

1,489 Eye Surgeries in Six Months: An Impact That Transforms Lives in Kinshasa

During the first semester of 2026, Fundación Visión Democratic Republic of the Congo, together with its strategic partner Chosen, performed a total of 1,489 eye surgeries at the clinic this organization owns in Kinshasa, consolidating a joint effort that is changing the reality of thousands of people with limited access to visual health care.

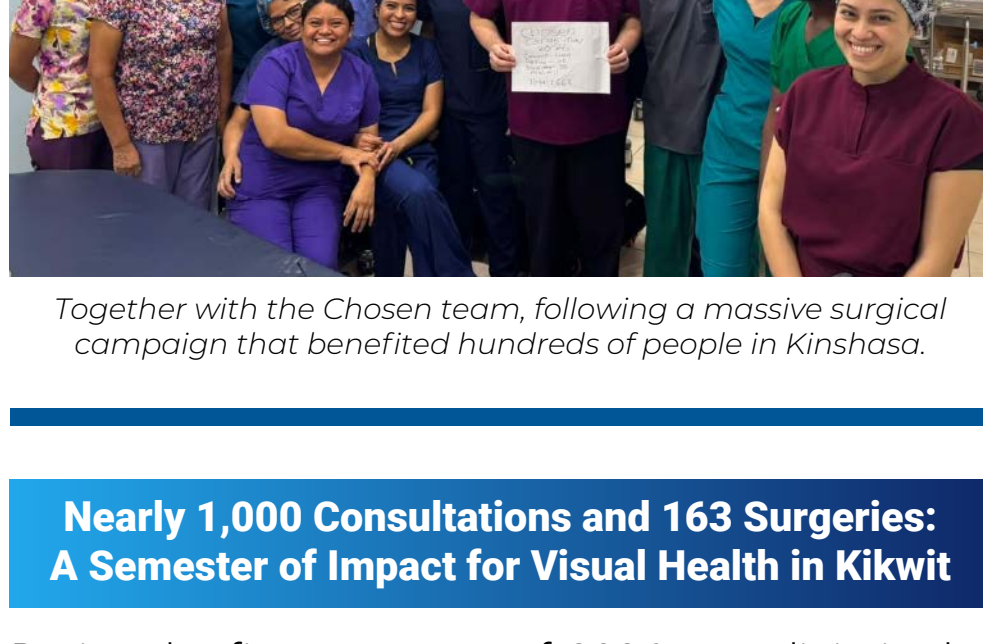
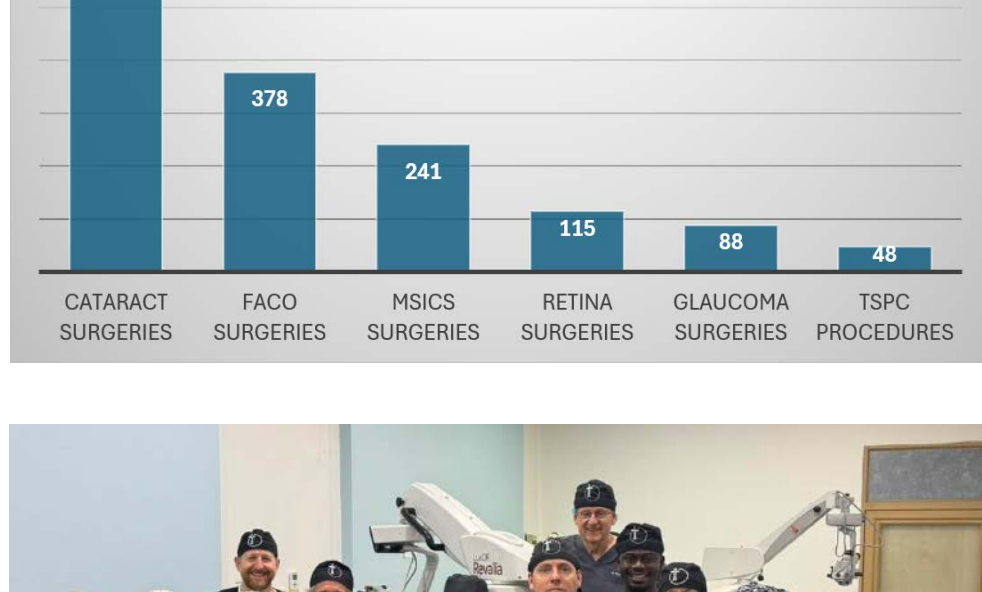
Surgeries performed in kinshasa:

- **Cataract Surgeries 619**
- **Phacoemulsification (Phaco) Surgeries 378**
- **MSICS Surgeries 241**
- **Retina Surgeries 115**
- **Glaucoma Surgeries 88**
- **TSPC Procedures 48**

This extraordinary volume of surgeries represents a massive contribution of enormous impact for the local community. In a country where access to specialized ophthalmological care is severely limited, each procedure represents an opportunity to restore vision, prevent blindness, and improve the quality of life of individuals who, in many cases, would have no other way to receive this type of treatment.

