



Combat Blindness
INTERNATIONAL

2017
Annual Report



2017 at a Glance

In 2017, Combat Blindness International (CBI) continued to focus on sustainable impacts to alleviate avoidable and preventable blindness around the world. While CBI still provides cost-effective cataract surgeries with trusted in-country partners, 2017 has seen a focus on more long-term, capacity building programs and initiatives. By providing surgical training and educating medical personnel, we are able to expand on cost-effective cataract surgeries by increasing a country's own capacity to provide professional eye care without significant outside involvement.



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Dear Friends,

I continue to be humbled by your generosity and enthusiasm for Combat Blindness International. Your support impacts people's lives in transformational ways by giving the opportunity for life, work, family and community. Just imagine how you have changed a person's world when you give them the gift of sight. We thank you.

With gratitude,

Suresh Chandra, MD

Founder & Chairman

Combat Blindness International

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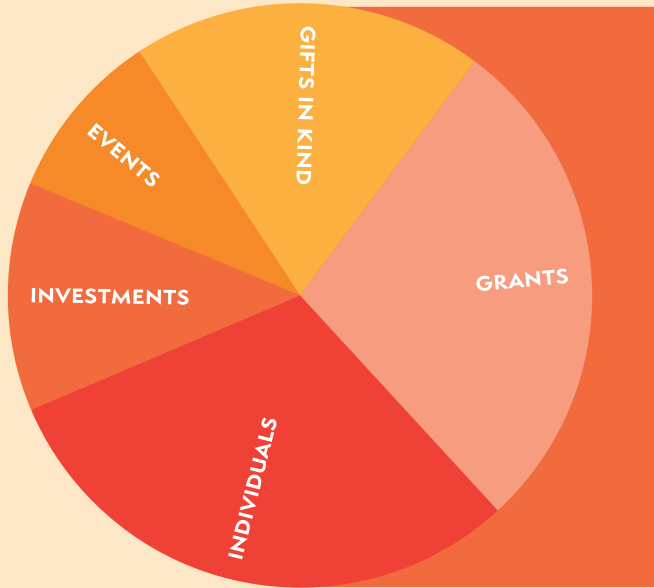
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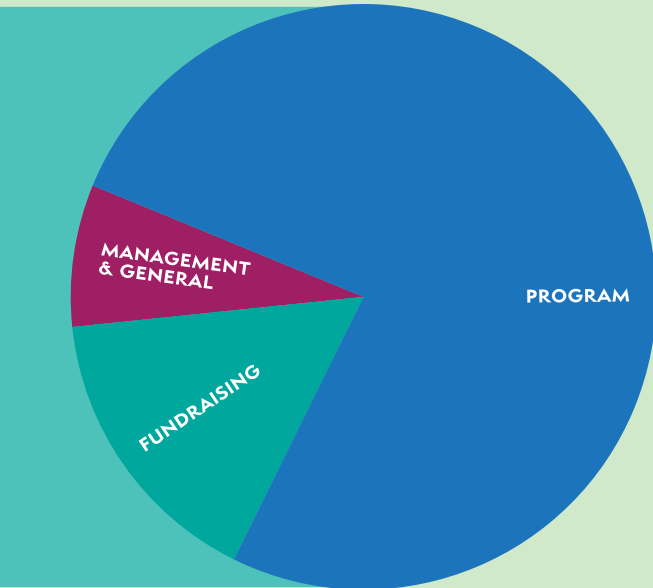
Combat Blindness 2017 Highlights

- 371,953** *adults screened*
- 71,188** *children screened*
- 30,314** *adult cataract surgeries*
- 378** *pediatric eye surgeries*
- 10,734** *glasses distributed*
- 250** *young women provided an education towards economic freedom*

