

# THE RIIO

*the biannual report*  
*January - July 2023*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Dear stakeholders and readers,

Welcome once again to our Bi-annual newsletter of the Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology (RIIO) which highlights our accomplishments in recent months with the contribution of partners at multi-levels.

We appreciate the confidence that all of our stakeholders and readers have placed in us and in our work. We are constantly striving to develop sustainable, structured, and strategic partnerships with local, national, and international organizations, as well as private enterprises. Since its inception, RIIO has been involved with different partners. We are grateful to organizations that have supported our programs so far and we are open to more partnerships in the future as there is always more work to be done regardless of our achievements to date.

Find out more about our work at [www.riio.org](http://www.riio.org). As always, contact us on our social media platforms on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#); if you have any questions and/or comments.

Sincerely,

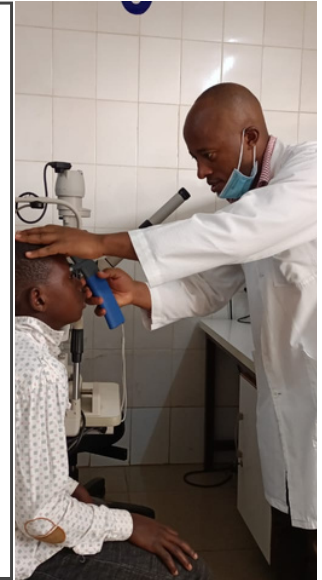
RIIO Directors

# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## RIIO @ KIBAGABAGA COMMUNITY EYE CLINIC

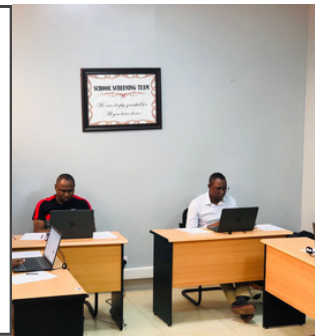
During the reporting period, RIIO continued to enhance the capacity of Kibagabaga Eye clinic through upgrading of infrastructure equipment and quality eye health personnel in order to ensure that quality eye health services are delivered at KIBAGABAGA Community eye clinic . 4,028 patients were seen with 201 receiving surgical interventions.

In addition in Districts without ophthalmologists, RIIO teams performed another 257 surgeries just after the Kibagabaga section.



## COECSA EXAMINATION CENTER

In June 2023 COECSA administered its first-ever written exams covering Basic Ophthalmic Sciences, Optics Refraction and instruments, and Clinical Ophthalmology. RIIO was honoured to be accredited as an examination center for online exams. 5 trainees from RIIO sat the exams.



## RESIDENCY PROGRAM

RIIO is in the process of recruiting a new batch of residents. It is the Ministry of Health's desire that we contribute in an enhanced way to increasing the number of eye specialists in the country. Following the graduation of our first 4 trainees we intend to add between 4 and 6 new residents in 2023.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## PRIMARY EYE CARE TRAINING OF TRAINERS

To ensure the primary eye care program is strengthened and sustained, The Ministry of Health has commissioned the Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology to train a core group of National trainers who will then roll out (cascade) the PEC training across the country. It is in this regard that it was organized 3 days OF Training of Trainers in PRIMARY EYE CARE based on the WHO AFRO PEC CURRICULUM, which took place in Kigali on JUNE 28-30, 2023 supported by the Fred Hollows Foundation Rwanda.

The trainees were 24 in total among them included 14 ophthalmic clinical officers, 3 Nurse Trainers from Nursing schools, and 7 Ophthalmology Residents. This workshop was facilitated by Professor Ciku Mathenge, THE PEC Master Trainer.



## UGHE STUDENTS CLERKSHIP AT RIIO

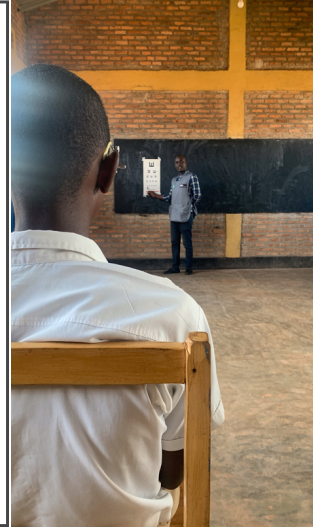
This year RIIO entered a partnership with the University of Global Health Equity to provide ophthalmology training for its medical students. 30 students rotated at the RIIO Kibagabaga Community clinic as well as had didactics from RIIO residents and faculty. Prof Ciku also delivered a Primary Eye Care course at the beginning of the module.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## SIGHT FOR SCHOOL PROJECT

RIIO in collaboration with MOH and Direct Aid Rwanda, conducted Eye school screening which covered 15 selected from government and non-government primary and secondary schools selected from Gasabo District. The aim was to detect, treat, and early intervention for conditions affecting children's vision and eye health. A total of 10,791 Children were screened over two months. This activity was officially launched by the Lord Mayor of Kigali Mr. Pudence RUBINGISHA, accompanied by the Gasabo District Deputy Administrator, among other guests present were: the UNICEF Representative, Ministry of Health Representative, Direct Aid Director, and RIIO Directors as hosts.



