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Seeing light again

The winning photograph in the 2nd Eyes of the world competition taken by the optometrist Carol Camino from the medical-surgical mission in Mali in December at Bankass Hospital.

FOUNDATION REPORT 09



Our thanks go to all volunteers (81) who, in 2009, worked with the Eyes of the world Foundation and to all ophthalmic centres that facilitated the participation of healthcare professionals from Spain, Portugal, Argentina and the United Kingdom in the development cooperation programmes.

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MARTA SERRA · DAVID SINGER · ISABEL TORRES · JESÚS TORRES · PAU TURÓN
OLGA VALVERDE · ROBERT VAN VELZE · CONCHI VARELA · ROBERT VÁZQUEZ
MARC VILÀ · ESTHER VILALTA · GLÒRIA VIVES · NATALIA ZAPIRAÍN

© Photographs: Manel Esclusa and Núria Andreu (Opening Saharan eyes, 2006), Ferran Garcia (Sahara, 2006), Elisenda Pons (Opening Bolivian eyes, 2008), Segá Soumare, Joan Ratera, Mercè Gili and others, who have documented the work of the Foundation on a voluntary basis. **Thank you to everyone for your selfless contributions.**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SEEING AGAIN IN DIFFICULT TIMES

It has been nine years since Eyes of the world started trying to improve the quality of life of people in the most vulnerable parts of the world. Today, this objective also has to deal with the consequences of the current global economic crisis, which is having a considerable impact on international investment in development. As a result, if sufficient progress is not made in eradicating poverty worldwide, the global health gap will grow even wider.

This crisis also affects us as an organisation and, in this regard, I particularly want to thank all of the people, institutions and companies, who, despite the circumstances, have maintained their support for Eyes of the world. Efforts to achieve a more equitable and sustainable world are currently even more necessary than ever.

At Eyes of the world, we intend to manage this crisis by reaffirming our commitment to people who are unnecessarily blind, and by reviewing our cooperation strategies to ensure that the actions we are undertaking are more efficient and effective, that progress is being made to improve the coherence and coordination of projects and that emphasis is being placed on local agents to take ownership of initiatives.

At Eyes of the world, we propose to make structural changes in eye care resources in the poor countries that require political commitment by the governments with whom we cooperate and, although not easy to achieve, they are essential to help communities progress and to ensure that work continues in the future.

In 2009, we managed to implement effective initiatives to reduce preventable blindness and have seen thousands of people smiling again after receiving eye treatment, often provided by local health professionals who have been trained by Eyes of the world. There are however still many difficulties to overcome and the challenges are great.

In the current climate, the international community, society and each and every one of us must not forget the poor. As a collective, Eyes of the world has a moral obligation to try to solve the problems that have solutions, such as blindness caused by visual impairment that can be prevented or cured. We are engaged in a struggle to ensure the Universal Right to Sight, we have declared war on preventable blindness and we want to win.

Thank you all for making this possible!



Rafael Ribó



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THE FOUNDATION

Mission

Eyes of the world is a non-profit organisation that enables visually impaired people without economic resources in poor countries to receive quality ophthalmic care through their local health services, and create conditions to reduce the incidence of eye diseases in each country. The organisation also seeks to inform public opinion in our society about the deficiencies in basic health care in these countries.

Constitution and locations

- A private foundation based in Barcelona, formed on 9 July 2001, and registered in the following:
 - Catalonia Regional Government Registry of Foundations, number 1568, since 18 July 2001.
 - Catalonia Regional Government Registry of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development, Department of Overseas Cooperation, number 29, since 19 June 2005.
 - Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID, Spanish acronym) Registry of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development, since 10 May 2004.
- The Foundation has permanent offices in the Basque Country, Valencia and Andalusia, and offices in Portugal and Argentina.

OUR STAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Committee

Rafael Ribó i Massó, president
 Borja Corcóstegui Guraya, vice president
 Núria Ramon i Garcia, director general
 Vicenç Capdevila i Cardona, secretary*

* Substituting Raimon Bergós i Civit, who resigned on 30 September 2009.

Committee members

Raimon Belenes Juárez, representing the Catalonia Regional Government (Chief Executive of Hospital Clínic in Barcelona)
 Dolores Gómez Fernández, representing the Barcelona Provincial Government (president of the Department of Public Health and Consumer Affairs)
 Sara Jaurrieta i Guarnier, representing Barcelona City Council (councillor for the Sarrià-Sant Gervasi ward)
 Teresa Palahí Juan, representing the ONCE Foundation for Latin America, FOAL (ONCE territorial delegate in Catalonia)*
 Salvador Clotas Cierco, director of the Pablo Iglesias Foundation
 M. Isabel Nieto Uresandi, ophthalmologist
 José Juan Martínez Toldos, ophthalmologist

* As of 29 September 2009, replacing Fernando Iglesias García (director general of FOAL).

MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Borja Corcóstegui Guraya, president
 Ricardo Casaroli-Marano, secretary
 M. Isabel Nieto Uresandi

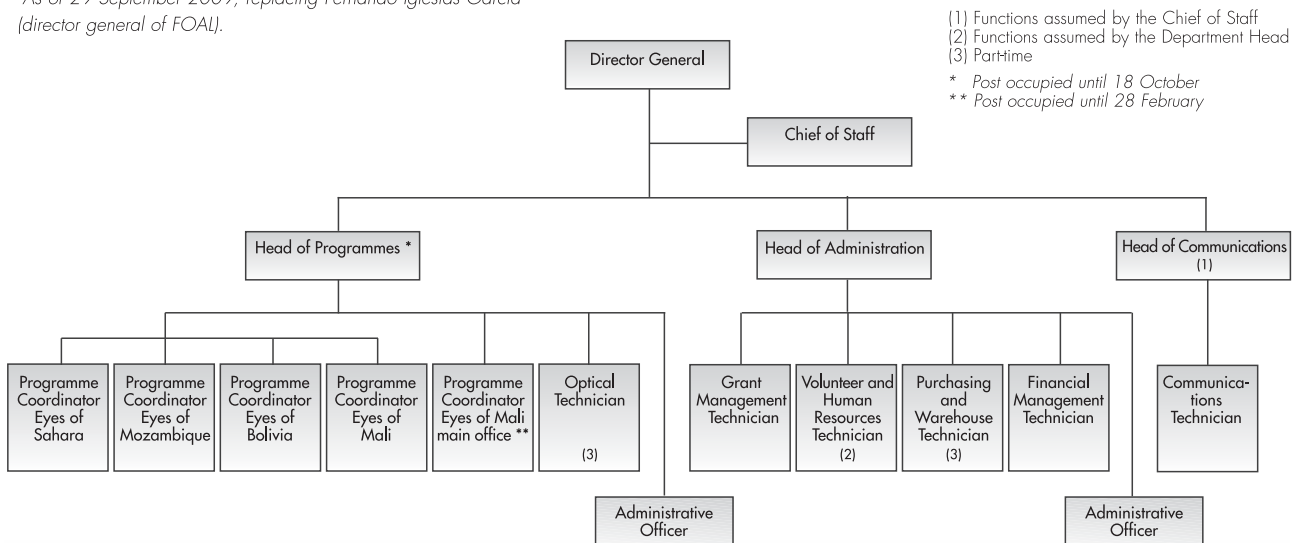
Medical Supervisors

Josep Maria Rafart i Arumí, *Eyes of Sahara*
 Iñaki Genua Goena, *Eyes of Mozambique*
 José Juan Martínez Toldos, *Eyes of Bolivia*
 Andrés Müller-Thyssen Bergareche, *Eyes of Mali*

REGIONAL DELEGATES

Rosario Martínez Navarro, delegate in València
 Lelo Méndez Aragón, delegate in Andalusia
 Kike Otaegi Arizmendi, delegate in the Basque Country
 Lurdana Gomes Teixeira, Portugal office
 Hernán E. Gras, Argentina office

OPERATIONAL TEAM

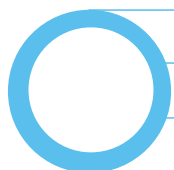


(1) Functions assumed by the Chief of Staff
 (2) Functions assumed by the Department Head
 (3) Part-time
 * Post occupied until 18 October
 ** Post occupied until 28 February



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BLINDNESS IN THE WORLD



- There are **314** million people in the world who have reduced vision, of which **45** million are blind.
- **9 out of 10** visually impaired people live in countries with less economic resources.
- **8 out of 10** cases of blindness are avoidable or can be prevented

Blindness and gender

Women account for **60 - 65%** of blind people in the world.

In poor countries, men seek eye care services **twice** as many times as women.

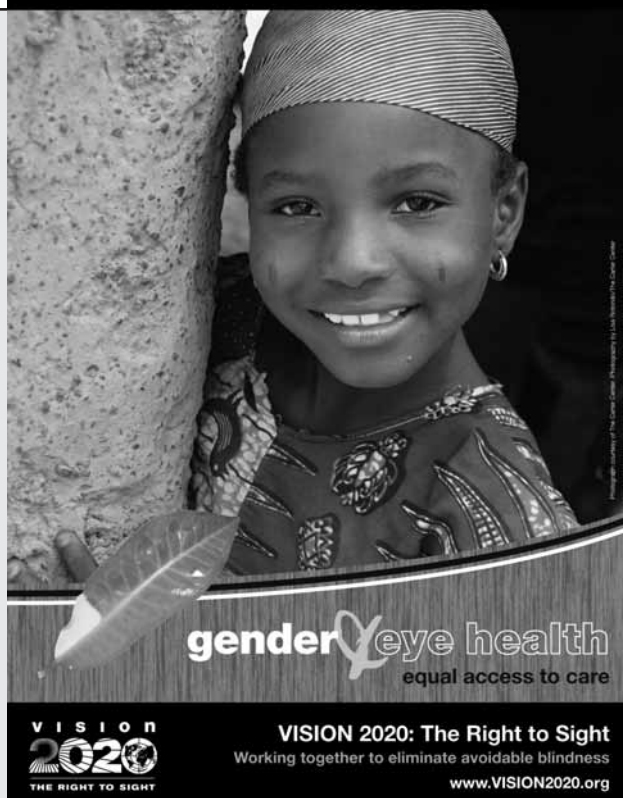
More women than men lose their vision because they tend to live longer and vision loss is associated with age.

