OUR PROFILE

Safe Surgical Aid is a non-profit, non-governmental organization registered with the NGO board of Kenya, effectively from 24th February 2021.

It is the brainchild of young doctors and other professionals brought together by the need to address myriad of health challenges facing communities living in areas that have no access to essential surgical and non-surgical health care services.

PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES

To raise, mobilize funds and other resources for the provision of safe, and responsive surgical care to poor and inaccessible areas in Kenya.

Provide health education and awareness on the importance of surgical needs for surgically amenable conditions.

To act as a referral organization for further specialized surgical care.

To periodically screen patients for surgically treatable conditions

VISION

Healthy, productive and globally competitive communities.

MISSION

To provide a responsive and sustainable healthcare system for communities that have no access to basic healthcare in the Horn of Africa.

CORE VALUES

Professionalism, Accountability, Integrity & Collaboration.

GOAL

Safe, quality and accessible surgical care for the less privileged Kenyans.
FOCUS AREAS

SURGERIES
Provision of Safe Surgical programs among the most vulnerable and marginalized communities that have no access to surgical care. This includes:
- Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Surgeries
- Eye Surgeries (mainly cataracts)
- Urological and Gynaecological Surgeries
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

NEW BORN HEALTH CARE
Provision of new-born health services such as immunization, nutrition and corrective surgeries

MATERNAL HEALTHCARE
Provision of maternal surgical healthcare mainly repairs of recto-vaginal or vesico-vaginal fistulas, excision of uterine lesions and other gynaecological conditions.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
Conduct mental health awareness, patient-tailored management plan and collaborations with mental health institutions in order to build capacity among mental health workers.

IMMUNIZATION
Immunization programs for both children and adults against preventable diseases such as Polio, Tetanus, Measles as well as other emerging illnesses that are vaccine preventable such as Malaria and HPV vaccines.

MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Diagnosis and focused management of communicable diseases such as TB as well as lifestyle related diseases such Diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases.

MALARIA MANAGEMENT
Malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment programs in the endemic regions.
HEALTH ADVOCACY
Advocacy and awareness campaigns to educate communities on local solutions for life-style illnesses, detrimental cultural practices and sustainable community based healthcare systems.

TRAINING
Training and capacity building of the healthcare workers through seminars, symposium, short and long courses.

OUR STRENGTHS
- Community presence.
- Technical expertise and passion driven healthcare workers.
- Social capital networks and other relationships

OUR WEAKNESSES
- Inadequate financial and logistical resources
- Difficult context of work – rural areas, refugee camps.
- Infrastructural challenges in terms of facilities and the equipment necessary in accomplishing our desired target.

OUR OPPORTUNITY
- Lack of safe and responsive surgical care in rural Kenya.
- Lack of infrastructural and personnel capacity in rural health care institutions.
- Multi-sectoral collaboration with like-minded organizations that are involved in healthcare services provision

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
- Improved healthcare literacy through public health education.
- Better equipped healthcare institutions among the marginalized communities through continuous advocacy and training.
- Accessible and safe surgical care in marginalized areas.
PAEDIATRIC EYE SURGERIES IN WAJIR – FEBRUARY 2022

Safe Surgical Aid conducted a 2-week long paediatric eye camp at the Wajir County Referral Hospital from 19th to 28th February 2022. United Hands Relief & Development sponsored the camp. Hundred and Twenty Two (122) cases of eye consults for Children between the ages of 5 to 16 years were done, out of which 52 children were booked for Eye surgeries. Four (4) guardians declined the surgery for the children, and we referred two cases for further specialized care that was not available in Wajir. The camp registered successful eye operation of 46 children.

OVERALL PATIENTS STATISTICS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Therapy</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral cases</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined intervention</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeries</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Childhood eye conditions that ultimately lead to blindness are quite common across the country and especially in Northern Kenyan. This is majorly due to lack of enough paediatric eye specialists in the region. Safe surgical Aid is committed to playing a major role in the eradication of childhood blindness.

ISSACK, A YOUNG BOY FROM WAJIR, REGAINS HIS EYESIGHT AFTER OVER THREE YEARS!