The joint work between Fundación Visión D.R. Congo and Chosen continues to strengthen response capabilities in Kinshasa and its surrounding areas, combining medical expertise, humanitarian commitment, and international cooperation to bring high-complexity care to those who need it most.

Surgeries performed in Kinshasa



Together with the Chosen team, following a massive surgical campaign that benefited hundreds of people in Kinshasa.

Nearly 1,000 Consultations and 163 Surgeries: A Semester of Impact for Visual Health in Kikwit

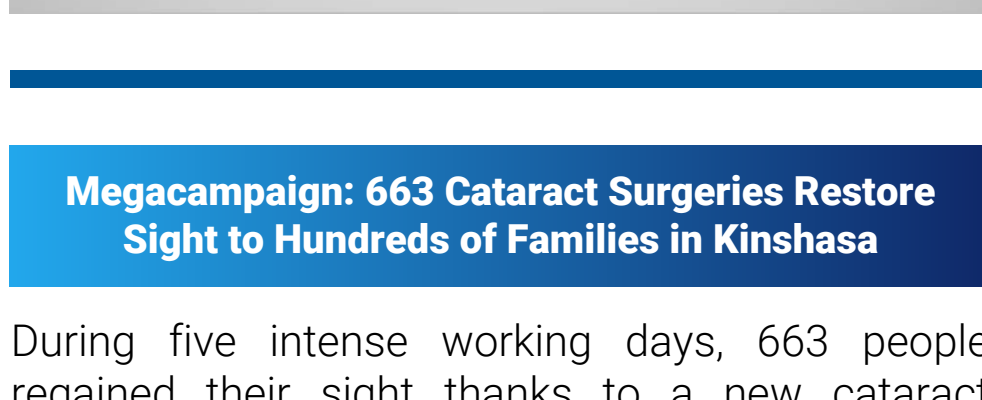
During the first semester of 2026, our clinic in the city of Kikwit continued to establish itself as a referral center for community eye care, providing access to essential services in a context where thousands of people face serious difficulties accessing healthcare.

In these first six months of the year, our team conducted 973 ophthalmological consultations, offering diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up to patients from Kikwit and neighboring communities. Furthermore, 163 eye surgeries were carried out, of which 47 were performed by the Fundación Visión D.R. Congo team and 116 were completed alongside our partner, Chosen.

Every consultation and surgery represents an opportunity to restore sight, improve quality of life, and bring back hope to people who, in many cases, would not have access to this level of care.

We remain committed to our mission of bringing quality visual health care to the most vulnerable populations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Surgeries performed during the first half of the year at our Clinic in Kikwit



Megacampaign: 663 Cataract Surgeries Restore Sight to Hundreds of Families in Kinshasa

