



Together For Sudan
in partnership with Light for the World

Eye Care Project Khartoum area
6-monthly report July - December 2010



3rd February, 2011

Introduction:

As a result of the long civil war in Sudan many southerners, Nubas and Darfurian moved from their homeland. These people settled in the outskirts of Khartoum state where there are no health services and poor environmental conditions, with obstructions to sustainable livelihood opportunities, affordable and accessible healthcare. Many families are uneducated and unaware of health and hygiene dangers. After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, some sources reported that many of the persons who had gone back to the Nuba Mountains and the South, returned to Khartoum because poverty is even worse in their homeland than in the city. Together for Sudan therefore, responds positively to what displaced and impoverished persons say they need and works effectively to help them.

This report covers project activities in the period 1 July to 31 December 2010.

The Project Goal:

The overall goal of the project is to reduce eye diseases and sight loss through provision of free treatment for eye conditions, including examinations, surgical intervention and supply of medicines, corrective lenses, sun & reading glasses.

Specific Objectives:

- Examination of 1,200 patients yearly.
- Provide operations to between 180 to 240 patients.
- Supply patients with the required medicines, corrective, reading and sunglasses.
- Training in hygiene and health education.

Project activities:

The planned activities which would be executed during the reporting period were as follows:

- 12 eye care outreaches to be carried out throughout the Khartoum IDP areas targeting women's groups, elders, disabled centres and school children with the aim of examining 1,200 patients.
- Provision of corrective lenses and reading & sunglasses.
- Awareness training on eye hygiene and health education.

Monitoring:

The project is monitored by Together for Sudan under the supervision of Neimat Hussein, Country Coordinator. Reports are prepared for Light for the World in consultation with TFS trustees.



◄ A volunteer, carrying out hygiene and health education awareness training during the eye care outreach in Hai Albaraka, Haj Yousif.

Yacoub Hussein, 44 years, from Darfur, suffering from a pterygium, was seen by Dr. Shadia ▶

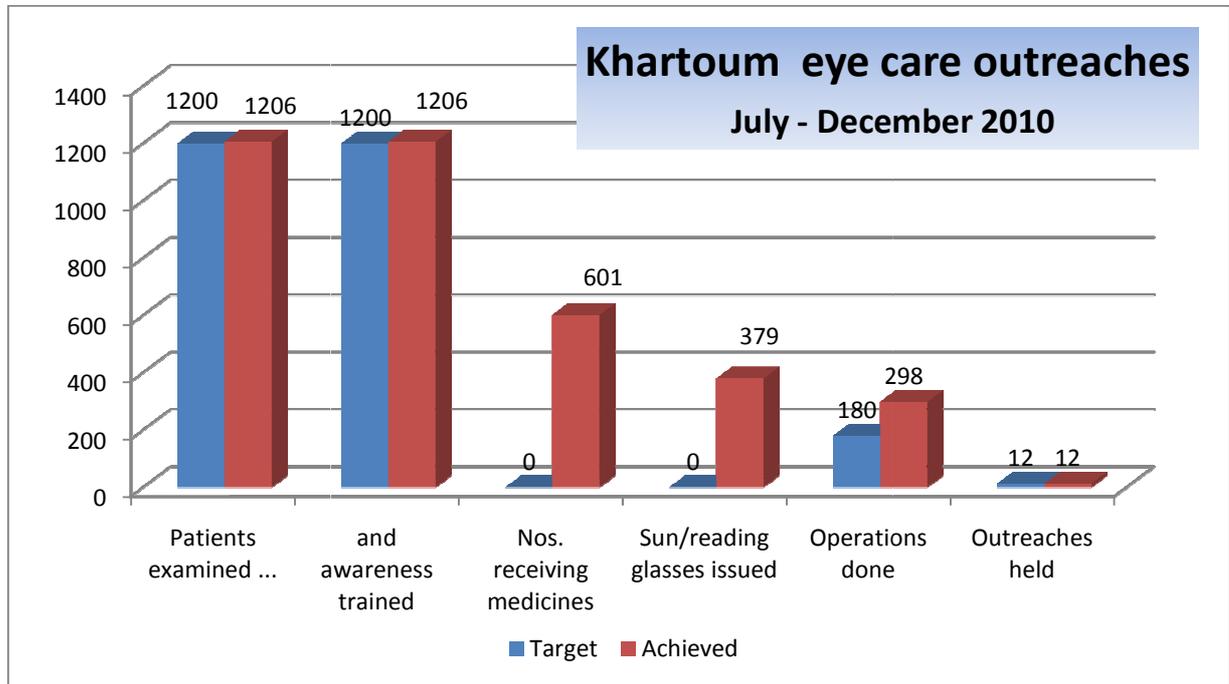


Achievements:

This project is very popular and many thousands of persons have been treated since the project was launched in 2005. Since Light for the World took over sponsoring this work in July, 2009 over 3,500 patients alone, have been seen. During the period from July to December 2010, the following has been achieved:

- 12 eye care outreaches were conducted successfully.
- Number of patients examined was 1,206. All patients who are examined have to undergo eye health and hygiene awareness training.
- 298 operations were completed.
- The total number of corrective, reading & sunglasses supplied to beneficiaries was 379.
- The total number of patients receiving medicines was 601.

The figure below illustrates these achievements in the six month period:



Constraints:

- Some patients need a head X- ray - these are not available in government hospitals and have to be done in private clinics, which is expensive.
- The price of medicines and glasses are increasing, which will affect the budget.
- The financial situation of the majority of patients who live in the outskirts of Khartoum is very bad. They cannot afford transportation costs if asked to return to doctor/hospital more than once.

Plans/intentions for the next 6 months based on current experience of the project

TFS is the only organisation delivering eye care for displaced people and numbers attending are greater than ever. Due to increasing popularity, we can report a 21% increase in numbers in the latter half of 2010, reflecting the momentum gained since the outset of the project. Our ability to do this is due, in no small measure, to the consistent and generous support provided by Light for the World for which we are most grateful.

Together for Sudan intends to keep up the pace of this work for as long as funding permits and demand exists. We will carry out a further 12 eye care outreaches in the first 6 months of 2011, targeting vulnerable people - in particular illiterate women and school children who live in the outskirts of Khartoum state.