



Nakuru & South Nyanza Districts, Kenya

BLINDNESS IN KENYA

- **224,000** people are blind.
- **Cataract** accounts for **43%** of preventable blindness.
- **Trachoma** is the second biggest cause of blindness (19%) and is **endemic** in 18 Districts in Kenya, 11 of which are found in the Rift Valley.

When left untreated, blindness and visual impairment can result in lost education and employment opportunities, as well as an impaired quality of life. Blindness prevents parents from providing for their dependents and very often children are called upon to act as carers, taking them out of school, and depriving them of an education.

WHERE WE WORK

The Fred Hollows Foundation is working in two regions of in Western Kenya: Nakuru District and South Nyanza District. Both have endemic trachoma and a high prevalence of childhood blindness. Only 52% of Kenyans live within 5kms of a health facility and outside of the capital, Addis Ababa, there is only one ophthalmologist per 3 million population, so there is an acute shortage of trained personnel and accessible clinics.



WHAT WE DO

We work closely with local partners and eye care institutions such as the Nakuru Eye Unit, increasing their capability to deliver high quality services to impoverished rural communities currently lacking access to eye health practitioners. We achieve this through the provision of equipment for clinics and outreach camps, technology, and training for local doctors and health care professionals.

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

By treating those suffering from cataract and trachoma in Kenya, The Foundation and its partners create opportunities for patients to regain their independence. The long-term goal of the programme is to assist in building the capacity of existing services so that the Kenyan public health system can effectively treat and prevent avoidable blindness.

If you wish to support this project please visit www.hollows.org.uk/donate/

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