

**3291**

Eye surgeries  
performed

**90067**

Infants  
immunised

**389**

Hand Pump Bore  
Holes rehabilitated



# Letter from the COO



Greetings,

Tulsi Chanrai Foundation (TCF) has been delivering healthcare in Nigeria for over 2 decades benefitting over 3 million disadvantaged children and adults in Nigeria through its 3 keys programmes - Mission for Vision, Mission for Primary Health and Mission for Water. Since inception, 98023 surgeries have been done and 93100 people's sight restored, 964 clinics have been conducted and about 1.5 million mothers' and children's health and wellbeing secured, 3887 hand pumps bore holes (HPBHs) have been rehabilitated and about 1.9 million people ensured safe drinking water through these programmes. It is a widely known fact that interventions in these 3 key areas result in a majority of health problems of the population getting addressed.

At a time when Nigeria is battling an acute insurgency problem and witnessed a huge impact by the Ebola crisis, our commitment to helping the underprivileged people of Nigeria, even the ones living in the remote and inaccessible areas, remains unshaken with TCF continuing its operations wherever possible.

It is my privilege to join TCF at this juncture and chart out a course of consolidation for our programmes, teams, communities and donors. While there are several priorities, I will be focusing on particularly strengthening the channels of communication and information with our esteemed donors. As a first step towards this, after a gap of several months, I am sharing this Annual Progress Report with highlights from April 2014 to March 2015.

Periods of 2014 were on one hand, action filled with the inauguration of a ward, donation of an ambulance at the hospital in Kebbi and functions in Cross River and Katsina to celebrate World Sight Day. It is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and visual impairment. On the other hand some of our eye and primary health programmes unfortunately slowed down due to a strike by the nurses in Calabar in July-August and a nationwide strike by the health workers, from December 2014 till the first week of February.

From April 14 to March 15, the Mission for Primary Health report shows 246,872 people have been treated and 90,067 infants were immunised. The programme team of Mission for Water has reported that 389 HPBHs have been rehabilitated in this period, across 157 LGAs. The Mission for Vision report shows 6122 people were screened and 3291 eye surgeries were done of which 3193 were cataract surgeries. While our teams go about uncompromisingly implementing the programmes on ground in some rather difficult conditions and situations, it is the stories they come across and share from the far off communities that are the most heartening and inspiring for us to continue on this journey to ensure every Nigerian primary health care, safe drinking water and eye care.

As you know, it is only with your commitment and support for TCF, that we have reached so far. I look forward to your continued support and valuable feedback at [grprasad@tcf-nigeria.org](mailto:grprasad@tcf-nigeria.org)

Regards,

Col G R Prasad, COO, TCF





This programme aims to reduce avoidable blindness, predominantly cataract, among the rural poor of Nigeria by providing high quality free surgeries.




As a result of this programme, a large number of underprivileged people in and around Katsina, Kebbi and Cross River state have been able to avail of high quality eye treatment for cataract and glaucoma at no cost. With their sight restored, is restored their productivity and their social and economic independence.



Such is the story of 70 year old Elizabeth Kalu who is from Abiriba that is over 200 kms from Calabar in Cross River state. With her vision reduced to PL (perception of light), in both eyes, she was unable to conduct her trading business of running a stall selling slippers for over a year. She came to the Cross River Community Ophthalmology Project in the Calabar general hospital that is run by TCF in partnership with the Cross River state govt. Here she was prescribed cataract surgery in the left eye. A day after surgery when her eye patch was removed she could see very clearly. She was so thrilled that she broke into a song and dance. She is looking forward to getting back to her slipper selling business and economic independence.

## Mission for Vision Report

Programme Performance between April 2014-March 2015

	 Kebbi	 Katsina	 Cross River	Mission for Vision Total
Total out patients screened	1605	2304	2213	6122
Total surgeries	782	894	1615	3291
Types of surgeries				
Cataract	772	880	1541	3193
Cataract with Trab	0	11	9	20
Trab	2	0	3	5
Pterygium with Graft	8	3	59	70
Others	0	0	3	3
Total	782	894	1615	3291
Visual Acuity assessment 1 month after surgery				
Good 6/6 - 6/18	685	699	1040	2424
Border 6/24 - 6/60	14	37	64	115
Poor >6/60	3	35	18	56
Total	702	771	1122	2595

Apart from Adamawa and Oyo, since the past 5 years, in Cross River state, TCF has managed one of the largest Primary Health Care (PHC) projects in Africa – serving a population of 3 million people. From stories of women having to walk miles to access basic prenatal check-ups and antenatal care, today health posts and centres in the remotest of villages ensure that health care for the entire community is just a walking distance from their homes.



