



Combat Blindness International at a Glance

Combat Blindness International eliminates preventable blindness worldwide by providing sustainable, equitable solutions for sight through partnerships and innovation.

Fact: 50% of global blindness is due to cataracts

Suresh Chandra, MD, now a professor emeritus at UW–Madison, founded CBI in **1984** to combat this leading cause of preventable visual impairment.

Since then, CBI has expanded its scope to include global pediatric screening, women’s empowerment through technical training, and building eye health infrastructure in low-income countries.



CBI helped reduce Botswana’s backlog of cataract blindness.

Our Model for Success

Elimination & Prevention

90% of blindness occurs in low-income countries. Additionally, 80% of all blindness is preventable. By delivering much-needed surgeries, screenings, glasses and supplies, CBI is changing lives, transforming communities and making a difference around the world.

Building Capacity

CBI serves as an incubator for innovative eye care solutions. We work closely with our in-country partners, providing training and support to develop sustainable programs that they’ll operate independently.



We’re screening an average of 48,000+ children per year.

CBI by the Numbers

- 35** years of helping others
- 15** countries where we’ve had an impact
- 2.25 million+** vision screenings
- 370K+** sight-restoring cataract surgeries
- 400+** young women trained as technicians



For only \$25, cataract surgery can change someone’s life.





Combat Blindness International's Key Initiatives



International Cataract Program

36 million people in the world suffer from blindness, and half of this blindness is due to cataracts. Many are impoverished, due to the loss of income. By supporting low-cost, high-volume cataract surgeries, we're improving the health and well-being of others, while enhancing their prospects to succeed economically.



International Pediatric Program

It is estimated that 80% of learning takes place visually. Supporting early screening and proper treatment is one of the most effective ways to combat childhood blindness, giving children the opportunity to learn and thrive.



Certified Ophthalmic Paramedic Program

The shortage of trained eye care professionals is a major obstacle facing eye care programs and global health worldwide. By supporting the training of young women to become mid-level professionals, CBI is helping build capacity, while expanding opportunities for women.



Eye Care Infrastructure Efforts

We collaboratively strengthen our partners' capacity and infrastructure by delivering best practices, training, materials and equipment, as well as significant financial support. These efforts have resulted in increased efficiency, significant cost savings, and sustainable programs and facilities.

Combat Blindness International

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