

VISION 2020 in Mara Region, Tanzania

Annual Report 2006

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Tel. No. +255 28 2622102/2622111

Fax No. +255 28 2622732/2622111



**Office of the Regional Medical Officer,
P. O. Box 21,
Musoma,
Tanzania**

Introduction

In Tanzania, blindness is a major public health problem, with cataract responsible for over 50% of the blind. In 2002, the cataract surgical rate was 323 per million, one-sixth the recommended population rate. Before the inauguration of Mara Regional VISION 2020 programme, eye care services were only available erratically, through visiting surgeons from Shinyanga and Mwanza. Cataract surgery was provided at a fee of 25,000/= (all money going to the visiting surgeon) and no efforts at cost recovery or sustainability were in place. The number of cataracts being done was very low. In late 2005 the Mara Regional VISION 2020 programme was inaugurated. The programme uses a 3-pronged approach to eliminate preventable blindness. The three components are: developing appropriate programmes at the community level for diagnosing and referring conditions leading to blindness, developing the team approach to human resources to deliver eye care services, and putting in place the appropriate management and infrastructure required to provide services. Financial support for programme activities was obtained from different governmental, non-governmental, and academic centres. These include:

Musoma Urban District Council
Musoma Rural District Council
Musoma Government Hospital
ORBIS International (through the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology)
Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology
Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre
Musoma Lions Clubs
CBM

All of these organizations assisted in the development and implementation of a comprehensive VISION 2020 programme, run by the Ministry of Health, for the region. The VISION 2020 team worked with local stakeholders to raise awareness within the Ministry of Health and the broader health care community regarding the importance of eye health and the need to dedicate public resources to prevention of blindness. Technical assistance has been provided by faculty from the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO).

Administrative Districts of Mara Region

DISTRICT	Population (2002 census)	VILLAGES
Musoma Rural	330,953	106
Tarime	492,798	157
Bunda	260,000	93
Serengeti	176,609	75
Musoma Urban	108,242	
TOTAL	1,368,602	431

Planning for VISION 2020

In 2005 faculty from the KCCO worked with regional and district planning and eye care staff in Mara region to develop a regional VISION 2020 programme. Objectives, based on the priorities of eye care problems in the region, were set. A situational analysis was carried out to analyze the current eye health situation.

The situation analysis revealed that the regional eye hospital was not doing enough surgery due to the absence of community-based outreach programmes, the high cost of surgery at

the regional hospital, the erratic presence of visiting surgeons providing free surgery, and the lack of a comprehensive approach to service delivery.

Mara Regional VISION 2020 Programme

The programme is a collaborative effort initiated in 2005 between the Mara Regional MoH, KCCO and other international organizations.

Staffing

	Manager	Cataract Surgeon	Ophthalmic Nursing Officers	Optometrist	Total
Regional Hospital	1	1	2	1	4
Tarime D Hospital	-	-	3	-	3
Bunda D Hospital	-	-	1	-	1
Serengeti	-	-	-	-	-
Musoma Rural	-	-	1	-	1
Musoma Urban	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	7	1	9

Programme achievements in 2006

- Renovation of the Eye Department (supported by MOH & ORBIS International).
- Programme vehicle donated by ORBIS International & KCCO.
- Conducted World Sight Day.
- Computer with printer connected to internet.
- Surgical equipments obtained (Scanoptics surgical microscope and cataract surgical set supplied by CBM).
- Training of 2 theatre nurses, 1 community optometrist, 1 programme manager and 2 counselors by KCCO and KCMC Eye Department.
- Cataract surgeon trained by KCMC with funds provided by MoH Regional Medical Office and ORBIS International.
- Establishment of a Mara Regional VISION 2020 bank account for managing financial assistance from MoH, ORBIS International, KCCO, Lions Club of Musoma, district health funds, and patient revenues.
- Theater room for cataract operations.
- Programme driver from the regional administration office.
- Outreach services for the rural communities

Statistical Report: Patients Examined and Treated 2006

Service Centre	Male	Female	Total
Mara Regional Hospital	2799	2553	5352
Outreach services	3436	2701	6137
Tarime District Hospital	301	279	580
Bunda D D H	201	182	383
Serengeti D D H	106	212	318
Musoma rural	86	72	158
Total	6,929	5,999	12,928

Patients examined and treated at the Mara Regional Hospital Out-Patient Clinic

	Outpatient clinic		Outreach		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Jan	268	221	274	251	1,014
Feb	221	240	267	222	950
Mar	273	296	299	186	1,054
April	206	335	204	185	930
May	272	252	389	297	1,210
June	275	295	330	345	1,445
July	203	188	317	228	836
Aug	251	182	322	220	975
Sept	201	114	361	198	774
Oct	140	112	170	138	560
Nov	241	166	205	202	814
Dec	248	152	298	229	927
Total	2799	2553	3436	2701	11,489

	Men	Women	Total
Self-presenting patients	2799	2553	5352
Outreach programme patients	3436	2701	6137

Cataract surgical services

Cataract surgical services are provided at Musoma Government Hospital. Patients either self-present at the hospital or are brought in through the outreach programme. During the calendar year 2006 there were 470 operations (257 in men and 213 in women), giving a cataract surgical rate of 336 per million population. 94% of the cataract surgeries were with an IOL implantation.

Refractive errors

Refractive errors are managed both at Musoma Regional Hospital and on outreach. During the calendar year 2006 there were 766 people tested for distance correction and 825 tested for presbyopic correction. Spectacles were provided for distance correction to 225 people; 358 people were provided with presbyopic spectacles.

	Men	Women	Total
Spectacles for distance correction	106	119	225
Spectacles for presbyopic correction	218	140	358

Childhood eye conditions

Diagnosis	Male	Female	Total
Children recognised with congenital or developmental cataract	7	5	12
Children recognized with traumatic cataract	9	4	13

Vitamin A deficiency	9	6	15
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All children with congenital/developmental and traumatic cataract were referred to KCMC Hospital for surgery. There were 38 minor surgeries (23 men and 15 women)

Other Eye Diseases

Diagnosis	Male	Female	Total
People recognised with trichiasis	6	3	9
Glaucoma	54	52	106

Programme Sustainability

Every effort is being made to make the programme sustainable by integrating programme work plans within the comprehensive council health plans. In the year 2006 a total of 666,000/= Tshs was received from Musoma Rural District Council (basket funds) for preparing community education materials, providing vision charts for health facilities and for office materials.

Money generated from the sale of spectacles & payment for cataract surgery is deposited into the Mara Regional VISION 2020 programme account and helps support the cost of outreach. During outreach medicines are sold, the money generated goes to buy medicines for the next outreach visit.

Networking with the Lions Clubs of Musoma & Mwanza assisted the VISION 2020 programme by supporting some of the cost of renovation of the eye department building. The Lions Club of Mwanza also assisted with community promotion and awareness creation.

Human resources development

Type of training	Recipient	Sponsor	Where conducted
Cataract surgery	Cataract surgeon	MOH	KCMC/KCCO
Management	Programme manager	Fred Hollows Foundation	KCCO/KCMC
Childhood cataract	Manager, Cataract surgeon, ophthalmic nurse, & counselor	Dark & Light Blind Care	KCCO/KCMC
Counseling	Counselor	KCCO & Seva Foundation	KCCO/KCMC
Community optometry	Hospital optometrist	KCCO & Seva Foundation	KCCO/KCMC