



**COMBAT BLINDNESS INTERNATIONAL
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**



Combat Blindness
INTERNATIONAL





Dr. Suresh Chandra showing his granddaughter what a mature cataract looks like.

DEAR FRIENDS,

This year, you have changed someone's whole world by giving the gift of sight. You have made a transformational impact on someone's life by giving them the opportunity to work, learn, and support their family. Each community we serve has been made greater by your thoughtful contributions. And you have helped CBI ensure equitable, quality eye care is accessible to everyone, everywhere.

We thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Suresh Chandra, MD
Founder & Chairman
Combat Blindness International



Combat Blindness
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COVER IMAGE NOTES (CLOCKWISE)

- A. A volunteer doctor performing surgery.
- B. A COP Technician measuring a patient's eye pressure.
- C. Lens testing in AuroLab.
- D. Dr. Chandra with a patient at CBI's first eye camp.
- E. Students participating in a school screening in India.
- F. A patient in South Africa reading an eye chart.





A mother caring for her child post surgery in India.

2018 AT A GLANCE

In 2018, Combat Blindness International (CBI) continued to have sustainable impact in alleviating preventable blindness in the most vulnerable parts of the world. In collaboration with trusted in-country partners, CBI continued its mission to provide equitable, quality eye care for men, women and children around the world. In addition, by providing surgical training and educating medical personnel, we were able to expand cost-effective cataract surgeries by increasing a country's own capacity to provide professional eye care—a path to sustainability. CBI is ensuring eye care is available to those who need it most.

2018 IMPACT

263,863 **Adults Screened**
 81,114 **Children Screened**
 33,225 **Adult Surgeries**
 349 **Child Surgeries**
 13,793 **Glasses Distributed**

158 **Young Women Provided
 an Education Toward
 Economic Freedom**

344,977 TOTAL SCREENINGS
33,574 TOTAL SURGERIES



2018 FINANCIALS

INCOME

Events	\$51,880
Grants	\$157,796
Gifts in Kind	\$107,795
Individuals	\$296,580
Investments	(\$35,752)
TOTAL	\$578,299

EXPENSES

Program	\$345,096
Management & General	\$87,422
Fundraising	\$77,581
TOTAL	\$510,099
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$904,701





PAST PROJECTS

ASIA

**LV Prasad Eye Institute
Bijayananda Patnaik Eye Center**
Keonjhar, India
15,335 Screenings
315 Cataract Surgeries
51 Glasses Distributed

Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital
Jodhpur, India
13,842 Screenings
1,278 Cataract Surgeries

**Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital
Rampur Surgical Center
COP Program**
Delhi, India
34,229 Screenings
2,566 Cataract Surgeries
Equipment
Ophthalmic Training for 158 Women

Sitapur Eye Hospital
Sitapur, India
72,734 Screenings
18,983 Cataract Surgeries
6,043 Glasses Distributed

Usha Kiran Eye Hospital
Mysore, India
37,302 Pediatric Screenings
36 Pediatric Eye Surgeries
941 Glasses Distributed

Tejas Eye Hospital
Gujarat, India
95,647 Screenings
5,619 Cataract Surgeries
306 Pediatric Eye Surgeries
4,438 Glasses Distributed
IOLs & Consumables

Shri Jalaram Arogya Seva Trust
Gujarat, India
72,342 Screenings
2,122 Cataract Surgeries
7 Pediatric Eye Surgeries
2,285 Glasses Distributed
IOLs & Consumables

AFRICA

Botswana Ministry of Health
Gaborone, Botswana
2,342 Cataract Surgeries
IOLs & Consumables

THE AMERICAS

**Madison Metropolitan
School District Vision Project**
Madison, WI, USA
3,469 Pediatric Screenings

Right to Sight Clinic
Madison, WI, USA
77 Screenings
35 Glasses Distributed



2018 Cataract Program Impact:

- 263,863 patients screened
- 33,225 cataract surgeries performed
- 7,425 pairs of glasses distributed



SOLOMON'S STORY

Solomon works as a police man. Although he was not completely blind, his work performance suffered greatly from his low vision. Solomon's relatives were also frustrated by his situation because he needed help walking and eating. As the head of his family, he was embarrassed by the fact that he needed help with the simplest of tasks. His cataract surgery was free of charge because of CBI's support. Now that Solomon has his sight back, he is excited to do his job without impediment and to clearly see his wife's face again.

A FOCUS ON CATARACTS

THE NEED FOR CATARACT SURGERIES

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness, accounting for 50% of blindness worldwide. Blindness affects not only the individual, but their families and communities. Blindness prevents adults from working and providing for their family and prevents children from learning in school. Each cataract surgery provides an opportunity for a person to return to work or school, allowing them to become a productive member of their family and community.

Cataract surgery is considered one of the most cost-effective medical interventions. We believe there is no reason a person should remain blind when a 20-minute procedure that costs as little as \$25 will restore sight to the blind within 24 hours. Through our innovative partnerships, it is our goal to be a catalyst for change by supporting quality, equitable eyecare.





A patient being screened as part of our rural outreach program in Gujarat, India.



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BOTSWANA

Botswana has a population of 2.8 million, and it has the third highest prevalence of blindness and visual impairment in Africa. The vast majority of visual impairment in Botswana is caused by refractive error or cataract, both easily treatable. CBI partnered with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Cambridge Global Health Partnerships, PEEK and the Botswana Ministry of Health and Welfare to address the backlog of cataract patients in Botswana. We systematically screened and treated cataract blindness throughout the country and will achieve our goal of alleviating the backlog of 6,000 cataract surgeries in 2019.





A child being screened for refractive error and other eye conditions in Paraguay.

