

BICO Board Members

Mr. Isaac Kayira FCCA MBA

Partner, Audit Consult International
BICO Chairman

Professor Khumbo Kalua

Lecturer COM & Senior
Ophthalmologist MOH
BICO Research Director

Dr. Mwiza Nkhata

Dean of Law, Chancellor College
University of Malawi
BICO Legal advisor

Mr. Parton Nkhwazi FCCA MBA

Finance manager, Nedbank, Malawi
BICO Finance Advisor

Mr. Bentry Chaula FCCA

Certified Accountants
BICO Auditors

Current Technical Staff

Zachariah Kamwendo

Projects Assistant

Limbani Mitengo

Administration and accounts

Ranneck Singano

Logistics officer

Christopher Ndembo

Research Assistant

Malawian Consultants

Dr. Vincent Moyo

BICO Consultant trainer
Trinity Hospital
Nsanje

Dr. Bagrey Ngwira

BICO Chief Scientific advisor
University of Malawi

International Advisors

Prof Paul Courtright

Director KCCO International
Cape Town, RSA

Prof Susan Lewallen

Research Director KCCO International
Cape Town, RSA

Professor Robin Bailey

London School of Hygiene & Tropical
Medicine, United Kingdom

Blantyre Institute for Community

Ophthalmology (BICO)

Hetherwick House

Henry Henderson Institute (HHI)

Next to St Michaels and All Angels church
Off Chileka Road

P.O. Box 1406

Blantyre

Email: director@bicomalawi.org

Website: www.bicomalawi.org

Tel: +265 999958176



BICO

Excellence in Community Eye Health

Blantyre Institute for Community ophthalmology (BICO)

BICO was established in 2008 as a charitable organization (NGO) with the mission of contributing to the improvements in community eye health in Malawi through capacity building, in conducting practical operational research on community eye health, consultancy and advocacy in eye-care.

The idea to start the institute was conceptualized after realizing that despite various achievements in the tertiary and secondary level clinical ophthalmology and service delivery, after the launch of the [VISION 2020: the Right to Sight](#): the global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020, Malawi has still not made much progress in community eye health, especially the areas of operational research on effective community eye-care programs, data management, training, advocacy, and publications. BICO's goal is to strengthen capacity building and operational research at community level, and generate information that can be used to influence policy.

The center's aim is to pioneer and coordinate eye operational research activities at community level and providing support to the midlevel eye-care professionals in Malawi and Southern Africa with skills that can help them manage eye-care problems at community level.

The centre is mentoring Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) international in Cape Town which is one the world's leading

centre for eye-care workers in operational research and program delivery.

Activities

The current activities of the institution primarily focuses on the capacity building and operational research in the education and health sectors and contribute to eye health under the following areas:

- Capacity building in data management monitoring and evaluation of eye-care programs.
- Publications of eye-care work that focus on the community.
- Program implementation and capacity building for teachers in low vision resource centers and schools for the blind.
- Fundraising for the low vision and childhood blindness research.
- Provide local technical and scientific oversight on programme activities at the community level.
- Networking and consultative support services to NGO and public to provide expertise in community eye health.
- Advocacy of community eye health through international NGOs network.
- Resource mobilization for community eye health and operational research.
- Complementing Ministries of Health (MOH) and Education (MOE) in implementing community eye health and school health programs.

How does the centre work?

BICO collaborates with partners interested in building capacity in community eye health. Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO), London School for Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), Sightsavers, Lions Clubs and other International & Local academic and charitable organizations while implementing its programme activities, mainly through Ministries of Health (MOH) and Education (MOE). BICO uses program activities to identify research needs and capacity building needs. Capacity building and operation research projects are a key undertaking of BICO within all its programs to Ministries of Education and Health. BICO does not provide clinical services in hospitals, and does not duplicate other services provided by MOH or government. BICO complements MOH and MOE in eye programme delivery which may include service provision by Ministry of Health or Education staff.

BICO is a member of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC), a network of support NGO's ministries of Health in Trachoma Control.

Locally, BICO is a member of Non-Governmental Organisations Board (NGO Board) of Malawi and Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA).