

Eyes of the world's supporting letters to
the António Champalimaud Vision Award



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1) Supporting letters from the local authorities of the regions where Eyes of the world Foundation implements its projects



Chafid Hafed, a 12 de diciembre de 2018

Fundación Champalimaud.

Me dirijo a ustedes como Ministro de Salud Pública de la República Árabe Saharaui Democrática (RASD).

La Fundación Ojos del Mundo, desde su programa "Ojos del Sahara" lleva trabajando en los Campamentos de Población Saharaui desde el año 2001, apoyando al Ministerio de Salud Pública y al Departamento de Oftalmología, con un proyecto integral de oftalmología y óptica, mejorando la salud oftalmológica de la población refugiada saharauí a lo largo de todos estos años de trabajo.

Dadas las características de este territorio inhóspito en el que nos encontramos, con unas temperaturas extremas durante el verano y el invierno, la población refugiada saharauí sufre un alto porcentaje de patologías oculares y defectos refractivos. Esto tiene un alto coste en la calidad de vida de la población que a edades tempranas sufren patologías oculares, prevenibles y curables, tales como las cataratas, defectos refractivos... y patologías crónicas como el glaucoma que afectan gravemente a su visión y si no son tratadas pueden ser causas de ceguera.

Durante los años de trabajo de la Fundación Ojos del Mundo, resaltar las acciones que han reportado innumerables beneficios a la población refugiada saharauí. Entre ellas:

- Apoyo a la red de consultas y/o talleres del Departamento de oftalmología con la dotación de fungibles, materiales y equipos, así como la mejora de las infraestructuras.
- Realización de dos comisiones quirúrgicas cada año con una media de 150 intervenciones por año.

- Formaciones al personal del Departamento de Oftalmología y del personal de atención primaria, que han mejorado los conocimientos y manejo de patologías oculares.
- Acciones de sensibilización y salud ocular para la población.
- Apoyo en la mejora del funcionamiento y la gestión del Departamento de Oftalmología.

Por todas estas consideraciones, me permito recomendar a la Fundación Ojos del Mundo como candidata al Premio Champalimaud.

Atentamente,

Sr. Mohamed Lamin Deddi

Ministro de Salud Pública



Chahid Hafed, 12th December 2018

Champalimaud Foundation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as the Minister of Health of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (RASD).

With its program 'Eyes of Sahara' Eyes of the world Foundation has been working in the Sahrawi population camps since 2001. It has provided support to the Public Health Ministry and the Department of Ophthalmology with an integral ophthalmological and optical project, improving the ophthalmological health of the Sahrawi refugee population over all these years of intervention.

Given the characteristics of the inhospitable territory in which we find ourselves, with extreme temperatures in summer and winter, the Sahrawi refugee population suffers a high percentage of ocular pathologies and refractive defects. This has a tremendous impact on the quality of life for a population that at an early age suffers ocular pathologies that are either avoidable or curable such as cataracts, refractive defects ... and chronic conditions such as glaucoma which acutely affect vision and, if not treated may lead to blindness.

During the Eyes of the world Foundation's work I would like to highlight the interventions that have provided innumerable benefits to the Sahrawi refugee population, they include:

- Providing support to the consultation network and/or Ophthalmological Department workshops with the provision of consumable materials, equipment, and material. Also, improving infrastructures.
- Performing two surgical commissions every year with an average of 150 interventions per year.
- Training personnel in the Ophthalmology Department and Primary Care which has enhanced the knowledge and management of ocular pathologies.
- Awareness interventions for the population in ocular health.
- Support for the improvement of the working and management of the Ophthalmology Department.

Due to all of the above, I would like to recommend the Eyes of the world Foundation as a candidate for the Champalimaud Award.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Mohamed Lamin Deddi, Minister of Health



CONSEIL REGIONAL DE MOPTI

BP : 185 Mopti, Tel : 21 420 762, Fax : 21 420 765

E-mail : assregionmopti@yahoo.fr

Mopti, le 18 décembre 2018

N°18- 220 /CRM

Le Président du Conseil régional de Mopti

A

Monsieur le Président du Jury.

Objet: Appui à la candidature de la Fondation Les Yeux du Monde au Prix de la Fondation Champalimaud.