INCOME



EXPENSES



30% \$182,787

13% \$76,111

28% \$168,000

9.5% \$56,793

19.5% \$117,037

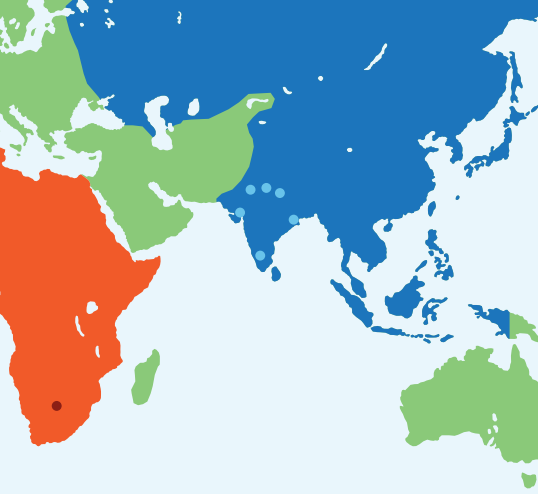
77% \$570,177

16% \$120,415

7% \$58,841

TOTAL NET ASSETS
\$836,501

NOTE: \$166,055.39 is designated for an eye center and will be distributed in 2018/2019.



ASIA

- **LV Prasad Eye Institute**
Bhubaneswar, India \$235,385 Eye Center in Keonjhar, Odisha, India (Building, equipment and staff salary for one year)
- **Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital**
Jodhpur, India 1,853 Cataract Surgeries, Hospital Administrator
- **Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital**
Delhi, India \$97,767 939 Cataract Surgeries, Equipment, Ophthalmic Training for 215 Women
- **Sitapur Eye Hospital** • *Sitapur, India* \$5,000 16,597 Cataract Surgeries
- **Usha Kiran Eye Hospital**
Mysore, India \$35,000 1,009 Glasses Distributed, 72 Pediatric Eye Surgeries
- **Tejas Eye Hospital**
Gujarat, India \$5,863 8,292 Glasses Distributed, 6,195 Adult Cataract Surgeries, 256 Pediatric Eye Surgeries, IOLs & Consumables
- **Shree Jalaram Seva Arogya Trust**
Gujarat, India \$31,299 1,080 Glasses Distributed, 2,406 Adult Cataract Surgeries, 8 Pediatric Eye Surgeries, IOLs & Consumables, Equipment



AFRICA

- **Botswana Ministry of Health**
Gaborone, Botswana \$53,801 2,324 Cataract Surgeries, Training, Capacity Building, IOLs & Consumables
- **Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre** • *Gambia* \$5,633 42 Pediatric Eye Surgeries, IOLs & Consumables, Development

THE AMERICAS

- **Fundación Visión**
Asunción, Paraguay \$10,958 353 glasses distributed, Equipment & Development
- **Madison Metropolitan School District Vision Project**
Madison, WI, USA \$9,637 Pediatric Vision Screening Program, 2,853 Screenings, Spot Screener
- **Right to Sight Clinic**
Madison, WI, USA Vision Screening Program, 56 Screenings

Restoring sight is the most cost-effective medical intervention for reducing poverty.

A person who has regained sight from a cataract surgery will generate 1,500% of the cost of the surgery in increased economic productivity within one year.¹

A cataract surgery costs as low as \$25.

¹Khanna, R., Raman, U. and Rao, G. N. (2007), *Blindness and poverty in India: the way forward. Clinical and Experimental Optometry*, 90: 406-414.

IMPACT: Cataract Surgeries

Everyone deserves the right to see and when the only thing keeping them from that ability is a 20 minute surgery that costs as little as \$25, we believe there is no reason this person should remain blind. Through innovative partnerships, it is our goal to be a catalyst for change by supporting high-quality, equitable eye care for all.

To that end, in 2017, Combat Blindness International screened 371,953 adults and supported 30,314 adult cataract surgeries!



CASE STUDY: Malti lives with her younger son in a village. When she began to lose her vision, she became worried. She decided not to tell her son, but her vision impairment eventually became apparent to him.

He began asking colleagues about how to help with his mother's vision loss. After receiving surgery at Sitapur Eye Hospital through the support of Combat Blindness International, Malti can see again. She is now more independent, allowing her to contribute to the finances of her household and the economic well-being of the community.



