

KUWAITI HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF EYE HEALTH

The First Media Bulletin on the Occasion of «World Sight Day 2023» - Prepared by: Kuwait Center for Documentation of Humanitarian Work - Fanar



- A leading role for Kuwaiti governmental, civil and private sector institutions for eye safety
- Tens of thousands of cataract removal surgeries in countries around the world
- Kuwaiti doctors perform voluntary eye surgeries in countries around the world





A private sector active and distinguished in its social responsibility for eye health

DR. MANAL BOUHAIMED:



The «See Well» (SHOOF ZAIN) humanitarian initiative on World Sight Day offers its voluntary services for eye health.



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Yarmouk – Yarmouk Public Library (Azizah Al Bassam) – next to Yarmouk Cooperative Society

THE STATE OF KUWAIT.. CENTER



The State of Kuwait ... General Profile:

- Kuwait is an Arab Islamic country that was founded four centuries ago, specifically in 1613 AD.
- The State of Kuwait is located on the northwestern tip of the Arabian Gulf, which borders it from the east, and is bordered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the southwest, and by the Republic of Iraq from the north and west.
- Most of Kuwait's land is superficial sandy, and Kuwait's coast extends 290 km. Kuwait includes nine islands, and has six provinces.
- According to the statistics of the year 2023, its population is 4.823.698 million people; of whom 1,531,114 are citizens, and 3,292,584 are expatriates, the percentage of citizens is %32 and expatriates is %68.

The State of Kuwait gained its independence in 1961, and joined the Arab League in 1961. The State of Kuwait joined the United Nations in 1963, and the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1981



FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Since its founding, four centuries ago, Kuwait has had a long history of providing humanitarian assistance to those in need inside Kuwait, neighboring countries and the countries of the world. Kuwaitis have been active in land and sea trade since ancient times, and their sea vessels and land commercial convoys have passed through many countries, ports and capitals, where they have provided assistance to those in need, especially during times of famine and natural disasters that those countries were going through, despite the limited capabilities of Kuwait in that long time. With the discovery of oil in the State of Kuwait and its transformation into a wealthy nation, the State of Kuwait continued its humanitarian giving to other countries and peoples. The Kuwait Fund for Development was founded and has provided more than 1,000 loans to more than 100 countries for a total of nearly 20\$ billion. Kuwaiti government humanitarian institutions have also provided assistance and grants to needy and distressed countries. Kuwaiti civil society, charities and the private sector organizations have also played a significant role in providing humanitarian assistance. For these reasons, the United Nations designated Kuwait as the «Global Center for Humanitarian Work» on September 9th, 2014, and also gave the late Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah - Allah's mercy be upon him, the title of «The Leader of Humanitarian Work.» Kuwait has provided extensive assistance to affected countries through its embassies under the slogan «Kuwait is by Your Side.» A few days ago, the State of Kuwait was ranked the first in the Arab world and the sixth in the world in the humanitarian giving for the year 2023. It was also ranked the third in its humanitarian giving through its Air Force with an air bridge that carried more than 500 tons with more than 25 flights to relief Gaza.





Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Bahar Ophthalmology Center was built at the expense of generous Al Bahar family.

THE DISTINGUISHED ROLE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT IN EYE HEALTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

The State of Kuwait is committed to providing the best possible services to its citizens and residents through the Ministry of Public Health. The ministry has provided the best advanced and modern hospitals, health centers, clinics, laboratories and medical equipment.

The Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University plays a major role in graduating

qualified doctors, many of whom are sent by the Ministry of Health, the Civil Service Bureau and Kuwait University to many of the world's renowned universities to study ophthalmology. The faculty also develops the skills of doctors through conferences, research and medical boards both inside and outside of Kuwait. In addition, the faculty implements a variety of media and awareness programs in this field.



The Kuwait Fund for Development is one of the largest global donor institutions

The State also provides free medical services to retirees through health insurance program (Afiya) to treat patients, and the specialized hospitals in the Ministry of State provide treatment services such as the Army Hospital and the Oil Companies Hospital. The state also allows individual and corporate donors to build hospitals and clinics dedicated to eye care such as Al Bahar Medical Hospital. Kuwait also has a distinct humanitarian role in providing humanitarian services inside and outside Kuwait, and has provided many humanitarian contributions and assistance to countries and peoples through various ministries and state institutions that provide assistance, loans and grants. One of the most prominent of these institutions is the Kuwait Fund for Development, which operates in more than 100 countries, and has provided loans and grants with more than 1,000 loans worth more than 20\$ billion.

