





## BLINDNESS IN THE WORLD

- There are 253 million people in the world with serious visual deficiencies, of whom 36 million are blind.
- 75 % of cases could be prevented or cured.
- 89 % of the people with visual deficiencies live in poor countries.
- Cataracts and refractive defects are the main cause of avoidable blindness and visual deficiencies, respectively.
- 55% of visually impaired people are women.



## ORIGINS OF THE FOUNDATION

Eyes of the world was created in July 2001 by **Rafael Ribó** and **Dr. Borja Corcóstegui**. The idea of founding this organization came to them about six months before their fact-finding trip to the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria. The poor healthcare situation and the visual impairments of the local population inspired them to create an organization to improve the local healthcare facilities.



## MISSION

Eyes of the world is a non-profit organization that helps visually impaired people without economic resources living in under-developed countries. The goals are that these people receive **qualified ophthalmologic care** from their local health services and that conditions are created to help **reduce pathological ocular incidence** in each region. It also works at increasing **public awareness** in our social environment concerning the basic healthcare deficiencies in those places.



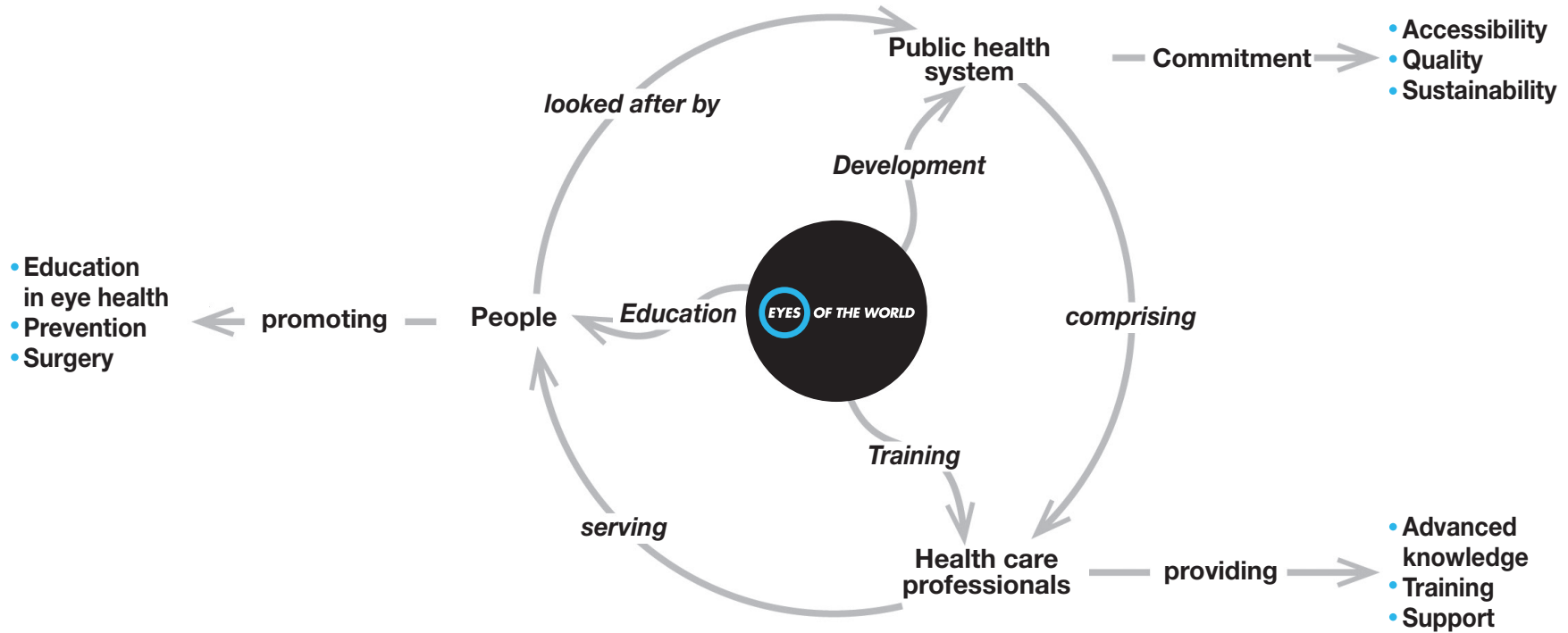
## VISION

Eyes of the world aims to create a world **without unnecessarily blind people** thus contributing to the right to sight.



