

RESTORE SIGHT · SHARE VISION  
**VISION CARE**

## Vision Care Leads Surgical Training in Tanzania



Recently, Vision Care successfully led the Phacoemulsification Training Course (PTC) Phase 3 at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where local doctors and nurses received surgical training under the leadership of Vision Care Ophthalmologists, Dr. Dong Hae Kim (Vision Care Founder) and Dr. Seung-jae Lee.

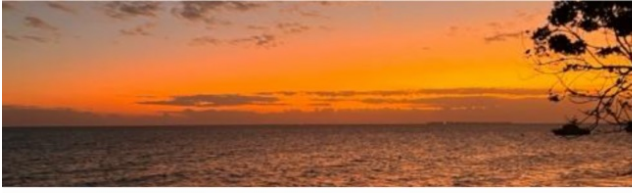
Thank you to our dedicated medical team and staff! And we look forward to continuing our educational endeavors in Tanzania!

## Testimonials from Medical Student Volunteers – Insa, Annette, and Tim

This past summer, after concluding our first year of medical school at Columbia, we embarked on a global population health journey to Tanzania, driven by the dedication and vision of Dr. Lisa Park, our faculty mentor and Board Chair of Vision Care. Partnering with the Global and Population Health Program, Dr. Park invited us to engage in a series of impactful activities focused on restoring sight and enhancing eye care in underserved communities.

Our adventure began with thoughtful preparation. Each of us had previously shadowed Dr. Park, witnessing firsthand the profound impact that restoring vision can have on individuals and communities. The opportunity to travel to Africa and gain practical experience in global health was a dream come true. Tim, who had spent four years studying Swahili at Harvard, was particularly excited to apply his language skills, and

Annette and Insa had strong interest in ophthalmology as a future specialty. Before we left, we attended seminars about global health research and underwent training to prepare for our work in East Africa. Armed with our malaria prophylaxis and packed with medical supplies, we felt a mix of excitement and trepidation as we set out for the stunning island of Zanzibar, Tanzania.



Upon our arrival, the island's vibrant colors and warm breezes welcomed us. Our first week was spent at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Stone Town, where we collaborated with VisionCare staff from Korea and the USA to establish a phacoemulsification camp. This initiative allowed us to screen hundreds of patients daily and provide phacoemulsification surgery for those with severe cataracts. Each morning, hundreds of eager patients lined up for screening. We learned to take eye pressures and use slit lamps, our Swahili phrases—"Look up and don't blink," "The surgery was very successful"—rolling off our tongues as if we had known them forever. The experience deepened our understanding of the healthcare needs in the region. By the end of the camp, we had treated over 150 cataracts and distributed countless medication packets, gaining invaluable insights into the importance of accessible eye care.





As our time in Zanzibar drew to a close, we attended the 5th All Eye Health Workers Conference hosted by the Tanzanian Ophthalmological Society. Here, we stood proudly at the VisionCare booth, connecting with eye care professionals from various countries and backgrounds. We listened to enlightening talks on the challenges faced by local providers, reaffirming our commitment to supporting sustainable solutions for eye health. This conference highlighted the vital role VisionCare plays in uniting professionals around a shared mission.



After leaving the azure waters of Zanzibar, we flew to Dar es Salaam, a vibrant port city buzzing with life. In the VisionCare office, we analyzed our research while also exploring the local culture and cuisine. Our outreach efforts took us to rural villages where we set up vision screening clinics. One particularly rewarding experience was screening over 200 individuals, where we provided eye exams, medication, and free spectacles. The sense of partnership with the community was strong, as we engaged in meaningful conversations and practiced our Swahili.





Our final weeks brought us to Misugusugu Primary School in Pwani, where we screened more than 1,000 children for various eye conditions. We referred 200 students for further ophthalmologic care and worked with VisionCare staff to gather data on pediatric eye health trends. Through formal interviews with teachers, parents and eye care health staff, we aimed to identify barriers to pediatric eye care, providing critical information that could inform future initiatives.



Reflecting on our journey, we realized that the work of VisionCare is not just about treating conditions—it's about fostering relationships and building sustainable systems of care. Each interaction reaffirmed our commitment to this mission, leaving us inspired to continue advocating for global eye health. As we returned home, we carried with us not just memories, but a renewed dedication to making a difference in the lives of those we met, knowing that every effort contributes to a brighter future for all. Asante sana!

# 2024 Eye Camp & PTC Schedules

## 2024 Eye Camp Schedule

Eye Camp No.	Location/Country	Date
361	Pakistan (Lahore)	Feb 12 - 16
362	Morocco (Fnideq)	April 29 - May 3
363	Mongolia (Bayan-Olgii)	June 3 - 7
364	Guatemala (Petén)	July 1 - 5
365	Zimbabwe (Harare)	July 1 - 5
366	Uganda (Kampala)	August 26 - 30
367	Vanuatu (Tanna)	August 26 - 30
368	Cambodia (Phnom Penh)	August 26 - 30
369	Peru (Ventanilla)	Sept 11 - 19
370	Kyrgyzstan (Kara Balta)	Sept 30 - Oct 4
371	The Philippines (Angeles)	Oct 23 - 26
372	Morocco (Marrakech)	Oct 28 - Nov 1
373	Morocco (Kelaat M'gouna)	Nov 4 - 8
374	Mauritania (Nouakchott)	Nov 11 - 15
375	Cambodia (Battambang)	TBC

## 2024 PTC Schedule

PTC Phase	Location/Country	Key Dates
2023 PTC 1	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	January
2023 PTC 2	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	February
2023 PTC 3	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	March
2023 PTC 4	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	July
2024 PTC 1	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	May
2024 PTC 2	Tanzania (Zanzibar)	June
2024 PTC 3	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	September
2024 PTC 4	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	November

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