Through its governmental institutions, the State of Kuwait provides many grants in the field of eye health, builds health centers and provides medicines to countries in need, and the ministries that do this include: The Ministry of Awqaf

Government centers and hospitals provide the finest medical services to ophthalmic patients within Kuwait

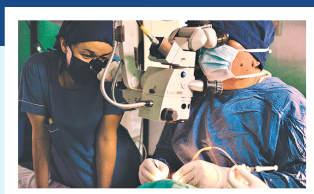
Ministries and official state institutions provide many medical assistances to countries in the field of eye health.

and Islamic Affairs, the General Secretariat of Awqaf, the Kuwaiti Zakat House, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance.

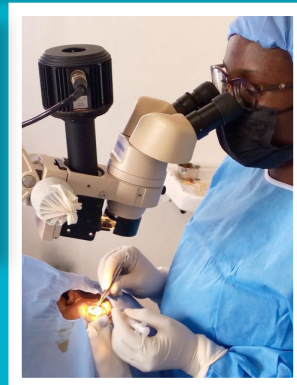
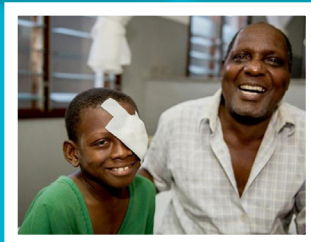
The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, provides grants and assistance to United Nations humanitarian organizations working in the field of public health.

THE ROLE OF KUWAITI CHARITABLE SOCIETIES &

Kuwaiti Charitable Societies were distinguished by their charitable trips for the restore eyesight Project and the Cataract Removal Project



For example, the Direct Aid Society has distributed 563,390 pairs of glasses, performed 330,845 surgeries, and conducted 2,527,232 eye exams. The Society has also built several ophthalmology hospitals



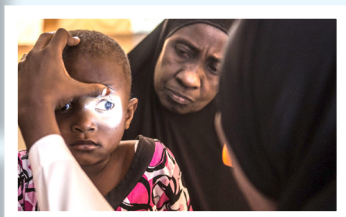
Kuwait has been known for its humanitarian work and charitable societies that play pioneering and humanitarian roles to help those in need everywhere for a which provided ,1913 long time. The first charitable society was established in assistance to the sick. The Kuwaitis established the People's Committee to collect which provides ,1979 then the Patient Relief Fund Society in ,1954 donations in its free humanitarian services inside and outside Kuwait. The Kuwait Red Crescent and provided its humanitarian and relief assistance 1966 Society was established in .to the afflicted and affected countries

CHARITIES IN THE CARE OF OPHTHALMIC PATIENTS



Kuwaiti charitable societies provide assistance and implement charitable projects in the field of eye health through:

- 1 - Building health centers for ophthalmic patients.
- 2 - Building health clinics.
- 3 - Providing medical equipment for centers and hospitals.
- 4 - Providing superior services and care for the visually impaired inside and outside the State of Kuwait.
- 5 - Medical exams of ophthalmic patients.
- 6 - Distribution of free medicines.
- 7 - Performing surgical operations.
- 8 - Cataract removal project.
- 9 - Providing glasses and medical supplies.
- 10 - Sponsoring medical students at universities in different countries.
- 11 - Supporting hospitals and health centers in the countries of the world.
- 12 - Cooperation and partnership with countries and governmental and civil organizations in carrying out charitable trips to conduct eye surgeries and distribute medicines.
- 13 - Conducting awareness and educational programs for patient safety.
- 14 - Organizing conferences and seminars, and issuing bulletins and books.
- 15 - Coordinating and cooperating with private sector companies to conduct operations, distribute medicines and purchase medical devices. Kuwaiti charitable societies and charities play leading roles in the field of eye health, including the following:





Al Najat Charity Society carried out 7,000 eye surgeries that benefited 15,000 patients

Direct Aid Society:

The society has implemented eye exams, operations, cataract removal and distribution of medical glasses in 30 countries. It has distributed 563,390 pairs of glasses, performed 330,845 surgeries, conducted 2,527,232 eye exams, and built several ophthalmology hospitals.

Al Najat Charity Society:

The Society has implemented more than 7,000 eye surgeries in India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon and Mauritania, benefited 15,000 patients. It has also built 5 specialized eye clinics.

Al Rahma International Society:

Al Rahma International Society implements the eye surgery project through convoys and large medical camps in poor villages. In addition, there are eye departments in Al Rahma International Society's hospitals, centers and clinics in its areas of operation. It has implemented its campaigns

in Niger, Mauritania, Djibouti, Ghana, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and China. It has conducted 41,767 operations in 325 convoys and medical camps.