Issack Ali, a 10 year old boy from Wajir West, while looking after a small herd of goats, was struck in the eye by a branch of a thorny tree in 2019. He came back home writhing in pain.

The parents could not afford to take him to a hospital. The neighbours advised his mother to “pour goat milk” on the affected eye. Somehow, out of the desperation of seeing their child in pain, believed this would help. It did not help. Issack’s eye developed cataract as a result and has lived with the scar and blindness for the last three and a half years.

The parents lost all their small herds of goats to the drought. The boy was just at home doing nothing. “I have never had a sound sleep ever since my boy developed blindness” The mother narrated.

When they heard about Safe Surgical Aid’s eye camp for children, they registered him and he had a successful surgery courtesy of Dr. Ernest Ollando, a paediatric eye surgeon and his team. Today, his vision is back. It is for such small wins and helping the neediest that Safe Surgical Aid exists.

10 year old Issack Ali. Safe Surgical Aid restored his eyesight.

PHOTO: SAFE SURGICAL AID
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE SURGERIES – FEBRUARY 2022

Immediately after the paediatric camp, we organized and successfully conducted a cleft lip and palate repair surgical camp at the Wajir Referral Hospital. United Hands Relief & Development (UHR), an American charity organization based in USA, sponsored the camp. Forty clients, most of them children, had successful surgeries.

The Lead Surgeon was Dr. Peter Oduor, Nakuru County based reconstructive surgeon, a highly celebrated and gifted professional while Ms. Rachel Kangogo led nursing team.

We are encouraged that we are able to help patients with such amenable congenital anomalies. The patients age bracket ranged between two and 29 years. The visit strengthened our resolve to do more on such programs through our program dubbed Smile Aid that focuses on people living with such anomalies. We aim to work with anyone that has similar mission of restoring hope and confidence in the global society.

29 year old Mahat Issa. Safe Surgical Aid restored his smile.
PHOTO: SAFE SURGICAL AID

Dr. Peter Oduor & Lead Nurse, Ms. Rachel Kangogo at work.
PHOTO: SAFE SURGICAL AID

RESTORING A SMILE AT A TIME.

This is Mahat Issa, a 29 year old from Elnur in Eldas constituency. He had his cleft lip reconstructed and his smile restored at the Wajir County Referral Hospital.

As you can see, he is elated and happy with his new face. A smile changes the facial outlook of a person. Mahat's facial expression has changed for the better forever!
ENT SURGERY REVERSE REFERRAL AT DAGAHALEY REFUGEE CAMP - MARCH 2022.

Safe Surgical Aid with sponsorship from GIFT OF KINDNESS, a USA Based charity organization, implemented an ENT medical and surgical camp at Dagahley Refugee Camp. MSF (Medecins Sans Frontiers) Swiss hosted the camp at Dagahley hospital but in coordination with UNHCR, IRC (International rescue committee) and KRCS (Kenya Red Cross Society).

Our surgeons managed to screen 152 patients and operated on 67 patients. Out of the 152 patients screened 102 patients needed surgical interventions which the surgeons managed to do 67 surgeries. Most patients who underwent surgery had tonsillar hypertrophy, chronic recurrent tonsillitis and Adenoids hypertrophies.

OVERAL PATIENTS STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Number of Patients Screened</th>
<th>Number of Surgeries done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dagahley</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifo</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagardera</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadaab</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some patients with adenoids hypertrophy needed postnasal space x-ray for proper diagnosis though the quality of x-ray was not reliable. We referred Patients with anterior neck masses for further investigations.

Yussuf Hussein, the Five Year Old Boy who Could Not Give Up!

Yussuf Hussein Saney is a 5 year old refugee child living in Dagahley Refugee Camp in Dadaab, Kenya. He has been living with adenotonsillitis - infected adenoids and tonsils - for the past 5 years. He underwent a successful ADENOTONSILLECTOMY, combined removal of infected adenoids along with infected tonsils, in March this year.