Biologically, women have a slightly higher risk of developing **cataracts** than men.

Blindness caused by cataracts could be reduced by **12.5%** if the same proportion of women as men were operated on.

Worldwide, women represent approximately **70%** of trichiasis cases resulting from an infection linked to gender roles in society.

World Sight Day 2009



VISION 2020: the Right to Sight

Since 2005, Eyes of the world has been a member of the Council of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, an agency which, in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO), is promoting the **VISION 2020: The Right to Sight** programme, which aims to eliminate preventable blindness in the world by the year 2020.

In 2009, the Foundation participated in various international events, such as the 13th meeting of the **WHO's Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma (GET2020)**, held in July at the WHO headquarters, and celebrating **World Sight Day** (8 October) in Mali.



OPHTHALMIC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMMES



Distribution of missions by territory and objective:

	Training	Medical	Exploration, preparation, monitoring and evaluation	TOTAL
Sahara	4	2	1	7
Mozambique	5 (a)	2	1	8
Bolivia	5 (b)	-	1	6
Mali	1	1	3 (c)	5
TOTAL	15	5	6	26



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(a) Including 5 courses carried out in 3 training missions

(b) Including 3 medical training missions

(c) One of the missions involved the setting up of an operating theatre in Bankass and an optical laboratory in Mopti

Distribution of patients by territory and type of eye care:

	Consultation	Surgery	Total patients treated
Sahara	4,326 (a)	224	4,550
Mozambique	1,577	302	1,879
Bolivia	4,136 (b)	182	4,318
Mali	755	132	887
TOTAL	10,794	840	11,634

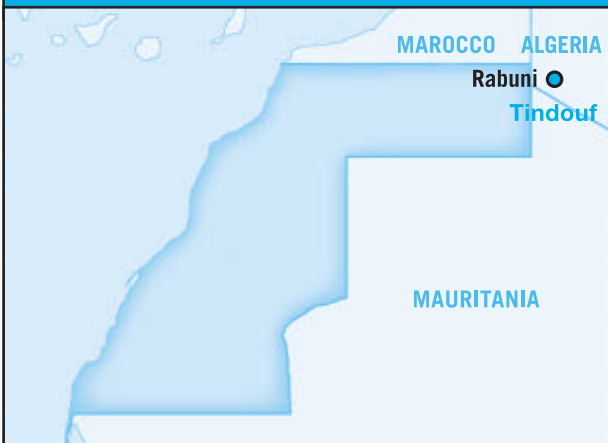


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(a) Including 3,255 consultations carried out by local optical technicians as part of eye care campaigns

(b) 1,014 consultations carried out in rural communities

EYES OF SAHARA



© Ferran García/Eyes of the world

BACKGROUND

- After 34 years, the Western Sahara conflict remains unresolved. The American, **Christopher Ross**, was appointed in early January as the United Nations mediator, replacing Peter van Walsum, but dialogue between the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front, led by Mohamed Abdelaziz, remains at stalemate.
- The Minister of Health of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is **Sidahmed Tayeb**, who took office in 2007.



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“This year we have carried out a greater number of activities related to eye health and I am very satisfied with the work done. We have had the support of our ophthalmologist, Jatri Jalil, who visited the camps in the spring to treat people with visual impairments: he carried out 120 visits to the *wilayas* and 68 surgical operations. In the same vein, ophthalmic technicians have provided on-going eye care to the population from their surgeries and ophthalmic laboratories: in one year, 4,700 patients have been treated, 3,600 refractive procedures have been carried out and 1,600 glasses provided”. **Hamudi Mojtar**, Head of the Ophthalmology Department.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Training

- **8 ophthalmic technicians** (66% of the staff) have been trained in ophthalmic emergencies and pharmacology, children’s eye-testing and basic eye care.
- **30 health workers** have been trained in basic eye care from the hundred or so that exist in the camps.
- **4 nurses** from Rabuni National Hospital have continued to acquire knowledge in ophthalmic instrumentation, basic anaesthesia and pre and postoperative procedures.

Prevention

- **3,255 children** from the primary schools of the *wilayas* of Smara, El Aaiún and the National Institution of 27 February have had eye tests provided by ophthalmic technicians.
- The **eye testing of children** carried out in recent years has been assessed and included in a **report** that reveals that refractive errors and strabismus are the most common diseases.
- Work has continued in the development of a **prevalence study** that will enable us to determine the main eye diseases in the camps.

Resources

◦ Ophthalmic equipment and materials

The infrastructure at Rabuni National Hospital has been improved with 1 hand piece for the phacoemulsifier, 1 instrument and 1 anaesthesia cart. Disposable material and replacement parts to carry out 1,000 visits and 250 operations have been provided.