Monsieur le Président du Jury,

La Fondation Les Yeux du Monde, depuis 2008, appuie l'Etat Malien dans l'amélioration de la santé oculaire. Ceci a permis de soulager considérablement les populations de la 5ème région administrative du pays (Mopti) qui en avaient tant besoin. Il en est aussi de même du district de Bamako à travers l'appui fait à l'Institut d'Ophtalmologie Tropicale de l'Afrique « IOTA ».

C'est aussi avec un réel plaisir et une grande conviction que je vous écris pour décrire les efforts consentis jusqu'à ce jour et vous demander son couronnement. Nos préoccupations ont de tout temps été prises en compte dans tous leurs projets de document élaborés et que nous avons pleinement soutenus car ils s'inscrivent dans le plan stratégique national de lutte contre la cécité.

En effet, ils prennent en compte :

- dans l'amélioration des ressources humaines de qualité par la formation initiale et leur perfectionnement
- dans le développement des équipements et infrastructures
- dans la lutte contre la maladie.

En outre, la Fondation Les Yeux du Monde :

- rend les soins oculaires accessibles aux populations les plus rurales, les plus isolées de la région de Mopti.

- Il associe plusieurs acteurs locaux (autorités administratives, élus des collectivités territoriales, agents de santé, autorités sanitaires locales, associations locales, population ...) aux actions menées dans le cadre de leurs projets.
- Il touche les personnes les plus vulnérables, notamment les enfants, les femmes et les personnes âgées, en faisant souvent appel au même tissu social du pays, tel que la CAFO (Coordination des Associations et ONGs Féminines du Mali).

Les actions de la Fondation Yeux du Monde ont eu un impact très positif sur l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des habitants de la région de Mopti, en particulier des mineurs, des femmes et des personnes âgées, collectifs vulnérables qui ont reçu une attention particulière.

Cependant selon les estimations, plus de 1.865 nouveaux cas de cataracte sont encore répertoriés chaque année à Mopti, ce qui nécessite encore une intervention encore plus rigoureuse. C'est pourquoi, le Conseil régional de Mopti réaffirme son soutien sans faille à Yeux du Monde dans la mise en œuvre de ses activités, mais aussi à consacrer tous les efforts et les ressources possibles pour assurer la continuité et la pérennité des actions développées.

Nous osons espérer que l'obtention de ce prix de la Fondation Champalimaud sera un couronnement de tous ces efforts, mais aussi qu'elle permettra la prolongation de quelques années encore des activités de santé oculaire pour le bien-être des populations locales.

Je vous prie d'accepter, Monsieur le Président du Jury, l'expression de notre considération distinguée.

Le Président



Macki CISSE

**MINISTRY OF DECENTRALISATION
AND LOCAL TAX OFFICE**

REPUBLIC OF MALI
One people–One goal–One Faith

GOVERNORATE OF MOPTI

Postcode: 185 Mopti, Tel: 21 420 762, Fax: 21 420 765

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Mopti, 18th December 2018

N°17-147/CRM

**The President of the regional council of Mopti
to
the President of the Jury**

Object: Endorsement of the Eyes of the world Foundation candidacy to the Champalimaud Foundation

Mr President of the Jury,

The Eyes of the world Foundation has been supporting the Malian State in the improvement of its eye health since 2008. This has allowed us to significantly relieve the pain of the people in the fifth administrative region of the country (Mopti), who really needed it. The Foundation has also had an impact in the district of Bamako through the support given to the African Institute of Tropical Ophthalmology (AITO).

It is also with great pleasure and true conviction that I write to you to describe the Foundation's efforts to this day and kindly request their being awarded the price. The Foundation has always considered our concerns when developing their projects and we have always completely supported them because the projects were devised to fit into our national strategic plan to fight against blindness.

In fact, they include:

- Improving skilled human resources from initial to professional development trainings;
- Updating and developing equipment and infrastructures;
- Fighting against disease.

Furthermore, the Eyes of the world Foundation:

- Tends to the primary eye care needs of the people in the most rural and isolated areas in the region of Mopti;
- Involves many local actors such as health workers, local health authorities or local associations in the actions performed as part of their projects;
- Reaches the most vulnerable members of the community—especially children, women, and the elderly—through local civil society organisations like

the CAFO (Coordination of Women's associations and NGOs from Mali, in French).

The actions carried out by the Eyes of the World Foundation have had an incredibly positive impact in the improvement of the quality of life of the people in Mopti, especially that of minors, women, and the elderly, who have received particular attention given that they are the most vulnerable groups.