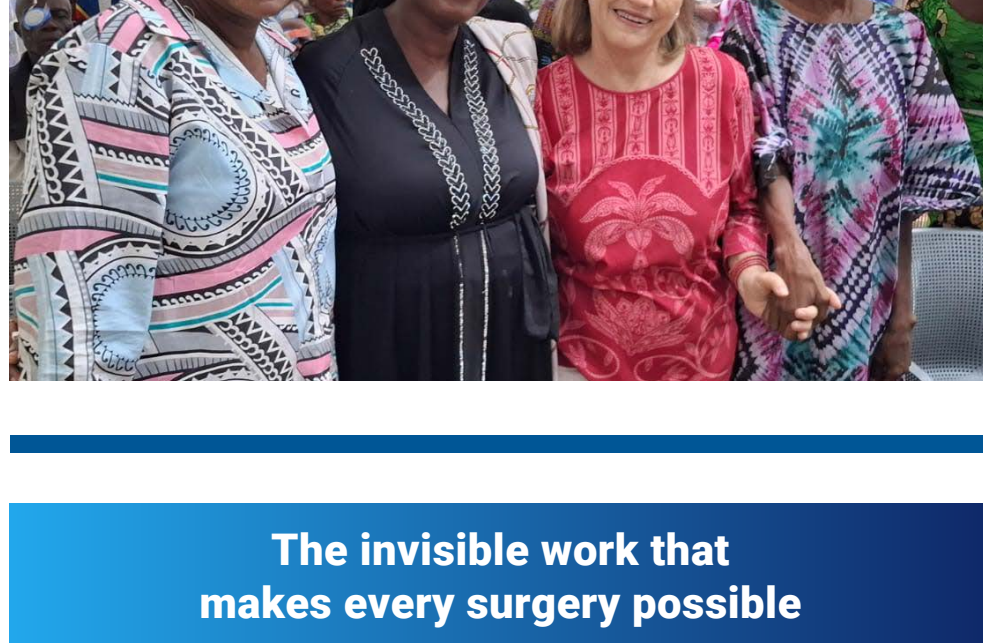
During five intense working days, 663 people regained their sight thanks to a new cataract surgical campaign held in the city of Kinshasa—one of the most significant humanitarian actions driven to date by Fundación Visión Democratic Republic of the Congo alongside the international organization Chosen.

The campaign was coordinated locally by Dr. Rainald Duerksen and Dr. Moges, who worked alongside a team of 14 volunteers—including doctors, nurses, and surgical assistants from Chosen—who arrived from the United States and offered their time and expertise entirely free of charge.

The activities took place at the clinic Chosen owns in Kinshasa, utilizing two operating rooms with six surgical tables operating simultaneously—a logistical effort that allowed an exceptional volume of patients to be treated in just five days.

Workdays began before sunrise and extended until early the following morning. As one surgery finished, another was already beginning. Exhaustion never overcame the commitment of the team, who worked tirelessly to make the most of every minute and restore vision to as many people as possible.

When the last patient left the operating room, it marked not only the conclusion of an intense week of work, but also the beginning of 663 new stories of individuals who regained the opportunity to see their children again, walk safely, work, and reconnect with a life that cataracts had slowly taken away from them.



The invisible work that makes every surgery possible

Behind every patient who enters the operating room lies a story that began long before the day of surgery.

Approximately one month before the start of the campaign, a committee from Fundación Visión Democratic Republic of the Congo initiated intensive field work touring various neighborhoods in Kinshasa, in coordination with the City's Governorship, to identify individuals with cataracts who needed to recover their vision and who, due to their economic conditions, would have hardly been able to access surgery.

Once identified, patients were called to pre-consultations held across four local hospitals, where they received the necessary medical evaluation to confirm their diagnosis and outline their treatment plan.

This silent work, carried out far from operating rooms and cameras, is what enables every campaign we undertake to truly reach those who need it most. Thanks to this search, evaluation, and preliminary guidance, every operated patient represents a carefully identified story and a new opportunity to regain vision and quality of life.



For the first time, the Governorship of Kinshasa became a strategic ally

This semester's surgical campaign marked another important milestone: for the first time, the Governorship of Kinshasa actively participated as a strategic ally, enhancing the scope and organization of one of the largest eye care initiatives carried out in the city. Their collaboration was key across various stages of the project. The Governorship provided funding for preconsultations, offered operational support during surgery days, facilitated the installation of portable toilets, canopies, and chairs for patients, and assisted with waste disposal and other logistical tasks essential to the campaign's success.

Institutional commitment was also made visible by the visit of the Governor of Kinshasa, David Bumba, who toured the facilities, accompanied the medical team, and witnessed firsthand the impact the campaign was generating for hundreds of families. This articulation between the public sector and humanitarian organizations sets a highly valuable precedent for the future. Beyond logistical support, it demonstrates that when local institutions get actively involved, it is possible to broaden reach, strengthen campaign sustainability, and bring eye care to an ever-growing number of people.



Pre-consultation sessions were held at local hospitals, utilizing available courtyard spaces to receive patients and organize the medical team's care.

This work was made possible thanks to joint support from local authorities: the City's Governorship assisted with meals for volunteers and transport required to move medical equipment, while also providing a significant financial contribution to cover pre-consultation expenses. Additionally, they provided necessary infrastructure including chairs, canopies, and a generator to guarantee operations. A coordinated effort between institutions and volunteers to bring specialized medical care to those who need it most.



Pre-consultations are the first encounter with patients. In this stage, each person is evaluated to identify who needs surgery, who requires another type of care, and which cases are candidates for the surgical campaign.

