

KCCO



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## **Bridging Communities and Eye Care Providers to Achieve VISION 2020 in Africa**

*A course offered by the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology/Tumaini University  
(KCCO), Moshi, Tanzania  
in collaboration with Seva Foundation  
November 10-14, 2008  
Moshi, Tanzania*

### **Target Audience:**

Eye care programme managers (MoH, NGO, service groups), trainers, key decision makers of national prevention of blindness programmes.

### **Course Objective:**

To provide an understanding of activities necessary to increase utilisation of eye care services (primarily cataract, refractive error, and trichiasis but also including childhood cataract and other conditions) by the population. By the end of the course the participants will be able to

- Know how to identify the reasons for poor utilisation of existing eye care services and identify strengths and weaknesses in current activities to mobilize patients for surgery
- Understand “bridging strategies” and the importance of equity based policies and programmes.
- Describe how to create partnerships with various groups (MoH, NGOs, service groups) to implement programmes.
- Decide on bridging strategies for their programme after weighing the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Determine the relative merit of different on approaches for increasing awareness and acceptance of eye care services by the population.
- Understand the potential role of the community in mobilization of patients for surgery and the factors that lead to strong partnership.
- Describe the role of gender in use of eye care services and approaches to increasing equity in service utilisation.
- Understand how to establish a community optometry component and understand how the proceeds can be used to support the bridging strategy.
- Understand how decisions regarding surgery are made at the community level.
- Understand what is counseling, why it is an important component of bridging and mobilization strategies, and what are the essential components of a counseling programme.
- Know how to work with communities to identify people who cannot pay for surgery.
- Understand how to set up a system for providing follow up after surgery.

The course will be held in Moshi, Tanzania. The fee for participating in the programme is \$US 300. The fee will cover transport to and from Kilimanjaro International Airport, accommodation, all meals and tea breaks during the course, lecture notes, and other course materials. Travel expenses (except between Moshi and Kilimanjaro Airport) are the responsibility of the participants. This is a VISION 2020 project and funded by the Seva Foundation. This course is open to all countries on the African continent. Admission is limited to about 15 participants and will be made on first come basis subject to meeting the above criteria. The application should be sent to the KCCO Courses Administrator (Mr. Genes Mng’anya) by September 15, 2008. For an application, please contact Mr. Mng’anya at [genes@kcco.net](mailto:genes@kcco.net) or by post: KCCO, PO Box 2254, Moshi, Tanzania