

**Short Communication**
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## The Sight Foundation in Sudan, 30 Years of Serving Eye Patients

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- The International Sight Foundation, which originated in Saudi Arabia, is considered one of the organizations that has been working in Sudan for 30 years in ophthalmology, eye care, and vision care and treatment. It began its projects in Sudan since 1993. Sudan is considered one of the largest sectors and scopes of its free charitable activity on the level of the African continent, as it About 60% of the Foundation's work and activities in the world, as the Foundation serves most of the states of Sudan, and in some states, it is the only entity that provides eye services to eye patients.
- During 30 years, the International Sight Foundation - Sudan Sector has done great work in combating blindness and eye diseases through its various axes of work.

### Free Eye Camps

- Camps are the main pillar of the activity of the Sight Foundation through Mecca Eye Hospitals to achieve its main goal of combating blindness, as its first camp was in Sudan in the year 1993 AD by establishing two camps per year until the average number of camps per year reached 36 camps and the camp is equipped with all needs. Of medicines, modern medical devices, and qualified medical personnel, the camps provide services to remote areas in villages and rural areas for those in need of eye medicine and surgery services. The Foundation also organizes free camps outside Sudan, as the Foundation is considered a center for 26 African countries, while the average medical examinations in one camp are 4,000 patients and are conducted in it. About 400 operations were performed and more than 1,500 medical glasses were distributed. The total number of camps that have been implemented so far has reached 553 camps in which 1,850,601 patients were examined, 159,209 operations were performed, and more than 829,500 glasses were distributed.
- The Foundation implements about 200 free treatment days a year, during which it examines patients and provides treatment and glasses.

### Hospitals

- The Foundation established its first fixed hospital in the year 1995 AD under the name Al-Maghrabi Hospital in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. It adopted the name Mecca Ophthalmology Hospital in 2003 AD and expanded in opening branches until the number reached nine hospitals specializing in ophthalmology spread in a number of Sudanese states, namely (Khartoum - Omdurman - Al-Kalakla - Madani - Kassala - Port Sudan - Al-Damazin - Nyala - Al-Obeid.

These hospitals are equipped with the latest international modern medical technologies in the field of ophthalmology.

- These hospitals include dozens of eye specialists of various degrees, opticians, and auxiliary medical staff. The institution seeks the assistance of many foreign experts, consultants, and visiting doctors from outside Sudan.
- Hospitals provide many services in ophthalmology and surgery, including (retina - glaucoma - cornea - cataract - eye socket - tumors - strabismus - children's eyes - diabetic eye - cosmetics - contact lenses - medical imaging - visual aids - glasses - medications) and in Mecca hospitals. A special department for internal medicine, fully equipped and with advanced laboratories.
- At least twice a year, some senior eye specialists from outside the country and from different countries such as the United States, England, and Egypt visit the hospital, where these doctors participate in treating patients in specialized clinics and transferring expertise and training to the doctors.
- Some advanced operations are performed in the Central Hospital (Mecca Hospital - Khartoum), such as corneal transplant operations, retinal operations, and quarry operations, which are performed in an excellent manner, while such operations were only treated abroad, which nationalized the treatment of these cases internally and saved the state and citizens huge sums of money that were spent in currencies. Foreign.
- The Foundation has established advanced departments for the manufacture of medical glasses and contact lenses in all of its hospitals, which has greatly helped in providing advanced services in this field. The hospitals provide symbiotic services (free and discounted) for the destitute and those who are unable, including operations, medical examinations, medicines, and glasses, as the total percentage of beneficiaries from the social worker reached about 20%. In general, 60% of patients receive their services through health insurance.

Mecca hospitals have obtained the British Quality Certificate, ISO 9001, version 2015, since 2007 AD, and have received praise from official bodies and international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) for their distinguished roles in combating blindness and eye diseases.

### School Health

- The Foundation conducts medical surveys to combat child blindness among primary school students and trains teachers to help identify cases of visual impairment and general health

problems in the eyes that occur to students in cooperation with the competent authorities. This program has helped discover eye diseases and refractive errors of vision, and treatment has been carried out in the Foundation's hospitals.

### Education and Training

- About 25 specialists are sent annually to participate in international and regional conferences, and the Mecca Complex conference hall hosts a number of seminars and lectures. Mecca Central Hospital in Riyadh - Khartoum is considered one of the most important centers that provide training services to various eye cadres, and it is one of the most important centers for training deputy eye specialists throughout their studies for the specialty. Ophthalmology. During the past thirty years, most of the ophthalmology specialists in Sudan received their training at the Central Hospital and the hospitals of Mecca in the various states. The Foundation trained about 600 deputy specialists.
- Mecca Central Hospital is considered one of the most important centers in which exams for the specialty of ophthalmology and surgery are held. Practical and theoretical training courses in ophthalmology are held in the hospital weekly for all staff, attended by large numbers of them. Also, a program for continuous training for various ophthalmology staff working permanently is held at the Central Hospital, and ophthalmologists are trained. Specialists from other eye hospitals in Sudan in the field of subspecialized training at the Central Hospital.

### Mecca Technical College of Ophthalmology

- In the year 2007 AD, the Foundation established the Mecca Technical College of Ophthalmology to qualify auxiliary cadres in ophthalmology.





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