

Cooper Vision, Optometry Giving Sight and Special Olympics: Improving Sight and Quality of Life of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities – 2022 Report

In 2022 Special Olympics, Cooper Vision and Optometry Giving Sight continued a shared commitment to the eye health and vision care needs of a most vulnerable population focusing on Eye Care Practitioner training through webinars and hands on experience as well as vision screenings including prescription of eye wear for people with intellectual disabilities (ID). In countries throughout the world, Cooper Vision and Optometry Giving Sight have provided vision-saving support to marginalized populations across the Global South, while building needed clinical and medical capacity to make eye health and vision care accessible to all. Special Olympics commends the strong and ongoing commitment of Cooper Vision and Optometry Giving Sight to strengthen institutional capacity, professional engagement, and mobilizing a multi-sector partnership base to provide solutions to one of the most critical health needs- especially in a post COVID19 global setting. The collaboration brings vision services, professional training, and clinical awareness in two key growth markets for Special Olympics: **Kenya and the United States of America.**

Continues Education webinars:

In 2022 we continued to provide COPE approved CE free webinars mainly targeted to the ECP audience in the US. In total **5 webinars** were offered, delivered by Katie Connolly, O.D. , Chief of Pediatric and Binocular Vision Service, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Indiana :

Date	REG	Attendees	Course Title
1/18/2022	312	175	Refractive, Oculomotor and Amblyopia Development in Those With IDD
2/15/2022	478	256	The Cardiovascular System, Ocular Disease, and the impact on those with IDD
3/29/2022	366	173	Myopia Management: Is it possible for those with IDD?
4/19/2022	317	188	Therapeutics for Pediatrics and IDD: “Just Say Yes”
5/17/2022	320	190	I Want to Help Those with IDD: Now What?

In total **982 Attendees** took part in the webinar series. In addition, the webinars have been uploaded to the Special Olympics e-learning platform to be accessible. To date **121 individual ECPs** have visited the webinars online with in total over **700 engagements throughout all webinars** available. **263 ECP have completed CE requirements** to date.

The webinars were well received, here under are a few quotes from attendees:

“I am an OD in San Diego, CA and I see many kids in the low income bracket, many hispanic kids in our community. I attended your lecture on kids and amblyopia. It was a great lecture and I learned so much.”

“Your lecture was excellent, you are obviously the quintessential optometric expert in the IDD area.”

“I definitely needed that refresher. It was informative and educational. My practice doesn’t see any IDD patients but I benefited from the webinar anyways because I do see some pediatrics and there are similarities in their exams. Thank you !!!”

Opening Eyes Program at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando 2022



The 2022 Special Olympics USA games 2022 have united over 5,000 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean. During the Games Opening Eyes was offered for 5 consecutive days and screened in **total 1542 athletes** and 305 UNIFIED Partners. In total **954 prescription glasses** were provided to Athletes in need. The screenings were performed by **30 optometrists, 12 opticians, 57 optometry students, 7 ophthalmic technicians and 9 non clinical volunteers.**

In addition **8 new Clinical Directors** have been trained during the event.

Opening Eyes Program at the Special Olympics UNIFIED Cup 2022, Detroit

In July 2022, Detroit welcomed over 300 footballers from over 20 nations to compete in football (soccer)—the world's most popular sport. The Special Olympics Unified Cup took place 31 July – 6 August, 2022 and Special Olympics Unified Sports® is what made it uniquely inclusive: Teams that were comprised of footballers with and without intellectual disabilities playing together. Healthy Athletes including Opening Eyes was offered to the participants as well.

Opening Eyes screened **221 athletes and UNIFIED partners, 54 prescription glasses and goggles** were provided to participants in need. The screenings were performed by 13 ECP's and 6 optometry students.

Athletes screened	regular glasses	goggles w/ presc.	goggles plano	sunglasses	ECP's	optometry students	Lions	non clinical
221	40	14	8	159	13	6	9	11

Opening Eyes screenings and training of ECPs and Eye Care students in Kenya

In 2022 in collaboration with Cooper Vision, Optometry Giving Sight, the Kenyan Medical Training Center, the Masinde Muliro University of science and technology, the Lions FirstSight Eye Hospital and Special Olympics Kenya **Opening Eyes training and screenings have been taken place in 7 different sites in Kenya:**

location	start dates	end dates	#athletes screened	urgent referrals	# Young Athletes screened	#regular glasses	#goggles w/ presc.	#sun glasses	ECPs	Optometry students	#Lions	non clinical
Masinde Muliro University	1/21/2022	1/22/2022	213	2		20	0	0	12	50	1	34
Nairobi Mihang'o Primary	22/2/2022	22/2/2022	181	4		0	19	20	13	34	2	12
Marsabit County	9/9/2022	9/10/2022	103	3		31	72	80	11	35	3	2
Loitoktok	10/1/2022	10/1/2022	302	13	198	31	0	200	8	12	0	0
Taita Taveta County	10/22/2022	10/22/2022	284	2		28	0	189	7	15	2	34
Hola, Tana River County	11/5/2022	11/5/2022	182	9		32	0	0	7	15	1	0
Vihiga County	11/18/2022	11/19/2022	230	7		16	0	230	14	15	3	62
TOTAL			1495	40	198	158	91	719	72	176	12	144

In total **1495 children and adults with ID received critical eye care** and **158 received regular prescription glasses**. For many of the participants it was the first ever eye screening in their lives. The activities engaged 72 Eye Care Practitioners and 176 Eye care students actively involved in the screenings and trainings as part of the project



Photos: Training of ECP and students at the KMTC and MMU

With 1693 children and adults with ID screened we were able to **exceed** the proposed number of 500 athletes in the original partnership proposal.

