

EYE CAMP AT KARAGWE



30TH MAY – 2ND JUNE 2025

PROJECT CATEGORY: HEALTH

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LALJI FOUNDATION

Committed to Community Health & Vision,

Eye Camp Activity Report,

Karagwe District, Bukoba Region,

Date: 30th – 2nd June 2025,

Venue: Karagwe District Hospital

1. Executive Summary

The **Lalji Foundation** is a charitable organization committed to uplifting vulnerable communities through sustainable development, humanitarian aid, and social empowerment programs. Founded on the values of compassion, dignity, and service, the Foundation operates across Tanzania with a focus on improving access to basic needs such as clean water, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.

With a special emphasis on supporting orphans, women, and marginalized groups, the Lalji Foundation has implemented impactful initiatives such as borewell construction, school uniform distribution, eye care camps, and women's economic empowerment projects.

LALJI FOUNDATION in collaboration with Supa Foam of Kigoma and Majey Foundation, successfully organized a free community eye camp in Karagwe District, Bukoba Region, aimed at addressing preventable blindness and improving access to essential eye care. The initiative served hundreds of people and strengthened our mission to reach underserved communities.

The main sponsors of Karagwe Eye Camp were LALJI FOUNDATION AND SUPER FOAM MATTRESSES. A total of Tshs 30,550,000/= was spent directly on this camp.

The District Commissioner of Karagwe, Mr. Julius Laizer, was present Minister of Home Affairs - Hon Innocent L. Bashungwa, who is also a member of parliament of Karagwe District. He attended the event in support of the initiative, demonstrating government backing for the efforts. Mr Julius Laizer **formally opened the eye camp**, acknowledging the contributions of partners like **LALJI Foundation, Supa Foam**, and the medical team.

He **thanked the organizers** for prioritizing the eye health of underserved communities, many of whom had never had access to eye specialists before.

Mr. Mohsin Lalji(sheni), Patron of Lalji Foundation and director of Supa Foam Mattresses, reiterated his pledge to continue looking for partners and organize more medical and eye camps in the villages of Tanzania so that more and more local villagers get access to free health care and improve their overall wellbeing and quality of life.

2. Objectives

- Provide free screening and treatment for common eye conditions
- Distribute eyeglasses to individuals with vision impairment
- Refer patients requiring advanced treatment or surgery to Regional hospitals
- Educate the public on eye health and hygiene practices
- Perform surgeries to remove cataracts and restore vision

3. Event Overview

Parameter	Details
Location:	Karagwe District Hospital - Bukoba
Date :	30 th May - 2 nd June 2025
Target Group:	Elderly, low - income and rural residents

Organized by LALJI FOUNDATION in Collaboration with SUPERFORM Mattresses and Majey Foundation.

4. Partners & Stakeholders

We extend sincere appreciation to the following organizations and individuals whose support made this event possible:

S/N	Partner/ Stakeholders	Role/ Contribution
1.	Lalji Foundation	Project/sponsor
2.	Supa Foam mattress	Sponsor/ CSR
3.	Majey Foundation	project
4.	Karagwe District Health Office	Medical staff, equipment, and venue facilitation
5.	Regional Referral Hospital (Bukoba)	Provided ophthalmologists and surgical referrals
6.	Local Government Leaders	Community mobilization and logistical support
7.	Volunteer Medical Practitioners	Eye screenings and treatment services
8.	Community Health Workers	Registration, interpretation, and aftercare follow-up
9.	Media Outlets	Event promotion and coverage eg Radio louder speaker etc
10.	Private Donors	Financial support for supplies, transport, and refreshments

Their collaborative effort ensured a holistic, inclusive and sustainable approach to community eye care.

