

Standing Voice Vision Event – Msimbazi Centre, Dar es Salaam (7-12 June 2017)

This June Standing Voice delivered its second large-scale vision event of 2017, in Dar es Salaam. This event is part of our continued commitment to ensuring people with albinism are not inhibited by visual impairment by providing comprehensive eye care through our Vision Programme. Since the Programme begun in 2014 more than 1,000 people with albinism have been enrolled, the majority of those being students in their formative years of education in order for them to achieve their full academic potential.



Over five days 465 patients attended the Dar es Salaam vision event. We were extremely grateful to receive the support of our longstanding partners the Tanzania Albinism Society at this event who were vital in mobilising their members to attend. All patients received a specialist low vision eye examination, vision devices suitable to their needs such as prescription glasses, sunglasses and magnifiers, along with education and literature on how best to manage their vision and utilise the devices prescribed.

Our clinical team of optometrists was composed of Dr Abdi Nyembo (KCMC), Dr Hanifa Joshua (Mt Meru Hospital), Dr Ramadhani Msuya (Temeke Hospital) and Diana Malima (Temeke Hospital) who was newly inducted into the Vision Programme during this vision event, another significant achievement as we continue to develop local capacity to care for the unique vision needs of people with albinism. This team of local optometrists was lead by Standing Voice's Vision Programme Director and world-leading specialist in the low vision of people with albinism Dr Rebecca Kammer. We were also grateful to be joined by Dr Terry Tsang a US-based optometrists and colleague of Dr Rebecca Kammer.

In 2016 Standing Voice commenced a three-year partnership with Vision For Life, a charitable initiative created by Essilor. Vision For Life has pledged to support 4,200 people with albinism with corrective lenses and sunglasses through our Vision Programme. Olivier Martin, Vision for Life Philanthropy Project Manager, joined our team at the vision event and was instrumental in dispensing prescription glasses to those in need.

We were grateful to receive a visit from a delegation of Government representatives from the Tanzanian Social Action Fund headed by Mr Amadeus Kamagenge (Director of Community Support) who were all extremely impressed with the service and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting future programme actions with in-kind support such as venue space. In addition, we were also grateful to receive a visit from Muderis Abdulahi Mohammed, Senior Social Protection Specialist at the World Bank who was similarly impressed with the comprehensive service provided at the clinic.

On Friday 9th June representatives from national media including ITV, Azam TV and Clouds Media Group attended the vision event to document the clinic activities with TV broadcasts aired that same evening. Journalists interviewed a range of stakeholders at the clinic including patients, optometrists, Standing Voice and Essilor Vision for Life representatives as well as our partners from the Tanzanian Albinism Society.

During the clinic, we also hosted Dr. Mugisha Toni, a Burundian ophthalmologist based at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam. Dr. Mugisha and his colleague used our clinic as a testing ground for their study into the broader eye health of people with albinism in Tanzania, measuring eye pressure, axial length, and retinal function. Through this research, Standing Voice continues to contribute to the advancement of global knowledge around the unique visual impairment of people with albinism.

On Monday 12th June Standing Voice trained a group of teachers as Vision Ambassadors to advocate for the welfare of students with albinism in their schools by deepening their understanding of the visual impairment associated with albinism as well as inclusive teaching practices. Vision Ambassadors are also responsible for continued monitoring and evaluation of the programme through the submission of regular reports to Standing Voice. A total of 23 teachers were trained as Standing Voice Vision Ambassadors.

Heartfelt thanks to our Vision Programme partners Vision For Life, Under the Same Sun, Tanzania Albinism Society, the KCMC School of Optometry and to the Government of Tanzania more broadly; thanks also to the media outlets who attended; and to the Msimbazi Centre for hosting the event. Thanks to the wonderful Standing Voice team, including Dr Rebecca Kammer and our four Tanzanian optometrists. Thanks lastly to the teachers and parents, and to the people with albinism who attended without whom this service would not exist.

Vision Event Outputs

	Total no. of patients	Total no. of students	Total no. of non students	Total no. of all glasses prescribed	No. of all glasses dispensed	% of glasses dispensed with transition lenses	No. of outstanding glasses orders to be made	Total no. of sunglasses (prescribed and dispensed)	Total no. of monoculars (prescribed and dispensed)	Total no. of other magnifiers (prescribed and dispensed)
Day 1 7 th June	84	70	14	50	52	11.5%	4	73	64	10
Day 2 8 th June	97	45	52	58	61	7.9%	10	88	39	16
Day 3 9 th June	90	31	59	51	57	6.8%	6	81	27	12
Day 4 10 th June	89	42	47	42	45	5.4%	9	79	31	12
Day 5 11 th June	105	61	44	48	49	7.4%	14	92	55	9
TOTAL	465	249	216	249	264	39%	43	413	216	59

Standing Voice

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