Nonetheless, it is estimated that over 1,865 new cataract cases are detected in the Mopti region every year. Therefore, the region needs an even more rigorous intervention. This is the reason why the Office of the Governor of Mopti insists on unconditionally supporting Eyes of the world activities as well as investing all efforts and resources possible to ensure the continuity of performed actions.

We can only hope that being awarded with the Champalimaud Foundation price will not only recognise all of their efforts but also allow the continuity of eye health activities to ensure the wellbeing of local people a few more years.

I kindly request you, Mr President of the Jury, to accept the present expression of our deep regard for the work performed by the Eyes of the world Foundation.

The president

Macki Cisse



Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia
Ministerio de Salud

La Paz, 12 de Diciembre de 2018
MS/PNFRFSS/ASO/CE/51/2018

Señores:
Fundación Champalimaud
Lisboa, Portugal:

**Ref.: Reconocimiento de labores desempeñadas por
fundación Ojos del Mundo.**

Apreciados miembros del Jurado:

En reconocimiento a la labor desarrollada por la fundación Ojos del mundo, me dirijo a este Jurado para expresar mi apoyo a la candidatura presentada por esta fundación al Premio Visión de la Fundación Antonio Champalimaud.

El trabajo que ha venido desarrollando la Fundación durante los últimos 15 años ha permitido que mucha gente innecesariamente ciega haya podido recuperar la visión.

Pero más allá de la labor de consulta y cirugía ocular, Ojos del mundo se caracteriza por implementar un modelo de cooperación propio, enmarcado en el Sistema Público de Salud de nuestro país, a través de la priorización de la formación del personal local, de acciones de información, educación y comunicación, así como de la creación de redes de atención oftalmológica integral, implicando siempre al personal local y persiguiendo la sostenibilidad de sus resultados.

La presencia de la Fundación Ojos del mundo en las zonas más rurales de los departamentos de La Paz, Oruro y Tarija ha contribuido a mejorar la salud ocular de miles de bolivianos y bolivianas. Casos como el del municipio de El Alto, donde en coordinación con el Gobierno Departamental y Gobiernos Municipales se conformó una red oftalmológica pública urbana y rural, que cuenta con consultorios y quirófanos oftalmológicos gestionados por profesionales bolivianos, cuya formación y subespecialización ha facilitado la Fundación y que se han mantenido sostenibles en el largo plazo bajo dependencia de las contrapartes gubernamentales. O como en los casos de

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Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia
Ministerio de Salud

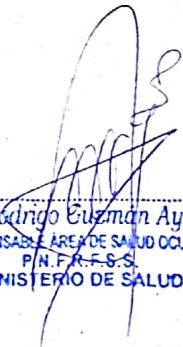
Tarija y Oruro, donde se están replicando los modelos de redes oftalmológicas, para facilitar el acceso a la salud ocular de la población más desfavorecida.

Así mismo, se valora muy positivamente y se agradece, muy especialmente, la contribución de Ojos del mundo a la conformación del Comité Nacional de Salud Ocular y Lucha y Prevención de la Ceguera, conjuntamente con el Ministerio de Salud, para que, desde ese ámbito, se fortalezca al Área de Salud Ocular del mismo Ministerio y se desarrollen instrumentos necesarios, para que el día de mañana no se tengan bolivianos y bolivianas innecesariamente ciegos.

Y recomiendo que sea acreedora al reconocimiento de la Fundação Champlimaud, porque, si bien los beneficios para con la población boliviana son muy importantes, todavía queda mucho por hacer en el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, en el campo de la salud ocular. Por lo que ese premio significará una inversión directa en mejorar las condiciones de calidad de vida de los bolivianos y bolivianas.

Por todo ello, por los resultados que han conseguido durante estos años y por lo mucho que la fundación puede hacer en el futuro para la mejora de la salud ocular de las poblaciones más vulnerables, es por lo que el Premio Champalimaud Visión significaría, sin duda, un gran empuje y reconocimiento a su labor.

Cordialmente



Dr. Rodrigo Euzmán Ayala
RESPONSABLE ÁREA DE SALUD OCULAR
P.N.F.R.F.S.S.
MINISTERIO DE SALUD



Champalimaud Foundation
Av. Brasilia
1400-038 Lisbon, Portugal

12th December 2018, La Paz

Object: Recognition to the Eyes of the world's Foundation work

Distinguished members of the Jury,

I am writing to you today to officially support the Eyes of the world Foundation candidacy to the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award given my profound respect for the work performed by the former.

