

# Cataract Surgeries

Our 2024 Smile and See Safari helped identify people needing **cataract surgeries**.  
82 people received free operations on **21 - 22 May** this year at Tsholtosho District Hospital.

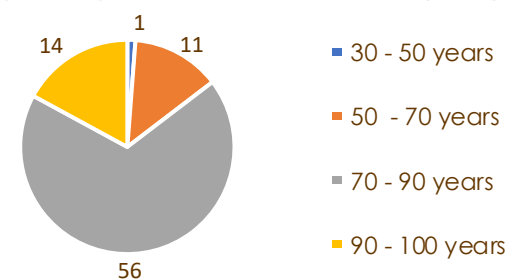
A total of 210 patients were screened and 82 were eligible for operations, including 36 men and 46 women from 11 different sites.

The patients were treated by two doctors and six nurses.

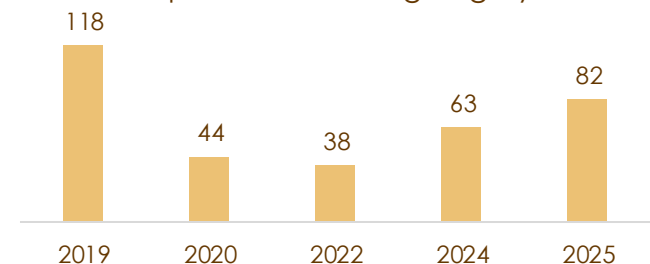
During the outreach, doctors, nursing staff and patients were provided with food. Doctors were also provided with accommodation while patients were accommodated at the Hospital. All patients received medication for 6 weeks, after which the eye should have healed. As a standard procedure Tsholotsho eye nurses will be conducting patient reviews after 3 weeks to monitor healing and recovery.

Since 2019, the cataract surgeries program has treated 345 people.

Age ranges of patients receiving surgery



Number of patients receiving surgery 2019-2025





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Meet some of the patients...

2025



**Moreen Mazibisa**, 61 years, Lukekwe  
Moreen could not see for 3 years and tried everything, even the myths of salt and lemons. She struggled to walk, especially at night, and to read. Moreen could not afford an operation but is now going to be able to read and teach, which she used to do.



**Khethiwe Tshuma**, 63 years, Nkwizhu  
Khethiwe could not see and the left side of her face was very painful. She often had headaches and would tire easily. Khethiwe is extremely grateful for the operation and is happy about how it will impact her day to day.

**Sithokozile Fuzani**, 62 years, Nkayi  
Sithokozalie had difficulties walking and her sight was blurred by white smoke, forcing her to retire from work. This operation has given her a chance to work again.



**William Ndlowane**, 71 years, Gwenga  
Willam was unable to see items properly and was always wearing sunglasses, trying to soothe his eyes when completing day to day chores. He is a cobbler and will now be able to work properly again.



**Hebert Mhlanga**, 76 years, Sipepa  
Hebert could not herd his cattle and could only see objects at close range, bumping into objects and furniture. He injured himself walking into his house gate. Hebert is excited to regain his sight and autonomy.



**Fani Jumbe**, 76 years, Dibutibu  
Fani could not read and could not see properly for over 15 years. This meant he had difficulties walking and working. He worked as a tailor and knows that this operation will hugely impact his work as a tailor and his livelihood.

**Maggie Tshuma**, 55 years, Sikente  
Maggie's eyesight impacted her ability to cultivate and feed her family. She had to have her grandchildren help her when fetching water and doing household chores, impacting their school attendance and work. This operation is life changing for her and her family.



**Timothy Mthombeni**, 73 years, Simanje  
Timothy saw double, causing headaches and a lot of bother. He was only able to read and work in the shade, and even then it was with difficulty. This operation is giving him the ability to work as a thatcher and earn a living.