Yussuf goes to Nursery school and studies the Qur’an in a local tahfeed. His condition did not deter him from pursuing his dreams. His story is inspiring.
**SAFE SURGICAL AID**

**EYE CAMP - ADULT CATARACT SURGERIES IN MADOGASHE - MAY 2022**

Madogashe is a small and remote village in Kenya that is North of Garissa County. A section of Madogashe is administratively part of Isiolo County. TA’ALOF AL KHAIR through GIFT OF KINDNESS and Kuwait Is By Your Side sponsored the Eye Camp mission.

The eye camp started with a month long screening and preparation of patients. The surgical eye camp began on 5th May 2022 and ended on 13th May 2022. It attracted approximately 530 patients from across the villages out of which 305 who had diagnosed with Cataract had a successful surgery. We provided medication to Two Hundred and Twenty Five (225) patients and advised them on further follow up at Madogashe Sub county Hospital.

On 25th May 2022, the specialists revisited the operated patients for post-op review where their vision and general wellbeing was reassessed. The mission was successful with a lot life changing surgeries and lessons reaffirmed our commitment to prevent and end any form of blindness.

**PAEDIATRIC EYE CAMP IN GARISSA – AUGUST 2022**

Garissa County Referral Hospital located in Garissa Town, North-Eastern Part of Kenya, was the Centre of Our Children's Eye camp where we screened ninety-six (96) children, out of which 61 cases were booked for surgeries and Thirty-Five (35) of them initiated on medications. The camp began on 7th August 2022 where screening was conducted and from 15th August 2022 to 20th August 2022 the surgeries were done.

Out of the sixty-one (61) cases booked for surgery, 28 of them were referred from the Refugee camps of Dadaab. Safe Surgical Aid catered for their meals and accommodation as they waited and recovered from the surgeries and attained their early reviews.

It was a great experience for everyone involved as children who had waited for a long time could finally smile and see after days of surgeries.
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE SURGERY IN WAJIR – AUGUST 2022

The camp was conducted from 20th August 2022 to 26th August 2022 when the final reviews patients were reviewed after surgery and were discharged. We had a total of 54 patients booked for cleft lip and palate repairs, out which Five (5) did not turn up and one (1) rescheduled due to Respiratory illnesses that warranted medical treatment before surgeries.

We had a total Forty-Eight (48) surgeries done. Nine children (9) who were referred by UNCHR from Dadaab Refugee Camps in Garissa County joined the medical camp and benefitted. We provided accommodation and meals for the travelling patients from the refugee camp in Dadaab. It was a proud moment for all of us!

United Hands Relief & Development (UHR) funded the Medical camp.

TWO CLEFT PATIENTS. TWO DIFFERENT GENERATIONS!

13 year old Adan Ali travelled hundreds of kilometres with his father to Wajir Referral Hospital for our free cleft lip surgery. Adan has been hindered a great deal by his condition. Despite being 13 years old, Adan is still in grade 3. Normally, a child of 13 years is supposed to be in grade 7 or 8. This has caused both him and his parents a mental anguish.

We spoke with his father about why Adan lagged behind in school. The father painfully narrated how the cleft mouth often left his child stigmatized and how the kids in the village mocked him. Adan also remained different from other kids because incoherence of speech because of the cleft mouth. He did not get the right support both at home and at school. Hence, his school attendance has been inconsistent. This is why Adan is 4 years behind kids his age in school.

He had a successful cleft lip reconstruction surgery yesterday and was discharged earlier this morning. Adan can now live a normal life without stigma and focus in his school and Madrasa(Quranic school). Hopefully, a beautiful smile will replace the cleft lip.

On the other hand, Mohamed Abdi Barrow, a 47 year old from Lanbib, a small village about 9km from Wajir is a father of 5 kids. He lived with a cleft lip all these years and he was nick-named “Fanay” - The one with the cleft mouth by his village mates.

He is a pastoralist with a few herds of livestock. Mohamed, unlike Adan, went about his life despite the cleft mouth. When he heard about the free cleft mouth surgeries by Safe Surgical Aid from the radio, he left his herds of livestock with his children and came to Wajir Referral Hospital for surgery.

