

Combat Blindness INTERNATIONAL

World Sight Day 2016 Was a Success!

Combat Blindness International would like to thank everyone who attended on October 13th for, once again, making this event the highlight of our Fall! We are excited to announce that, thanks to your generosity, we have exceeded our fundraising goal and have received over \$81,000 in donations to empower women through sight!

This year we experienced a range of enjoyable speakers and presentations, including Dr. Cynthia Haq who spoke on the importance of global women's health, a presentation of the Certified Ophthalmic Personnel program in India (which educates young women in ophthalmic training, life skills, and individual empowerment), and Olivia O'Dea, an amazing 17-year-old woman who has been volunteering with CBI for the last decade.

Once again, thank you to all who attended, donated, and made a difference. Together, we are making the world a brighter place.

We would also like to thank our sponsors whose support made this event possible :



FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

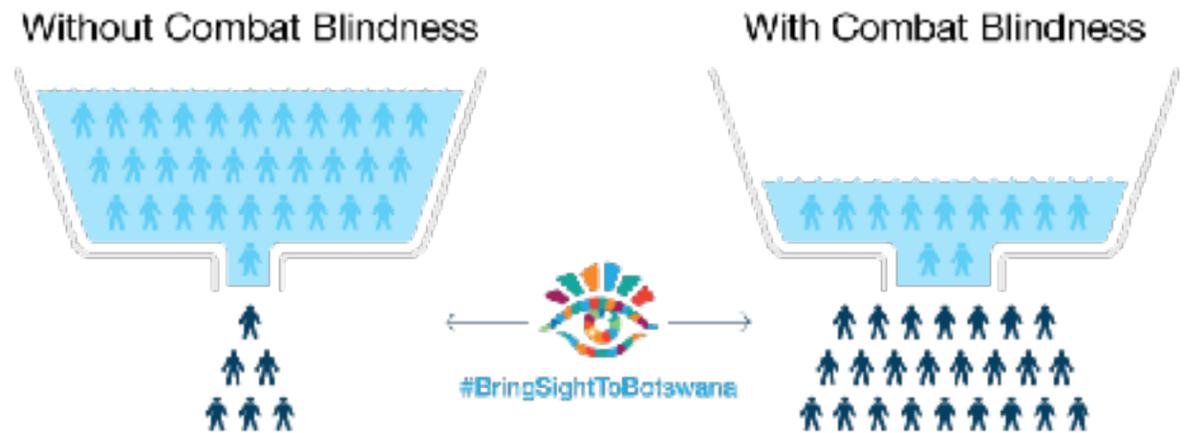


BRING SIGHT TO BOTSWANA



Famous for the vast, picturesque expanses of the Kalahari Desert, Botswana is home to approximately 2 million individuals. Unfortunately, **1 in every 50 people in Botswana is directly affected by cataracts.**

This is why CBI has undertaken one of our most ambitious goals to date, ending cataract blindness in an entire country. We are partnering with Peek Vision, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Botswana, and a number of other organizations to make this a reality.



CBI's greatest contribution to this partnership is to increase surgical capacity and treat the "backlog" of cataract blind patients in Botswana. The above left graphic represents the current backlog and influx of patients waiting for treatment, and the small outflow of patients receiving treatment. CBI and our friends at Dr. Schroff's Charity Eye Hospital in New Delhi, India will be providing surgeries to remove patients from the backlog, while also increasing the amount of new cases that can be treated, increasing the outflow and eliminating the backlog. This is represented by the above right graphic.

Combat Blindness International would like to invite you to join us as we **bring sight to Botswana**. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to entirely fund the elimination of the cataract backlog in Botswana and the training and outfitting of local facilities to have the capacity to perform over 5,000 cataract surgeries per year, much higher than the rate at which cataracts form naturally in Botswana. When this is completed, the nation of Botswana will have a professional, national eye care system on the level of most high-income countries, and we will have a model that we can replicate in other countries.

#BRINGSIGHTTOBOTSWANA

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An infographic on a blue background. At the top, it says 'Naturally occurring rate of new cases of cataracts (less than 5,000 per year)' with a single horizontal line below it. In the middle, it says 'Our goal for a cataract surgical rate (more than 5,000 per year)' with three horizontal lines below it. At the bottom, it says 'The end of cataract blindness in Botswana' with an eye icon containing a gear.

The primary roles of these organizations, when carried out together, will screen the population of Botswana for vision problems, treat existing and discovered cases of cataracts, and build the country capacity to provide quality eye care to all. We are excited to be working with Peek Vision who will be using their smartphone application and adaptor to screen the population and refer them for treatment. CBI will be providing the cataract surgeries and training of indigenous staff to increase their capacity in performing more surgeries. The Ministry of Health will help to coordinate our effort, purchase supplies, and ultimately assume control of the program in the future, instituting a national plan.

How do you end cataract blindness? Because cataract is a naturally occurring medical problem experienced by the majority of the world's population, it cannot be ended like a disease. So, to end the effect of cataract in a country, we must increase the amount of surgeries per year that can be performed in the country to be higher than the rate at which cataract naturally occur. This is why cataract is rarely seen as a major problem in high-income countries; they have the surgical capacity to provide treatment immediately. Unfortunately, low-income countries around the world, including Botswana, do not have this luxury. We can fix that.