5. Activities conducted

- Community sensitization and mobilization
- Registration of attendees
- Eye examination and pressure checks
- Treatment and prescription of medication
- Distribution of free reading glasses
- Cataracts surgery
- Health education session
- Referral of critical cases to Regional Hospital

6. Outcomes & Impact

SN	Key Indicators	Number of patients
1.	Screening	1600
5.	Glasses distributed	977
6.	Cataracts Surgeries	291

Common Condition Identified:

- Cataracts
- Glaucoma
- Refractive Errors
- Infections (e.g conjunctivitis)

7. Budget & Expenditure

SN	ITEMS	BUDGETED (TZS)	REMARKS
1.	Medical Supplies	2,500,000	Eye drop instruments
2.	Eye glasses	2,000,000	Reading glasses
3.	Cataract surgeries	25,000,000	Eye surgeries
4.	Public awareness and media	500,000	Posters, Radio and Social media
	TOTAL	30,000,000	

8. Challenges Encountered

- The overwhelming number of participants led to long wait times as a result, long waiting times were experienced by many attendees. This led to congestion at screening and registration points, and in some cases, participant fatigue.
- Shortage of some specialized medications and lenses. During the eye camp, shortage of certain specialized medications and corrective lenses was observed. This limited the ability to provide full treatment for some patients, particularly those requiring specific prescriptions.
- Limited transportation support for patients referred to regional hospitals. A number of patients who were referred to regional hospitals for advanced treatment encountered difficulties due to limited transportation support. This posed a barrier for those coming from remote or low-income areas, potentially delaying or preventing follow-up care.

9. Media Coverage

SN	Platform	Details	Type	Link / Reference
1.	Radio	Karagwe FM	Public announcement	
2.	Television	IBN tv, ITV, Channel 10	Events news features	
3.	Print media	The Guardian Daily News	Article Coverage	5 th June 2025- page 6 5 th June 2025 -page 14
4.	Social media & Blogs	- Intstagram - Facebook - You tube	Photos, live and update	-www.mtaakwamtaa.co.tz -www. Malunde.com -www.langohabari.co tz -www.sayarinews.co.tz -www.michuzi.co.tz -globalpublishers - fullshangweblog.co.tz -www.sautizamtaa
5.	Community posters	Local wards market	Awareness rising	All markets and public areas

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

**OFISI YA RAIS
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA**

Anuani ya Simu "TAMISEMI" DODOMA
Simu Na: +255 26 2321607
Nukushi: +255 26 2322116
Barua pepe: ps@tamisemi.go.tz

Unapojibu tafadhali taja:-



Mji wa Serikali – Mumba,
Mtaa wa TAMISEMI,
S.L.P. 1923,
41185 DODOMA.

Kumb. Na. BC. 12/280/03

14/05/2025

Katibu Tawala wa Mkoa,
Ofisi ya Mkuu wa Mkoa,
S.L.P 299
KAGERA.

YAH: KAMBI YA HUDUMA ZA MACHO

Tafadhali rejea somo tajwa hapo juu.

2. Ofisi ya Rais - TAMISEMI imepokea barua kutoka shirika lisilo la Kiserikali la *Majey Foundation* ikiomba kufanya kambi ya huduma za Macho katika Mkoa wa Kagera Halmashauri ya Karagwe.
3. Huduma zitakazotolewa ni pamaja na kupima macho, kupima wiwani, kutoa miwani ya kusomea na kufanya upasuaji wa mtoto wa jicho pale itakapobidi. Aidha, huduma hizi zitatolewa bila malipo kuanzia tarehe 30 Mei hadi 02 Juni, 2025 katika Hospitali ya Halmashauri ya Karagwe. Pia huduma hizi zitatolewa kwa kushirikiana na wataalam wa Halmashauri husika ambapo timu ya Halmashauri inatakiwa kuhakikisha kuwa miongozo na taratibu za Serikali zinazingatiwa katika utoaji wa huduma.
4. Kwa barua hii, unaombwa umwelekeze Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Karagwe ili aweze kuwatangazia wananchi juu ya uwepo wa huduma hii na kutoa ushirikiano kwa wataalam hao.
5. Ninakushukuru sana kwa ushirikiano wako

Dkt. Rashid S. Mfaume
Kny: **KATIBU MKUU**

10. Photo Highlights



Director of Supa Foam and patron of Lalji Foundation Mr. Mohsin Lalji (Sheni) with District Commissioner of Karagwe, Mr Julius Laizer, talking to patients



The District Commissioner of Karagwe Julius Laizer together with Supa Foam and Lalji Foundation members.