One important element to the success of these activities is the training and engagement of eye care students from both the Kenyan Medical Training Center and the Masinde Muliro University of science and technology. The students received first hand training on how to interact, screen and treat persons with ID. “I enjoyed working with the athletes and helping them restore their vision, helping someone see is kind of a miracle to them. I learnt a lot but above all it was the experience of dealing with the special group which is going to help me in my optometry practice in future. These clinics are important because most of these special people are neglected and kind of isolated from the rest of the community and when such clinics come to their communities, they just feel relieved” said Adelbert Ogachi, Optometry student at the KMTC.



Photos: 1) and 2) KMTC students perform vision screenings. 3) Group of KMTC students volunteering at the event in Taita Taveta County (fourth from left: Adelbert Ogachi)

Screenings, community engagement and care coordination

Through the partnership has enabled Special Olympics Kenya to provide critical care to the most neglected in rural areas of Kenya. This effort was supported through a wide range of community partners and networks. In each screening sites Special Olympics Kenya partnered with a local or regional hospital to coordinate care for those participants that received an urgent referral at the screenings. Frames and sunglasses were provided by global SOI sponsor Safilo, prescription lenses were provided by the Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital in Nairobi.

Screening location	#athletes screened	urgent referrals	local and regional hospitals
Masinde Muliro University	213	2	Sabatia Lions Eye Hospital
Nairobi Mihang'o Primary	181	4	Lions Sight First Eye Hospital
Marsabit County	103	3	Marsabit County Hospital
Loitoktok	302	13	Loitoktok Sub-County Hospital
Taita Taveta County	284	2	Lions Sight First Eye Hospital
Hola, Tana River County	182	9	Hola Referral Hospital
Vihiga County	230	7	Lions Sight First Eye Hospital
TOTAL	1495	40	

At each site SO Kenya worked with several community partners to reach as many as possible children and adults to attend the screenings. These partners include special schools, group homes for people with ID, Kenya Association for the Intellectual handicapped (KAIH), families with member with ID and sub county health teams. Transport was organized to enable all participants to get to the screening sites and back to their villages and group homes.



Photo: Diana Muna, Mother of Mercy Mavondo (age 10). Mercy received her first ever eye screening through the Program.



Photo: Elizabeth Waves Maghanga, Taita Taveta County representative of KAIH with an Athlete with new glasses.

Local media coverage



Click on the picture to open the video link



Click on the picture to open the video link

<u>KPI/location</u>	<u>Y1 outcomes</u>	<u>Y2 outcomes</u>	<u>Y3 outcomes</u>
Kenya			
Expand the Opening Eyes program to screen an additional 500 participating Special Olympics Kenya athletes, with a focus on rural communities;	35 athletes screened at the kick off event in Nairobi	1495 athletes screened at seven screening events	
Provide clinical training to 100 additional vision care professionals, and 210 vision care students with a focus on strengthening the partnership with Masinde Muliro University and the University of Nairobi; the clinical training will include an e-learning module for professionals and students to afford opportunities to gain specialized clinical training;	28 students from MMU and KMTC trained online 5 students received training and hands on experience at the kick off event 13 ECPs received training and hands on experience at the kick off event	176 students from MMU and KMTC received technical and hands on training 72 ECPs received training and hands on experience	
Further activate strong partnership with Lions Clubs International Eye Hospitals and the MP Shah Hospitals and Clinic network across Kenya to provide key referrals for follow up treatments;	The MP Shah hospital hosted the launch OE screening event and offered follow up care for athletes in need	5 community hospitals supported the screening events and offered follow up care for athletes in need	
United States/US National Games Orlando 2022 and UNIFIED cup			
Provide Opening Eyes screening services to a minimum of 2,000 athletes participating at the 2022 Special Olympics USA National Games;	Preparation for the OE screening event at the Orlando Games is ongoing and on track	1542 athletes were screened at US games and 221 at UNIFIED cup	
Offer clinical training in inclusive vision care for a minimum of 50 eye care professionals volunteering their services at the Games in Orlando;	In total 440 ECPs participated in the first two out of in total 7 COPE approved CE lectures discussing vision care and IDD and received critical training	In total 982 Attendees took part in the webinar series. 121 individual ECPs have visited the webinars online.	
Create volunteer opportunities in Opening Eyes for interested volunteers from Cooper Vision and Optometry Giving Sight	Preparation for the OE screening event at the Orlando Games is ongoing and on track	Cooper Vision and OGS representatives were present at US games and UNIFIED cup. Volunteer Opportunities for 2023 need to be further explored.	