



IMPACT EAST AFRICA

Action today to prevent disability tomorrow

A member of the International Federation of Impact Foundations

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A STORY OF IMPACT: EYE SURGICAL

One of the beneficiaries, who had travelled 70 kilometers with his grandson to attend the eye surgical camp, shared with the team that the past 7 years were very difficult and mentally disturbing since he lost his eyesight. He became fully dependent, and this led to the family deciding that one of his 7-year-old grandsons should drop out of school and offer him support. This is a decision he was very uncomfortable with, but there was no other choice. Throughout these years, he wished to see again and stop being a burden to his family.

After the eye screening, he was booked for surgery, which was successfully conducted. He couldn't hold back his joy once the eye patch was removed during the postoperative care and he could see again, though blurry. Since he had cataracts in both eyes, he wanted the team to operate on the other eye. He was booked for the next camp that will be happening in Zombe in the next project year. He was very grateful and said that, *"I feel awful that my grandson had to stop going to school because of my eye condition. I don't know how to repay him for the sacrifice. I feel you have given me a new life and also let the young boy resume his studies. It is a miracle that I can see again. My vision is a bit blurry, but I believe your treatment is good enough, and I will have my clear vision with time."*

He mentioned that he would go to his local church and testify about what IEA has done to him. He said he would share with his peers who are having the same condition, but they fear surgical interventions due to various myths about surgical interventions existing in his community. This would serve as an advocacy so many can attend such surgical camps and benefit. The local area chief who had informed the old man about the surgical intervention reached out to the IEA team, informing us how grateful he was about the intervention that helped this old man, and he wished that we would conduct these surgical camps more often so more and more community members could benefit.