The work that the Eyes of the world Foundation has carried out for the last 15 years has allowed many unnecessarily blind people to regain their vision.

However, beyond its medical and surgical activities, Eyes of the world is defined by its will to implement a unique cooperation model involving our Public Healthcare System by prioritising the training of local personnel, educating the population on eye care, and creating integral ophthalmic care networks, that involve local personnel and aim at achieving sustainable results.

The presence of the Eyes of the world Foundation in the rural areas of the La Paz, Oruro, and Tarija departments has contributed to the improvement of the eye health of thousands of Bolivarians. There are many instances of their work: One of them would be the work the Foundation carried out in La Paz department where, in cooperation with the Departmental Government and Municipal Governments, a public urban and rural eye care network was established. This network has operating rooms and consultations run by Bolivarian professionals who have received a subspecialty training sponsored by the Foundation and whose work has proven sustainable under guidance of governmental counterparts: Another instance of their work would be the cases of Oruro and Tarija. In these departments, the eye care network model is being replicated in order to increase access to eye care for the most vulnerable individuals of the population.

Furthermore, we especially appreciate and value greatly the Eyes of the world contribution to the National Committee for Eye Care and Prevention and Fight against Blindness that is a part of the Ministry of Health. It is thanks to their contributions in the committee that we are able to improve the Eye Health area of the Ministry and we can put all necessary measures in place to avoid unnecessarily blind Bolivarians in the future.

I thus recommend that she is awarded the recognition of the Fundação Champalimaud because, even if significant achievements for the wellbeing of the Bolivarian people have been made, there is still a lot of work to do in the area of

eye health in Bolivia. Therefore, this award would mean a direct investment to improve the quality of life of the people of Bolivia.

Given the many results achieved throughout the years and the great potential the Foundation has to improve the eye health of the most vulnerable in the future, the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award would definitely a great driver as well as recognition for their work.

Yours faithfully,

Rodrigo Guzman
Manager of the Eye Care Section of the Ministry of Health of Bolivia



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
GOVERNO DA PROVÍNCIA DE INHAMBANE
GABINETE DO GOVERNADOR

Ofício nº 109/GGPI/019/2018

Assunto: Informação Sobre a Fundação Olhos do Mundo

Exmo Senhor;

Em primeiro lugar endereçamos à Vossa Excelência os nossos melhores cumprimentos.

É com imenso prazer, como Governador da Província de Inhambane, que me dirijo a este jurado, para reconhecer o bom trabalho realizado pela Fundação Olhos do Mundo em Inhambane, e apoiar a sua candidatura para que seja vencedora do Prémio António Champalimaud de Visão.

As actividades da Fundação Olhos do Mundo (OdM) tiveram início em 2002 com um programa piloto de expedições cirúrgicas no Hospital Central de Maputo (HCM). No ano seguinte, em 2003, a OdM iniciou o seu trabalho na Província de Inhambane, com uma comissão cirúrgica no Hospital Provincial de Inhambane, onde foram realizadas 722 consultas e 322 cirurgias de cataratas.

Desde o início das suas actividades, O trabalho da OdM tem vindo a desenvolver e permitiu-nos melhorar o atendimento oftalmológico, e sobretudo no que tange ao tratamento da catarata das populações mais vulneráveis na Província de Inhambane, o que não era possível antes da presença da Fundação.

A partir do ano 2004 até ao presente momento, a Fundação tem trabalhado na Província de Inhambane, numa perspectiva integral, dando ênfase nas seguintes linhas de intervenção:

1. Atenção ocular: Foi o primeiro desafio de atendimento à população que a Olhos do Mundo abraçou. Assim com o apoio da OdM, a Província de Inhambane passou de 3 para 5 pontos de atendimento inicial, e de 8.000 a 25.000 consultas ano e 600 operações cirúrgicas por ano. Salientar também que ao longo destes anos, a OdM enviou mais de 30 expedições cirúrgicas compostas por reconhecidos médicos que realizaram 17.000 consultas, e operaram 5.000 cataratas, no Hospital Provincial de Inhambane.

Em coordenação com as Direcções Provinciais de Educação e Desenvolvimento Humano e de Género Criança e Acção Social, tiveram início atividades de rastreio escolar a fim de fazer um diagnóstico precoce dos erros de refração nas crianças em idade escolar, e também realiza anualmente consultas na Cadeia Provincial, no Orfanato da Cidade de Inhambane, assim como no Centro de Apoio à Velhice da Cidade.

