

Stella Kabura's Journey to Sight Restoration: A Triumph of the Vision Impact Program in Meru County.

Stella Kabura, a resident of Ivinda Village in Majengo Unit, Ntima West Ward, Imenti North Sub County in Meru County, embarked on a transformative journey to restore her sight through the Vision Impact Program (VIP). Facing the challenges of cataracts and the subsequent loss of vision, Stella's life took a drastic turn, leaving her unable to perform daily activities and struggling with the emotional toll of her condition.

Stella's journey began in 2017 when she experienced a loss of vision in her right eye due to cataract. The initial visit to Meru General Hospital revealed her diagnosis, but financial constraints prevented her from pursuing treatment. A widow with children in school, Stella found herself in a dire situation, unable to afford the required 6,000 Kenyan Shillings for the treatment of one eye. Consequently, her condition worsened, leading to the vision deterioration in her left eye in 2018. With both eyes affected, Stella's life took a downward spiral.

Previously self-reliant, she now required assistance for basic tasks and faced the emotional burden of feeling like a burden to her family and relatives. The loss of her job as a school cook and the mockery she experienced in social settings, including church, added to her challenges. At times, the thought of suicide crossed her mind as she grappled with the overwhelming difficulties in her life.



In 2023, Stella's fortunes changed when she learned about the Vision Impact Program being implemented in Meru County by AIC Health Ministries in conjunction with CBM and the County Government of Meru through the Community Health Volunteers (CHV). The program, offering door-to-door eye care services for free through PEEK system, ignited hope in Stella's heart as she saw an opportunity for sight restoration.

Stella was visited at her home, and thorough screening revealed her dire need for intervention.



Referred to a treatment outreach organized at Kianjuri Dispensary, she underwent assessments by the ophthalmic team, who diagnosed her with cataracts. Her visual acuity indicated that she could perceive light 'PL'. Additionally, she received an automated PEEK message reminder about the upcoming free surgical camp organized by AIC Health Ministries in Igoki Health Center, providing her with a ray of hope.

Booked for surgery the following month, Stella eagerly underwent the procedure to restore her sight. Emerging from the theater room, she was overwhelmed with joy as her vision was miraculously restored. Tears of gratitude streamed down her face as she realized the impact of the VIP program on her life. Stella's post-operative treatment yielded positive results, with her visual acuity measured at 6/18 in both eyes.



She felt rejuvenated and capable of performing tasks she had been unable to do for years.

Stella expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Vision Impact Program, CBM, AIC Health Ministries, the County Government of Meru, and all other stakeholders involved. She pledged to spread the news of her restored sight, serving as a testament to the program's

positive impact on the people of Meru County. Stella Kabura's journey from despair to joy stands as a powerful testament to the transformative impact of the Vision Impact Program in Meru County. Through collaborative efforts and timely interventions, Stella's life was restored, exemplifying the positive change the VIP program brings to individuals facing vision challenges.