

BRIKAMA DISTRICT HOSPITAL EYE UNIT COMMUNITY SCREENING

Brikama District Hospital is located in Brikama town, Kombo Central of the West Coast region.

It has a catchment area of 48 communities with a population of 253,278 (GBoS 2021).

Brikama District Hospital eye unit provides an extensive eye care service for the West Coast Region and beyond. It provides services like eye examinations and treatment of several eye diseases like cataract, trichiasis, pterygium, treatment of conjunctivitis, vernal conjunctivitis, uveitis, minor eye traumas etc. It also provides refractive services to the community.

Brikama District Hospital eye unit through the National Eye Health Programme, received funding from an NGO called Cataracts Are Curable to conduct eye health screening within the catchment area of the hospital.

Five communities were selected. Operable cataracts and other treatable eyes diseases were identified. It was carried out from 25th September to 2nd October 2023.

The pictures below show the screening process:











The communities were informed through various means of communication like radio, through WhatsApp audio, mouth to mouth, through the village communication team and so on. The screening was carried out in 5 villages and it was very successful. Medicines were given to those who need treatment free of charge. Some were referred to the clinic for further review and some were referred for refraction. 420 people were seen during the screening, 290 have eye problems as stipulated in the table below.

	Cataract	Conjunctivitis	Allergic conjunctivitis	Trichiasis	Glaucoma	Others	Total
Kunkujang Jattaya	10	10	25	1	3	17	66
Brikama jidda	11	14	10	0	5	22	62
Sanyang H.Centre	10	6	15	1	1	10	43
Siffo	12	5	12	2	5	20	56
Bafuloto	22	10	20	0	1	10	63
Total	65	45	82	4	15	79	290

CHALLENGES

Surgeons: Brikama eye unit needs more than one cataract surgeon to meet the increasing demand for a better eye care service.

Mobility: Brikama District Hospital eye unit does not have a motor vehicle to carry out routine community screening, this is a major cause of the backlog of untreated cataracts in the communities.

Nurses: There are no active Community Ophthalmic Nurses (CON) within our catchment area which also leads to much avoidable blindness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Eye Health Programme should be strengthened in order to improve services at the secondary units and outreach services.

More community ophthalmic nurses should be trained to cover all the catchment areas.

Brikama District Hospital should have two cataract surgeons to meet the increasing demand for services.

Gratitude is extended to NEHP and Cataracts Are Curable and ophthalmic staff of BDH, for their service to humanity.

Screenings attended by:

Ousman B Ceesay

Liaze Ndakey

Abubacarr Darbo

Yankuba Sanneh.

Report prepared by:

Ousman B. Ceesay

SOMA

BRIKAMA DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

10th October 2023