2. *Doação de Equipamento*, material e medicamento, é uma actividade de grande impacto que a Olhos do Mundo realiza com considerável frequência. Assim a Província de Inhambane tem agora equipamento para o funcionamento de duas salas de cirurgia localizadas no Hospital Provincial de Inhambane e outra no Hospital Rural de Vilankulo. Igualmente a Fundação fornece também o material e medicamentos necessários para a realização de 600 cirurgias de cataratas, e 25.000 consultas.

Com o apoio da Fundação Olhos do Mundo e em parceria com o HPI foram abertos os Bancos de Óculos nos Hospitais Provincial de Inhambane, e Rural de Vilankulo, (este ultimo de gestão privada, por uma Associação de Mulheres da cidade de Vilankulo), os dois Bancos de Óculos estão a funcionar de maneira sustentável, sem apoio financeiro da OdM.

3. *Formação de profissional*, a falta de pessoal formado é grande. No início da intervenção da OdM em Inhambane não existia oftalmólogo, e em todo território de Moçambique, só existiam 3 oftalmólogos nacionais.

Neste sentido uma das primeiras iniciativas da Olhos do Mundo foi a formação do pessoal local, através da qual conseguimos registar avanços importantes:

- 1 Oftalmólogo formado em Barcelona e Maputo durante 4 anos;
- 5 Oftalmólogas especialistas, formadas em Barcelona durante os últimos 6 meses de residência;
- Toda a equipa do Serviço de Oftalmologia do Hospital Central de Maputo formado *in situ* por especialistas de renome internacional nas subespecialidades de retina, oculoplastia, cataratas e oftalmologia pediátrica;
- 1000 Profissionais da Saúde (entre agentes de saúde comunitária, triadores e médicos tradicionais) formados em Saúde Ocular básica;
- Foram formados professores de escolas de Inhambane, capacitados para avaliação da Acuidade Visual para deteção precoce das patologias oculares dos seus alunos;
- Todos os técnicos de oftalmologia (7), formados em refração e montagem de óculos;
- Bolsas para Formação do representante Provincial de Oftalmologia da Província de Inhambane em Gestão de programa de Saúde Ocular; e
- Bolsas para Formação de dois técnicos de manutenção de equipamento hospitalar.

4.- A prevenção, tem um lugar de destaque nas intervenções da OdM, tanto através do rastreio escolar, como também através de acções de informação, educação e comunicação para sensibilizar a população sobre os bons hábitos relacionados com a Saúde Ocular. Estas acções fazem-se através de panfletos, cartazes, comunicação através dos meios provinciais como rádio, e através de sessões de teatro. Neste âmbito a OdM formou várias associações civis em técnicas de teatro e sensibilização.

Em 2016 a OdM realizou um inquérito RAAB, (Rapid Assessment on Avoidable Blindness), pesquisa sobre a incidência da cegueira evitável, este inquérito revelou que na Província de Inhambane as principais causas da cegueira, são as cataratas e os erros de refração não corrigidos e em cada ano a Província regista 1.300 casos novos de cataratas.

Alem destas linhas de intervenção, achamos relevante destacar a presença da Olhos do Mundo em varias plataformas de coordenação a fim de melhorar a sua parceria com as entidades governamentais, em particular com o Ministério da saúde a nível Nacional, e com a DPS-I a nível Provincial.

Assim, a nível nacional a OdM faz parte do "Mozambican Eye Care Coalition" (MECC), que é o representante do Serviço Nacional de Oftalmologia do Ministério da Saúde. Este, reúne todas as organizações dedicadas à melhoria da Saúde Ocular e a diminuição da prevalência da cegueira em Moçambique, Este grupo tem o objectivo de delinear, as linhas de intervenção e estratégias do Programa do Serviço Nacional de Oftalmologia, e fazer "lobby" para que a Saúde Ocular seja parte das prioridades do Ministério da Saúde.

A nível Provincial a OdM participa activamente ao Fórum das Organizações que trabalham no sector da Saúde em Inhambane, este fórum reúne todos os parceiros de cooperação da Saúde e a DPS-I, e tem como objectivo melhorar a comunicação entre a DPSI e os Parceiros, e melhorar a coordenação das actividades.

