



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

Kenya Program

A2Z Child Blindness Project

Milka Choge- Assistant Health Coordinator Kenya

Edwin Simiyu- Clinical Officer (Ophthalmologist)

2nd Nov 2009

Project Description

From Harm to Home

Where we work: Kakuma Refugee Camp and the surrounding Host community in Turkana North District

Beneficiaries:

- Estimated 60,816 refugees from 11 different nationalities and 6,081 host community members form the surrounding community

Existing structure:

- One Eye clinics established in IRC Camp Hospital
- Eye hospital at the Lodwar District Hospital
- Kakuma Mission Hospital provide primary eye care services/Mobile outreach
- Kikuyu Eye Hospital- is the referral facility for complex cases
- One Clinical Officer Ophthalmologist.

Map of Kenya



Project Approach

- **Capacity building** - local refugee health staffs through primary eye care and refraction training
 - **Screening**-Emphasis on early detection of vision problem through coordination with school-teachers and administrators
- Increase the availability of cataract surgery** –work with partner through surgical camps
- Health education and social mobilization**- increase general community awareness of available eye services and knowledge of eye problem
- **Partnership**- with Kakuma Mission Hospital, Kikuyu Eye Hospital and Ministry of Health
 - **Coordination** -with UNHCR and other partners in the Camp providing education for children
 - **Cooperation**- with MOH department of ophthalmic services

Project Objectives

From Harm to Home

- **Program Aim**: Improvement in Child Eye Care Services in Kakuma Refugee Camp
- **Objective 1**: To measurably restore sight through provision of 1,000 spectacles annually over the next 2 years
 - Training activities
 - Screening activities
 - Refraction activities
- **Objective 2**: To restore sight through facilitation of 300 cataract surgeries annually over the next two years
- **Objective 3**: To improve Rehabilitative services for the low vision and Blind Children over the next two years

Progress toward achievement - Objective one

Target	Achievement at the end of year 1
30 of health workers trained in basic refraction skills	21
11000 children aged 0-14 screened for eye care conditions	13,561 clients , 6,828 were children (0-14 years) while 6,733 adults
1000 with refractive error whose error is corrected (Received eyeglasses.)	652 beneficiaries (20 children and 632 adults)

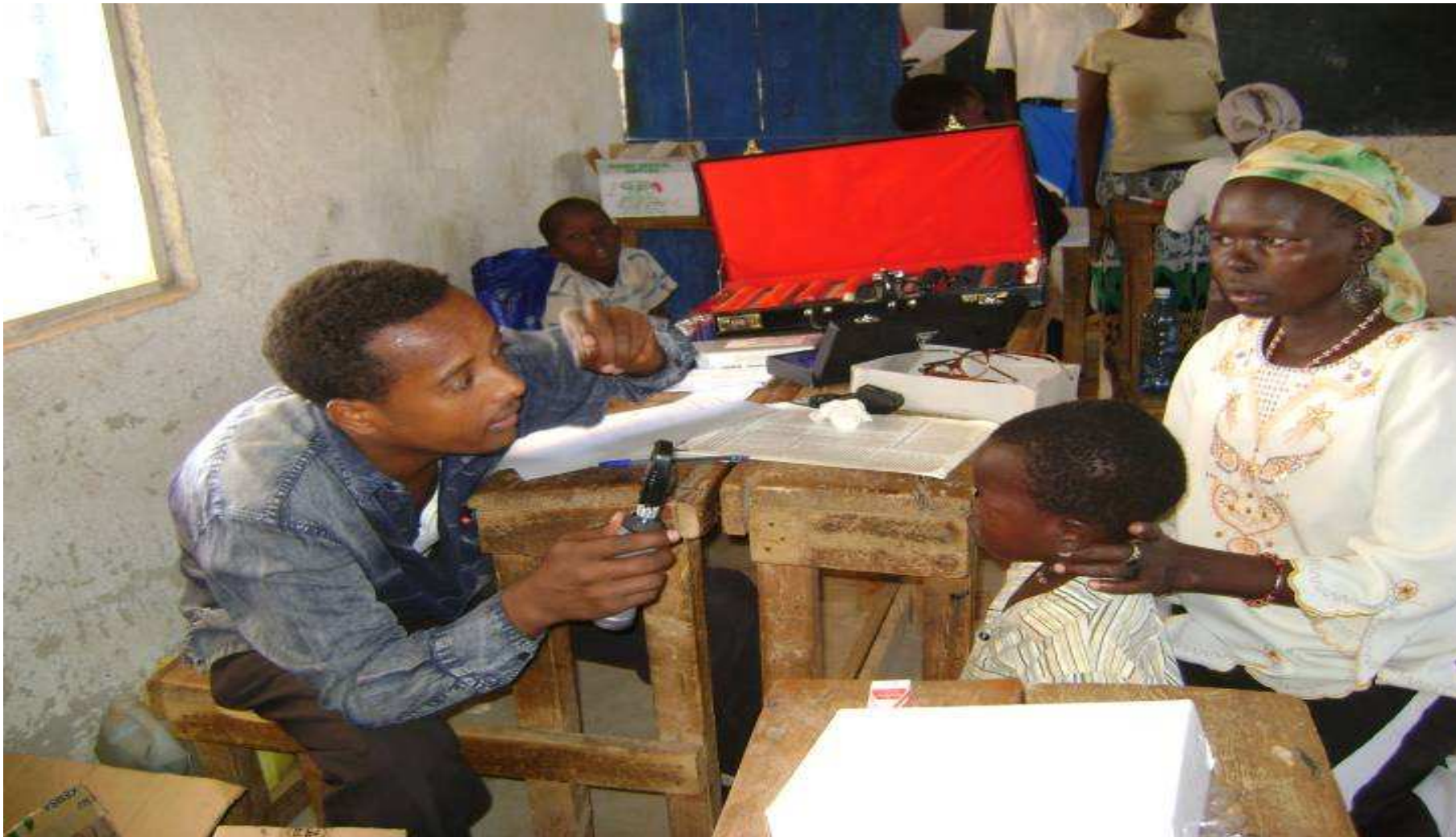
Progress toward achievement - Objective two/three

From Harm to Home

Target	Achievement at end Year 1
20 children 0-14 years having received cataract surgery	24 children
250 adults age 15 years up having received cataract surgery	511 adults
10 children 0-14 y with low vision who receive low vision device and/or therapies.	5 cases

Screening activities

From Harm to Home



Qualitative information

- Kakuma Camp Hospital is now recognized and approved by Government as second provider of eye care services in the Northern Turkana
- Government's Chief Ophthalmologist is impressed and rates the program high
- IRC Kenya a participated in a regional ophthalmic conference in Kenya organized by the Ophthalmic Society of East Africa (OSEA) on 20th and 21st August 2009.

Challenges

Challenges:

- ✓ Follow-up on post operative clients from the host community still proves to be extremely difficult
- ✓ Reduction in the population of the refugees has led to reduced numbers of expected clients
- ✓ Referrals for patients who need specialized treatment in Nairobi.

Strategies employed

- Working with Kakuma Mission Hospital
- Capacity building of community outreach staff

Opportunities /Lesson learned

- **Survey:** Plans are underway to have a survey done in Turkana in year two subject to availability of funds by MOH
- **Working with partners:** The program achieved most by working and involving all the stakeholders
- **Capacity building:** Need to have quality and well trained staff , project developed a training curriculum which will be used henceforth in all IRC Kenya eye program.

THANK YOU