◦ Optical equipment and materials

The surgeries and optical laboratories of the *wilayas* have been equipped with 1 direct ophthalmoscope, 3 retinoscopes, 1 lensmeter, 1 templating machine, 1 manual lens edger, 1 trial frames, 1 trial frames for children, 5 near-vision optotypes, 7,913 presbyopia glasses, 4,756 sunglasses, 4,415 prescription frames, 6,240 uncut lenses, 1,000 ophthalmic charts and 4,500 optometry record cards.



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The Foundation's institutional presence

- 4th Healthcare Negotiation and Coordination Meeting. Sahrawi refugee camps, 1-3 February.
- 35th European Conference of Coordination and Support for the Sahrawi People (EUCOCO). Barcelona, 20-22 November.
- The Catalan Parliament's Peace and Freedom in the Sahara Intergroup. Monthly participation.

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EYES OF MOZAMBIQUE



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BACKGROUND

- In 2009, Mozambique held **general elections** in which the current president, **Armando Guebuza**, was re-elected and the Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO) secured a mandate to continue in power for five more years.
- Also remaining in office was the Health Minister **Ivo Garrido**, who, in 2007, initiated the setting up of a National Ophthalmology Plan (2007-2010).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population	21,9 million inhabitants
Life expectancy	47,8 years
GDP per capita	\$802
Position according to the Human Development Index	172 (out of 182 countries)
Population on the poverty line	54,1%

Information from the Human Development Report 2009, published for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



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Through the eyes of... Iñaki Genua, ophthalmologist and medical supervisor for the Eyes of Mozambique programme

"Our efforts this year have focused on the prevention of eye diseases, with activities organised to enable us to improve the system for early detection and improve the knowledge of the population in relation to eye health. We have continued to pass on our ophthalmic knowledge to the health professionals who are in contact with the population and we have initiated efforts to provide eye testing for children, an area that we would like to strengthen in the future".

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Training

- **Dr. Abel dos Santos** has completed the fourth and final year of the scholarship scheme shared between Barcelona and Mozambique and soon hopes to sit the examination in Maputo that will enable him to be employed by the public health service of Mozambique as an ophthalmologist.
- **5 ophthalmologists and 2 residents** at Maputo Central Hospital, from a total of 7 ophthalmologists and 5 residents, who constitute the staff, have continued to acquire knowledge in the treatment of orbit diseases.

- All 4 ophthalmic technicians at Maputo Central Hospital have been trained in ocular prosthesis insertion and the use of the campimeter, an instrument that can detect damage to the optic nerve.
- 2 ophthalmic technicians, 3 nurses, 3 nursing assistants and 1 eyeglass technician from Inhambane Provincial Hospital have been trained in surgical and diagnostic techniques, ophthalmic care, instrumentation and lens assembly, respectively.



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Prevention

- The ophthalmic knowledge of 67 community health workers from the districts of Panda, Zavala, Massinga and Inhassoro has been improved by four courses that will enable them to incorporate eye care into their education and awareness activities.
- 35 triagem (nursing assistants) from the province of Inhambane have continued to gain ophthalmic knowledge by attending three courses, with the aim of improving the quality of case referrals.
- 420 children from the 1 May primary school in the city of Inhambane had their eyesight checked and 10 teachers have been trained in measuring visual acuity, with the aim of preventing eye disease at an early stage.

Resources

Ophthalmic equipment and materials

Maputo Central Hospital has been provided with 1 campimeter. The ophthalmic material necessary to enable ophthalmic surgical procedures to be carried out by Inhambane Provincial Hospital has been donated.

Optical equipment and materials

Inhambane Provincial Hospital has been equipped (including the optical laboratory) with 2 lensmeters, 1 automatic lens edger, 1 retinoscope, 1 ophthalmoscope, 1 trial lens set, 250 optotypes, 400 uncut lenses, 750 sunglasses and 227 prescription glasses for children.

"I can speak from experience of the happiness of being able to see well again, and for that I am enormously grateful to you".
Beatriz Garrido, patient in the medical programme of Inhambane Provincial Hospital. May 2009.



© Eyes of the world

Para todos los doctores
 "Ojos Del Mundo"
 Quedé bastante sensibilizada con todo el cariño y profesionalismo que sentí y vi durante estos días que pasé en Inhambane.
 Puedo testimoniar la alegría de volver a ver bien, que mucho les agradezco.
 Deseo de todo corazón que tengan un buen viaje de regreso y encuentren bien a sus familias.
 Les fido que continúen apoyando siempre, en todo lo que puedan a nuestro humilde pueblo.
 Eternamente agradecida
 Beatriz Garrido



Doubts about the outcome of the operation: uncertainty and fear of a dark future.



The wait was worth it: a smile and thanks for a new life.