A OdM também participa na reunião nacional de oftalmologia, e organiza anualmente a Reunião Provincial de Inhambane do sector de Oftalmologia.

Por estas razões todas, e para consolidar o impacto e os resultados obtidos até agora, é necessário dar continuidade ao trabalho da Olhos do Mundo na Província de Inhambane, sobretudo nas zonas mais rurais, portanto venho mais uma vez apelar para que seja reconhecido o trabalho positivo da Olhos do Mundo, e que seja recompensado pelo Prémio Antonio Champalimaud de Visão.

Aproveitamos o ensejo para endereçar à Vossa Excelência, os protestos da nossa mais elevada estima e consideração.

Inhambane, aos 24 de Dezembro de 2018

O GOVERNADOR DA PROVÍNCIA DE INHAMBANE



DANIEL FRANCISCO CHAPO

AO: JURADO DO PRÉMIO DA FUNDAÇÃO CHAMPALIMAUD

LISBOA-PORTUGAL

Object: Information about Eyes of the World Foundation

To the Jury of the Champalimaud Foundation Award.

As the Governor of the Province of Inhambane, it is my pleasure to address this jury to acknowledge the good work achieved by the Eyes of the world Foundation in Inhambane, and to support its candidacy for the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award.

The work performed by the Eyes of the World Foundation in recent years has allowed us to improve ophthalmologic care since they started working — in particular cataract treatment for the most vulnerable populations in Inhambane Province — a treatment that was not possible before the Foundation started their work.

The Eyes of the world program started in 2002 with a pilot program for surgical expeditions at Maputo Central Hospital in 2003. In addition to working with Maputo Central Hospital, the Eyes of the world Foundation started working in the Inhambane Province with a surgical team at the Provincial Hospital of Inhambane, where they performed 722 consultations and 322 cataract surgeries.

From 2004 up until now, the Foundation has been working in Inhambane Province, using a comprehensive approach, with particular emphasis on the following lines of intervention:

1.- Ocular care was the initial focus of Eyes of the World for serving the population. Thus, with the support of the Eyes of the world Foundation, the number of primary care locations in Inhambane Province increased from 3 to currently 5 locations, and the number of consultations rose from 8,000 to 25,000 a year, with 600 cataracts operated annually. In addition, over the years, the Eyes of the world Foundation has dispatched more than 30 surgical expeditions composed of renowned doctors who performed 17,000 consultations, and operated on 5,000 cataracts, in the Provincial Hospital of Inhambane.

The Foundation also initiated screenings at schools for early diagnosis of refractive errors in school-age children, in coordination with the Provincial Education Board.

Finally, the Eyes of the world Foundation holds annual consultations at the Provincial Prison, the Orphanage of the City of Inhambane and the Elderly Assistance Center of the City in coordination with the Provincial Directorate of Gender, Children and Social Action.

2.- Donations of equipment, material and medicine, are important activities taken on by the Eyes of the world Foundation, so the Province of Inhambane now has equipment for two functioning operating rooms, one at the Provincial Hospital of Inhambane, and the other at the Rural Hospital of Vilankulo. The Foundation has also provided the material and medications needed to perform 600 cataract surgeries, and 25,000 consultations.

In partnership with the Provincial Hospital of Inhambane, the Foundation has also opened an optical workshop at the Hospital, and another one at the Vilankulo Rural Hospital (the latter privately run by a Women's Association from the city of Vilankulo). Both optical workshops operate in a sustainable manner, without financial support from the Eyes of the world Foundation.

3.- Training of professionals, as the lack of trained personnel is substantial. There were no ophthalmologists in Inhambane when the Eyes of the world Foundation started working there, and there were only 3 Mozambican ophthalmologists throughout Mozambique.

In this regard, one of the first initiatives of Eyes of the World was to train local staff, through which we have made important progress:

- 1 Ophthalmologist trained in Barcelona and Maputo for 4 years.
- 5 Ophthalmology specialists trained in Barcelona during the last 6 months of their residence.
- The entire team of the Ophthalmology Service at the Maputo Central Hospital has been trained in situ by internationally renowned specialists in the retina, oculoplasty, cataract and pediatric ophthalmology subspecialties.
- 1,000 Health Professionals (including community health officials, triage specialists and traditional doctors) trained in basic eye health.
- Teachers from Inhambane schools were also trained to assess Visual Acuity for early detection of their students' ocular pathologies.
- All ophthalmology technicians (7) were trained in refraction and fitting of glasses.
- Scholarships were granted for the training of the Provincial Ophthalmology Representative of the Inhambane Province in Ocular Health Program Management.
- Scholarships were granted for training of two technicians for hospital equipment maintenance.