A case in point is of 18 year old Antonia, a first time mother. She had been coming to the health centre at Agbaragba in Ikom LGA since the first trimester. Had the health centre not been close to her home, she would not have been able to as easily get herself registered, get regular check-ups done to monitor her pregnancy and get the right medicines and supplements in order to have a safe delivery and a healthy baby. She delivered a healthy baby boy in the early hours of the morning and 9 hours later was happy to be photographed with her baby. She looks forward to her baby growing up and going to school.

## Mission for Primary Health Report

Program Performance between April 2014-March 2015

	* Cross River	Adamawa	Oyo	Mission for Primary Health Total
Total patients	188244	52539	6089	246872
New ANC mothers registered	34386	5491	323	40200
Total deliveries	25982	3268	255	29505
Total newborns weighed	20879	2631	233	23743
Total Low Birth Weight Babies (Birth weight below 2.5kg)	1098	128	1	1227
Total pregnant women given T.T. 2 doses	61755	3049	227	65031
Total infants fully immunised upto Measles Vaccination	88502	1870	1565	90067
Total malnourished children identified	809	28		837
Total malnourished children put on supplementary feeding	784			784
Total malnourished children graduated to normal weight	583			583

\* - In Cross River State we are working in 18 LGAs.

- The data is as per the programme reporting time frame of Jan to Dec of a given year.

- The data is upto Nov 2014 as due to a strike by the health workers, no activities occurred in Dec 2014.

This programme aims to help the rural poor access safe and clean water.

From travelling miles for safe and clean water, today communities from across 157 LGAs thrive because of the Hand Pump Bore Holes (HPBH) rehabilitated under the Mission for Water programme. This programme works as per the VLOM (Village Level Operation and Maintenance) concept introduced by TCF. This involves communities at the village level to maintain the HPBHs themselves as part of a larger strategy to reduce the dependency of villages on government and other agencies and provide more sustainable access to safe drinking water.

A case in point is the story of Francis who is 71 years old and has stayed in Oban all his life. As a child he and everyone around him would get water from the stream close by. This would cause diseases like cholera, diarrhea because the water was contaminated and not good enough to drink. Ever since his village got a HPBH, he and his family and the entire village saw a huge reduction in diseases. So well has VLOM worked here, that Francis has to think hard of the time when there was no HPBH at all!



## Mission for Water Report

Programme Performance between April 2014-March 2015

State	No. of LGAs covered	Total HPBHs rehabilitated since inception to March 2014	Total HPBHs Rehabilitated from April 2014 to March 2015	Total achievement since inception upto 31/3/2015
Abuja	7	64	0	64
Anambra	5	56	0	56
Bauchi	3	253	0	253
Benue	10	276	60	336
Borno	2	49	0	49
Cross River	18	465	40	505
Ebonyi	7	114	0	114
Ekiti	9	105	41	146
Enugu	4	74	0	74
Gombe	9	111	0	111
Jigawa	9	344	0	344
Kano	10	163	0	163
Katsina	6	318	121	439
Kebbi	15	353	0	353
Kwara	3	94	0	94
Nasarawa	6	62	0	62
Niger	1	17	50	67
Ondo	5	55	0	55
Osun	6	115	64	179
Taraba	16	350	13	363
Zamfara	6	60	0	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>3498</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>3887</b>



# Celebrating World Sight Day

World Sight Day 2014 was celebrated on October 9, 2014 at Katsina Eye Centre along with, the Government of Katsina, staff of Tulsi Chanrai Foundation and many well-wishers. Col. Prasad, the Chief Operating Officer of TCF acknowledged and thanked everyone associated with the Katsina Eye Centre. Mementos were given to the stakeholders and gifts were distributed to all the staff of the eye centre to mark the special occasion.

Graciously, the Emir of Katsina and others donated cash to extend the service to the needy and deprived people of the state. HRH of Katsina, Dr. Abdulmumini Kabir Usman donated N250,000/-, the MD, Green House, Katsina donated N40,000/- and Osita of Nasarawa state donated N10,000/-.

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**Tulsi Chanrai Foundation offers free surgeries to 98,000 eye patients nationwide**



## FROM ANDY ASEMOTA, KATSINA

**A**s eye health community and relevant agencies celebrated World Sight Day (WSD) on October 9, 2014, Tulsi Chanrai Foundation (TSF), says no fewer than 98,000 eye patients have benefited from its free eye surgeries in Nigeria.