## INTERVENTION MODEL

APPROACH TO THE ELIMINATION OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS IN POOR COUNTRIES



The results obtained through the application of this model have strengthened the Foundation's work and made it easier to successfully move either to other regions of countries which the Foundation already know, or to new countries, with centres of poverty and lack of proper health care. Depending on the resources available this task can proceed at a faster or slower rate.





## WORK CONTEXTS

### SAHARA

Created in 2001 as the Foundation's initial project, the **Eyes of Sahara** program carries out its activities in the United Nations' Saharawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria.



© Elisenda Pons/Eyes of Sahara

For more than 40 years the Saharawi people have been exiled in the desert with extremely hard living conditions.

Saharawi healthcare depends on external help, and the activities related to projects are possible thanks to the presence of non-profit organizations and other international organizations.

The main observed pathologies are cataracts, glaucoma and refraction problems related to the cornea. Many refractive problems are observed in children.

More than ten Foundation-trained ophthalmologist technicians practice in medical consulting rooms and optical workshops.

The Foundation's work is to support the planned activities with local partners, as a result of the gradual assumption of responsibility by the Ministry of Health and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic Department of Ophthalmology. Thanks to this there is a network of ocular helthcare with a medical consulting room in each of the wilayas (districts).







## WORK CONTEXTS

### MOZAMBIQUE

The **Eyes of Mozambique** program, started in 2002, is based in the south of the country in the Inhambane province.



© Mercedes de la Rosa, Eyes of Mozambique

The people of Mozambique live in poor health conditions: almost half the population does not have access to drinking water and life expectancy is less than 50 years.

Medical specializations are scarcely developed, especially those which are not considered a priority, such as ophthalmology.

There are 99,378 blind people and about 876,163 people with ocular problems, mostly due to corneal pathologies, glaucoma, trachoma, malnutrition and degenerative illnesses.

There is a huge lack of trained personnel. For instance, from 2001 the Ophthalmologic Service at the Inhambane Provincial Hospital has only had two ophthalmologists and two technicians.

Eyes of the world promotes the prevention and early detection of eye diseases. Its aim is to reduce the occurrence of preventable blindness in this region. In this way it brings ocular health to the communities and also guarantees ocular assistance at three hospitals in the province.





## WORK CONTEXTS

### BOLIVIA

Activities of the **Eyes of Bolivia** program - started in 2003 - take place in the departments of La Paz, Tarija and Oruro.



Bolivia is the poorest country in South America. It has enormous social differences, with the native and rural worker populations being the most underprivileged.

Healthcare services are focused on primary care, and more than three quarters of the population do not receive medical assistance due to

socio-economic issues and problems of accessibility.

Blindness and visual disability affect over 571,224 people. The main causes are pathologies such as cataracts, pterygium, glaucoma and retinopathies.

There are about 230 ophthalmologists in the whole country. Most of them are practicing in private medical consulting rooms and are focused on three of the country's most important cities, leaving rural and urban populations without eye health services.

The Foundation has managed to create an eye care network in El Alto that is integrated within the Bolivian public health system and managed by local ophthalmologists. This network consists of six medical consulting rooms and two operating rooms.

At present, Eyes of the world is providing support to the managers of public healthcare through the training and continuous improvement of local personnel. Ocular care interventions have also been started in Tarija and Oruro.





## WORK CONTEXTS

### MALI

In 2008 the Foundation started the **Eyes of Mali** program in Southern Mali. The program is based in the Mopti region and also in the Bamako district.



© Eyes of the world

Mali has a very weak economy, consisting mainly of agriculture and river fishing. Nearly 60% of the population is underprivileged and considered to be poor.

The capacity of the healthcare service is very limited and in high demand due to the predominance of infectious and parasitic diseases, as well as nutritional deficiencies.

There are about 92,358 blind people, mainly due to cataracts, glaucoma, trachoma, refraction defects, and traumatisms.

The great majority of ophthalmologic services are based in Bamako, where 65% of the country's ophthalmologists practice medicine. At the Mopti Regional Centre of Ophthalmology there are one ophthalmologist, two senior ophthalmology technicians and one eyewear assembly technician.

Eyes of the world improves poor people's ocular health and provides greater access to eye care services, from the lowest level of care (community health centres) to specialised care (on a permanent basis in the Mopti Hospital and the Center of Reference of Bankass).







