2016 at a Glance

In 2016, Combat Blindness International (CBI) made great strides in large scale, sustainable impacts on avoidable and preventable blindness around the world. While CBI still focuses on providing cost-effective cataract surgeries through trusted in-country partners, 2016 has seen a focus on more long-term, sustainable programs and initiatives. These 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,

Thank you to all the longtime friends who have supported us throughout the years, and thank you to all of our new friends who joined us in 2016. I am humbled by your enthusiastic support of CBI. Your efforts have been transforming people’s lives since 1984, and will continue to transform not only lives, but entire communities, affected by blindness. I am honored to count you all as close friends and loyal family.

Warm personal regards,

Suresh Chandra, MD
Founder & Chairman
Combat Blindness International

Staff

Melissa Kuecker Witte | Executive Director
Vanja Terrill | Global Partnership Lead
Lee Southwell | Development Manager
Brandon Jackson | Development Lead
Priyanka Sharma | Development Associate
INCOME

- Gifts In Kind: 33% ($183,500)
- Events: 29% ($160,574)
- Investments: 8% ($45,641)
- Individuals: 12% ($63,901)
- Grants: 13% ($69,767)

EXPENSES

- Program: 87% ($875,141)
- Management & General: 8% ($82,156)
- Fundraising: 5% ($49,124)

TOTAL NET ASSETS: $970,456

NOTE: $901,475 is designated for an eye center. The funds have been, and will be, issued throughout 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.
### ASIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LV Prasad Eye Institute</td>
<td>$500,035</td>
<td>Eye Center in Odisha, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital</td>
<td>$48,464</td>
<td>1,092 Cataract Surgeries, Equipment, Ophthalmic Training for 170 Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shree Jalaram Seva Argoya Trust</td>
<td>$25,192</td>
<td>1,667 Cataract Surgeries, IOLs &amp; Consumables, Equipment, Development</td>
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<td>Tejas Eye Hospital</td>
<td>$9,919</td>
<td>4,186 Cataract Surgeries, IOLs &amp; Consumables, Equipment, Development</td>
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<td>Lions Club of Baroda West Hospital</td>
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<td>574 Cataract Surgeries</td>
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<td>Usha Kiran Eye Hospital</td>
<td>$3,197</td>
<td>1,269 Adult Cataract Surgeries</td>
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<td>Sitapur Eye Hospital</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>15,051 Cataract Surgeries</td>
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<td>Terabai Desai Eye Hospital</td>
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<td>1,211 Cataract Surgeries, Hospital Administrator</td>
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<td>Stage Cakkhu Dana Hospital</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana Ministry of Health</td>
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<td>IOLs and Consumables</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Foundación Visión</td>
<td>$6,950</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Metropolitan School District Vision Project</td>
<td>$2,285</td>
<td>505 Cataract Surgeries, Training, Capacity Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haiti Medical Missions of Wisconsin</td>
<td>$954</td>
<td>Situational Assessment and Eye Mission</td>
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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.

IMPACT: Cataract Surgeries

The impact of a cataract surgery is often understated. The effect does not simply stop at one person. Each man, woman, or child is a life, a family, and a community — all of which are transformed with the restoration of sight.

Esna Marnatona was a teacher in rural Botswana, until cataracts took away her sight. With Esna no longer able to read or teach, her community lost a valuable resource; education for their children. In 2016, CBI provided her with a cataract surgery, free of charge. She can now return to educating children and enlightening the future of her community.


IMPACT: Pediatric Ophthalmology

Combat Blindness International’s mission is to end preventable blindness worldwide. To accomplish this goal we must address avoidable visual impairment (AVI) in children.

Treatments exist for 80% of cases of pediatric AVI, but billions of people around the world currently lack access to services, leaving millions of treatable cases of refractive error, amblyopia (poorly stimulated nerve pathways), and other blinding and severely impairing conditions unaddressed. When left untreated, pediatric AVI unfairly inhibits a child’s ability to learn academically, vocationally, and socially, creating a chilling effect on intellectual and economic capacity.

CBI continues to increase the capacity of our international pediatric programs, which operate on 3 continents, including in Madison, WI, USA where we are headquartered. While all people will benefit from efforts taken to combat pediatric AVI, untreated visual impairment disproportionately affects minority groups, those with low socioeconomic status, and rural populations, as they are least able to access eye care and health services.
IMPACT: Personnel Training

In rural areas, where 72% of India’s population lives, the ratio of ophthalmologists to people is approximately 1:250,000. The need for more eye care professionals is apparent. We work with Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) of New Delhi in the Certified Ophthalmic Personnel (COP) Program. This program addresses the shortage of eye care professionals by training Certified Ophthalmic Personnel who have the advantage of shorter, more cost-effective training and lower educational requirements, and can perform necessary roles like vision-screeners, counsellors, 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 noteworthy 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, where women make up just 26% of the workforce and have a literacy rate of only 59%. When they enter the COP Program
2/3 of the world’s blind population are women. This is thought to be, in part, the result of male family members not allowing their female counterparts to be screened by other men.

They are taught the skills required to be an eye care professional, and 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.

These young women could not afford to live by themselves in their villages, let alone devoting their time to studying, so CBI provides the necessary living stipend (less than one dollar per day per student), which allows these students the economic independence to focus on and complete their education.

Within one year of implementing the COP Program (2014-2015), SCEH saw a 19% increase in patients screened, a 30% increase in total surgeries, and a 29% increase in spectacles distributed. The most telling statistic of all is a 70% increase in surgeries in rural areas.

3 Taken from a Catalyst report “Women in the Workplace: India” 11/17/15
4 All data collected by Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital in New Delhi, India.
5 Data obtained from the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
IMPACT: Infrastructure and Capacity

The single largest barrier for most of the world’s blind population receiving treatment is access to care. Millions of people lack treatment simply because they have nowhere to go. One solution to this problem is building, training, and staffing eye care facilities where they are needed most.

As the old parable says, “If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime.” This same principle applies to international eye care. By building an area’s infrastructure and capacity to provide eye care, we can create sustainable systems that will provide professional eye care to thousands of people for years to come. The result is a continuous impact in the community.

In 2016, CBI and the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) began construction on the first of two Eye Hospitals in Odisha, India. These hospitals will be fully built and staffed by the local population, and will have the capacity to serve approximately 1,000,000 people and perform an estimated 3,000 surgeries per year.
Looking Forward

It is with tremendous gratitude that we share this information with you. None of this would be possible without your support.

In 2017, Combat Blindness International would like to encourage you to help us spread the word about our cause; engage with us on social media, spread the word to other people, 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 Executive Director, Melissa Kuecker Witte, at mwitte@combatblindness.org or 608-238-7777.
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Combat Blindness International
is a 501(c)(3) organization.