



AFRICA CATARACT PROJECT

Sudan Country Report

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I **INSANI** THE FOUNDATION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND
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HUMANITARIAN RELIEF
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About Africa Cataract Project



The onset of blindness is one of the most challenging hardships that a person can live through. Especially in a place like Africa where life is already a struggle for so many people, the added burden of blindness can be completely crippling, making work, travel and even simple day to day activities and chores extremely difficult and even dangerous. However, this need not be the case and for many millions of people, often unbeknownst to them, they need not live the rest of their lives in darkness. Cataracts, for example, are one of the leading causes of blindness in the world but are in fact entirely curable with the aid of a relatively simple surgical procedure. According to the most recent statistics compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO) cataract is responsible for 48% of world blindness, which represents about 18 million people and yet in the vast majority of these cases a simple 20-30 minute operation can almost completely restore their sight.

Giving sight back to poverty stricken people blinded by cataracts is the main aim of the African Cataract Project. Established in 2007 by the Turkish Charity the IHH (Humanitarian Relief Foundation) this project aims to ensure that **100,000** blind people in Africa will have their sight restored. This treatment is being provided entirely free of charge and is funded by the IHH and other Turkish organizations, as well as the Turkish State. The Project is focusing its mission on ten countries in sub-Saharan Africa: **Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Chad, Mali, Ghana, Togo, Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso**, where an estimated six million people suffer from blindness. All activities in the project are totally free of charge. It is possible to follow updated news about the project and to see live surgery through the project websites www.ihh.org.tr and www.afrikagorecek.com.

The Africa Cataract Project has not only set up many permanent, full-time clinics and surgical facilities for the treatment of cataracts throughout Africa but it also has a system of mobile clinics and mobile camps which reach patients in the most far flung rural areas. Patients who would otherwise be condemned to a life without sight have literally had their lives changed as a result of the Africa Cataract Project's charitable initiative.

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Africa Cataract Project in Sudan



The logistical center of this project is based in Sudan, the largest country in Africa and the gateway to sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to this, Sudan is also a primary beneficiary of the Africa Cataract Project. Eye problems caused by cataracts and other ailments are

extremely common in Sudan as a result of factors such as exceedingly bright sunlight, malnutrition and extreme poverty. This Project aims to perform **40,000** free cataract surgeries in Sudan throughout its duration. In order to achieve this goal the IHH works with the permission of the Sudanese government and has signed a protocol with Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health which allows them to provide these free surgeries.

To date, since the first surgery was performed in September 2007, the project has overseen the clinical examination of more than **75,000** Sudanese patients and cataract surgery has been performed on more than **26,000** people in Sudan. For all Africa patient examination reached to **158.000** and cataract surgery reached to **52.000**.

To perform surgeries in Sudan, a permanent center consisted of eye clinic and theater was established in Abdul Fadel Almas Eye Hospital at the beginning of project. Since the establishment, the center continues working daily to provide free eye care service for poor. The center receives approximately 40-50 new patients for surgery in addition to 100 patients for control whom operated before. In the center, 15 permanent employees from different branches work including administrator staffs. Recently, in July 2010, a new branch has been established for eye surgeries at Optometry Faculty of Nileyn University under collaboration with Nileyn Univ., Department of Prevention Blindness and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation. Another surgery program has also been started in West Darfur-Al Genina eye hospital.



Turkish medical teams (surgeons and medical assistants) entrusted by TIKA in cooperation with Turkish Ministry of Health visit the project center by turn and work with local Sudanese medical team. While a team departs to Turkey back, another medical team arrives to Khartoum to sustain eye surgeries. Since the project started, about 160 medical staffs from different cities in Turkey have taken part in the project.

Project Statistics in Sudan

By June 2011, all statistics regarding eye examination and cataract surgery performed under the project are shown in below chart:

Months	Examination	Surgery
2007 Total	877	786
2008 Total	26.200	9.204
2009 Total	21.027	7.343
January 2010	898	608
February 2010	962	712
March 2010	3.205	959
April 2010	458	370
May 2010	681	560
June 2010	579	483
July 2010	841	565
August 2010 (Ramadan)	682	366
September 2010	563	312

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October 2010	1.250	702
November 2010	1.132	405
December 2010	1.185	490
January 2011	1.209	610
February 2011	949	508
March 2011	1.081	543
April 2011	712	369
May 2011	1.025	487
TOTAL	75.895	26.382

Abdel Fadel Almas Eye Hospital



The Abdel Fadel Elmas Eye Hospital in Khartoum is the oldest eye hospital in Sudan and was the venue chosen by the IHH as the project's first permanent Sudanese base. A project clinic and surgical facilities were set up. Throughout the three years that the IHH project was based there the clinic provided free daily eye care services for

the poor and examined and treated an average of 150 patients every day, 30-40 of whom would undergo surgical procedures each day. Following their operations patients were also provided with free follow up assessments with the clinic doctor.