During these days, over 350 consultations were performed in the first phase and nearly 450 in the second. The team was comprised of local doctors in training, accompanied by a resident doctor in Kinshasa who conducted deeper evaluations of complex cases and determined which patients could proceed to surgery. A team effort uniting knowledge, learning, and service to the community.

A visit that strengthens a mission of hope in the Congo

Within the framework of the surgical megacampaign we conducted, we received a very special visit: the Governor of the city of Kinshasa, David Bumba, arrived at the clinic where the surgeries were taking place to observe up close the work being carried out and the purpose of this project, which seeks to transform lives through medical care and service to the community.

During the meeting, Dr. Rainald Duerksen shared the vision driving this initiative: that the people of the Congo may experience the love of Jesus through committed service provided with excellence, compassion, and dedication.

The Governor's visit represents recognition of the impact this work seeks to generate and the value of uniting efforts among authorities, healthcare professionals, volunteers, and collaborators to bring hope to those who need it most.



Dr. Ryan Rush, Mr. Bumba, Dr. Robert, and Dr. Rainald.



At the conclusion of the campaign, we shared a farewell lunch with the team of volunteers from Chosen, who came from the United States, in recognition of their commitment, generosity, and valuable contribution in making this new surgical mission possible.



Dr. Jasper Mutema, administrator of Fundación Visión in Kinshasa, receives well-deserved recognition for her valuable work and commitment during the surgical campaign. In a gesture of gratitude and fraternity, she also presented a special keepsake to the doctors from the United States who participated with the Chosen organization.



To close this mission, the Governorship hosted a special appreciation meeting to recognize the commitment and dedication of the team that participated in the campaign. The governor personally received the volunteers and doctors, offering a space of recognition for the work carried out together with the community.



Resident Natalia Espínola, part of the team that participated in the surgical campaign, arrived in the Congo to share six weeks of work with us. In addition to her medical work, she also shared moments of service in other tasks necessary for the mission, including helping out in the kitchen. A mission is built with professionals, volunteers, and hearts ready to serve in every required task.

We continue working on the land where the first Fundación Visión D.R. Congo Clinic will be built

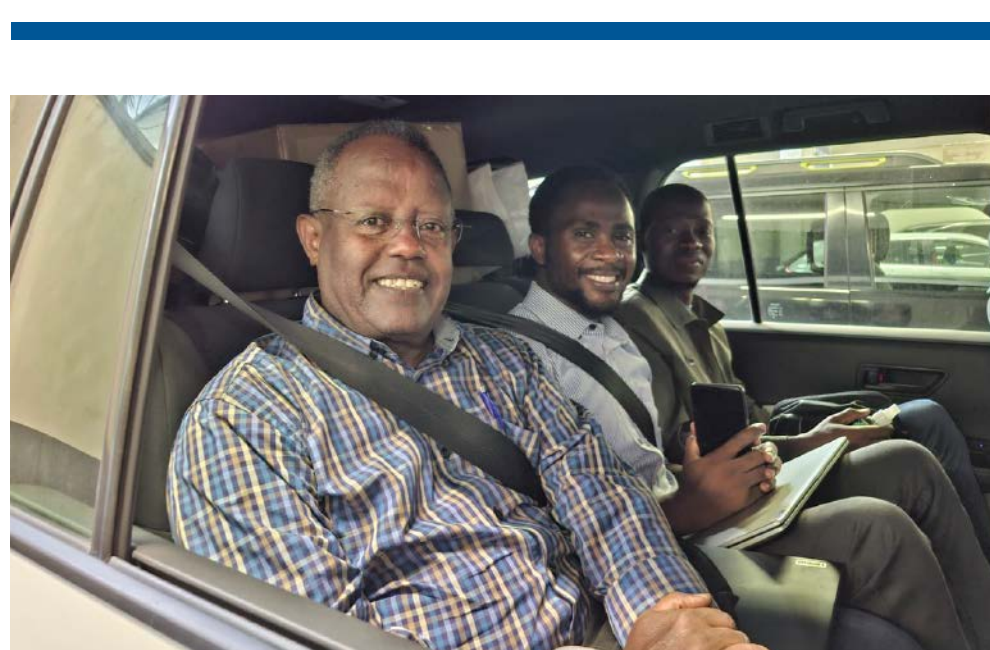
During the first semester of 2025, we were working on the site designated for the construction of Fundación Visión's first Clinic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During this time, initial site preparation tasks were carried out, including clearing, leveling, and conditioning the space with the help of a tractor.