## RDA DIABETIC RETINOPATHY AND CAR FREE DAY SCREENING

The Rwanda Diabetic Association has conducted screenings using AI since the commencement of the year. RIIO through its partnership with Orbis International provided training, equipment, and technical support to the RDA team. Kigali Car Free Day is a bimonthly event held on every month's first and third Sundays. On this day, several roads are blocked off for people to walk, run or cycle freely without interference from motorbikes or vehicles. In May 2023, The Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology (RIIO) with equipment support from Orbis International introduced the Diabetic Retina Screening program free of charge in Car free day. RIIO Team used digital retinal photography and images were interpreted using artificial intelligence and a report was produced within 5 mins. This service was available for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes aged 12 years and older. The screening exercise was not limited to those with Diabetes. 233 people got their eyes checked on that day.



# RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS OVER THE PAST 6 MONTHS:

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- 01** JOSHUA R. EHRLICH, MD, MPH; JESSICA G. SHANTHA, MD, MSC; **CIKU MATHENGE, MD**, PH.D.; TOLULOPE FASHINA, MD, MPH; EMILY COLE, MD; TALA AL-KHALED, MD; THULASIRAJ RAVILLA, MBA; R.V. PAUL CHAN, MD, MSC, MBA; STEVEN YEH, MD, FASRS; THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC GLOBAL OPHTHALMOLOGY; RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS AND GUIDANCE IN ACADEMIC GLOBAL OPHTHALMOLOGY; INTERNATIONAL OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINICS; VOLUME 63, NUMBER 1, 15–24; JANUARY 2023
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- 02** EMILY COLE, MD, MPH **WANJIKU MATHENGE, MD** DANIEL KIAGE, MD THULASIRAJ RAVILLA, MD EDUARDO MAYORGA, MD ANA G. PALIS, MD JACQUELYN O'BANION, MD, MSC KARL GOLNIK, MD JEFF PETTEY, MD GRACE SUN, MD DAVID HUNTER CHERWEK, MD DEEPAK EDWARD, MD KATHERINE JOLTIKOV, MD R.V. PAUL CHAN, MD, MSC, MBA PETER W. MACINTOSH, MD THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC GLOBAL OPHTHALMOLOGY; GO-ING FOR GOLD: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON CREATING A GOLD STANDARD FOR GLOBAL OPHTHALMOLOGY (GO) EDUCATION; INTERNATIONAL OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINICS; VOLUME 63, NUMBER 1, 5–13; JANUARY 2023
- 
- 03** **WANJIKU MATHENGE**, NICHOLAS R. BELLO, **JOHN NKURIKYE**, OLIVIA M. HESS, DANGOU JM, ALEX V. LEVIN; USE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PRIMARY EYE CARE PROTOCOL TO INVESTIGATE THE OCULAR HEALTH STATUS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RWANDA; JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS.2023 FEB;27(1):16.E1-16.E6. DOI: 10.1016/J.JAAPOS.2022.10.008. EPUB 2023 JAN 14. PMID: 36646306.
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## MEETINGS AND VISITS

RIIO Directors and Staff have participated and attended several meetings over the past few months. This is in line with RIIO's vision to continuously deliver the highest standards and services. The Directors attended the Roland Consult Electrophysiology and Imaging Course in Berlin on 9th June and a Cornea Course at Elza Institute in Zurich from 12th to 14th June. Our Operations Manager, Janvier Murenzi attended several local meetings and conferences.

We were also honoured to host and welcome High-Level visits from our Partners from the Fred Hollows Foundation, Serge and Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio Rwanda (FLDVR) bosses. RIIO also welcomed visiting faculty Dr. Peter MacIntosh (associate Professor and Director Ophthalmology residency Program at Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary UIC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Dr. Harsha Reddy, Larry, and Shirley Kenney, and global fellows Dr. Santi Karnam(Wills Eye Hospital), Dr. Miles Greenwald (Cornea Specialist and Global Ophthalmology fellow University of Michigan)

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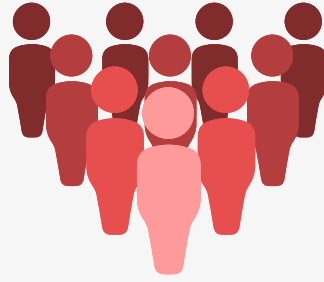
# COMING SOON



RIIO is partnering with private partners to create a public-private model hospital the RIIO iHospital to expand its provision of high-level sub-specialty eye services. The RIIO iHospital consists of two main components, **iTechClinic** and **iChecks**.

This model will contribute to RIIO's journey towards self-sustainability while providing greater exposure in the subspecialties for our trainees.

The hospital will have the latest technologies including confocal imaging, genetic testing for inherited eye diseases, and a full suite of electrophysiology tests.



# PARTNERS

## WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION FOR 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS .

**RIIO** ✓  
Quality Eye Health Solutions

**Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology**

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