Statistics for Abdel Fadel Almas Eye Hospital as follows:

Years	Abdel Fadel Almas Eye Hospital Cataract Surgery
2007 (4 months)	786
2008	6.245
2009	5.459

2010	5.270
2011	1.210
TOTAL	18.970

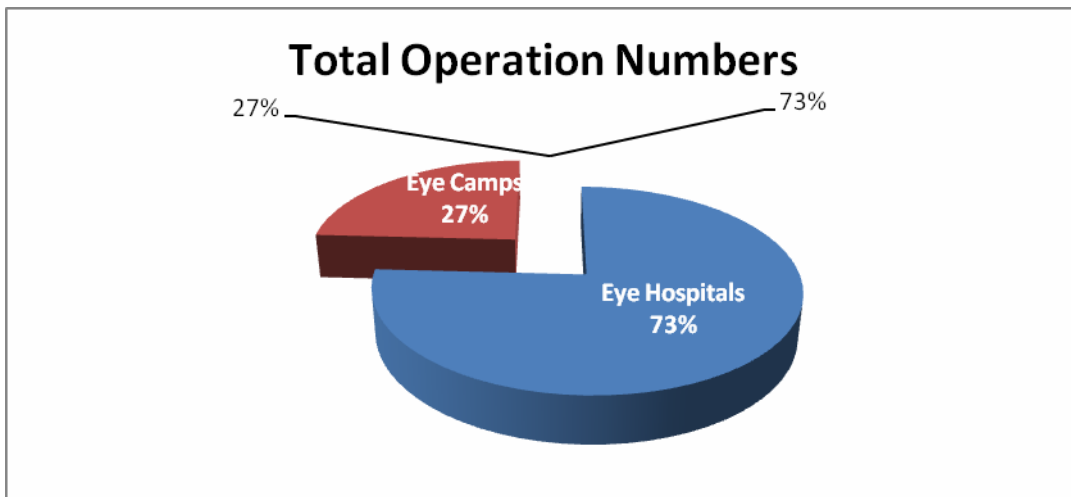
Nileyn Univ. Jabra Eye Hospital

In July 2010, as the project based in Abdel Fadel Eye Hospital finally came to a close at the end of its second contracted term, a new branch of the Africa Cataract Project was established for eye surgeries in the Optometry Faculty of Nileyn University in Khartoum. The new project branch is a collaboration between Nileyn University's Department for the Prevention of Blindness and IHH.



The operation statistics of recent period has been shown in below chart:

	Patient Received Examination	Patient Underwent Surgery
Abdel Fadel Almas Eye Hospital	25.103	18.970
Nileyn Univ. Jabra Eye Hospital	2.541	1.512
Mobile Eye Camps	47.135	5.526
West Darfur	1.116	356
TOTAL	75.895	26.364



West Darfur_Surgery Program

In addition to establishing the clinics in Khartoum, the Project has now also begun to take their work even deeper into the heartland of rural Sudan. In 2010 the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation and the TIKA Foundation signed an agreement with the West Darfur Ministry of Health granting them permission to carry out 3,000 free surgeries in the state. According to their signed protocol the Turkish TIKA Foundation provided surgical materials and equipment for Al Genina Eye Hospital and the IHH Foundation has refurbished the hospital and provided medical teams. After ten months of preparation the program finally began in West Darfur in March 2011.



Mobile Eye Clinics- the solution for rural community patients

It has been estimated that approximately 80% of cases of blindness in Sudan could be easily cured. If that is the case however and if treatment is so simple why don't more blind people in Sudan seek medical assistance? Several problems face them for which the Africa Cataract Project offers extremely practical solutions. The primary problems include lack of awareness that there is a cure for their sight problems; lack of means to travel to a medical facility (especially for those living in rural or war torn communities); and lack of financial means to pay for medical treatment.

