, economical and even life expectancy. Most if not all of these effects spread from the individual affected to their families, societies and even the nation. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects that for any blind person who is dependent on others for his/her daily activities, the economic loss therein for the country is equivalent to \$5 (five US Dollars) a day. Unfortunately, in developing countries like ours, policy makers are often myopic and ignore this fact. As a result, this morbidity is not given priority. Instead, health sectors that record mortality often get the lion's share of resources. Fortunately for the Gambian National Eye Health Program and Gambians at large, big-minded people like Jim and Violet Phillips come to our aid with the initiative to form a charitable organization. The positive effects of this charity on the lives of Gambians are immeasurable.

The Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre (SZRECC) is the only tertiary eye care provider in the Gambia, it is located close to the capital. In previous years, CAC sponsored cataract surgeries which were focussed on rural Gambia until about 2 years ago when we called for attention to be directed to the urban areas too since poverty has no boundaries in developing countries. This has been proven beyond all doubt.

Twenty (20) people, blind from cataract, were carefully selected at SZRECC and had their vision restored courtesy of CAC.

Amongst these, there was a 90 year old woman called Nyima who lives in URR. She has only one daughter who is married and lives a long way from her. The old woman has no other person to look after her. In our culture, if people grow old their children look after them in every way according to their means. This old woman migrated from Guinea Bissau as a teenager over 70 years ago; got married to a Malian who was also an immigrant. The husband died when their only daughter was less than 10 years old. This old woman has no extended family in the Gambia. She was a subsistence farmer who developed cataracts in both eyes and could no longer farm due to age and poor vision. She travelled from URR to meet her only daughter who lives in a village in Kombo. While she was there, they were advised to go to the SZRECC. At the SZRECC, the first clinician who met them brought them to me. The daughter explained to me that someone in their village told them that there is somebody who help pay for poor people at the SZRECC. During my interactions with them, I was able to get their story.

All the 20 people have their vision restored and have long joined their families to enjoy a better quality of life.

I strongly recommend this initiative to continue.

LONG LIVE CAC



Nyima Darboe

NAMES	AGE	SEX	ADDRESS	PRE-OP VISION	POST-OP VA
AMADOU BAILO JALLOW	70	M	SARE BIROM	RE: HM	RE: 6/12
DODOU K. SAIDY	82	M	WELLINGARA	RE: CF	RE: 6/24
ANCHA CEESAY	70	F	OLD YUNDUM	LE:3/60	LE: 6/36
NYIMA DARBOE	90	F	JARRA SY KUNDA	RE: HM	RE: 6/24
ALIEU NJIE	63	M	LAMIN WAYETO	RE: HM	RE: 6/18
FATOUMATA DIBBASY	86	F	TALLINDING	LE:CF	LE: 6/18
TOMBONG BADJIE	69	M	BAINYAKA	RE: HM	RE: 6/12
YASSIN FAAL	72	F	NIUMI JURUNKU	RE: CF	RE: 6/36
SACKLINE SAMBOU	80	F	KANIFING SOUTH	RE: 1/60	RE: 6/36
SARJO JALLOW	77	M	BUNDUNG	LE: HM	RE: 6/24
ISATOU DIBBASY	92	F	TINKINJO	LE: HM	LE: 6/36
MARIAMA BARRY	78	F	SINCHU SORI	RE: HM	LE: 6/18
KEBBA NJIE	68	M	OLD YUNDUM	LE: CF	LE:6/24
ABDOULIE SANNEH	58	M	BRUFUT	RE: HM	RE: 6/9
MARIAMA BARROW	60	F	MANDUAR	RE:CF	RE:6/12
SUTAY SABALLY	88	M	SANCHABA SULAYJOBÉ	RE: HM	RE: 6/18
EBOU KOLLEY	67	M	TANJI	LE:2/60	LE: 6/18
FATOU JOBE	66	F	BAKAU	LE:HM	LE: 6/24
BINTA WALLY	59	F	IBO TOWN	RE: 3/60	RE: 6/12
KADDY CEESAY	67	F	TALLINDING	LE: 2/60	LE: 6/9



Alieu Njie

We operated on one eye before my leave. He's a photographer. He went blind and could not do his job to survive. His wives do petty trading to feed the family.



A very satisfied customer