Islamic Welfare Association:

It has been implementing blindness prevention and orthoptic treatment programs for 12 years, during which it has implemented 10 medical camps, performed 2,650 surgeries, and provided 2,650 prescriptions, with a total cost of 118,158 Kuwaiti Dinars.

Al Hikma Kuwaiti Charitable Association:

It performs eye surgeries, including cataract removal, lens implantation and dispensing of medications. It also sets up temporary camps in cooperation with health institutions in targeted countries such as Yemen and Mauritania. A total of 250 patients benefited from its projects.



Al Awazim Charity Foundation implemented eye surgeries in Mauritania, benefited 1,200 patients.

Ghaith Al Kuwait Humanitarian Society:

Implemented eye surgeries in Mauritania in cooperation with local institutions in the target country, benefited 60 patients.

Al Awazim Charity Foundation:

Implemented eye surgeries in Mauritania at a cost of 40,000 Kuwaiti Dinars, benefited 1,200 patients.

Patients Helping Fund Society:

It implements camps to prevent blindness and remove cataracts, and it has implemented about 221 campaigns in 31 countries, benefited more than 50,000 patients for about 18,000 Kuwaiti Dinars.

Balad Al Khair Society:

It also implements operations to prevent temporary blindness and implant lens. It has established 4 medical convoys in Yemen,

Somalia, Bangladesh and Senegal, during which it conducted 361 operations that benefited 361 patients.

Al Istiqama Charitable Society:

It performs cataract removal surgeries, and it has implemented 3 campaigns in Senegal.

Marafie Foundation:

It implements medical camps in cooperation with Kuwaiti charitable societies, such as the Direct Aid Society and the Al Najat Charity Society. It has implemented 3 camps in Yemen and Bangladesh, during which it conducted 2,859 exams, 578 operations, and distributed 365 glasses, 3,225 medical lenses, and medicine.

Hofath Society:

The Society performs cataract removal surgeries for patients in four countries. The Society has implemented 3,125 operations at a value of nearly half a million Dollars.

Voluntary links to

OPHTHALMOLOGY



الرابطة الكويتية لطب العيون
KUWAIT OPHTHALMIC SOCIETY

Kuwaiti doctors participate in performing eye surgeries in many countries around the world in cooperation with Kuwaiti charitable societies.



Kuwait is characterized by its voluntary activity, social responsibilities and humanitarian works through its people who love to give and do good. There are many voluntary institutions, both civil and professional, on its soil, with a total of about 600 civil, charitable and volunteer organizations in all fields of development and giving.

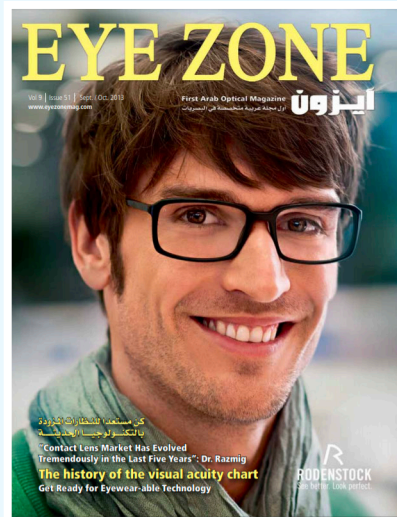
The Kuwait Medical Association, through its various links, provides its distinguished services. One of these links is the Kuwaiti Ophthalmological Association, which

is active in its voluntary efforts to serve ophthalmic patients and develop services for them. Medical students also contribute their voluntary and humanitarian efforts inside and outside Kuwait through the medical associations and their links. Doctors and medical students participate in conferences, research and regional and international medical organizations. Doctors participate in performing eye surgeries for patients inside and outside Kuwait, and they implement awareness, training and educational diplomas programs.

EYEZONE MAGAZINE




Eyezone Magazine is a model for non-profit Kuwaiti media that contributes to eye health



In a community initiative by Media Zone for Advertising, Eyezone Magazine was issued and edited as the first Arabic magazine published in the Middle East in 2005. It is a periodic magazine magazine published in Arabic and English every two months. It has published 106 issues and is currently published by Redbox Scientific and Technical Consulting Company. The magazine seeks to raise community awareness about eye health, and it provides research, studies, and technical and administrative skills for specialists in the field of eye health.

