



The Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology A Regional Change Agent

Seva Canada was founded in 1982 to eliminate preventable blindness and restore sight. Seva provides funding and expertise to community partners in 7 countries to deliver community and clinical eye care programs that reach the most vulnerable populations – women and children, the very poor and those living in rural areas.



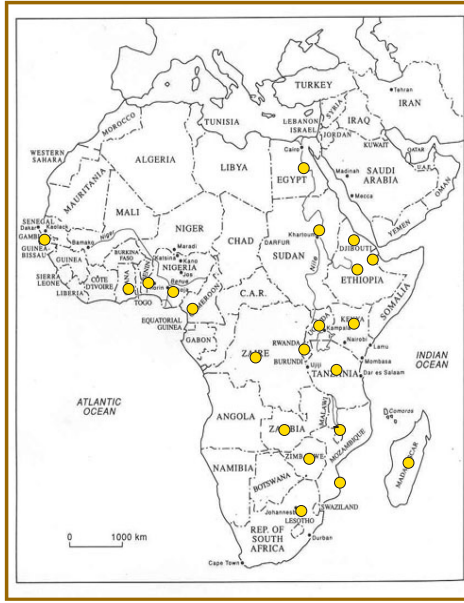
SEVA IN AFRICA: In 2001, Seva helped establish the Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) – a program development and training centre in Moshi, Tanzania for community based eye care programs located throughout eastern Africa.

By training Africans in 18 countries from Egypt to South Africa, KCCO is creating sustainable, economically viable, locally managed eye care programs that will continue to serve people for generations to come.

Seva is supporting KCCO's "Ten by Ten" Initiative through which ten model eye care programs and a number of children's eye health programs will be launched between 2008 and by 2010. These projects, in six different African countries, require considerable investment and Seva is seeking funding for this expansion.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: Africa continues to lag behind the rest of the world in availability of sight saving services for the population. Stresses and competition for scarce resources require strategies applied in Africa to be particularly effective. Few institutions are in place to train clinical professionals, and literally none other than KCCO is in place to train managers, planners, and public health professionals.

Because its model is so effective and successful, KCCO is now building the capacity of eye care teams throughout eastern Africa. The results so far are impressive. In situations where training is linked to specific plans and start up funds are available, capacity building and mentoring has led to a doubling or tripling of the number of people receiving sight-restoring eye care services.



Map showing some of the training and mentoring by KCCO in Africa. Photo of child courtesy of BBC.

WHAT YOU WILL BE SUPPORTING: KCCO's role as a regional change agent responsible for creating these 10 model eye care programs starts with assessing the needs in each region. Program planning and capacity building, which includes training and helping to establish systems and processes, are key, as is ongoing mentoring by KCCO until the program is fully functional.

BUDGET:

KCCO is the only organization in Africa with the capability necessary to change the way eye care is provided. In order to effect this change and mentor programs through the changes necessary to reduce blindness and improve quality of life of Africans, KCCO requires funding for the following:

MENTORING	AMOUNT
Training:	
Training of a manager, counselor and program coordinator at KCCO	\$3,000
Transportation to KCCO	\$3,000
Mentoring support following training:	
Transportation for 2 people, 3 times per year	\$6,000
Local expenses	\$3,000
Salary for manager (start up)	\$6,000
Computer, printer	\$1,000
Communication (phone, internet access)	\$1,000
KCCO staff and support (mentoring, follow up)	\$7,000
Program implementation	\$3,800
TOTAL	\$37,800

For more information on how you can help Seva restore sight and prevent blindness in Africa please contact:
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