KARAGWE DISTRICT HOSPITAL- EYE CAMP



DISTRIBUTION OF FREE MEDICINE AND GLASSES



DISTRIBUTION OF FREE MEDICINE AND GLASSES



DISTRIBUTION OF FREE MEDICINE AND GLASSES



DISTRIBUTION OF FREE MEDICINE AND GLASSES



EYE EXAMINATION



ELDERLY RESIDENTS AWAITING EYE CHECKUP



AWARENESS FOR PATIENTS AFTER SURGERY



Patients turnout



EYE SURGERY



AFTER SURGERY





PATIENTS AFTER SURGERY



LALJI FOUNDATION, SUPERFOAM MAGODORO TOGETHER WITH THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF KARAGWE

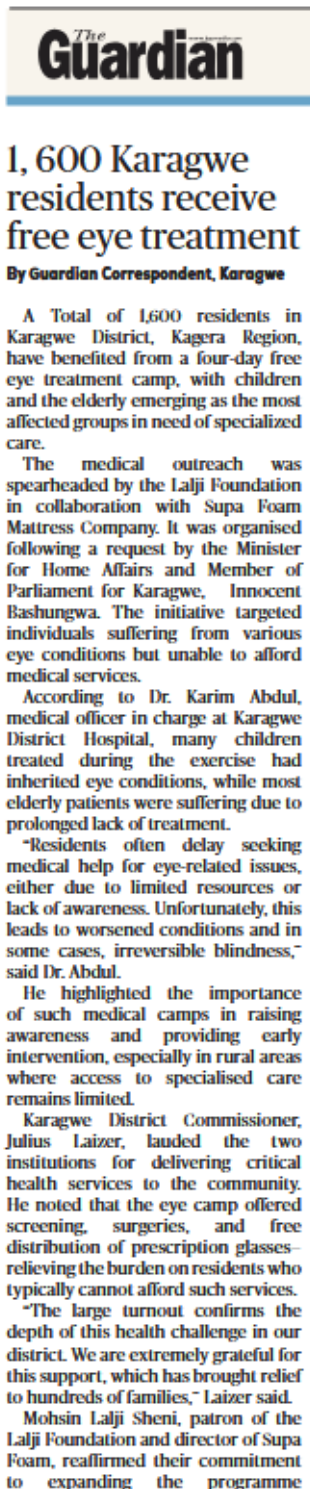


MEDICATION SERVICES



PATIENTS WAITING FOR SURGERY

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENT



The Guardian 5 June 2025

Page 6.



Mkuu wa Wilaya ya Karagwe, Julius Kalanga (wa pili kushoto) akisalimbia wagonjwa waliopatiwa matibabu katika kambi ya matibabu ya macho bure iliyondeshwa na Taasisi ya Lalji Foundation kwa kushirikiana na Kampuni ya Supa Foam Magodoro katika Hospitali ya Wilaya ya Karagwe, Kagera juzi. Kushoto ni mlezi wa taasisi hiyo, Mohsin Shenii. (Na Mpigapicha Wetu).

HABARILEO ALHAMISI JUNI 5, 2025

HABARI 17

Watu 1,600 watibiwa macho Karagwe

Na Mwandishi Wetu,
Karagwe

WATU 1,600 wamepatiwa huduma ya matibabu ya macho wilayani Karagwe mkoani Kagera huku wazee na watoto wakiwa ni waathirika wakubwa wa magonjwa hayo.

Kambi hiyo ya siku nne iliendeshwa na Taasisi ya Lalji kwa kushirikiana na Kampuni ya Supa Foam

Magodoro ambayo iliombwa na Waziri wa Mambo ya Ndani ya Nchi na Mbunge wa Jimbo la Karagwe, Innocent Bashungwa lililenga kutoa huduma hiyo kwa watu wenye matatizo ya macho ambao hawana uwezo wa kumudu gharama za matibabu.