For many Sudanese cataract sufferers living in rural areas they are simply unaware that there is a cure available for their degenerative loss of sight. Even if they were to become aware of it many would have great difficulty in travelling to medical centres where that help would be available. The Africa Cataract Project addresses these problems by sending mobile clinics and mobile eye camps into rural communities in which the doctors can talk to, examine, treat and operate on people there who would otherwise be left to deal with their blindness alone. During the clinics, free drug distributions are made for those people whose eye diseases can be treated by ophthalmic eye drugs. Those who need cataract surgery are transferred to the project center in Khartoum for surgery with the assistance of various partner NGOs who collaborate with the project to help transfer patients for surgery.



List of Mobile Eye Clinics

Location	Date	Patient Examined	Transferred for Surgery
Al-Gaderu Ummelgura	13 July 2008	175	53
Hacı Yusuf Hayal Baraka	20 Oct. 2008	106	40
Al-Durashab	25 Oct. 2008	65	12
2. Hacı Yusuf Hayal Baraka	27 Oct. 2008	128	36
Mayo	1 Nov. 2008	127	31
Umbedde	2 Nov. 2008	48	18
2. Umbedde	8 Nov. 2008	83	40
3. Umbedde	15 Nov. 2008	113	32
4. Umbedde Darusselam	22 Nov. 2008	135	50
Tuti Island	22 Nov. 2008	134	38
2. Mayo	26 Nov. 2008	103	25
3. Hacı Yusuf Hayal Baraka	26 Nov. 2008	48	8
2. Tuti Island	25 Dec. 2008	96	32
4. Hacı Yusuf Mobil Clinic	20 March 2009	231	54
	TOTAL	1.592	469

Rural areas around capital Khartoum were visited by the project doctors for eye screening. Hacı Yusuf, Umbedde, Mayo and Tuti Island are some of the places where Africa Cataract Project conducted eye examinations for poor during 2008-2009.

Mobile Eye Camps in Sudan- the solution for rural community patients



Africa Cataract Project aims to widen its activities in Sudan to reach poor by organizing eye camps in rural districts. The first eye camp of ACP was organized in May 2008 in town Gadabas, which located in River Nile State. In Gadabas Charity Hospital, 350 km. away from the capital Khartoum, 1.058 patients were examined and 126 of whom were operated in three-day camp. In the camp, Turkish and Sudanese doctors worked together. Since that time, in different 20 locations 22 mobile eye camps were conducted by the project.



Medical team of ACP visits towns in rural districts of Sudan and provides free eye screening and surgery for underprivileged eye patients

No	Mobile Eye Camps	Date	Examination	Surgery
1	1. Gadabas Eye Camp	22-26 May 2008	1.058	126
2	Darfur – Ad'daen Eye Camp	19-27 June 2008	6.429	541
3	Kosti Eye Camp	15-29 July 2008	6.608	671
4	2. Gadabas Eye Camp	30-31 July 2008	184	73
5	Eddamazin – Baw Eye Camp	8-10 August 2008	596	63

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6	Port Sudan Eye Camp	21-26 Sep. 2008	3.130	288
7	Kadugli Eye Camp	22-26 Dec. 2008	3.110	280
8	Legawa Eye Camp	27-31 Dec. 2008	2.645	251
9	2.Darfur –Ad'daen Eye Camp	22-31 Dec. 2008	7.747	666
10	South Sudan – Wau Eye Camp	17 – 27 Jan. 2009	1.209	438
11	Eddelenc Eye Camp	30 Jan. – 6 Feb. 2009	3.124	290
12	Al-Cezire Eye Camp	18-21 Feb. 2009	534	60
13	Al-Hilaliye Eye Camp	1-11 April 2009	2.974	323
14	South Sudan – RAJA Eye Camp	16-18 April 2009	476	55
15	Eddamazin Eye Camp	25 April – 3 May 2009	863	274
16	Murabağa Eye Camp	8-15 May 2009	711	154
17	Sinca Eye Camp	3-10 July 2009	920	172
18	Al-Haddat Eye Camp	21-28 July 2009	461	118
19	Babennusa Eye Camp	01-10 March 2010	1.699	185
20	Wedrava Eye Camp	19-21 March 2010	611	54
21	Hashm Al Girba Eye Camp	08-15 Sep. 2010	560	253
22	2. WAU Eye Camp	27 Oct.-05 Nov. 2010	1.486	191
	TOTAL		47.135	5.526

Medical teams of the project have visited different 20 locations during 22 mobile eye camps in Sudan and performed 47.135 eye examination and 5.526 cataract surgery.

