



Sight for Kids Expansion in Turkey and Kenya Vision Care Facts

KENYA

This year, Sight for Kids Kenya plans to train 1,100 teachers within the outskirts and beyond Nairobi. These teachers will provide basic eye health, eye care and hygiene education to their students across 55 rural schools.

The Need:

- With a population of 44 million people, the prevalence of blindness is estimated at 1% (440,000), and the rate of visual impairment is 2.6% (1,144,000).
 - Among children (0-15 years old), who comprise more than 40% of the population, visual impairment is estimated at 20,000 persons and blindness at 10,000.ⁱ
 - The causes of blindness and visual impairment among children in Kenya include corneal scars (from Vitamin A deficiency, measles, infection, ophthalmia neonatorum and trauma), cataracts, congenital glaucoma, and uncorrected refractive errors (URE).
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TURKEY

This year, Sight for Kids Turkey plans to train 1,500 teachers in Ankara, Turkey and surrounding areas with the potential to reach 150,000 school-aged children in 500 schools. These teachers will focus on evaluating visual acuity and identifying common ocular infections and other eye disorders.

The Need:

- A recent study of amblyopia and refractive errors among school-aged children with low socioeconomic status in southeastern Turkey found that of a sample of 21,062 children aged 6 to 14, 2.6% (548 children) had amblyopia and 22.7% (4,781) were in need of glasses due to refractive error. Of those needing glasses, 10.6% (507) were unaware of their need.ⁱⁱ
- A 2002 study of southwestern Turkey pediatric ophthalmology records showed that nearly 70% of patients with visual impairment were considered either preventable or treatable, including cataract, retinopathy of prematurity, genetic disorders, and refractive errors.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Kenyan Ministry of Health

ⁱⁱ Caca, Ihsan MD, et al., "Amblyopia and Refractive Errors Among School-Aged Children with Low Socioeconomic Status in Southeastern Turkey", *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*, January/February 2013 – Volume 50 – Issue 1: 37-43.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source: Eur J Ophthalmol. 2004 Nov-Dec;14(6):531-7.; Etiology of childhood blindness in Izmir, Turkey;

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15638103>