EYES OF BOLIVIA



© Eyes of the world

BACKGROUND

- In January, a referendum approved the **new Constitution** that supports the creation of a multinational state and recognises the rights of the indigenous majority. **Evo Morales** was re-elected for five more years as president of the Republic of Bolivia, after the Movement for Socialism (MAS) won the 6 December elections.
- **Ramiro Tapia** continues as the Minister of Health and Sport, a position he has held since late 2008.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population	9,5 million inhabitants
Life expectancy	65,4 years
GDP per capita	\$4,206
Position according to the Human Development Index	113 (out of 182 countries)
Population on the poverty line	65,2%

Information from the Human Development Report 2009, published for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



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Through the eyes of... Alfons Sancho, an expert in healthcare planning and a contributor to the Eyes of Bolivia programme.

"Community, ophthalmic services and the government assuming its responsibilities have been key factors in an innovative and ambitious project, through which Eyes of the world wants to address the eye care needs of the poorest people. The Foundation has laid the foundations for an eye care system that starts with primary care, continues with a good standard of ophthalmic care (five points of medical care) and ends with specialist care that is suitable for local circumstances. Eyes of the world is making great efforts in educating key community groups to be aware of their needs, rights and responsibilities regarding their eye health. International missions are taking on a role that is becoming increasingly training and advice orientated, given that training is fundamental within this strategy of knowledge and responsibility transfer".

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Training

- Two new scholarships have been granted and there are now **6 residents** being trained at the National Ophthalmology Institute (INO, Spanish acronym), who complete their studies with training in surgical and diagnosis techniques in Eyes of the world missions and with professional practice during visits to local communities.

- **Twenty or so ophthalmologists and residents** from the INO have acquired knowledge in the surgical treatment of keratoconus and orbital tumours through two videoconference courses.
- **5 primary care doctors** from the Corea Health System have been able to hold surgeries on a rotational basis with ophthalmologists from hospitals in El Alto.
- **A hundred or so doctors, nurses, nursing assistants and students** from El Alto have been trained in the primary care treatment of ophthalmic diseases, through three mission training sessions.
- **3 ophthalmologists and 3 nurses** from the El Alto ophthalmic network, and **8 nurses** from Bolivian-Dutch Municipal Hospital have been trained in surgical techniques, diagnosis, eye care and instrumentation.



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Prevention

- **1,650 children** from five primary schools in the Corea, Los Andes and Lotes y Servicios networks have had eye examinations to prevent eye disease at an early stage.
- A total of **886 primary school teachers and parents** from the Corea, Los Andes and Lotes y Servicios networks and **representatives of citizens groups** from the districts of El Alto have attended 28 talks on basic eye care and detection of visual acuity,
- **1,000 posters** have been distributed in the eye care centres, schools, community and neighbourhood centres of El Alto and rural communities to raise awareness of basic eye hygiene among the population.

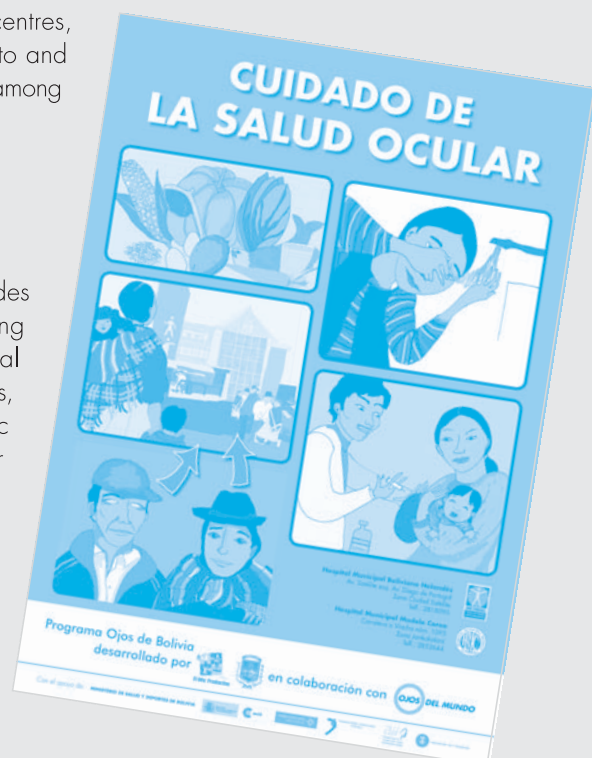
Resources

- **Ophthalmic equipment and materials**

An entire consulting office has been created in Los Andes and Lotes y Servicios Hospitals and a second operating theatre has been completed at Bolivian-Dutch Municipal Hospital with 1 instrument case, 2 autorefractor keratometers, 1 tonometer and 2 slit lamps. Medical and ophthalmic supplies have been provided to ensure patient care for one year.

- **Optical equipment and materials**

Los Andes, Lotes y Servicios and Bolivian-Dutch Municipal Hospitals have been provided with 3 retinoscopes, 3 lensometers, 2 trial frames, 1 optotype projector, 2,552 presbyopic glasses and 4,143 sunglasses.



