

Eye Department



In Tanzania, an estimated 1,123,390 people are visually impaired and 32,930 are blind. Most could be treated or cured.

Our Response

Recognising the dire need for eye care in Tanzania, CCBRT was founded in 1994 to provide community based assessment and rehabilitation to the visually impaired. CCBRT initially referred individuals in need of surgery or other medical interventions to public health facilities, but with the opening of our Disability Hospital in 2001, CCBRT began offering patients comprehensive eye health services on-site in our specialised Eye Department.

Since its inception, the Eye Department has grown into the Disability Hospital's busiest unit and Tanzania's largest provider of eye care. CCBRT's ophthalmic specialists provide treatment for a variety of conditions such as glaucoma, trauma, tumours, trachoma, cataract and diabetic eye disease.

Our optometrists assess, prescribe and manufacture glasses, contact lenses and low-vision devices such as magnifiers, telescopes and domes to correct low vision. These devices are critical to the quality of life and economic well-being of our patients, allowing children to continue with their studies or adults to carry out activities like crafting or reading that are essential to their jobs.

In Tanzania



1 OPHTHALMOLOGIST
per million inhabitants



3 FACILITIES
offering paediatric
ophthalmology surgery

At CCBRT's Disability Hospital

68,938

EYE SCREENINGS
supported in 2018

6,854

EYE SURGERIES
performed in 2018

24,561

GLASSES AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES
distributed each year

200 CHILDREN

TREATED EACH WEEK

Innovation & Scaling

As Tanzania's leading provider of eye care, CCBRT strives for constant innovation and improvement in order to better serve our patients. By working with experts in lean management, we are optimising the efficiency of our Eye Department's daily operations—simultaneously reducing waiting times, increasing the number of patients treated per day and upholding our high standard of care.



These efforts have helped reduce the total number of patients that may be turned away in one day from 30 percent to 1 percent.

To scale our successful model of eye care, we lead several capacity building initiatives. In partnership with Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, CCBRT provides education and training to future healthcare professionals.



In 2016, these coordinated efforts enabled us to reach 70,532 Tanzanians for eye screenings and 7,646 for sight-restoring surgery.

CCBRT eye staff also undergoes continuous improvement through on-the-job training. This includes a range of topics including but not limited to best practices in patient care, surgical skills, and lean management implementation.

Call to Action

To continue increasing access to high-quality, affordable and effective eye care throughout Tanzania, we need your help. Donate today to:



Support salaries for two internationally-trained ophthalmologists to help decongest the ophthalmology and optical department clinics, and to train Tanzanian ophthalmologists as sub-specialists



Improve equipment for surgeons and technicians at CCBRT



Invest in our daily service delivery

With your help, CCBRT can improve our patients' health today while creating stronger systems for tomorrow. Together, we can invest in health infrastructure and medical training in order to lay the foundation for a healthier future for Tanzania.

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