He had a successful surgery yesterday. He is hoping when he heals and his smile is restored, people will stop calling him “Fanay”
Wajir County Referral Hospital hosted the eye camp where we conducted Adult cataract surgeries from 23rd to 27th August 2022. Four Hundred thirteen (413) patients screened and 200 patients with cataract picked for surgical repair. Two hundred and twelve (212) put on medication. We provided eye drops to the operated patients and sunglasses to prevent light, dust and other exposures that can harm the eye. All the patients had post-operation review from 3rd to 5th September at the Wajir County Referral Hospital.

A free surgery means so much for these people in Wajir. They live with their conditions because they cannot afford a surgery. They wait until a good benevolent Samaritan comes their way. We purpose to expand our visits across the country to restore visions and hope.

It was a very successful exercise that saw many life changing experiences covering beneficiaries from a cross the towns and villages of Wajir County.

United Hands Relief & Development (UHR) sponsored the Medical camp.

We conducted Paediatric Eye surgeries at the Wajir County Referral Hospital alongside the adult eye camp. It began on 26th August 2022 and ended on 30th August 2022 as the final day reviews and discharges. We screened sixty-four (64) patients; twenty-three (23) put on medications and forty-one (41) cases of Surgeries done at Wajir County Referral Hospital with very impressive and encouraging results.

United Hands Relief & Development (UHR) sponsored the Medical camp.

“Dr. Ernest Olando at the surgical theatre operating on kids with eye complications”
We visited the Dadaab Refugee Complex for the third time to extend our services to the refugees hosted by UNHCR and their partner organizations. The Dadaab Refugee Complex comprises of Dagahley, IFO and Hagardera. The beneficiary patients were drawn from the 3 refugee camps in Dadaab as well as the Host community started.

In collaboration with UNHCR, MSF, International Rescue Committee and Kenya Red Cross Society, we mobilized patients and screened them according to identify patients with eye conditions that are amenable to surgery. Reviews and patient screening was limited to 550 cases, of 535 adults and 15 children of which 355 cases of surgeries done, 355 cases of adult eye surgeries and five (5) cases of paediatric Eye surgeries between 4th to 6th September 2022 as the final day of reviews post-operatively.

The Refugees are the most vulnerable and neglected population that really needs a lot of Health care interventions as it takes them months and years to get help. This is due to restricted movement imposed on them and the lack of capacity by the Refugee hosting Organizations like MSF (Medicins Sans Frontieres), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCs) and International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Helping patients with free surgeries is very fulfilling but nothing can be compared to restoring the vision of a blind child. It is what keep us going as an organization.

FOR FOUR YEARS, FATUMA COULD NOT SEE WITH BOTH HER EYES

This is Fatuma Adan Abdullahi. She was born to refugee parents in Hagardera camp in the Dadaab Refugee Complex

Fatuma is a class 5 pupil at Suban Integrated Academy. She has been completely blind on her right eye for nearly 4 years. This gave her tremendous challenge not only in school but also at home. She struggled to see what her teachers wrote on the classroom board. She could hardly go out to play with the kids in the neighbourhood. Blindness deprived her so much as a child for 4 years

Helping patients with free surgeries is very fulfilling but nothing can be compared to restoring the vision of a blind child. It is what keep us going as an organization.
It was a return trip for Safe Surgical Aid under the sponsorship of Gift of Kindness, to team up with UNHCR, Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF), and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) in Dadaab Sub county Hospital to attend to refugee patients who needed Ear, Nose and Throat specialist’s services.

Between 18th and 23rd September 2022, our team of specialists reviewed 200 patient. Fifty-nine (59) patients had ENT complications amenable to surgery. We operated on Forty-eight (48) patients successfully at The Dadaab Sub-County Hospital. We referred Eleven (11) cases that needed complex surgical intervention to the Main Garissa County Referral Hospital. Our team led by our lead Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, Dr.Hussein Dubow will attend to them and perform the surgeries.

The screened patients were drawn from across Three (3) refugee camps of IFO, Dagahaley, and Dadaab. Eleven (11) referred patients to undergo their surgeries at Garissa County Referral Hospital under the same surgeon bringing the numbers to Fifty-nine (59) cases.

