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SVOSH-MAKERERE™
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

A REPORT OF MUOSA CAMP HELD ON 26TH TO 27TH MARCH, 2026 AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY FREEDOM SQUARE.

Introduction

The Makerere University Optometry Students Association (MUOSA) conducted a two-day medical camp aimed at providing basic eye care services to the Makerere students and the surrounding community in celebration of World Optometry Week as a give-back to society.

The camp focused on screening, early detection of visual problems, and referral for further management where necessary to the Academic Vision Centre (AVC) at Makerere University Hospital.

Objectives

- To screen selected community members for visual and ocular conditions
- To create awareness about eye health and Optometry.
- To provide basic eye care services and referrals
- To give practical exposure to optometry students in year 3 and year 4

Tools used

Tools were borrowed from Optometry teaching Clinic (OTC) of Makerere University and they included;

TOOLS	Amount
HRR	5
Distance Snellen VA chart	5
Arclight set	5
Near VA chart	5
Tape measure	3
Randot	5
Multiple pinhole	5
Occluders	5
Pen torch	6

Head loop	5
Box of gloves	1
Toilet papers	4
Cotton buds	
Sanitizer bottles	2
Note books	10

Activities conducted

- ✓ Visual acuity assessment
- ✓ Basic eye examination
- ✓ Confrontation Fields
- ✓ Motilities
- ✓ Colour vision test
- ✓ Eye health education
- ✓ Referrals for advanced care
- ✓ Cover test



Image 1 The Makerere team

Funding and support

The camp was facilitated through financial and logistical support from Lions Club International which offered One hundred fifty thousand Uganda shillings (150,000) and MUOSA funded the rest.

The Optometrists Association of Uganda (OAU) provided a tent for the activities on both days. Its transportation was covered by MUOSA.

Supervision

With thanks to OAU, MUOSA got Mrs. Amuge ELIZABETH to supervise students on 26th and 27th of March in the camp.

Outcomes and impact.

81 people were screened on the first day and 93 people on the second day. Common findings were bacterial conjunctivitis, allergic conjunctivitis, refractive errors (*Visual acuity improves by 2 or more lines on Pinhole*) and a normal eye exam.

Note that an individual could be diagnosed with more than one condition.

Figure 1: overall

DIAGNOSIS		Normal eye exam	Refractive error	Allergic conj	Bacterial conj
NUMBER	DAY 1	55	16	14	9
	DAY 2	67	28	20	5

Figure 2: Single vs Multiple Diagnoses

Category	Day 1 (n = 81)	Day 2 (n = 93)
Normal eye exam only	55 (67.9%)	62 (66.7%)
Refractive error only	8 (9.9%)	9 (9.7%)
Allergic conjunctivitis only	6 (7.4%)	6 (6.5%)
Bacterial conjunctivitis only	5 (6.2%)	2 (2.2%)
Multiple diagnoses	7 (8.6%)	14 (15.1%)
Total	81 (100%)	93 (100%)

Figure 3: Breakdown of Multiple Diagnoses

Combination of Conditions	Day 1	Day 2
Refractive + Allergic conjunctivitis	4 (57.1%)	10 (71.4%)
Refractive + Bacterial conjunctivitis	3 (42.9%)	4 (28.6%)
Total Multiple Diagnoses	7 (100%)	14 (100%)

Interpretation:



The majority of participants presented with normal eye examinations on both days. Among those with ocular conditions, refractive errors were the most common. A notable proportion of participants had multiple diagnoses, particularly a combination of refractive error and allergic conjunctivitis. This highlights the need for comprehensive eye assessments during community outreach programs.

Image 2 Patients receiving care

Challenges

- Late turn-up of some optometry students for the camp.
- Late turn up of patients, where many came at the closure time due to their tight schedule and other reasons.
- Need for more supervisors in the next camp.

Conclusion

The medical camp was a success, achieving its objectives of providing essential eye care services and promoting community awareness. Continued collaboration between MUOSA and partners like Lions Club, SVOSH will further enhance outreach efforts.

Recommendations

- Increase number of screening days in future camps
- Mobilize more equipment and personnel
- Strengthen community sensitization before the camp
- Expand services to include more communities

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