EYES OF MALI



© Segla Soumare/Eyes of the world

BACKGROUND

- The country is consolidating its democratisation process after **Amadou Toumani Touré** was re-elected as President of the Republic in the 2007 general election and **Modibo Sidibé** became Prime Minister.
- Since then, the Ministry of Health has been headed by **Oumar Ibrahima Touré**, who is placing great emphasis on the fight against preventable blindness through the National Plan for Prevention and Fighting Blindness 2006-2010.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Population	12,4 million inhabitants
Life expectancy	48,1 years
GDP per capita	\$1,083
Position according to the Human Development Index	178 (out of 182 countries)
Population on the poverty line	63,8%

Information from the Human Development Report 2009, published for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



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Through the eyes of.. Borja Corcóstegui, ophthalmologist and vice-president of Eyes of the world

"I travelled to Mali in late 2007 on a fact-finding mission and we observed the deficiencies in a health infrastructure that focuses its efforts on primary care. Only two years later, we have started up a complete eye unit, consisting of a consulting room and operating theatre at Bankass Hospital. Also in operation, since June, is the optical laboratory at SominÉ Dolo Hospital in Mopti, the second largest in the country, which offers low-cost eyeglasses to people with refractive errors".

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Training

- 2 second-year **residents** have been trained in ophthalmology at the Institute of African Tropical Ophthalmology (IOTA, French acronym) as part of a four-year scholarship with a commitment that one of the ophthalmologists will work in the region of Mopti.

- **14 ophthalmologists and residents** from IOTA have been trained in the oculoplasty subspecialty at a training mission, in order to detect and treat patients with the disease.
- **51 ophthalmic professionals** have acquired knowledge in the treatment of retinoblastoma, through a videoconference course.
- **Dr. Adama Issaka Guindo** has been trained in the vitreo-retinal subspecialty at the Institute of Ocular Microsurgery (IMO, Spanish acronym) in Barcelona, during a five-month scholarship.
- **1 ophthalmologist and 1 ophthalmic nurse** from Mopti Hospital and **1 trichiasis technician and 2 nursing assistants** from Bankass Hospital have been trained in surgical and diagnosis techniques, eye care and instrumentation.

Prevention

- **18 women** from the Mopti regional delegation of the CAFO Women's Association have acquired knowledge in basic eye care to pass on to the local population.

Resources

- **Ophthalmic equipment and materials**

A complete ophthalmic unit has been set up at Bankass Hospital with 1 phacoemulsifier, 1 microscope, 1 biometer, 1 tonometer, 2 slit lamps, 1 retinoscope and 1 autorefractor keratometer. Instruments and disposable materials have also been provided to carry out consultations and operations.



© Eyes of the world

- **Optical equipment and materials**

The Sominé Dolo Hospital in Mopti (including the optical laboratory) has been equipped with 2 lensometers, 2 manual lens edgers, 2 automatic lens edgers, 1 templating machine, 2 optotype projectors, 2,219 prescription frames, 1,413 presbyopic glasses, 1,389 sunglasses and 888 uncut lenses.

The Majorcan artist, **Miquel Barceló**, who has close links with Mali and its people, has been travelling to the region for the past 20 years. "I've seen many blind people there. They don't go to the city to visit because it's over 1,000 kilometres away and they see it as a journey of no return".

For this reason, he believes that the Foundation's work in Mali is "fantastic news". Miquel Barceló has donated 80 silkscreen prints of his watercolour painting, *Femme Trepée*, to Eyes of the World. The Majorcan artist also supported the Foundation by attending the opening of an operating theatre in Bankass.



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A LOOK AT OUR SOCIETY

MORE THAN
25.000 PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED IN
EYES OF THE WORLD
AWARENESS
INITIATIVES IN 2009

Exhibitions

Eyes of Bolivia by Elisenda Pons, Sala Kutxa Boulevard.
3 - 19 July.

Eyes of Inhambane by Elisenda Pons. Bellvitge University
Hospital. 8 October - 31 January 2010.



© Bellvitge University Hospital/Eyes of the world

Talks

Opening Saharan eyes. Fighting preventable blindness in the Sahrawi camps, led by Dr. Josep Maria Rafart. Vic (Girbau private Foundation), 23 May.

Opening the world's eyes, a càrrec del Dr. Iñaki Genua, en el marc del Congrés Internacional per a la Prevenció de la Ceguesa als Països en Desenvolupament. Logronyo, 17 octubre.

Cooperation in Ophthalmic Development for Poor Countries, led by Dr. Borja Corcóstegui, at the Portuguese Ophthalmology Society Conference. Vilamoura, 7 December.

Conferences

The Spanish Ophthalmology Society Conference (information stand). Santander. 23 - 26 September.

International Conference on the Prevention of Blindness in Developing Countries. Logroño, 16-17 October.

The Portuguese Ophthalmology Society Conference (information stand). Vilamoura. 5 - 7 December.

Solidarity events

The Eyes of the world Foundation's Eighth Birthday. FC Barcelona stadium and museum. 29 July.

2nd photography competition : Restoring vision: another way of combating blindness.