This process also allowed us to learn more closely about the local reality, learn new ways of working, and move forward alongside the community in the first steps of a project that represents both a great challenge and a huge opportunity.

The future clinic will be built on a 15-hectare plot located a few kilometers from Kikwit, a city where Fundación Visión currently provides care in a rented facility. The project envisions an eye clinic equipped with top-tier technology, patient recovery areas, accommodation spaces for those arriving from distant communities, doctor residences, and other facilities designed to strengthen comprehensive care.

Every step forward on the land is a sign that this dream continues to grow. With the support of donors and partners, we continue working to bring quality eye care to populations that currently lack these services.

The future clinic is much more than medical infrastructure; it is a comprehensive service project that aims to bring quality eye health care and, at the same time, convey a message of love and solidarity to the community.



Trip to Kikwit. In the car: Dr. Moges, Dr. Christian Shamavu, and Dr. Voldi Elumbu. Together with driver René and Dr. Rainald Duerksen.

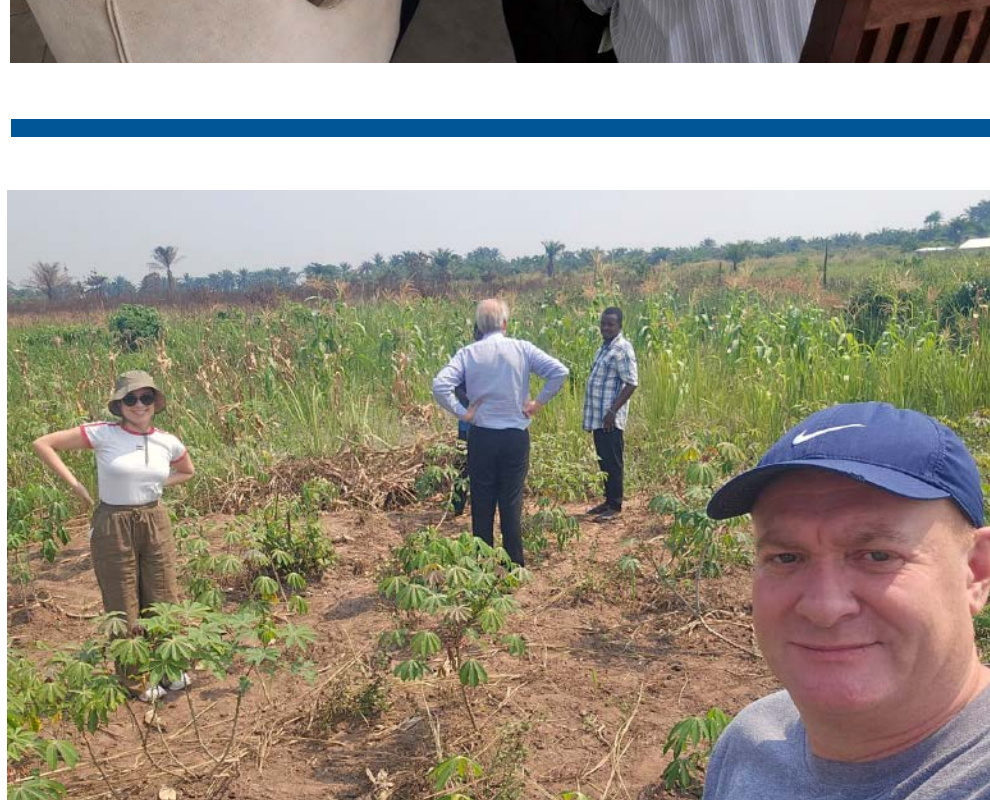
Strengthening partnerships to bring visual health to the community

At our facilities in Kinshasa, a planning meeting was held with the team from Christian Blind Mission (CBM Congo), one of our most important strategic partners in the mission to combat blindness.

For many years, we have worked jointly with CBM, joining efforts, expertise, and commitment to bring eye care to communities facing major difficulties in accessing healthcare services.

This meeting allowed us to review actions, coordinate next steps, and continue strengthening a partnership aimed at bringing hope and opportunities to thousands of vulnerable people.

Together we continue working so that more people can regain their vision and improve their quality of life in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Our gratitude to Gunther Klumpp, who arrived from Fundación Visión Paraguay to support the work in Congo, assisting with the maintenance of the clinic, vehicles, and necessary tasks for the mission to keep moving forward.