TCF is a Non Governmental Organisation that develops and implements projects in primary health and eye care, partnering with stakeholders including Federal, state and local governments and other donors since 1992.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Katsina State Ministry of Health and TCF was signed in December 2009 and as a result of that the Katsina Eye Centre was established in December 2010 with deployment of expatriate ophthalmic surgeon, a programme manager of TCF and other staff.

Disclosing the motives behind the strategy during World Sight Day commemoration in Katsina Eye Centre penultimate Thursday, the Chief Operating Officer of the foundation, Col. Ganta Rajendra Prasad, stated that 5,169 eye surgeries had been performed in the centre.

He however regretted that over two million eye patients in Nigeria and about 100,000 in Katsina were at the risk of losing their sight if they were not operated on.

Mr. Prasad also said that the foundation in collaboration with federal and state governments could eliminate avoidable blindness in the next two or three decades.

He disclosed that plans were underway for the foundation to construct world class eye hospital in Abuja to handle the surgeries beyond the capability of its eye centres in the country.

On Katsina Eye Centre, he revealed that clinical activities and the screening of eye surgeries started in March 2011, while the eye surgeries started in August 2011.

He added that the catchment population of the eye centre includes all local government areas of the state, neighbouring states and neighbouring Niger Republic.

He equally expressed appreciation to Governor Ibrahim Shema for approving 50 percent counterpart funding to the Katsina Eye Centre, funds for additional surgical equipment, increased bed capacity for in-patients and deployment of a medical doctor to the centre.

In his remarks, the General Manager of Katsina Hospital Service Management Board, Dr. Kabir Dara, said the centre was established in a bid to ensure quality eye care for patients in the state. Dr. Dara stressed the need for public spirited individuals and organizations to invest part of their wealth in assisting eye patients



• Cross section of some dignitaries



• Eye patients treated in Katsina Eye Centre at the event.

and the eye centre.

In a goodwill message, the chairman of Katsina State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Muwuyya Aliu, who spoke through Dr. Tijani Hamza stressed the need for people with eye defects to take advantage of the free services of the centre to prevent avoidable blindness.

Lending his voice to the project, the Emir of Katsina, Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, who spoke through Sarkin Fada, Abdulmumini Samaila Damale, said his visit was partly to pat the authorities of the centre on the back for doing a great job, and to commend the efforts of the state government and Tulsi Chanrai Foundation, for rendering free eye care services to the public.

The traditional ruler who congratulated the

eye patients who had successfully undergone surgeries at the eye centre for regaining their sight also presented cash reward to the centre in appreciation of its achievements.

Two of the erstwhile eye patients that were hit by cataract but received free and successful surgeries spoke on behalf of others at the event.

Ahmadu Dankama was the first to speak. His joy knew no bounds. The indigene of Dankama in Kaita Local Government Area of Katsina State had lived under the cloak of darkness for many years and resigned himself to fate.

"I was asked to pay about N960, 000 when I travelled to Kano and Maradi for eye surgeries but I did not pay a dime here in Katsina Eye Centre and my sight has been restored

completely. Now, I can see, I can," Dankama screamed as he removed his eye glasses to demonstrate his confession.

Another indigene of the state, Zanaib Ahmed K. Tsauri, spoke in the same vein. She expressed gratitude to God for restoring her sight. She also thanked the doctors and nurses at the centre, for their efforts. She implored the government and the foundation not to relent on their efforts because so many people were looking up to them to be set free.

Other dignitaries at the WSD anniversary included Katsina State Commissioner for Health, Mannir Talba, represented by Dr. Abdulmajid Ahmed; Bala Mai-Maje, an engineer; the Medical Director of the Centre, Dr. Ado Abdu, and the Programme Manager of the foundation, Francis Michael.



# Hafsat Eye Centre in Kebbi gets a new ambulance and a ward

In February, the eye centre at Kebbi got a new ambulance and ward. A support that is most welcome! The Hon. Commissioner inaugurated the ambulance and handed over the keys to the TCF programme manager. On the same day, the new ward was declared open by the Hon. commissioner and Perm. Secretary of Health.



New ambulance parked at the eye centre



Hon. Commissioner Hussaini Abdullahi Raha (5th from the left) inaugurates the ambulance



Keys of the ambulance being handed over to the TCF programme manager



Hon. Commissioner and Perm. Secretary of Health inaugurates the new ward



Hon. Commissioner of Health Mr. Hussaini Abdullahi Raha poses with guests and hospital staff at the new ward



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