



## WORLD SIGHT DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020: HAVE HOPE IN SIGHT

### MENGO HOSPITAL EYE CARE AT A GLANCE

- In **Uganda**, surveys show that prevalence of **blindness in Uganda** is 0.4%.
- Blindness could be classified into different categories. Cataract has been documented to be the most significant cause of bilateral blindness in Uganda.
- 57.1% of **blindness** is caused by cataracts, while uncorrected refractive errors are the commonest cause of visual impairment.
- Research has shown that there are 37 million blind people on the Globe and about 300,000 of these are in Uganda. Every five seconds, one person gets blind while every minute, a child gets blind; yet 75% of this blindness is avoidable.
- At the same time the proportion of the aged has also increased significantly in the country. This increase in population means that the population 'at-risk' of blinding cataract will also increase tremendously.
- Mengo Hospital is committed to the country's goal of elimination of avoidable blindness by 2020 in line with the Global Vision 2020:
- **Started in 1987, currently Mengo Eye is the second biggest department in the Hospital and is believed to be the biggest well equipped Eye care provider in the country.**
- In partnership with the Christian Blind Mission, CBM, and Ministry of Health (MOH) over the years, Mengo Hospital has registered tremendous success in the elimination of blindness in the country.
- Currently seeing over **300 patients per day at outpatient and 22 surgeries are operated daily.** Mengo Eye performs over 3,000 eye surgeries per year, the cataract surgeries contributing over 50%.

### Eye Department Outpatient numbers over the years

Year	OPD
2012	43,126
2013	43,175
2014	44,992
2015	46,566
2016	49,855
2017	57,447
2018	60,918
2019	63,726

## HR Capacity

- 7 Ophthalmologists, 5 are full time
- 12 Ophthalmic Clinical officers
- 32 ophthalmic Nurses, headed by a Nursing officer, manager
- 1 trained Ophthalmic Administrator



## Services offered:

- General OPD and Private outpatient
- Optical services (eye glasses)
- Surgical services
- Inpatient admission for private and general patients
- Laser photo coagulation
- Yag laser
- Optical coherence tomography (OCT)
- Fundus imaging
- Visual field testing and Analysis
- Pharmacy
- Eye drop production

## **The department also offers the following special clinics;**

- ❖ Orthoptist (squint) clinic
- ❖ Low vision clinic
- ❖ Retina clinic
- ❖ Glaucoma clinic
- ❖ Children's Clinic

## The Mobile Clinic

An integral part of Mengo Eye care services is its community outreach programmes which take eye care service to the doorstep of the community. Last calendar year 2019 atleast 20 camps were conducted through which over 5,000 patients were screened and 302 patients underwent surgery at base.

The Hospital is embracing the 'NEW NORMAL' under the COVID-19 guideline to reach out to its clientele in the communities.

This Van comes as a donation from the CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION, CBM among others in the MYP 3839 5 year Project.

This Facility has an outpatient assessment capacity and a mini theatre where minor surgeries and intra-vitreous management can be conducted.

As we celebrate this year's world sight day, we now take the opportunity to unveil the Mobile Eye Clinic Van to be used during the community engagements. This will bridge the gap between us and the clients hence managing the cost of patient care.

Mengo Hospital management is appealing to the public to partner with Our Eye Department to utilize this facility as we bring the services close to all Ugandans in the country.

### Mengo Eye, Future plans

Mengo Hospital with the help from the Ministry of Health, secured a five year partnership with the **Christian Blind mission, CBM**. This is a five year project which started last year 2019.

The eye care in Uganda under this project MYP 3839 is destined to change and Ugandans will benefit from the first ever fully fledged Eye Hospital in the country.

The following components will be realized by the end of 2023.

**Infrastructure upgrade:** A three floor Eye complex, housing three fully equipped theatres and all ophthalmology specialist clinics will be constructed.

Mengo Eye has set a target of reaching out to atleast 563,000 patients by 2023. We target to increase our cataract rate by at least 135,000 Cataract surgeries, where 2,210 will be subsidized free surgeries on assessed poor Ugandans.

We are gearing up to achieve this target by establishing conducting atleast 315 Outreaches in the entire country in awareness about cataract and avoidable blindness.

We shall also focus on other comprehensive outreach services, such as Diabetic Retinopathy camps, eye camps for children and refraction camps. The intention here is to intervene in the low school enrollment rate for children due to blindness.

**The Hospital has also earmarked funds for research** to improve the efficiency of the intervention options; this will help in designing an effective Eye care delivery system for the country.

**On the education front,** Mengo Eye under this same Multi Year Plan 3839 partnership has established corporation with the Saarland University in Germany to expand its capacity building.

9 Doctors will by 2013 sub-specialize in German the different Ophthalmology subspecialties cornea & anterior segment; glaucoma; vitreoretinal surgery; pediatrics & strabismus; oculoplastic; neuro-ophthalmology.

Mengo Hospital is also looking at ways to partner with the public sector in order to increase the Resource utilisation mobilization for the desired community quality Eyecare.

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