4.- Prevention plays an important role in the Eyes of the world Foundation work, both through school screenings, as well as through information, education and communication activities to raise public awareness about good habits that promote eye health. These are done through pamphlets, posters, communication through the provincial media channels such as radio, and through theater sessions. In this regard, the Eyes of the world Foundation has established several civil associations in theater and awareness techniques.

In 2016, the Eyes of the world Foundation conducted a Rapid Assessment on Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) survey on the incidence of preventable blindness, and this survey showed that the main causes of blindness in the Inhambane Province are uncorrected cataracts and refractive errors, and that each year the province sees 1,300 new cases of cataracts.

In addition to these lines of intervention, it is important to highlight the presence of the Eyes of the World on several coordination platforms aimed at improving its partnerships with governmental entities – in particular with the Ministry of Health at the national level, and with DPS-I (Provincial Department of Health – Inhambane) at the provincial level.

Therefore, at the national level, the Eyes of the world Foundation is part of the Mozambican Eye Care Coalition (MECC), which brings together all organizations dedicated to improving eye health and reducing the prevalence of blindness in Mozambique, and a representative of the National Ophthalmology Service of the Ministry of Health. This group aims to jointly establish the intervention and strategy lines of the National Ophthalmology Service Program, and lobby to make Ocular Health a priority for the Ministry of Health.

At the provincial level, the Eyes of the world Foundation actively participates in the Forum of Organizations working in the health sector in Inhambane. This forum brings together all health cooperation partners and DPS-I, and aims to improve communication between DPS and the Partners, as well as to improve coordination of activities.

The Eyes of the world Foundation also participates in the national ophthalmology conference, and organizes an annual gathering of the ophthalmology sector at the provincial level.

For all these reasons, and in order to consolidate the impact and the results achieved so far, it is necessary for Eyes of the World to continue its work in Inhambane Province, especially in the more rural areas. Therefore, I once again appeal to recognize the positive work achieved by Eyes of the World, and for them to be rewarded with the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award.

Thank you,

Inhambane, December 24, 2018

The Governor of Inhambane Province

Daniel Francisco Chapo

2) Supporting letter from Mr. Tarrach,
President of the European University
Association

Champalimaud Foundation
Av. Brasília
1400-038 Lisbon, Portugal

Luxembourg, 12th December, 2018

Dear President and members of the jury,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the *Eyes of the world Foundation* for the *2019 Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award*.

I have known the Foundation since its commencement in 2004 when my wife collaborated with it on a temporary project; the experience left her and myself deeply moved by the valuable task it performed.

From that time until the present, I have periodically received news regarding the advances the Foundation is achieving. This information comes personally from its promoters, men and women passionately devoting their efforts, with hope and generosity, to improving the quality of life of people all over the world who are avoidably blind.

From an academic perspective, I particularly appreciate the work *Eyes of the world* is carrying out in empowering people in all places where they have ongoing projects. *Eyes of the world* believes, and I share this view, that increasing knowledge of ocular health in each territory leads, at mid/long-term, to establishing a sustainable ocular care system which includes all levels of attention and guarantees access of everybody to ophthalmologic care.

In this regard, training plays a key role in the results obtained by *Eyes of the world* which works constantly with school teachers, community health workers, opticians (in the consultations and workshops) and specialists (nurses, anaesthetists, ophthalmologists), because these are the professionals who will manage the public healthcare networks and take care of the population of each territory. A considerable number of the more than 500,000 people treated by the Foundation since 2001 have been examined and/or operated on by local personnel trained by *Eyes of the world*.

On the other hand, as a scientist I appreciate the quality of the work carried out by the Foundation, which seeks to achieve efficacy and excellence with regard to both impact and procedure. I am conscious of the effort done by *Eyes of the world* in evaluating the results of ocular surgery (employing the most adequate techniques for each case)

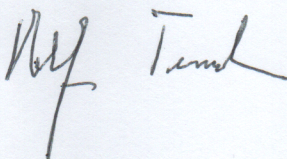
and performing follow-ups and postoperative revisions for the patients. And the effort it does in analysing the correct functioning of the detection and referral systems and in ensuring the success of the ongoing gender equality strategies that aim at guaranteeing access for woman and girls to ocular health.

