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## **Restoring Sight**

I am an Eye Surgeon based in Aberdeen and was a consultant in the Eye Department of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for 27 years until taking early retirement in April 2011. For the past 21 years, together with Professor John Forrester of Aberdeen University Eye Department and 2 other colleagues, I have been involved in providing voluntary eye care in refugee camps in Thailand, particularly cataract surgery.

During our annual leave periods we have provided care to refugees who have fled to the camps along the Thai / Burmese border as a result of persecution in Burma, and to poor Burmese, particularly the Karen tribe, who cross the border into Thailand.

There are about 160,000 refugees in these camps and we move from camp to camp treating the patients with portable equipment, in various flimsy structures. We also have a more established base at Dr Cynthias MaeTao Clinic ([www.maetaoclinic.org](http://www.maetaoclinic.org)) located in the border town of Mae Sot. We currently do around 900 sight restoring cataract operations per year but now being able to commit to more time on the program, I am targeting an additional 1100 cataract operations per year, taking the total to 2000.

A crucial part of our work is carried out by the Border Eye Team, consisting of an ophthalmic nurse and 2 support staff, which provides screening of patients and logistics, whilst our team provides the surgical treatments. The team also deliver training in the camps and Mae Tao clinic to 60 medics per year on:

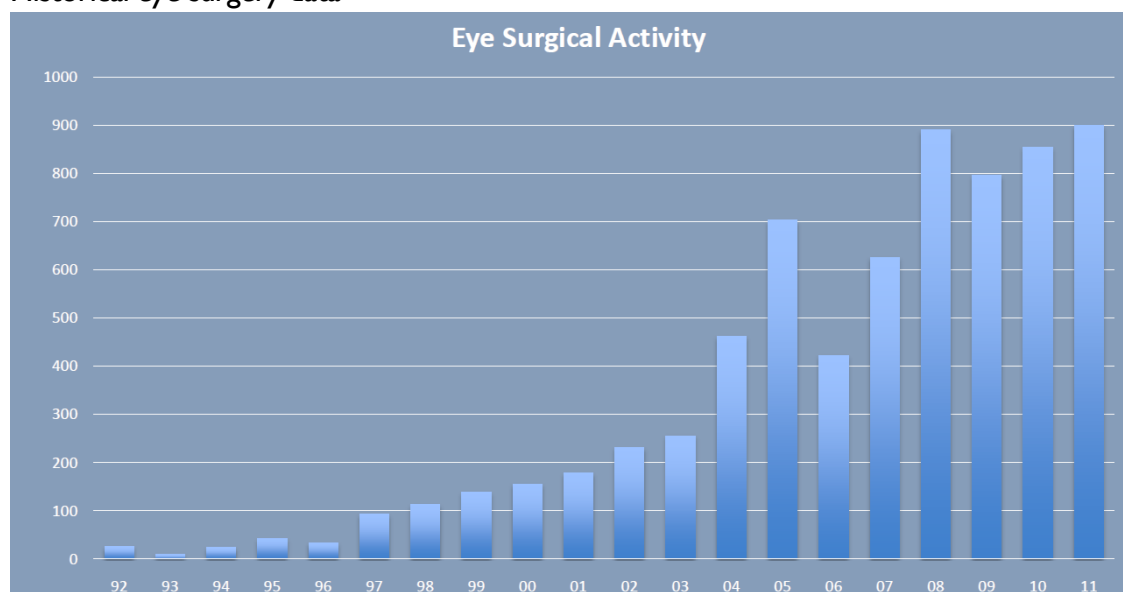
- detection and treatment of various eye diseases
- testing for and provision of eyeglasses (some 1000 pairs per year)
- setting up and running the operating facilities in each camp
- logistic support for the surgical team

Our work has been supported mainly by the US based NGO, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and also by individual donations to Karenaid, a small UK registered charity which we have established. **Due to the current economic situation IRC can no longer assist with funding. This will have a huge impact on our surgical work! The budget runs out in September 2011, we are therefore desperately seeking external funding through our charity.**

Further information on our work and the budget required is given in the attached sheets and is available online at [www.karenaid.org.uk/healthcare](http://www.karenaid.org.uk/healthcare). I would be most grateful if you would consider helping with this vital programme so that we can continue to help these very poor people.

## KARENAID – OUR WORK IN PICTURES

### Historical eye surgery data



### Karenaid Budget Requirement.

To run our eye programme with the present level of training for medics, provision of eyeglasses and the other activities an annual budget of **£90,000** is required:

#### Border Eye Team:

Salaries of Nurse in Charge with 2 supporting staff	£20,000
Running of 3 training courses of 12 days each for total of 60 students	£6,000
Provision of 10,000 pairs of eyeglasses at the 10 Primary care eye clinics	£20,000
Travel to all locations preparing and assisting the surgical team, monitoring and evaluation	£4,000
	<b>£50,000</b>

#### Surgical Eye Team:

Consumables for each cataract operation (e.g. Intraocular implants, Sutures, Eyedrops etc)	£20 per case
Targeted Cases	2,000
Total (2,000 @£20)	<b>£40,000</b>

**Any donations would be gratefully received.**

**Cheques should be made payable to Karenaid, and sent to our treasurer:-**

**Mr John Stamp, 14 Laurel Crescent, Grove, Wantage OX12 7HZ**

## KARENAID – OUR WORK IN PICTURES

Travel to remote border camps



Eye surgery in the rainy season



Intracapsular surgery by torch light 1991





## KARENAID – OUR WORK IN PICTURES

Patient transport, some walk (or are carried) for 2 to 3 days to arrive at the eye clinics



Training medics in cataract surgery 1993





## KARENAID – OUR WORK IN PICTURES

Prof John Forrester conducting surgical training at Mae Tao Clinic



Cataract surgery with donated equipment at Mae Tao Clinic 2011