Akizungumza wakati wa kambi hiyo, Mganga Mfawidhi wa Hospitali ya Wilaya ya Karagwe, Dk Karim Abdul alisema idadi kubwa ya watoto waliojitokeza ni wale

waliorithi magonjwa hayo kutoka kwa wazazi wao tofauti na wazee ambao wengi wao wameshindwa kupata matibabu kwa wakati.

“Wakazi wengi wa Wilaya ya Karagwe wanapopata mamdhi ya macho wana-chukua muda mrefu kwenda kupata matibabu hali inayosababisha wapate athari zaidi za magonjwa ya macho huku wengine wakipoteza uwezo wa kuona,” alisema.

Mkuu wa Wilaya ya

Karagwe, Julius Kalanga alishukuru Taasisi ya Lalji na Supa Foam magodoro kwa kutoa msaada huo wa kimatibabu ambao unajumuisha upimaji, upasuaji na ugawaji wa miwani kwa wananchi waliojitokeza.

“Idadi ya watu waliojitokeza kupata huduma hii inaonesha dhahiri kuwepo kwa tatizo hili kwenye wilaya yetu na uhitaji wa huduma hii ni mkubwa na wananchi wetu wengi hawana uwezo

wa kumudu gharama za matibabu, hivyo tunazishukuru taasisi hizi kwa kuendesha kambi hii,” alisema.

Kwa upande wake, mlezi wa Taasisi ya Lalji ambaye pia ni Mkurugenzi wa Kampuni ya Supa Foam Magodoro, Mohsin Lalji alitoa wito kwa taasisi na watu wenye uwezo kuungana nao kuisaidia serikali kusogeza matibabu ya kibingwa ya macho katika maeneo mbalimbali nchini.

Alisema taasisi hiyo

itaendelea kuweka kambi ya macho wilayani humo na wilaya nyingine za Tanzania kwa sababu mwingi wa uhitaji wa watu ni mkubwa hivyo utaratibu huo utakua endelevu ili kuwafikia watu wengi zaidi.

Baadhi ya wananchi walionufaika na huduma hiyo wameshukuru wafadhili kwa kufanikisha hilo huku wakitoa wito kwa wadau wengine kuendelea kujitoa kusaidia watu wenye uhitaji.

HABARI LEO ALHAMISI ,JUNI/ 5 2025 UKURASA 17.



HABARI

1,600 PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM FREE EYE TREATMENT CAMP IN KARAGWE

How free eye camps quietly change lives in Karagwe

By DAILY NEWS
Reporter

Imagine waking up each morning with blurry vision, squinting to see your grandchildren's faces, or struggling to read your schoolbooks, and you know help exists, but it is far too expensive to afford. That is the stark reality for thousands of people living with untreated eye problems across Tanzania. But in Karagwe District, Kagera Region, something extraordinary just happened. No, it was not a political rally. It was better.

Over the course of four bright and busy days, a whopping 1,600 people received free eye care services, including screening, surgery, and glasses—thanks to a collaborative medical camp organized by LALJI FOUNDATION and Supa Foam Mattresses. And no, you didn't misread that. A mattress company helped people see better.

The initiative was not just about charity; it was a powerful boost to public health and an important complement to the government's efforts to reach underserved populations. The camp was set up at the request of the Minister for Home Affairs and Karagwe Member of Parliament, Innocent Bashungwa, who clearly knows that a healthy constituency is a productive one.

According to Karagwe District Hospital Medical Officer-in-Charge Dr Karim Abdul, the camp's biggest surprise was the sheer number of people who had delayed treatment, especially the elderly.

"Many of our residents live with eye conditions for

years without treatment. Some just lose their sight completely because they believe nothing can be done," said Dr Abdul. "In children, we saw many cases of inherited conditions, while the elderly mostly suffer from issues that could have been treated earlier if caught in time."