## INTERVENTION LINES AND OBJECTIVES



### **BUILDING** LOCAL CAPACITIES AT ALL LEVELS OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Strengthening the capabilities of local professionals is a priority for the Foundation so that they can attend to the ocular needs of the people in their region. This initiative is performed by placing ophthalmologic experts on site under training projects. The Foundation organizes online specialized courses through videoconferencing or grants for unspecialized doctors, ophthalmologists, surgical technicians, and optometrists in order for them to complete their training.



© Eyes of the world



### **PROMOTING** OF AN EYE-CARE CULTURE TO PREVENT VISUAL DISEASE

The Foundation organizes ocular health promotion campaigns to make communities aware of the importance of ocular hygiene, early detection of pathologies and the referral of patients to healthcare centers. It also carries out children's eye check-ups and studies on the occurrence of major pathologies in certain environments. An accurate early detection can avoid the blindness of thousands of people without economical resources.



© Eyes of the world



### **SUPPORTING** EYE HEALTH SYSTEMS WITH EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Eyes of the world provides material, equipment and expendable materials to the collaborating healthcare centers and public ocular establishments, to create complete ophthalmologic units for consultations and surgery. It also starts up optical workshops where people with limited resources, who are affected by visual deficiencies because of non-corrected refractive defects, have access to low cost eyewear.



© Ferran Garcia, Sahara 2006



## INTERVENTION LINES AND OBJECTIVES



### IMPROVING THE VISUAL HEALTH OF PEOPLE WITH OCULAR PATHOLOGIES

Eyes of the world periodically holds surgical commissions formed by expert ophthalmologists, anesthesiologists, surgical technicians and optometrists. They visit people with visual deficiencies and operate on patients with ocular pathologies. Since 2001, the Foundation has made 552,835 visits and 26,460 interventions.



© Núria Andreu / Opening the eyes of the Sahara



### INTEGRATING EYE-CARE CULTURE TO PREVENT VISUAL DISEASE

In collaboration with the local authorities and other cooperation organizations, the Foundation contributes to the ophthalmologic health organization in the countries where it is present. It encourages self-management so that the people in charge of the healthcare in each region become responsible for the activities related to ocular treatment. It also promotes the start-up and monitoring of national ophthalmologic plans in the areas where they are lacking, lobbying local authorities to allocate resources to eye health.



© Eyes of the world



### RAISING AWARENESS OF BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT AS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Eyes of the world transmits the ophthalmologic reality of the areas where it carries out work. It also promotes consideration and public awareness regarding the ocular healthcare necessities of thousands of people around the world, by organizing photographic exhibitions, academic lectures, round-table meetings and other professional forums.



© Eyes of the world



## MAIN RESULTS

Beyond treating eye care, in each of its projects Eyes of the world has supported training of local staff with the objective of developing the different territories' capacities. Such as:

### SAHARA

Eyes of the world has managed to ensure the functioning of the different eye care camps to assist the Sahrawi people with visual impairments, thanks to the training of local optical technicians.

### MOZAMBIQUE

The Inhambane Provincial Hospital has a Department of Ophthalmology composed of a consultation site and an operating room and an optical workshop managed by local professionals through training provided by Eyes of the world. The Foundation has also endowed the infrastructures with the necessary equipment and materials. In addition, Eyes of the world has made eye care accessible to rural communities in the province of Inhambane and has created the first optical workshop in the rural region of Vilankulo run by a women association.

### BOLIVIA

The eye care network created in El Alto under the public health system is already being managed by Bolivian professionals and since 2013 has been transferred to the local public authorities. The success of this project has represented the validation of an intervention model applicable to other territories, such as Tarija (with already an operating room functioning) and Oruro.

### MALI

After four years of training at the African Institute of Tropical Ophthalmology (IOTA, in french) thanks to a grant from Eyes of the world, the Referral Health of Bankass in the Mopti region, started by the Foundation in 2009, counts since 2013 with an ophthalmologist, Dr. Siaka Diakité who operates an average of 550 cases of cataracts per year. The Foundation has also endowed the IOTA at Bamako with a retina and a pediatric unit and is training its professionals, converting this institute into a referral center not only in Mali but also for French-speaking African countries that derive cases requiring specialized care regarding this pathology.



