

## COMMEMORATION OF WORLD SIGHT DAY IN ZANZIBAR

### PRIMARY EYE CARE (PEC)

14/10/2021

#### Introduction

World Sight Day (WSD) is an annual day of awareness to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment and is held on the second Thursday in October each year. This year's theme is "**Love your Eyes**", aiming to raise awareness of eye health in terms of the value of good eyesight by protecting eyes from harm and wearing protective gears to prevent the eyes from avoidable causes of blindness and preserve good eyesight.



Figure 1: Eye Care team with National Eye Care Coordinator

This event was conducted through the Eye Care Coordination office, the Primary Eye Care Unit and Eye Department and jointly with Zanzibar Arts for Children's Eyesight (ZANZI-ACE) project through Queen's University Belfast support. It was a great opportunity for the Eye Care Unit to hold the World Sight Day event and promote eye health care issues, especially in eye health-seeking behaviour changes and getting the treatment at a proper time to prevent sight loss. The events were held at Nungwi, North of Unguja, and Kinyasini in Pemba Island. The ZANZI-ACE music competition winners were also awarded their certificates during the event.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr Fatma Omar thanked the attendees for coming to the event and gave special thanks to the Hon. Minister for Land and Housing for joining the

Eye Care team during the commemoration. She also mentioned on importance of the day worldwide.



Figure2: Dr Fatma Omar gave her welcoming remarks during the event.

The events were attended by The Honorable Riziki Pembe Juma, the Minister of Land and Housing for Zanzibar in Unguja and Officer In charge for the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Pemba. Both Guests of Honour urged all people in Zanzibar to change their approach concerning eye diseases by creating the attitude of checking their eyes at least once a year for early identification of eye conditions and finding the right treatment. They also encourage people to use the Primary Health centres for treatment early and at the appropriate time.



Figure 3: Minister being refracted during the event



On arrival, the Guests of Honour had a chance to have their eyes checked and received a pair of reading spectacles. During this event, all attendees had a chance of examining their eyes, including visual acuity testing, external eye examination, Intraocular Pressure Checking, and Fundus copy examination. Those diagnosed with refractive error problems were refracted and provided with a pair of spectacles. A total of 753 people had their eyes tested during that event. The Covid-19 vaccines were also available at the event for all people who are willingly decided to be vaccinated.



Figure 4: The optometrist refracting a school child at Nungwi



Figure 5: Tausi group (2<sup>nd</sup> Winner) receiving the Certificate



Figure 6: Culture Modern Taarab Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Winner) receiving the Certificate



Figure 7: Group photo with the Hon. Minister for Land and Housing at the centre. From left - the 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner (JelaJela), the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner (TAUSI) and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winner (Culture Modern Taarab Group)



The table below shows a total of people screened and their diagnoses in Unguja

SN	DIAGNOSIS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Presbyopia	43	103	196
2	Refractive Errors	38	143	181
3	Astigmatism	18	44	62
4	Conjunctivitis	13	58	90
5	Cataract	2	2	4
6	Glaucoma	3	2	5
7	NAD	2	4	6
8	Chalazion	1	2	3
9	Fundus Disorder	2	4	6
10	N L B	1	1	2
	<b>JUMLA</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>555</b>

The table below shows the total of people screened and their diagnoses in Pemba

SN	DIAGNOSIS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Presbyopia	21	24	45
2	Refractive Errors	23	27	50
3	Conjunctivitis	45	48	93
4	Chalazion	2	4	6
5	Retinal Disorder	1	3	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>198</b>