And therein lies the problem. Good vision does not just affect personal quality of life; it impacts education, employment, and independence. When a parent can't work because they can't see, or a child struggles in school because the blackboard is a blur, families suffer, and communities fall behind.

Here's the uncomfortable truth: eye care, like many forms of specialized healthcare, is expensive. For many Tanzanians, particularly in rural districts like Karagwe, seeking help from an optometrist or eye surgeon is a luxury they simply cannot afford.

"That's why this camp is such a big deal," explained Karagwe District Commissioner Julius Laizer, who attended the event to show his support and probably to sneak in a free eye check of his own. "The huge turnout shows just how much people need this. We think LALJI FOUNDATION and Supa Foam for stepping in where our public health system faces constraints."

He was not wrong. If you ever needed proof that free health initiatives matter, consider this: 1,600 patients in just four days. That is more than 400 people per day and each receiving sight-saving or life-improving care they otherwise wouldn't have had access to. And none of them had to

pull out their wallet.



KARAGWE District Commissioner Julius Laizer (in white) greets patients during a free eye camp at Karagwe Hospital, joined by LALJI FOUNDATION Director Mohsin Lalji Sheni.

So, who do we think for this sight-saving extravaganza? Enter Mr. Mohsin Lalji Sheni, a businessman with an unusual combination of passions: sleep and sight. As the director of both Supa Foam Mattresses and LALJI FOUNDATION, Sheni has become something of a hero in the health outreach world.

"This is not just a one-time event," said Sheni, smiling behind a pair of very well-fitted spectacles.

"The demand is overwhelming, and we see it every time we organize a camp. That is why we plan to expand to other districts too."

His call to action? Simple and powerful: "We need more institutions and individuals to come forward and help the government in delivering specialist care where it's most needed."

And he's right. In a country where specialized doctors are in short supply, and health budgets are

stretched thin, partnerships like these are not just helpful; they are critical.

Changing the script on public health.

If you think this is just about giving out free glasses, think again. The services provided at the Karagwe camp included screening for serious eye diseases, surgical interventions for cataracts and other conditions, and the distribution of corrective eyewear. This is not just a handout. It is health-

care equity in action.

When people can see clearly, they can learn, work, and thrive. That is why these kinds of outreach programs should not be treated as temporary charity projects but rather as long-term investments in Tanzania's human capital. The ripple effect reaches into classrooms, markets, homes, and offices.

The government has made strides in improving public healthcare, but the system faces real challenges:

limited funding, healthcare worker shortages, and logistical barriers in remote areas. Camps like this are not only a form of relief—they are a form of public-private partnership that directly supports government policy.

In fact, Minister Bashungwa's involvement highlights how elected officials can leverage partnerships to meet their constituents' health needs. It is a model worth replicating nationwide.

So, next time you pass a mattress ad or see someone adjusting their spectacles, think of the 1,600 people in Karagwe who can now see a brighter future.

What beneficiaries had to say

It wasn't just officials and doctors making speeches. Many of the beneficiaries, some of whom were receiving eye care for the first time in their lives, were full of gratitude.

One elderly woman (who preferred to remain unnamed), who had surgery to remove a cataract, said: "I can finally see my grandchildren clearly again. I never thought this day would come."

Another patient, a 12-year-old boy fitted with glasses, couldn't stop grinning. "Now I can read my books in school without squinting," he said.

So, what's next? According to LALJI FOUNDATION, this is only the beginning. The plan is to continue hosting similar camps across the country, adapting based on community needs and feedback. And while the focus now is eye health, there's potential for broader outreach—including dental care, maternal health, and chronic disease screening.

If every district could host even one free medical camp per year, the impact on national health statistics would be profound.

Karagwe's free eye camp reminds us that when people come together—namely private businesses, nonprofits, government leaders, and ordinary citizens—big things can happen. Sight can be restored, hope can be renewed, and lives can be transformed.

So, next time you pass a mattress ad or see someone adjusting their spectacles, think of the 1,600 people in Karagwe who can now see a brighter future.