© Eyes of the world



© Eyes of the world



© Eyes of the world





## INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (COUNCIL OF MEMBERS) AND VISION 2020 AMÉRICA LATINA / ALLIANCE FOR THE GLOBAL ELIMINATION OF BLINDING TRACHOMA BY 2020 OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION / INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR TRACHOMA CONTROL / MOZAMBIQUE EYE CARE COALITION / CBM / LIGHT FOR THE WORLD / SOCIEDAD OFTALMOLÓGICA BOLIVIANA / CENTRO BOLIVIANO DE DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y ACCIÓN EDUCATIVAS / CENTRO MULTISERVICIOS EDUCATIVOS DE BOLIVIA / SAVE THE CHILDREN / MEDICUS MUNDI / EMPRENDER / FUNDAPIM / ASOCIACIÓN DE PADRES Y MADRES DE NIÑOS CON DISCAPACIDAD JACHÁ URU / SUYANA / VOCES LIBRES / ADESPROC LIBERTAD GLBT / MINISTERIO DE SALUD Y DEPORTES DE BOLIVIA / INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE OFTALMOLOGÍA DE BOLIVIA / GOBIERNO AUTONÓMICO DEPARTAMENTALES DE LA PAZ / GOBIERNO AUTONÓMICO DEPARTAMENTEL DE ORURO / GOBIERNO AUTONÓMICO DEPARTAMENTAL DE UMALA / GOBIERNO MUNICIPAL DE ACHACACHI / GOBIERNO MUNICIPAL DE COROICO / GOBIERNO MUNICIPAL DE PATACAMAYA / DIRECTORIO LOCAL DE SALUD DE EL ALTO / HOSPITAL BOLIVIANO HOLANDÉS / HOSPITAL MUNICIPAL MODELO COREA (BOLIVIA) / ÓPTICA MUNICIPAL DE EL ALTO / SERVICIOS DEPARTAMENTALES DE SALUD DE LA PAZ / SERVICIOS DEPARTAMENTALES DE SALUD DE TARIJA / SERVICIOS DEPARTAMENTALES DE SALUD DE ORURO / COOPERATIVE FOR ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF EVERYWHERE / MALARIA CONSORTIUM (MOÇAMBIQUE) / CENTRO DE COLABORAÇÃO EM SAÚDE (MOÇAMBIQUE) / PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL (USAID, CDC, EMBAIXADA DA NORUEGA-MINISTERIO NEGOCIOS ESTRANGEIROS DA NORUEGA & OXFAM NOVIB) / PLAN INTERNATIONAL / ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS MEDICOS TRADICIONAIS MOÇAMBIQUE / COMUNIDADE ACADEMICA PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO MOÇAMBIQUE / ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS CEGOS E AMBLIOPESES DE MOÇAMBIQUE / ASSOCIAÇÃO LOCAL DE CUIDADO DOMICILIARIO / ESCOLINHA SANTA ISABEL / IGREJA ASSEMBLEIA DE DEUS (MOÇAMBIQUE) / IGREJA ANGLICANA (MOÇAMBIQUE) / IGREJA CATOLICA (MOÇAMBIQUE) / IGREJA CONGREGACIONAL (MOÇAMBIQUE) / TLHARIHANE / AGUJA / COWATER / FRISIAN / MINISTERIO DE SALUD PÚBLICA DE MOZAMBIQUE / MINISTERIO DE NEGOCIOS INTERNACIONALES Y COOPERACIÓN (MOÇAMBIQUE) / DIRECCIÓN PROVINCIAL DE INHAMBANE / HOSPITAL CENTRAL DE MAPUTO / HOSPITAL PROVINCIAL DE INHAMBANE / HOSPITAL RURAL DE CHICUQUE / COORDINATION DES ASSOCIATIONS ET ONG FÉMININES / PLAN NACIONAL DE LUCHA CONTRA LA CEGUERA EN MALI / ASSOCIATION MALIENNE DE LA PROTECTION ET DE LA PROMOTION DE LA FEMME / ASSOCIATION MALIENNE POUR LE BIEN ÊTRE PHYSIQUE ET PSYCOSOCIAL / AMPPF / ACADÉMIES D'ENSEIGNEMENT DE MOPTI ET DE DOUENTZA / FEDERACIÓN REGIONAL DE LAS ASOCIACIONES DE SALUD COMUNITARIA DU MALI / MINISTÈRE DE LA SANTE DU MALI / INSTITUT D'OPHTALMOLOGIE TROPICALE DE L'AFRIQUE / DIRECCIÓN REGIONAL DE SALUD DE MOPTI / HOSPITAL SOMINÉ DOLO DE MOPTI / CENTROS DE SALUD COMUNITARIA Y CENTROS DE SALUD DE REFERENCIA DE MOPTI, BANKASS, BANDIAGARA ET KORO / INSTITUT NATIONAL DE FORMATION EN SCIENCES DE LA SANTÉ DU MALI / DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DE LA PROMOTION FÉMININES DE L'ENFANT ET DE LA FAMILLE DU MALI / DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT SOCIALE ET DE L'ECONOMIE SOLIDAIRE DU MALI / CENTRE MÉDICAL INTER ENTREPRISE DU MALI / INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA PRÉVOYANCE SOCIALE DU MALI / MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO / MINISTERIO DE SALUD DE LA REPÚBLICA ÁRABE SAHARAUI DEMOCRÁTICA / ÓPTICA CENTRAL DE RABUNI / HOSPITAL MIXTO DE BOI-LA / HOSPITAL REGIONAL DE DAJLA / HOSPITAL REGIONAL DE SMARA / HOSPITAL REGIONAL DE AUSERD / HOSPITAL REGIONAL DEL AAIUN / ESCUELA DE ÓPTICA DE DAJLA



