

Ethiopia – Mobile Eye Clinic

Ethiopia is barely 15% the land mass of Australia, yet it has a population of 65 million people. Of these, 900,000 are blind, and an additional 3-4 million people have impaired vision.

A major contributing factor is the eye disease '[trachoma](#)', caused by infestations carried by flies, as well as a lack of clean water for face washing.

In 2007 we have seen very encouraging results from the Change-a-life project, including:

SURGERY

- 3510 cases screened
- 516 procedures undertaken

ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT

- 5,397 trachoma cases treated using antibiotic ointment

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- Vital medical equipment purchased to ensure successful surgery

HEALTH EDUCATION

- 20 health education sessions conducted to address 14,600 community members through lectures and drama shows.

TRAINING

- 217 health and community workers in local health posts trained in basic eye care. This training focused on trachoma prevention strategies, commonly known as "SAFE": Surgery Antibiotic Face Washing and Environmental (Sanitation.)

Thanks to the Mobile Eye Clinic, people such as Balcha and his wife can return to work on their farms, and women like Desu can return to work, enabling them to provide for their families.

