



CHANGING THE ARC OF GLOBAL BLINDNESS

THE PROBLEM

- » Globally at least one billion people suffer from vision impairment that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed.
- » 90 percent of the afflicted live in low-resource countries and 60 percent are women.
- » 17 million people are blind due to untreated cataracts alone, a condition that can be cured with a ten-minute surgery and under \$25 in material costs.
- » Once blind, a person's life expectancy is one-third that of a healthy peer; the mortality of blind children is even more significant.
- » The devastation of blindness extends beyond an individual to their families and communities. A sighted person must leave the workforce or a child must leave school to care for the blind individual. Blindness perpetuates poverty.
- » Treatable blindness persists due to the prohibitive cost of care, the limited availability of eye health care and personnel, barriers to access, and low-quality care.
- » Studies have shown a 400 percent return on every dollar invested in eliminating blindness. The economic productivity loss from blindness is \$49 billion per year in low to middle income countries.
- » The WHO's 2019 World Report on Vision estimates that it will cost \$14 billion to overcome all needless blindness.
- » With an aging population and increasing life expectancy, the crisis of preventable blindness will grow unless we take immediate action.

MISSION

HCP|CureBlindness is a US-based INGO founded in 1995 to cure needless blindness with the highest quality care at the lowest cost. We help strengthen health systems where eye care is needed most by training and supporting our partners in providing critical eye care services and equipping them with the necessary supplies and infrastructure to deliver high-quality care. HCP|CureBlindness works with local implementing partners to serve more than 1.6 million people annually through examinations and basic treatment, including the provision each year of over 123,000 sight-restoring surgeries and hundreds of training opportunities for eye care personnel.

OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS, HCP AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE:

SCREENED & PROVIDED
BASIC TREATMENT FOR

13.1



MILLION PEOPLE GLOBALLY

PERFORMED OVER

1,050,000

SIGHT-RESTORING
SURGERIES

TRAINED OVER

18,000

EYE CARE
PROFESSIONALS

ESTABLISHED

4

DEDICATED EYE HOSPITALS/
TRAINING INSTITUTES



WHAT SETS US APART (OUR MODEL)

HCP|CureBlindness uses the elimination of cataracts as the cornerstone to strengthen national eye care systems. Our model is rooted in bolstering local eye health leadership, ownership, and institutions, combining direct surgical care, multi-tiered training opportunities, and structural improvements to elevate eye care where it's needed most. Under normal operations, our direct care pillar builds local providers' capacity while reaching thousands of patients in need: surgical teams can provide over 1,000 surgeries in one week while simultaneously teaching the next generation of surgeons, nurses, and technicians through high-volume exposure.

SCALING THE SOLUTION

Due to the challenges of COVID, we have been called upon to reconfigure our model. Smaller scale surgical events - with government restrictions on large gatherings in place in countries where we work, we are supporting our partners who are able to continue to provide care. Smaller surgical events with safety protocols in place are serving those who have been waiting for care during the pandemic.

Training - HCP|CureBlindness also supports subspecialty training and the development of ophthalmic residency programs to grow countries' clinical eye care capacity. This investment in local providers helps sustainably address a breadth of vision disorders, from refractive errors to complex retinal disease. To reinforce these efforts to grow local capacity and thus access to affordable, high quality eye care, our equipment and infrastructure pillars equip and build the facilities our local partners need to deliver care to their communities. This holistic approach builds local leadership, empowers key actors, and builds sustainable access to eye care where it is most needed from the ground up.

Building in-country eye care capabilities remains central to our approach. We are committed to training the next generation of ophthalmic personnel in spite of COVID travel restrictions that have limited access to programs for residents and trainees. This fall, our Ethiopia team developed three virtual training modules in biomedical engineering, ophthalmic nursing, and biometry, and is collaborating with our Ghana team to implement the modules for Ghanaian trainees. By utilizing virtual learning platforms and technology, we hope to maintain progression in ophthalmic education for residents, optometrists and sub-specialists where training has been interrupted. The collaborative efforts of our partners in Ghana and Ethiopia on virtual teaching modules, while not a substitute for hands-on learning, will keep continuity of ophthalmic training on track.



**10 MINUTES AND \$25
IN MATERIALS
CAN RESTORE
SOMEONE'S SIGHT.**

DIRECT IMPACT

Based on funding priorities and interests, HCP|CureBlindness can scale work across our main country programs in Ghana, Ethiopia and Nepal; or focus our scaling initiatives by specific country or program area. An investment of \$5-10 million over five years would drive the following global impact:

\$1 Million

- » Build and equip one Community Eye Hospital
- » 400,000 screenings and basic eye exams
- » 25,000 sight-restoring surgeries (includes 9,000 in a remote/outreach setting)
- » 150 clinical training opportunities

\$5 Million

- » Build and equip five Community Eye Hospitals
- » 2,000,000 screenings and basic eye exams
- » 125,000 sight-restoring surgeries (includes 45,000 in a remote/outreach setting)
- » 650 clinical training opportunities

\$10 Million

- » Build and equip ten Community Eye Hospitals
- » 4,000,000 screenings and basic eye exams
- » 250,000 sight restoring surgeries (includes 90,000 in a remote/outreach setting)
- » 1300 clinical training opportunities

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The cost effectiveness and impact of treating blindness is known to be among the greatest in medicine — comparable to immunizations. The economic multiplier of this work is immense. With an increase of \$100 million over the next five years HCP|CureBlindness will change the arc of blindness in Ethiopia, Nepal, and Ghana, starting a cascade that can spread throughout Africa and around the world.

AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS IS ONE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM WE CAN SOLVE.