Finally, I would like to highlight the personal qualities of the Foundation's leaders. I personally know Rafael Ribó, a prestigious figure in Catalunya where he is currently Ombudsman. He is a recognized professional known for his commitment to the most vulnerable populations in both our society and in those territories where the Universal Right to Vision is not guaranteed. I also know well the General Director of *Eyes of the world*, Núria Ramon, a person who has made possible the extraordinary activities of the Foundation because she believes with conviction and passion in the human value of the task accomplished.

For all of the above, I am of the opinion that *Eyes of the world* makes an effective and very important contribution to the eradication of avoidable blindness in the population of the places in which it collaborates, and after more than fifteen years of success deserves to be recognized with the Vision Award. A recognition that would make it possible for the Foundation to reproduce its own intervention model for ocular health in other territories where, unfortunately, people continue to go blind for preventable or curable reasons.

I very, very warmly recommend them.

Yours sincerely,



Rolf Tarrach

President of the European University Association (up to 2019, Brussels)
Member of the scientific committee of the Princesa de Girona Foundation
Rector of the University of Luxembourg (2005-2014), Rector emeritus
Member and Vice-chair of the jury of the Initiatives d'Excellence (2011-2016, Paris)
President of the Higher Council of Scientific Research (2000-2003, Madrid)
Commander of the Ordem do Merito of the Portuguese Republic (2010, on the occasion of the state visit of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg)

3) Supporting letter from Mr. Martorell,
Assistant Professor - Lock Haven University
of Pennsylvania



PhD Gérard Martorell
Assistant Professor
Entrepreneurship & International Business
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania

Lock Haven, December 17th, 2018

Dear members of the jury,

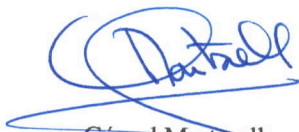
It is with great pleasure that I recommend the Eyes of the world Foundation for the *2019 Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award*.

I have known the Foundation for many years now. It all begun with a pro bono collaboration sponsored by the ESADE business school "alumni solidari" association. At the time, the aim was to determine a bunch of indicators to assess if the strategic goals of the foundation were attained. It was then that I became aware of the impressive work that Eyes of the World was performing and still does. A small organization but very hard-working, energetic and tenacious, that pursues the quality, efficiency, sustainability and the impact of its projects. That is for today, but Eyes of the World is always projected into the future! Therefore, while directly treating thousands of patients, Eyes of the World has chosen to create the necessary capacities and structures so that, as soon as possible, local professionals directly treat their own patients in the territories where they operate.

The amazing part of Eyes of the World is by far where the organisation is active in. They are where no one wants to be, in the most remote and abandoned areas of the world. Places such as the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria or the more rural areas of the Mopti region in Mali are among those. Despite the lack of infrastructures, the organisation always counts on the active involvement and recognition of the population and various local actors. Moreover, they not only send their voluntary doctors to operate visually impaired individuals with no resources within a limited time frame, the organisation stays there permanently until they get the local staff to manage the project on their own. A clear example of this is to be found in El Alto (Bolivia). After 10 years of intense work, Eyes of the world has built and left an ophthalmic care network with doctor offices and surgical blocks working within the Municipal Hospitals. Only Bolivian staff, trained and qualified by Eyes of the world, run this network now.

Teaching entrepreneurship, I know that a project exists only and only if there is a pushing team behind. This is the case for Eyes of the World. We can talk about the two initial founders: Dr Borja Coscóstegui, also founder of the prestigious eye care centre Institute of Ocular Micro-surgery IMO, and Dr Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia and European Regional Director of the International Ombudsman Institute. These two extraordinary personalities enlighten the organisation since the first day and continue to do so nowadays. In addition, the Foundation has a highly committed team of workers and volunteers who firmly believe in what they do. Despite the constraints this NPO has to overcome, they continue to fight to obtain the necessary resources to efficiently reverse the avoidable blindness of people who live in the most vulnerable territories of the world. That's why, without any doubt, Eyes of the World deserves the Champalimaud Vision Award.

Yours sincerely,



Gérard Martorell

*Assistant professor at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Former assistant professor at IQS School of Management of Barcelona
Research focus on Industry – University first relationship and student engagement
3 patents in disinfectant*