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PRESENTATION DOSSIER SECOND SEMESTER 2021

EYES OF THE WORLD FOUNDATION

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

Tel. +34 93 451 51 52

www.eyesoftheworldfoundation.org

foundation@eyesoftheworldfoundation.org

BLINDNESS IN THE WORLD

- There are **1.1 billion** people in the world with **vision loss**.
- **161 million people have uncorrected refractive errors, 100 million have cataracts and 510 million have trouble seeing up close.**
- **90%** of cases of vision loss could be **prevented or treated**.
- **55%** of people with vision loss are **women**.
- **90%** of vision loss is in **low- and middle-income countries**.
- The annual loss of global productivity due to vision loss is estimated to be approximately **\$ 411 billion per year**.

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 earlier, following their 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 people with vision loss and without economic resources living in low- and middle-income 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.

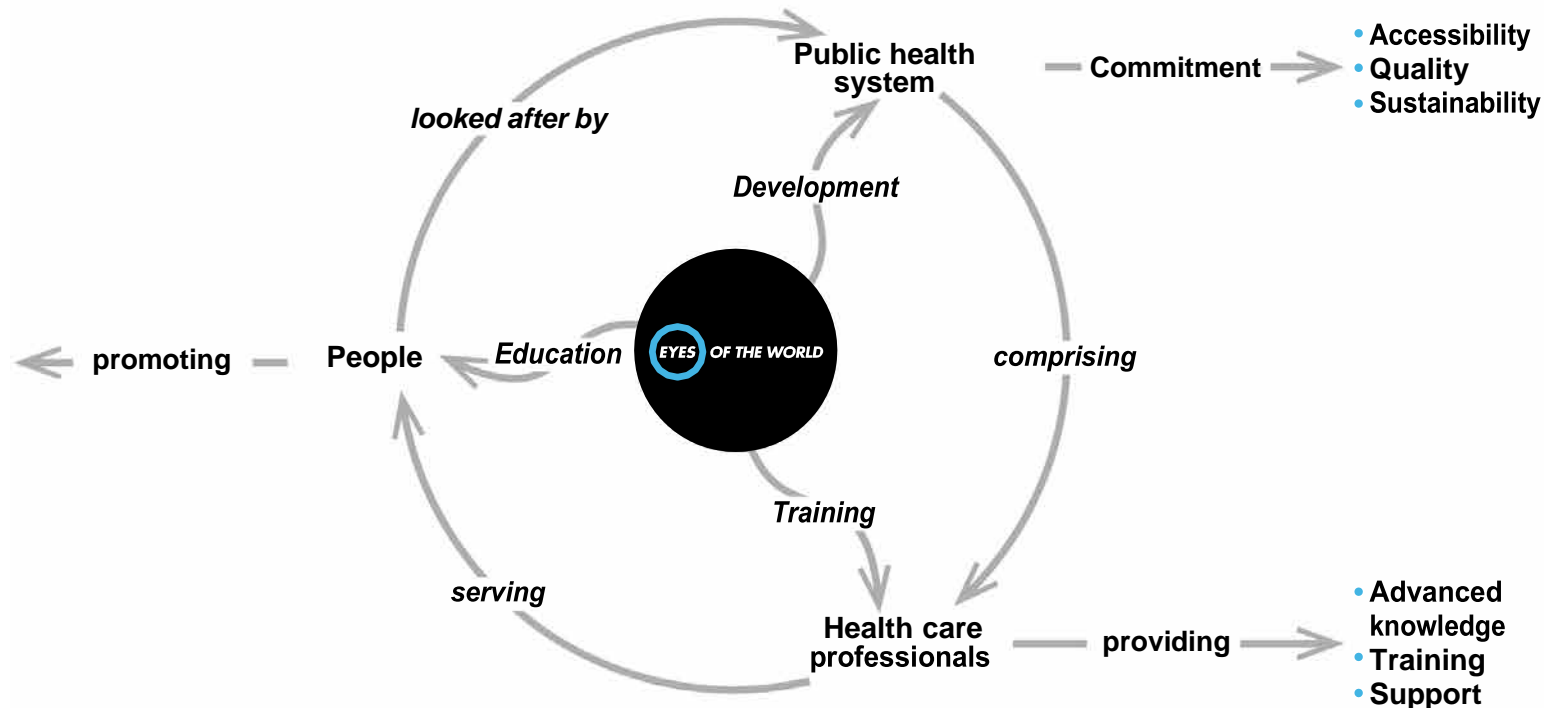
VISION

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



INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION

Eyes of the world works in a network with the main international organizations in favor of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), within the framework of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). The Foundation forms part of his Advisory Council that works in accordance with the World Health Assembly resolution on person-centered and integrated eye health. Returning the vision to people or preventing them from losing it is an achievable and efficient goal that pretends to accelerate the attainment of the 2030 agenda.

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' Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria.

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

Sahrawi 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 Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic Department of Ophthalmology. Thanks to this there is a network of ocular healthcare with a medical consulting room in each of the wilayas (districts).



MOZAMBIQUE

The [Eyes of Mozambique](#) program, started in 2002, is based in the south of the country in the Inhambane province.

The people of Mozambique live in poor health conditions: almost half the population does not have access to drinking water and life expectancy is 60 years.

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

There are 2.7 million people with vision loss, 110,000 of which are blind, 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 guarantees ocular assistance at three hospitals in the province.



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 lowest income 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 1.3 million people. The main causes are pathologies such as cataracts, pterygium, glaucoma and retinopathies. There are about 300 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, Ouro and Chuquisaca.



MALI

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