The magazine was founded by Mr. Ali Bandor and is supervised by him. It provides its distinguished services in the field of ophthalmology with its partners from international magazines in this field, which currently number is 40 magazines in ophthalmology around the world. The magazine participates in regional and international conferences, and it contributes through the Dubai Optics Conference by conducting training courses for specialists in the field of ophthalmology on the sidelines of conferences as a community initiative to promote eye health around the world.

 eyezoneinternational.com



«NOOR BOUBYAN» HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE FOR EYE HEALTH

«Noor Boubyan» initiative was implemented by Boubyan Bank in cooperation with the International Islamic Charitable Organization in 6 trips that benefited 14,000 patients who saw life.



The Kuwaiti private sector plays active and distinguished roles in social responsibility with government institutions and charitable societies. It has a variety of contributions and charitable initiatives.

The private sector provides a large part of the needs of charitable societies in the field of eye health, and it supports projects and programs that serve this field inside and outside Kuwait.

Some of the most prominent examples of the private sector that have provided appreciated services in eye health include:

Boubyan Bank Kuwait implemented the «Noor Boubyan» initiative in cooperation with the International Islamic Charitable Organization to perform cataract removal surgeries.

The number of beneficiaries of the Noor Boubyan initiative exceeded 14,000 beneficiaries in 3 countries within 6 medical trips, in which a number of ophthalmologists from Kuwait participated.

Kefan Optics
donated 5,135
glasses for free
for an amount
exceeded 564,000\$



KEFAN OPTICS HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

Kefan
نظارات كيفان
K.S.C.C ش.م.ك.م
Optics

Kefan Optics, a commercial company in Kuwait, has a distinguished commitment to social responsibility through its free eye exam. The company is also a key partner in the «See Well» (SHOOF ZAIN) community initiative for eye health for all, and a contributor to its volunteer campaigns. The company provides medical glasses to needy beneficiaries in cooperation with Kuwaiti charitable Societies.

Since 2012, Kefan Optics has examined thousands of patients and provided more than 5,135 medical glasses to beneficiaries free of charge, for an amount exceeded 564,000\$.

«SEE WELL» (SHOOF ZAIN) HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE FOR



On the occasion of World Sight Day on October 10th, 2023, the «See Well» (SHOOF ZAIN) initiative held an event entitled «Eye Health for Everyone in the Workplace» in cooperation with the Deanship of Student Affairs at Kuwait University, the University's Security and Safety Department and with the participation of the School Health Department at the Ministry of Health, and the Kuwait Center for Documentation of Humanitarian Work (Fanar), the Eyezone Optics Magazine, and AlHyat Charity Society. Many exams were conducted for workers and students at the university.

The «See Well» (SHOOF ZAIN) initiative is the first academic community awareness initiative for eye health in the State of Kuwait.

The initiative was founded in 2006 by Dr. Manal Bouhaimed, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University, ophthalmologist, and president of the Association of Female Ophthalmologists in

the Middle East and Africa (MAECO). The initiative's first activities were implemented by organizing the first Kuwait International Conference on Preventing Blindness in 2020, under the patronage of then-Minister of Health Sheikh Ahmad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Association for Eye Injuries, the International Council of Ophthalmology and Al Basar International Foundation (BIF).

The «See Well» (SHOOF ZAIN) initiative provides individuals with eye exams to ensure their eye health, and then refers patients to specialized medical institutions for the appropriate treatment.

The initiative has contributed to encouraging the concerned authorities in the State to establish the National Committee for the Prevention of

EYE SAFETY ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD SIGHT DAY



Blindness in 2007 in response to the specific recommendations of the World Health Organization to intensify international efforts, regional coordination and national action to prevent the causes of vision impairment and prevention of blindness.

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In 2011, the initiative launched its first mobile unit in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and a generous contribution from the private sector, in partnership with non-profit health institutions such as the Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN).

The «See Well» (SHOOF ZAIN) initiative has been registered as a volunteer team in the International Agency for the Prevention

of Blindness. The initiative conducts many awareness campaigns and eye exams in public and private schools as part of the annual celebration of World Sight Day in October of each year.

One of the most important contributions of the initiative is its participation in scientific research on eye health through field studies to estimate the percentage of vision defects and the need for glasses for myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, and strabismus in middle school students in cooperation with the Department of Community Medicine and Behavioral Sciences at Kuwait University. The initiative also conducted a study on the relationship between vitamin D deficiency and refractive vision defects, and a study on the knowledge and behaviors related to eye health among female students at Kuwait University. This study won the scientific poster award at the annual scientific poster conference at the Medical Science Center at Kuwait University.



الحياة الخيرية
Alhyat Charity

تشاد 



عمليات العيون Eye surgeries in Chad

The donation
value is

120 \$

ترخيص رقم (66 / ت ج خ 5 / 2023

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