80% of a child's learning
takes place visually.

It is estimated that
324 million children
will be affected by myopia
(near-sightedness)
by 2025.²

Myopia is easily treated by
simple vision screenings
and providing eye glasses.

²Rudnicka, A.R. et al., *Global variations and time trends in the prevalence of childhood myopia, a systematic review and quantitative meta analysis: implications for aetiology and early prevention. British Journal of Ophthalmology*

IMPACT: Pediatric Ophthalmology

Combat Blindness International's mission is to end preventable blindness worldwide and that mission starts with addressing avoidable visual impairment (AVI) in children.

Treatments exist for 80% of cases of pediatric AVI, but millions of children around the world currently lack access to services, leaving millions of treatable cases of refractive error, amblyopia (permanent damage to the nerve pathway), and other blinding and severely vision impairing conditions unaddressed. Investing in eyesight for children is investing in their amazing life potential. It ensures that they have the same opportunity to learn as their peers without the burden of poor vision.

CBI continues to increase the capacity of our international pediatric programs, which operate on 4 continents, including in Madison, WI, USA where we are headquartered. By providing access to quality eye care for the children of the world, we are impacting the whole family.

In 2017, Combat Blindness International supported eye screening for 71,188 children and provided glasses to 10,734 children!



IMPACT: Personnel Training

In the developing world, the need for more eye care professionals is one of the most significant barriers to quality eye care. We work with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) in New Delhi to support the Certified Ophthalmic Personnel (COP) Program. This program addresses the shortage of eye care professionals by training Certified Ophthalmic Personnel to perform necessary roles like vision-screeners, counselors, nurses, surgical assistants, and much more. This allows the nation's overburdened ophthalmologists to focus on diagnosing eye diseases and performing eye surgeries, aided by a professionally trained team.

What makes the COP Program special is the immeasurable impact that it has on the lives of the young women in the program. The students at SCEH are from rural areas of India. In the COP Program they are taught not only the skills required to be an eye care professional, but also the life skills to be well-rounded, confident, empowered women. Upon graduating, this holistic education allows these young women to provide eye care to the same rural areas, while also serving as role models for the other women in the area.



2/3 of the world's blind population are women.⁵

By empowering young women to provide sight-saving care, CBI hopes to address this gender divide.

Impact analysis of the COP Program (2016-2017), SCEH saw a 64% increase in patients screened, a 62% increase in total surgeries, and a 85% increase in spectacles distributed. The most telling statistic of all is a 164% increase in surgeries in rural areas.⁴

In 2017, Combat Blindness International supported the education of 45 young women, and a total of 250 young women since the program's inception in 2014!

³Taken from a Catalyst report "Women in the Workplace: India" 11/17/15

⁴All data collected by Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital in New Delhi, India.

⁵Data obtained from the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)





IMPACT: Infrastructure and Capacity

As we have highlighted, the single largest barrier to alleviating avoidable blindness is access to care. Millions of people lack treatment simply because they have no access to eye care, resources to pay for care or place where eye care is available. One solution to this problem is building, training, and staffing eye care facilities where they are needed most.

In 2017, CBI in partnership with the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), the Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust and the Bijayannanda Patnaik family, opened an Eye Hospital in Keonjhar, Odisha, India. This hospital, built and fully staffed by locals, will have the capacity to serve approximately 1,000,000 people in the surrounding areas and perform an estimated 10,000 surgeries per year.



Looking Forward

It is with tremendous gratitude that we share this information with you. It is all possible with your generosity.

In 2018, Combat Blindness International would like to encourage you to help us build awareness about our cause by engaging with us on social media, sharing our work with friends and family, and please share this annual report with any one who might be interested.

We look forward to the next year of expanding and improving all of these initiatives. We hope that you have enjoyed reading about the impact you are making around the world.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact our Board President and Interim Executive Director, Reena Chandra Rajpal, at rchandrarajpal@combatblindness.org or 608-238-7777.



Combat Blindness
INTERNATIONAL



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Combat Blindness International
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