The need for more visits is still high and we hope to do a return trip to help more patients who equally need such services.

Our gratitude goes to everyone involved, especially to Kenya Red Cross Society that hosted the camp on behalf of all partner organizations in the refugee camp.

The surgeons operating on patients at the Dadaab Sub-County Hospital
PHOTO: SAFE SURGICAL AID
MODOGASHE EYE CAMP - OCTOBER 2022

It was our second Eye Camp visit to Madogashe Sub-County Hospital in 2022.

Madogashe is a small remote village in Kenya that is part of Garissa County neighboring several other villages that are part of Isiolo and Wajir counties in the North eastern part of Kenya.

The Cataract mission was sponsored by Relief Organization of East Africa that was implemented by SAFE SURGICAL AID.

The Cataract Camp was preceded by one (1) month of screening and preparing the patients and Three (3) days of surgeries that started on 27th October 2022 and ended on 30th October 2022.

The eye camp attracted approximately 410 patients from across the villages out of which 150 of them got operated after thorough screening was done while 260 were given medications and advised on further follow up at the Sub-County Hospital.

Tabular presentation of the beneficiaries.

| Total no of patients seen | 410 cases |
| Total no of patients on medication | 260 cases |
| Total no of patients operated | 150 cases |

It was a successful mission and we thank all the stakeholders for the sacrifices they made to restore vision.

The surgeons operating on patients at the Modogashe Eye Camp in October 2022
PHOTO: SAFE SURGICAL AID
SAFE SURGICAL AID

FREE CLEFT LIP AND PALATE REPAIR SURGICAL CAMP - MANDERA, OCTOBER 2022

Safe Surgical Aid conducted a cleft lip and palate repair surgical camp at Mandera County Referral Hospital from October 12th to 19th, 2022. 54 clients registered to participate in the camp, resulting in 38 patients undergoing surgery. The surgical team was led by Dr. Peter Oduor, a highly skilled and celebrated reconstructive surgeon, and Ms. Rachel Kangogo, a visiting nurse.

Mandera County does not have its own resident reconstructive surgeon and has been without such outreach programs for many seasons. The arrival of Safe Surgical Aid was a significant achievement for both children and adults suffering from congenital anomalies, ranging from 6 months to 29 years of age, including some patients from neighboring towns in Somalia. The experience has reinforced our commitment to continue conducting programs that serve people with such anomalies.

RESTORING ALI’S SMILE!

Ali Mohamed, a 5-year-old boy from Elwak, Burhache village on the border of Somalia and Kenya, was one of the recipients of our free cleft lip and palate surgeries. His father, a poor man who lost his only source of livelihood - his livestock - to the devastating drought that has plagued the region in recent months and years.

The Kenya Defence Forces, who are part of the AMISOM forces deployed in Somalia, encountered Ali and his family at a waterpoint in Bura Hache and were touched by the severe cleft lip on the young boy’s face. They obtained the family’s contact information and later saw a tweet from Safe Surgical Aid announcing free surgeries for cleft patients, which they used to request Ali’s registration.

The KDF forces took Ali and his father to one of their bases, where they conducted preliminary medical tests to ensure Ali’s fitness for surgery. After he was cleared, they airlifted him to Mandera using a KDF helicopter and brought him to the hospital, where he underwent a successful double cleft lip surgery under the care of Dr. Peter Odour.

Ali experienced extreme stigmatization from his village mates and struggled with poor speech, feeding difficulties, and the potential for ear infections due to his condition. With the successful surgery, we hope that Ali will be able to reintegrate into society as a normal child, attend school, and play with his peers in the village.

We express our deep gratitude to AMISOM and the KDF contingent for airlifting Ali to Mandera and back to Bura Hache, Somalia. Their compassion should serve as an inspiration to us all.
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE CASES.

- 160 screened
- 126 surgeries done

PAEDIATRICS EYE CASES.

- 297 screened
- 152 surgeries done

ADULT EYE CASES.

- 1903 screened
- 1010 surgeries done

EAR NOSE & THROAT.

- 352 screened
- 115 surgeries done

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS

- 2712

TOTAL SURGERIES DONE

- 1403