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- 150 reports in regional, national and international media, 30 from countries in which cooperation projects are being carried out.
- 140 screenings of advertisements in advertising space donated by television companies and at the Barcelona Solidarity Documentary Film Festival.
- 24,000 annual visits to the website (www.eyesoftheworldfoundation.org).
- 4 editions of a quarterly electronic newsletter distributed to over 1,000 people.

42 LA VANGUARDIA TENDENCIAS DOMINGO, 8 NOVIEMBRE 2009

Las iniciativas solidarias de Ulls del Món

JOSAP PLATÀ MASSET
Barcelona

“Volver a ver es un milagro posible”

Rafael Ribó, presidente de la fundación Ulls del Món

La ceguera del mundo occidental con respecto a la pobreza y la miseria de los países en desarrollo es grave, pero se trata de un problema moral. La ceguera en los países pobres es un cambio una enfermedad y lo más sorprendente y dramático es que en un 80% de los casos se trata de una ceguera evitable. Por esa razón nació hace nueve años una fundación privada sin ánimo de lucro como Ulls del Món, cuyo objetivo es “prevenir y combatir la ceguera evitable y sensibilizar a la opinión pública sobre esta problemática”. Al frente de la fundación está Rafael Ribó, el actual Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya, que no da en buscar tiempo al tiempo para ampliar el radio de acción de esta entidad que sólo en ocho años ha podido organizar ya 170 expediciones, 50.000 visitas y 6.000 intervenciones oftalmológicas.

“Fue cuando en un viaje al Sahara con el doctor Surja Carcóstegui, que es a su vez el vicepresidente de la fundación. Sí, yo iba para hablar de política y él para operar. Creo que en aquel viaje llegó que 40 personas pudieran ver de nuevo. Eso fue hace casi nueve años y desde entonces las actividades de esta fundación se han extendido no sólo a los campamentos de refugiados de Tinduf, en Argelia, sino a Mozambique, Bolivia y Mali. Y ahora el objetivo no es tanto tratar a

personas enfermas aquí para ser operadas como formar a oftalmólogos y crear infraestructuras en estos países. El objetivo es que dentro de diez o quince años estos países tengan sus propios equipos y ya no necesiten a nuestros 700 voluntarios.

“Cómo se escogen los países? Hemos buscado países que en la escala de renta de las Naciones Unidas están entre los más pobres. Países que además tienen un gran déficit en materia oftalmológica y donde podamos contar con algún asociado local. En

Mali, por ejemplo, contamos con la colaboración de un santísimo médico francés que había sido abandonado. Actualmente formamos parte de un grupo de trabajo dentro de la OMS en el que participan 90 ONG que trabajan en la salud ocular y uno de cuyos objetivos es la coordinación y evitar duplicidades.

“Es una inversión de futuro? Siempre decimos que cada euro se invierte de forma muy directa en abrir ojos, pero hay un doble sentido en esa expresión. Más allá del impacto sanitario, somos también un factor de dinamización, porque estas operaciones afectan a las personas y las convierten en personas útiles en sus sociedades.

En el ámbito personal, qué representa ser presidente de Ulls del Món? Supone una aportación impagable. La mejor retribución son imágenes inolvidables como la de una persona en Mali arrodillándose delante del médico que le ha devuelto la vista. O la de aquella persona que tras quince años sin poder ver a su sobriño, al recuperar la vista, le habló de lo mucho que había crecido. Y el recuerdo del niño que después de la operación descubrió por primera vez la existencia de los colores. Son esos milagros, que hacen que este sea un esfuerzo muy útil. Y volver a ver es un milagro posible porque en muchos casos se trata de técnicas relativamente sencillas a las que los países pobres no pueden acceder.”

VISION DE FUTURO
“El objetivo es que estos países tengan equipos propios y no necesiten a nuestros voluntarios”

UNA PERSONA EN MALI ARRODILLÁNDOSE DELANTE DEL MÉDICO QUE LE HA DEVUELTO LA VISTA. O LA DE AQUELLA PERSONA QUE TRAS QUINCE AÑOS SIN PODER VER A SU SOBRIÑO, AL RECUPERAR LA VISTA, LE HABLO DE LO MUCHO QUE HABÍA CRECIDO. Y EL RECUERDO DEL NIÑO QUE DESPUÉS DE LA OPERACIÓN DESCUBRIÓ POR PRIMERA VEZ LA EXISTENCIA DE LOS COLORES. SON ESOS MILAGROS, QUE HACEN QUE ESTE SEA UN ESFUERZO MUY ÚTIL. Y VOLVER A VER ES UN MILAGRO POSIBLE PORQUE EN MUCHOS CASOS SE TRATA DE TÉCNICAS RELATIVAMENTE SENCILLAS A LAS QUE LOS PAÍSES POBRES NO PUEDEN ACCEDER.”

Andorra Night of Light

For the second time, the Foundation organised its annual dinner outside Spain to raise awareness, present the annual accounts and fundraise. The eighth annual Night of Eyes of the world took place at the Andorra Park Hotel in Andorra la Vella on 6 November. The Andorra Night of Light was presided over by the Episcopal Co-Prince, Joan Enric Vives i Sicília and the Andorran Head of Government, Jaume Bartumeu.

