

10 YEARS OPENING THE EYES OF THE WORLD

Milestones of the Eyes of the world Foundation in preventing and fighting avoidable blindness in the more deprived countries for a decade

2001
INCEPTION OF EYES OF THE WORLD. Rafael Ribó and Borja Corcóstegui decide to found Eyes of the world during a visit to the Sahrawi refugee camps. It is formally established on 18 July, whereas the program *Eyes of Sahara* starts in November with the consignment of the first medical/surgical mission.



EYES OF MOZAMBIQUE. Programme start in Maputo and the Inhambane province, with the implementation of an ophthalmology unit at the Inhambane Provincial Hospital.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS. First photograph exhibition of the work carried out by the Foundation: *Eyes of Sahara*, Barcelona. In 2007, the exhibition of *Opening the eyes of the world* at the Pedrera is visited by 7,500 people, and in 2010 the travelling photograph exposition *Through other eyes* was shown at the Barcelona Ocular Microsurgery Institute.



EYES OF THE WORLD NIGHT. The first time this awareness and fund-raising dinner is held, in Barcelona, for accountability purposes.

2002
EYES OF BOLIVIA. Start of the programme in El Alto city, including training missions to local ophthalmologists from the National Institute of Ophthalmology (La Paz); the Foundation has organized more than 70 training missions within the different programmes.



TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS. The first training scholarship is granted to Dr Jalil Jatri, who becomes the first Sahrawi ophthalmologist in 2007. Another 25 scholarships have been granted subsequently within the different programmes.

BUDGET OF ONE MILLION EUROS. The Foundation's budget amounts to one million euros, that is fourteen times the initial budget. At present, it almost reaches 2 million euros.

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES. The first talks about 200 which have been organised within the different programmes are held on eye care for Bolivia's rural population. Moreover, children eye check-up activities are started, thus allowing for 20,000 refractions to be carried out with camp children and those from the Inhambane province in Mozambique.

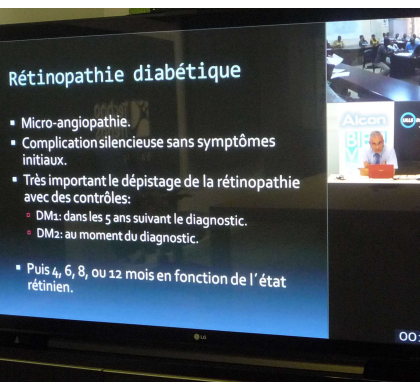


PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. Membership of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and the programme *VISION 2020: The Right to See*.

2003
TRAINING OF LOCAL STAFF. The training cycle in sub-specialties is started at the Maputo Central Hospital (Mozambique), which is organized by means of twenty missions, as well as knowledge transfer courses on eye health aimed at nurse aides (*triagem*) from the province of Inhambane.



REGIONAL DELEGATIONS. The first expansion step within Spain is done with the establishment in the Basque Country, which is followed by Valencia and Seville in 2007.



ONE HUNDRED MISSIONS. Mission number 100 is undertaken. Currently, about 200 have been carried out.

LONG-DISTANCE TRAINING: EYES OF THE WORLD CYBER-CAMPUS. Videoconference training for Bolivian ophthalmologists is started. Some fifteen courses within the Bolivian and Mali programmes have been organised through this system.

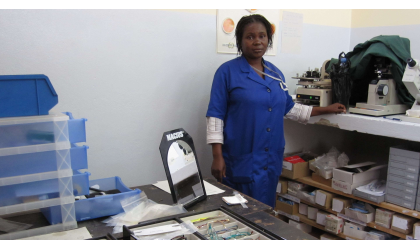
EXPANSION OUTSIDE SPAIN. The expansion to Portugal starts with the Foundation's first participation in the Portuguese Ophthalmology Society Congress and the beginning of its relationship with the Fundação Champalimaud. This is followed, in 2007, by the signing of an agreement with the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian. Later on, the local unit in Argentina is created.



EYE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT OF THE POPULATION. 5,000 surgeries are undertaken within the different projects. Some, 7,000 have been carried out up to now.

CREATION OF EYE CARE NETWORKS. The *Eyes of Bolivia* programme expands with the setup of a comprehensive eye care network in El Alto and its remit.

ART FUND. Creation of the art fund with the aim of disseminating the Foundation's activities and collecting financial resources. The fund hosts works by Antoni Tàpies, Andreu Alfaro, Manel Esclusa and Miquel Barceló.



EYES OF MALI. Launch of the programme in the region of Mopti and the Bamako district, as well as the establishment of an ophthalmology unit at the Bankass Hospital.

OPTICS WORKSHOPS. Start of the optics workshop at the Inhambane Provincial Hospital (Mozambique) in response to the population's refractive needs. A year later, the optics workshop at the Mopti's Sominé Dolo Hospital in Mali is launched.



VISITS TO THE POPULATION WITH EYE DISORDERS. Up to 50,000 eye checkups are carried out, which currently reach about 60,000 within the different programmes.

TRAINING OF EYE HEALTH WORKERS. The first training course is organised for the Association and Women's NGO Coordinator (Mopti), an initiative which have been launched beforehand in Inhambane allowing to train 120 community health workers.



PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST. Call for the third Eyes of the word photo contest, which has been held since 2008 to promote the participation of the more than 700 volunteers within the organisation.

RESEARCH STUDIES. A survey is carried out in the Sahrawi camps to know the female population's access to eye care services; the findings are added to those obtained in the study on the major eye diseases, which was performed some years before.

Within ten years, the Eyes of the world Foundation has been able to restore the sight of thousands of people in the poorest areas thanks to its volunteers and the local ophthalmology teams trained on site, thus having allowed them to recover their capacity to be self-sufficient and to step out of poverty.