A FOCUS ON PEDIATRICS

THE NEED FOR PEDIATRIC SCREENING

Within eye care there is one problem that affects countries of all income levels: avoidable childhood blindness. While in low-income countries cases of childhood blindness are more common, children around the world are affected by refractive errors, or the simple need for corrective glasses. Regular and early school screening programs are one of the most effective ways to combat childhood blindness and can help identify refractive errors and eye conditions before they severely affect a child's education. It is estimated that 80% of learning takes place visually. Without early identification and proper treatment, visually impaired children often perform poorly in school, in some cases causing them to drop out or be removed from school. Most eye problems are correctable and curable if caught by the age of five or six.

CBI's International Pediatric Program operates in 4 countries on 4 continents and seeks to primarily identify students with vision problems using various screening procedures, and secondarily to assist in restoring sight to those children with vision problems via either refractive or surgical interventions. Whether by providing screenings, glasses or surgeries, we believe that each child should receive the same educational and life opportunities to reach their highest potential.

GUJARAT

Since 2005, CBI has partnered with Shri Jalaram Arogya Seva Trust in Meghraj, Gujarat. Shri Jalaram is the only hospital within a 50-kilometer radius and until 2006 there were no ophthalmic facilities. By supporting school screenings in this area, we have been able to address the massive problem of childhood blindness. Meghraj is one of the poorest districts of Gujarat with 80% of the population earning less than \$1 per day for a family of 4. Though there's been much success for the Indian middle class, the rural poor still lack access to healthcare and the income to afford such care. Last year alone, the hospital completed over 30,000 screenings and distributed over 900 pairs of glasses.



80% of learning takes place visually, so early screening is vital to a child's success.





2018 Pediatric Program Impact:

- 81,114 children screened
- 349 pediatric surgeries performed
- 6,368 pairs of glasses distributed



AARTIBEN'S STORY

Aartiben Damor was 13 years old when she came to Shri Jalaram Arogya Seva Trust. She had experienced dim vision in her right eye since birth, making it hard for her to focus on the board in school. Chores were also difficult because of her lack of depth perception. Upon examination, the medical staff discovered that Aartiben had a congenital cataract. She received her operation free of charge thanks to the support of CBI. Aartiben is thrilled to have her sight restored. She and her family are grateful to our donors for supporting this work.





2018 Capacity Building Program Impact:

- 158 young women educated and trained through the COP program



EKTA'S STORY

Before the COP program, Ekta had worked in both a factory and as a care assistant in a nursing home. She earned barely enough money to survive, but she needed to help support her family, as her father passed away when she was in high school. The COP program has given her the opportunity to thrive. She is now a Vision Technician at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital where she has the opportunity for a better future, and a better life for herself and her family.

A FOCUS ON CAPACITY BUILDING

COP

India is home to approximately one-third of the world's 36 million blind people. The largest barrier to these 12 million blind individuals regaining their sight is the shortage of trained eye care personnel to screen and treat them. CBI works to increase the number of ophthalmologists, nurses and ophthalmic technicians through education and training.

CBI has partnered with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) in New Delhi, India to support the innovative Certified Ophthalmic Paramedic (COP) Training Program. Through this program we are building a trained medical workforce for rural regions where the need is great, increasing efficiency and delivery of eye care and empowering women and reducing poverty through education and employment. This program is made up almost entirely of young women from the surrounding rural areas. These young women play a critical role not only in improving efficiency and capacity of the surgical center, but also in patient education such as counseling, motivation and follow up care in the community. Equally important, these young women achieve financial independence and develop important life skills including developing critical thinking, self-awareness and communication skills.

Education is power and we empower women with education.





A FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE

The single largest barrier to alleviating avoidable blindness is access to equitable, quality care. Low income countries often lack the infrastructure to accommodate those who are suffering from blindness and vision problems. Millions of people lack treatment simply because they have no place where eye care is available, access to eye care, or resources to pay for care. When infrastructure is present, there is often a shortage of medical supplies, space, doctors and nurses to care for the afflicted. Those with vision problems can wait up to a year or more to have their vision treated. In addition to building the eye care workforce, CBI supports the building, training, and staffing of eye care facilities where they are needed most—at the doorsteps of the rural poor.

KEONJHAR HOSPITAL (1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY)

The Bijayananda Patnaik Eye Center opened in Keonjhar, Odisha on March 3, 2018. With financial support from CBI, LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), the Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust and the Bijayananda Patnaik family, this eye hospital was built and is fully staffed by locals. The Bijayananda Patnaik Eye Center serves approximately 1 million people in the surrounding areas and has the potential to perform an estimated 10,000 surgeries per year.

2018 Infrastructure Program Impact:

- 15,335 patients screened
- 315 cataract surgeries performed
- 51 pairs of glasses distributed



JAUHI'S STORY

Jauhi Patra, a 59-year-old woman, came to Bijayananda Patnaik Eye Center in Keonjhar with low vision. Jauhi could not make out shapes and could only vaguely perceive light. She needed cataract surgery, which the Center provided free of charge. After surgery she is able to walk, cook, and perform her daily routine again without impairment. Jauhi is happy she can now contribute to her family and community.





LOOKING FORWARD

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

In 2019, Combat Blindness International plans to increase the number of men, women and children we serve by expanding our cataract and pediatric eyecare programs in India, Africa and South America. In addition, we seek to increase the number of young women we can support through our Certified Ophthalmic Paramedic (COP) Training Program.

We can achieve these goals with your continued support.

We encourage you to help CBI grow by engaging with us on social media, sharing our work with friends and family and sharing this annual report.

Thank you for the impact you are making around the world.

With gratitude,

Reena Chandra Rajpal, MPH
President and Executive Director

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