280 guests attended the dinner, including representatives from Andorran politics, business, culture and healthcare, as well as representatives from Catalonia and other regions of Spain, such as Madrid and the Basque Country. The event was hosted by the journalists, Noemí Rodríguez and Albert Om, and featured a musical performance by Toti Soler.



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Recognising the work of the Foundation

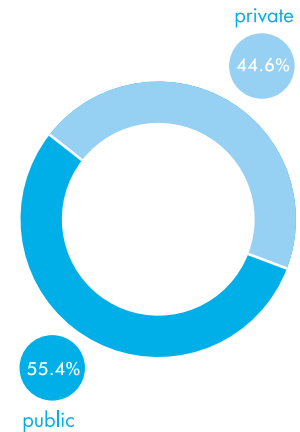
Maria Teresa Cornellà, director of Radio Marina: “I have the utmost admiration for the work of the Foundation, and promise to help spread the news” (email, 10 June 2009).

Mercè Boronat: “The work you do is quite fantastic. I salute the selfless and human work you do. May you continue to give sight to these people whose existence is scarcely known to the world. On their behalf, I thank you” (visitors’ book at the Eyes of Inhambane exhibition at Bellvitge University Hospital, opened on 8 October 2009).

TRANSPARENT ACCOUNTS

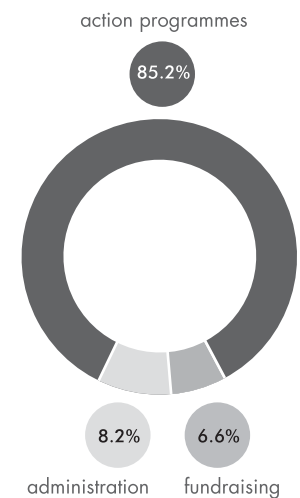
INCOME

PUBLIC	1,117,804.80
Institutional patrons	205,082.12
Other institution	912,722.68
PRIVATE	898,913.16
Companies and organisations	388,051.01
Supporters	30,907.36
Occasional donors	110,081.79
Equipment and materials donations	205,904.03
Income generated from "The Night"	160,950.00
Other income	3,018.97
TOTAL INCOME	2,016,717.96



EXPENSES

ACTION PROGRAMMES	1,514,868.27
Development cooperation	1,398,603.35
Ophthalmic treatment	59,839.90
Equipment and materials donations	734,958.65
Training	131,721.91
Studies and eye care campaigns	6,999.62
On the ground technical coordination, assessment and monitoring	465,083.27
Awareness training	116,264.92
External dissemination and awareness campaigns	49,428.37
Operational expenses	66,836.55
FUNDRAISING	117,717.95
ADMINISTRATION	144,855.82
Central services	143,945.76
Board of Trustees	910.06
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,777,442.04



* The 2009 surplus will be used in the 2010 action programmes.

This information has been selected from the 2009 annual accounts of the Eyes of the world Foundation, which were externally audited by GM Auditors who issued a favourable report (with recommendations for accounting improvements).

The annual accounts, approved by the Board of Trustees of Eyes of the world on 16 June 2010, are available at the Foundation's head office.

THE ORGANISATIONS THAT MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

PUBLIC CO-FINANCERS

Foundation sponsors



Municipalities

City Hall of Abrera · City Hall of Cambrils · City Hall of l'Hospitalet de Llobregat · City Hall of Hondarribia/Hondarribiko Udala · City Hall of Matadepera · City Hall of Santa Coloma de Gramenet · City Hall of Sabiñánigo · City Hall of Sitges · City Hall of Torrent · City Hall of Urretxu/Urretxuko Udala · City Hall of Vacarisses · City Hall of Zumarraga/Zumarraga Udala

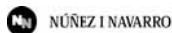
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Consorti Sanitari de Barcelona · Corporació Sanitària de Barcelona · Departament d'Acció Social i Ciutadania de la Generalitat de Catalunya · Institut Municipal d'Assistència Sanitària · Servei Català de la Salut

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SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

ACCESS TO GLASSES WITHIN COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE SERVICES

2009 was a year of continuing cooperation activities, in which we carried out planned activities in the various action programmes and achieved significant improvements in patients' lives; especially with regard to improving access to suitable optical correction.

Uncorrected refractive errors are the main cause of visual impairment in the world. Without appropriate optical correction, millions of children miss out on educational opportunities and adults are excluded from productive working lives, with severe economic and social consequences.

To address this situation, in 2009, we placed great emphasis on training local optical technicians and improving and setting up new optical laboratories where people with visual impairments can have access to quality care and glasses at affordable prices.

The aim of Eyes of the world is to establish comprehensive eye care services in all of the countries we work in, especially in public eye care centres.

In 2010, the Foundation plans to redefine intervention strategies in each country based on assessments we have conducted, with special emphasis on issues, such as coordination between the different agents involved in the development of programmes, community work, systems and adapting projects to the needs of each country, in particular concerning gender.

*Núria Ramon i Garcia
Director General*



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