Partnership

There are considerable numbers of governmental and non-governmental organizations behind Africa Cataract Project which directly and indirectly give support to the project. While a Turkish governmental organization called **TIKA (Turkish International Cooperation & Development Agency)** provides volunteer medical staff for the project as well as their

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transportation costs, local Sudanese NGOs provide patients for surgery and offer assistance during the mobile clinics and mobile eye camps. The project is run under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Health with support of the Department for the Prevention of Blindness in Sudan. IHH Turkey, the main supporter of the project, was registered and attached to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in June 2009.

Medical Staff of the Project

This project offers a unique opportunity for collaboration between Turkish and Sudanese eye surgeons and medical staff to work together as a team. While the Sudanese team is a permanent feature of the project center, Turkish surgeons and medical assistants take turns to join the project as volunteers. The center in Abdel Almas Eye Hospital has three permanent Sudanese surgeons, an anesthesia technician and administrative staff.

Phaco Training Program



One of the objectives of the Africa Cataract Project is to give an opportunity to local eye surgeons to train in the phaco technique for performing cataract removal operations. According to the project's phaco training program, specialized eye surgeons work in the project center where they have the opportunity to learn phaco techniques from experts. After theoretical

study and case observations, local surgeons then go on to operate using phaco themselves. The project provides job opportunities to local surgeons after the training in the project center and mobile eye camps. Eye surgeons who have completed the training program are listed below:

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No	Surgeon	Training Period	Result
1	Dr. Ehab Sirhy	Feb. 2008	Completed
2	Dr. Mahdi A. Latif	March 2008	Completed
3	Dr. Memduh	April 2008	Completed
4	Dr. Maha Sir Al Khatim	May 2008	Completed
5	Dr. Muaviye Muhammed	June – July 2008	Completed
6	Dr. Abdulhafiz Avud Ettom	August – Sep. 2008	Completed
7	Dr. Muhammed Siddiq	Feb. 2009	Completed
8	Dr. Malik El-Müşerref	Feb. – March 2009	Completed
9	Dr. Selma Şeykh İdris	March – April 2009	Completed
10	Dr. Muhammed Bakri	April – May 2009	Completed
11	Dr. Hiba Sulaiman	May – June 2009	Completed
12	Dr. Ehab Al-Fatih	June – July 2009	Completed
13	Dr. Talha Ali Mohammed	July – August 2009	Completed
14	Dr. Fatma Hasan	Oct – Nov 2009	Completed
15	Dr. Abdallah Awadhallah	Dec 2009 – Jan 2010	Completed
16	Dr. Muhammed İsmail	March -May 2010	Completed
17	Dr. Musap Fadul	May - June 2010	Completed
18	Dr. Moona	Sep.-Oct. 2010	Completed
19	Dr. Rami	Dec. 2010-Jan.2011	Completed
20	Dr. Hind	Feb.-March 2011	Completed

The Africa Cataract Project has now purchased a new training microscope to enhance the quality of its training program. All ECCE and PHACO surgeries are transferred to LCD monitor via training microscope and recorded by DVD writer. This provides a better working environment for trainees and makes it easier for them to understand and learn the surgical steps. All surgeries performed in Abdal Fadel Almas Eye Hospital can be seen on the project website: www.afrikagorecek.com where they can be broadcast live through the internet.

The one thing the project is still desperately short of is medically trained staff. Out of a population of 37 million people in Sudan there are less than 250 doctors registered and medically qualified to perform these eye surgeries. From that 250 some live have chosen to live and work abroad, some do not practice and so on and therefore there is a serious lack of

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medically qualified personnel available. It is vital that doctors from other countries are encouraged to come to join the project and help perform some of the surgeries and to help train local Sudanese eye doctors. With this sort of practical help, the Africa Cataract Project can hope to see its goals to treat the blind

people of Sudan become an even more successful reality than it already is.

Africa Cataract Project

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation

Sudan Office