© Elisenda Pons / Eyes of Sahara



## VOLUNTEER NETWORK AND REGIONAL EXTENSION

The Foundation has a network of more than **700 volunteers** including ophthalmologists, surgical technicians, optometrists, anesthesiologists, equipment technicians, and other professionals. They provide their knowledge and work in solidarity for the benefit of people with ocular deficiencies. These professionals' labor is possible thanks to the **institutions, private companies and people** who support the organization with material or economic donations, or in other ways. Based in Barcelona, the Foundation has regional delegations in the **Basque Country, Navarra, Valencia, Sevilla and Madrid**, as well as regional bases in **Portugal, France-Switzerland and Argentina**.



## COMMUNICATION MEDIA PRESENCE

Eyes of the world has a significant impact in the media both at national and international levels (in press, radio, TV, websites, magazines, reports, etc.). The average annual number of appearances is 200.



## FINANCIAL BALANCE

The Foundation's budget for the year 2018 is 1,201,395 €: 469,673 € from public contributions and 731,722 € from private contributions. In terms of expenses, Eyes of the world estimates that 70.7% will be destined to action programs, 16.4% to fundraising campaigns, 2.5% to the implementation of a gender policy and 10.3% to Foundation's administrative management.



© Mercedes de la Rosa / Eyes of Mozambique



© Elisenda Paris / Eyes of Sahara





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



© Elisenda Pons / Opening the eyes of Bolivia

Rafael Ribó Massó	President and member of the Executive Committee
Borja Corcóstegui Guraya	Vice-president and member of the Executive Committee
Núria Ramon i Garcia	Foundation managing director and member of the Executive Committee
Vicenç Capdevila i Cardona	Secretary and member of the Executive Committee
(to be appointed)	Delegate from the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya)
(to be appointed)	Delegate from the Barcelona Town Hall
Xavier Grau Sabaté	Delegate from the ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL)
M. Isabel Nieto Uresandi	Ophthalmologist
Andrés Müller-Thyssen Bergareche	Ophthalmologist
Maria Teresa Vilalta i Ferrer	Economist



## OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

Throughout these years many have become involved with the work of Eyes of the world in the fight against preventable blindness such as government representatives (the Head of Government of the Principality of Andorra, Ministers of Health of the Government of Spain, Heads of regional Governments, mayors and councilors), personalities with international projection (Antoni Tàpies, Miquel Barceló, Andreu Alfaro, Jaume Plensa, Antonio Banderas, Ferran Adrià, the Roca brothers, Mariem Hassan, Lang Lang, Barbara Hendricks, Jordi Savall, Eduardo Galeano and Eduardo Mendoza, among others) and CEOs of major foundations and private companies (Gulbenkian Foundation, Champalimaud Foundation, FC Barcelona, Repsol, Inditex, La Caixa, El Corte Ingles, etc.).



© Manuel Outumuro / To see or not to see



---

# OPENING THE EYES TO THE WORLD

---

---

## **EYES OF THE WORLD FOUNDATION**

Tamarit, 144-146, entl. 2ª · 08015 Barcelona

T: +34 934 515 152

[www.eyesoftheworldfoundation.org](http://www.eyesoftheworldfoundation.org)

[foundation@eyesoftheworldfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@eyesoftheworldfoundation.org)