

Change a life

Ethiopia – Mobile Eye Clinic

The Mobile Eye Clinic commenced in early 2005. With the support of Computershare and its' employees, the operation of the clinic has been extended to September 2007.

The Clinic travels in a well-equipped four-wheel drive, and is staffed by a driver, an ophthalmic nurse and volunteer ophthalmologists. The vehicle transports the staff and materials, while surgery, treatment and training is undertaken inside local health posts or tents.



Staff giving sanitation education at the clinic

Currently World Vision is on target to meet their two year project objectives of educating 33,400 people, screening 15,120, and performing 1,080 operations.



Mulugeta Ayalew, getting ready to operate

- Over 4,000 cases were screened to distinguish cases of Trachomatous Trichiasis (TT) and active trachoma and 477 procedures were undertaken.
- 1,592 active trachoma cases were treated using TTC eye ointment. Most of the cases were treated at health units, with the remainder treated in the community by health workers trained by the clinic.

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Staff screening and diagnosing

- A three day training workshop was held for 22 community health workers (CHWs), with topics including:
 - trachoma treatment, prevention and controlling
 - trachoma case screening and referring
 - SAFE strategy (S=surgery, A=antibiotic, F=face washing, E=environmental sanitation)
- 12,570 school children and community members were trained to prevent and identify trachoma through lecture and drama shows. Topics included trachoma transmission and methods of preventing trachoma at community level through face washing, avoiding flies, personal hygiene and environmental improvement.

In a monitoring visit, a World Vision Australia staff member found that the project is very tangibly releasing people from immense pain and rapid onset of irreversible blindness and treatment is reaching remote areas in the south of the country that would not otherwise be accessed.