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. Mali is currently experiencing a particularly unstable context, with a serious economic crisis, a significant social climate and many violent conflicts.

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 170,000 blind people, mainly due to cataracts, glaucoma, trachoma, refraction defects, and traumatism.

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 centers) to specialized care (on a permanent basis in the Mopti Hospital and the Center of Reference of Bankass).



INTERVENTION LINES AND OBJECTIVES

1 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 to complete their training. Since 2001, more than 12,000 professionals have benefited from the different training activities.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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 until 2020, the Foundation has made 850,000 visits and 34,000 interventions.

5 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.

6 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.



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 vision loss, 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 Diakit  who operates an average of 550 cases of cataracts per year.

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, Andaluc a and Madrid**, as well as regional bases in **Portugal, France and Argentina**.



FINANCIAL BALANCE

In 2021, the Foundation plans to deposit 1,871,965 euros, 1,084,951 euros from public contributions and 787,014 euros from private funds. Regarding execution, Eyes of the world plans to allocate 80% of the resources to action programs, 11% to fundraising and 9% to the administrative management of the Foundation. It is estimated that 5% of the total will be allocated across the board to the implementation of gender policies.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rafael Ribó Massó	President and member of the Executive Committee
Borja Corcóstegui Guraya	Vice-president and member of the Executive Committee
Núria Ramon Garcia	Strategic Partnership Officer and member of the Executive Committee
Daniel Capdevila Dalmau	Secretary and member of the Executive Committee
Josep Antoni Pujante i Conesa	Delegate from the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya) (Director of International Relations and Cooperation of the Department of Health)
Pilar Díaz i Romero	Second vice-president of the Diputació de Barcelona
Pilar Solanes Salse	Delegate from the Barcelona Town Hall (Delegate of the Health Program)
Enric Botí Castro de la Peña	Delegate from the ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL) (ONCE territorial delegate in Catalonia)
M. Isabel Nieto Uresandi	Ophthalmologist
Andrés Müller-Thyssen Bergareche	Ophthalmologist
Maria Teresa Vilalta Ferrer	Economist

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

Since 2001, representatives of multiple public administrations, CEOs of large international foundations and private companies and personalities with international projection, such as Antoni Tàpies, Miquel Barceló, Andreu Alfaro, Jaume Plensa, Antonio Banderas, Ferran Adrià, The Roca brothers, Mariem Hassan, Lang Lang, Lluís Claret, Barbara Hendricks, Jordi Savall, Eduardo Gaelano and Eduardo Mendoza, have been involved with Eyes of the world, among others.

