

Peek in Kenya: Integrated eye care that leaves no one behind

An eye health innovation born in Kenya, Peek is now powering large-scale programmes in multiple counties across the nation.

The challenge

In Kenya, there are an estimated 7.5 million people living with vision loss, and only 21% of these can access the eye health services they need. Over 80% of blindness in Kenya is due to curable or preventable causes. Specialist resources are scarce, with only one ophthalmologist per million people.

Peek's role in improving eye health

Peek Vision has a long history in Kenya, beginning life more than a decade ago as a research project in Nakuru county. Much of the research that built [the evidence base for Peek](#) took place in Kenya. With the support of local government partners and the NGO Operation Eyesight Universal, Peek developed and tested its software and data intelligence platform in Kenya before rolling it out internationally.

Peek is now being used in Kenya's large-scale Vision Impact Project (VIP), led by CBM Christian Blind Mission and the Kenyan Ministry of Health with funding from CBM and The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Launched in 2022, the four year project is running across seven counties. It aims to provide inclusive, high quality eye care services to more than five million people. The project aligns with Kenya's national eye health priorities, and World Health Organization priorities on vision and health systems strengthening.

In addition to the VIP, Peek is also working with Operation Eyesight, The Fred Hollows Foundation and Sightsavers to plan and deliver Peek-powered programmes in three more counties.



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VIP in numbers – as of June 2024

2.6m+	people screened using Peek
486k	people successfully connected to care ¹
72%	of these had their needs met at the primary level

Increasing access to eye care for millions of people

To date, the Peek-powered Vision Impact Project has screened more than 2.6million people in schools and communities and successfully connected over 486,000 people to the eye care they need. Peek's data intelligence platform is providing actionable insights to help optimise services so more people reach care.

Providing robust data for effective planning

Peek's software for RAAB7, developed in partnership with the International Centre for Eye Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, has been used to carry out ten Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness surveys in Kenya over the past two years. Providing high-quality data on the population's eye health needs, they have generated important evidence for decision making and effective planning.

¹ Connected to care = patients who have completed their treatment journeys within the Peek platform i.e. have attended all their appointments.

Bringing eye health services closer to the community

As part of the VIP, more than 900 community health volunteers have been trained to use Peek's clinically validated smartphone app for screening and referrals in schools, community spaces, and door-to-door through household visits. This raises awareness of eye health among those who may not know they have a problem, and reaches groups who find it difficult to travel to services.

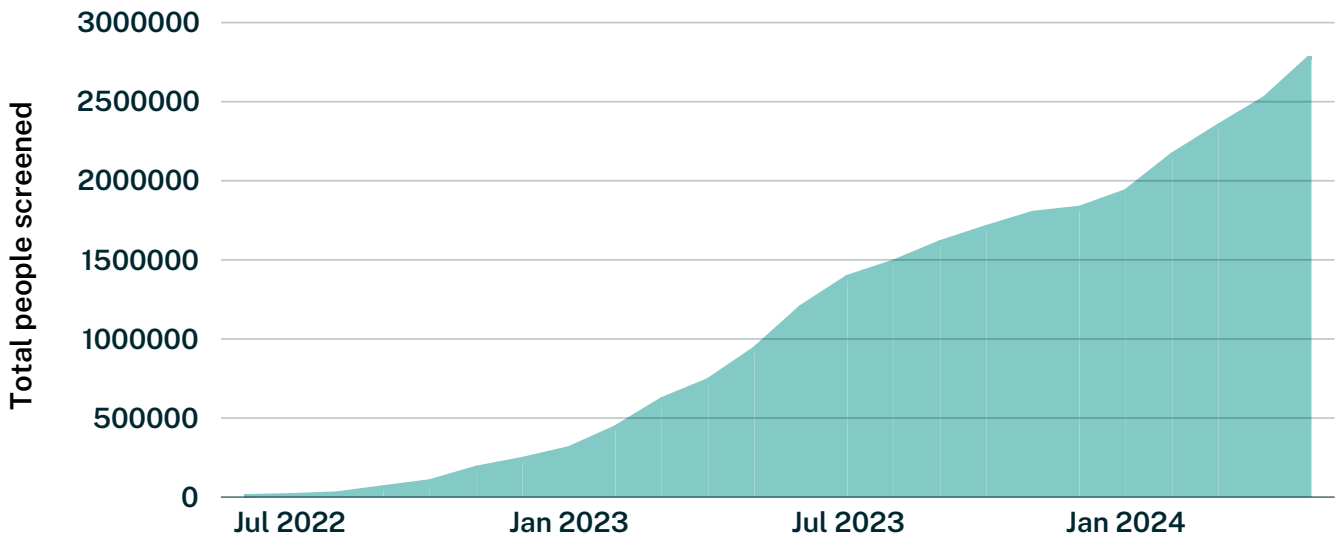


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“ Before embracing use of Peek in our eye health programmes in Kenya, we had struggled with getting real time data. With Peek, a click of a button provides us with real time data that has helped us continuously learn and make decisions in a timely manner. Referral tracking has been made much easier and now we are able to support patients in response to their various needs.”

David Munyendo, Country
Director for CBM Kenya

Number of people screened in Peek-powered VIP in Kenya (up to June 2024)



Integrating services and strengthening health systems

Peek's software supports stronger referral pathways in each location to make more effective use of resources. The VIP has improved eye health infrastructure, connecting over 800 health facilities, 3500 schools and 1000 community health units.

Supporting local ownership

Through its Certification model, Peek is equipping the organisations using its software with the skills to independently

scale up programme activities. Local partners are certified to train Peek software users and analyse programme data to improve their impact. This enables even greater local ownership and control of eye health programmes.



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“ Since Peek was introduced, I see timely data from the community screeners and know how many patients have been referred. I can plan an outreach with clarity depending on the clinicians and supplies at hand... It has been a total game-changer.”

Faith Lang'at, Programme Manager, Tenwek Hospital, Bomet County

Peek-powered success

A 2023 study in Kenya found:²



High satisfaction with the Peek screening and referral process

98% of people screened using Peek would recommend it to their family and friends



Peek-powered programmes increase access to eye health

66% of people had their first ever eye health screening at home using Peek in the Vision Impact Project, and 70% of people said it was very easy to access eye care services they were referred to



And bring eye care services close to communities

Almost 90% of people first heard about services through a community health worker or a community health event or outreach



Screening with Peek is highly accurate

91% of referrals from household screening using Peek were confirmed as true positives at triage

Government support and potential for scale-up

There is a national data processing agreement in place between Peek and the Kenyan Ministry of Health, and Peek is referenced in Kenya's National Eye Health Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as a technology to pursue. Peek is also working with the government to integrate data collected using Peek with the Kenya Health Information System (KHIS), to support greater synchronisation.

Vision Impact Project county governments have embraced the use of Peek technology and there are opportunities for further scale-up. Decision makers in the health sector feel Peek successfully bridges the resource gap to help connect people to eye care services.³

Over the coming years, Peek and its partners aim to scale up their current activities, as well as launching Peek-powered programmes in new counties in Kenya. These collaborations will connect millions more Kenyans to quality eye care services, helping to reduce the prevalence of visual impairment and avoidable blindness.

To find out more visit
peekvision.org

Or contact
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² Study commissioned by Peek Vision and conducted by the International Development Institute- Africa (IDIA)

³ Findings from the 2023 IDIA study