

**NARRATIVE REPORT ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED FREE CATARACT SURGERIES FOR 20 PATIENTS,
SPONSORED BY; CATARACTARECURABLE - THE GAMBIAN PROJECT (CAC).**

**OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUR AT THE SHEIKH ZAYED REGIONAL EYE CARE CENTRE (SZRECC).
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2023.**

Cataracts are the leading cause of avoidable blindness the world over. Developing countries still struggle to combat this blindness among the populace who live in the rural and under privileged areas. Often these people do not have access to or cannot afford the pay for operations and after care services. The Gambia is amongst these countries whose people in a rural setting struggle to live on under a US dollar per day.

Cataracts Are Curable is a non-profit charitable organisation in the UK whose mandate is to mobilize resources to support the Gambia National Eye Care Programme (NEHP) in its endeavours to restore sight to those blinded by cataracts.

Since its inception several years ago, CAC has sponsored free cataract surgeries for very many Gambians. Also, it has provided immeasurable support in terms of provision of equipment, tools, materials and technical support to the NEHP in order to facilitate smooth service delivery. We remain grateful to CAC for this.

Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre is the only tertiary level eye care provider in the Gambia. Ophthalmologist and Optometrist are based here to provide advanced services in ophthalmology. Despite it being a tertiary centre, on a daily basis, you will see patients who need cataract surgery but cannot afford to pay for it. CAC have agreed to provide the support needed for these people too.

Twenty people have just been sponsored for cataract surgery, amongst them was a 14 year old girl, Fatoumata Camara, who came from Basse area about 300km away. She was accompanied by her elder sister, neither of them was used to urban areas. When the cashiers approached them for payment after their admission, the elder sister was in tears as they have no money on them. This happened late afternoon when I had closed for the day, but, seeing the scenario, the nurse on afternoon shift remembered that I am able to pay for some people. She pitied the girls; she then called me and explained the situation. Immediately, I told her to give the phone to the cashier, I told the cashier that we will pay from the CAC funds which she already knows about.

Additionally, two people came from my home village area; they were screened during our survey in July 2023 but, at the time, they were not fit for surgery.

Finally, it's apparent that the need for such services cannot be overemphasised. We, at the delivery end, remained grateful to CAC and its donors for a job well-done.

Alasana Touray,
Cataract Surgeon, SZRECC
13th January 2024

LIST OF NAMES OF 20 PATIENTS WHO HAD CATARACT SURGERY AT SHEIKH ZAYED REGIONAL EYE CARE CENTRE (SZRECC), SPONSORED BY CATARACT ARE CURABLE - THE GAMBIAN PROJECT (CAC). FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2023.

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE	SEX	EYE TREATED	VISION BEFORE OPERATION	VISION AFTER OPERATION
Muhamed Jagne	Kanifing	77	M	LE	HM	6/18
Amie Jallow	Sinchu	61	F	LE	HM	6/6
Malamin Dampha	Katamina	70	M	LE	HM	6/9
Malick Njie	Jabang	74	M	RE	HM	6/18
Nfamara Kanyi	Njaba kunda	66	M	LE	HM	6/9
Fatoumata Camara	Nyakoi Village URR	14	F	LE	HM	6/24
Pateh Jallow	Sambang	68	M	RE	CF	6/18
Alh. Janko Jatta	Bakau	78	M	LE	1/60	6/36
Mai Bojang	Siffoe	65	F	RE	1/60	4/60
Sankung Fayenkeh	Niani Sukuta	63	M	LE	HM	6/18
Kaddy Camara	Nema Sukuta	75	F	RE	CF	6/24
Mafugi Sanyang	Kafuta	70	M	RE	CF	6/18
Binta Kanteh	Tabokoto	50	F	RE	HM	6/12
Kaddijatou Mballow	Yarambamba	51	F	LE	CF	6/24
Aja Gundo Hydara	Bundung	64	F	RE	HM	6/18
Pa Modou Jallow	Latrikunda	63	M	LE	5/60	6/24
Hamoudiatou Coulibaly	Brikama	63	M	RE	HM	6/12
Ebrima Touray	Bundung	78	M	LE	3/60	6/12
Mbie Sanyang	Jabang	65	F	RE	HM	6/36
Malamin Dampha	Katamina	70	M	RE	2/60	6/12 2 nd eye

