



Community Outreach activities

Presented by:

VOSH-Somalia

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Outreach activities

During the last year (2023) VOSH- Somalia has carried out several community eye screening activities. Four of these activities were intended to be fully free in terms of eyeglasses, examination, and cataract surgery. In this document, we summarize these four activities.

The first community screening was held (June /2023) in Galkacyo, at the Eye Specialist Hospital one of VOSH-Somalia's partner. The campaign was announced on the radio and also using a car with a microphone and speaker. The campaign lasted three days, around 917 people were registered and 638 of them were examined fully. The patients came from all social backgrounds.

During this three-day community eye campaign, we distributed 182 eyeglasses, of which 123 glasses were donated by VOSH/ International, and 59 eyeglasses were unique prescriptions. These were ordered separately and given to the patients for free.

We also distributed countless medications. We have also operated on 41 patients after the three-day campaign. Dr, Zerihun Makkeno Haillu operated on the patients in two days.



Image 1 Patients waiting for their visual test



Image 2 and 3 Our Assistants taking patients VA at Galkaio campaign



Image 3 Little patient

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The second campaign was held in August in **Mataan Polyclinic Center** in Galinsoor. Similar pre-announcements were made.

A total of 243 patients attended of these 21 eyeglasses were distributed and 9 patients were operated after the 3rd day of the clinic

In this campaign, we registered each patient's prescription, got it made in Mogadishu, and sent them to the clinic for distribution.



Image 4 With a patient



Image 5 Dr Omer Barise (left), Dr Zarihun (middle) and Dr Qodhan (right)

Our 3rd community outreach was held in Ceel Dhere

This campaign was in a small and far away area. A total of 151 patients attended

We distributed 20 eyeglasses and referred 39 patients for surgery to Dhusamareb city as this area has no electrical power.



Image 6 Setting up the equipment and devices

Outreach activities

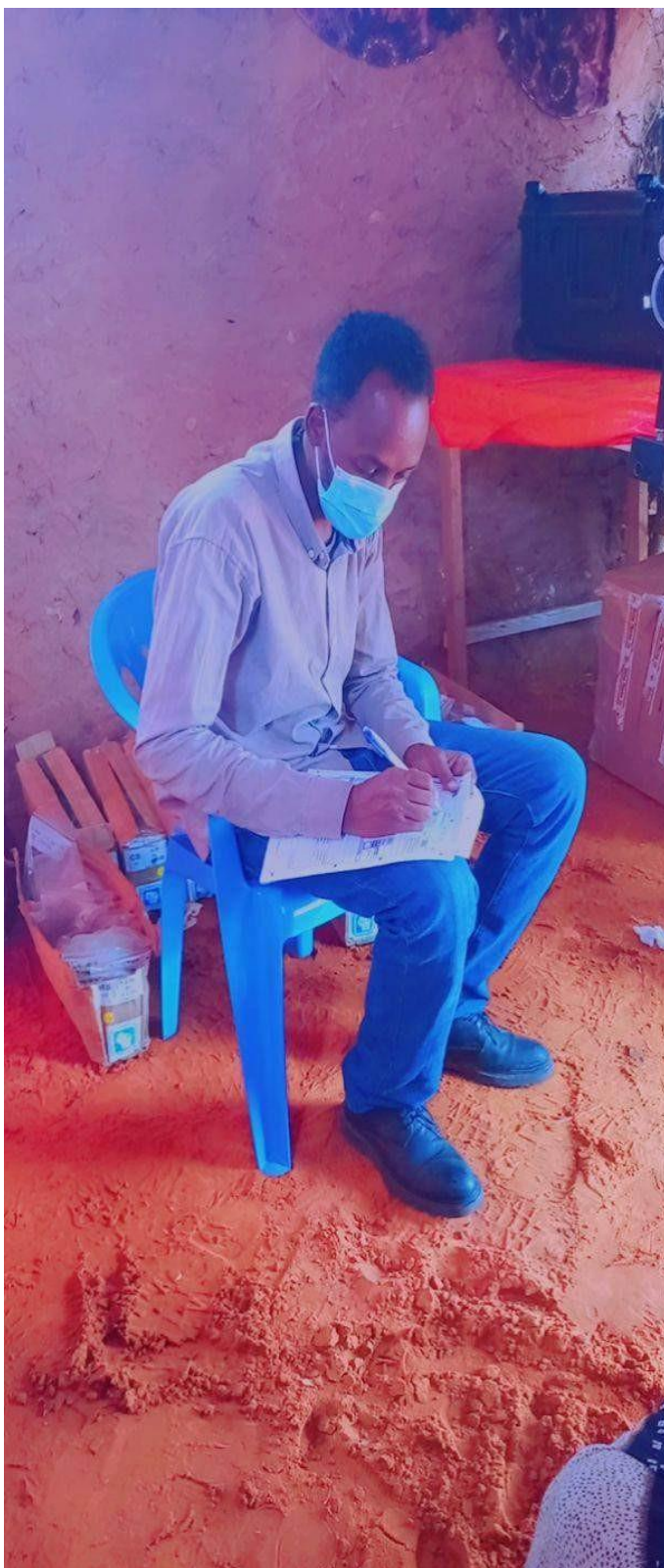


Image 7 Dr Mohamed Ali doing VA and filling up patients' records



Image 8 Finding eyeglasses and examining a patient

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The 4th campaign was held in Dhusamareb, the capital city of Galmudug. 1118 patients were served during two weeks.

During this campaign, we distributed 412 eyeglasses and we did 31 cataract surgeries.



Image 9 Patients waiting to be seen and VA



Image 10 Patients waiting to be seen



Outreach activities



Some cataract surgery photos from our fourth campaign.



Image 11 Cataract patients



Image 12 Cataract patients



Image 13 Cataract patients

Challenges

We encountered numerous challenges from glasses stock to patients' preference. Our biggest challenge was people don't accept the white eyeglasses prescription -not transition- as this place is white and very sunny.

The other key challenge was the lack of uniform prescription orders available in the boxes we have taken from VOSH-Michigan.

Financially, we covered all prescription costs as this was promoted in the campaigns. The orders were sent to Mogadishu to be prepared.

The costs of cataract surgery can be high.

We also had problems with taking photos due to being busy with patients and lack of staff.

In summary

City	Number of patients	Number of eyewear distributed	Number of surgeries
Galkaio	917	182	41
Galinsoor	243	21	9
Ceeldhere	151	20	39 referred
Dhusamareb	1118	412	31
Total	2429	635	120