

CHANGING THE ARC OF GLOBAL BLINDNESS

THE PROBLEM

- » **Globally 36 million people are blind**, unable to perform the tasks of daily living. Tragically, 80 percent of this blindness could have been prevented or is treatable.
- » **90 percent of the afflicted live in low-resource** countries and 60 percent are women.
- » **18 million people are blinded by cataracts alone**, a condition that can be cured with a ten-minute surgery and under \$25 in material costs.
- » **Once blind, that person's life expectancy is one-third** that of health matched peers; the mortality of blind children is even worse.
- » **The devastation of blindness extends** beyond the individual to entire 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 lack of funds**, insufficient 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 will expand 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 do this by providing critical eye care services, training for ophthalmic professionals, and enhanced eye care infrastructure where they are needed most. HCP|CureBlindness works with local implementing partners to serve more than 1.6 million people annually through examinations and basic treatment, including the provision of over 123,000 sight-restoring surgeries and hundreds of training opportunities for eye care personnel.

WHAT SETS US APART (OUR MODEL)

HCP|CureBlindness uses the elimination of cataracts as the cornerstone to strengthening national eye care. Our model is rooted in local providers, patients, and institutions, combining direct surgical care, multi-tiered training opportunities, and structural improvements to elevate eye care in a country. Our approach is efficient: 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.



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



Screened and provided basic treatment for 12M people



Performed over 980,000 sight-restoring surgeries



Trained 18,000 eye care professionals from 43 countries



Established 4 dedicated eye hospitals/training institutes

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

HCP|CureBlindness also supports subspecialty training and the development of ophthalmic residency programs to grow each country's clinical eye care. This investment in individuals help sustainably address all vision disorders, from refractive errors to complex retinal disease. Taking an action-based approach to national eye care development builds local leadership, empowers key actors, and builds sustainable practices from the ground up.

Our model has proven successful in countries with varied geographies, political structures, and national health care systems, consistently demonstrating high-quality clinical outcomes at a fraction of Western costs. Alongside the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Nepal, where HCP|CureBlindness began its work 25 years ago, we helped one of the poorest countries in Asia reverse its rate of blindness. Over 10 years, the prevalence of blindness fell by 58 percent and cataract surgeries increased by 1,900 percent.

SCALING THE SOLUTION

HCP|CureBlindness is scaling and replicating our proven model to build eye care capacity across the globe. We target areas where national eye care systems are still in their infancy, focusing on eliminating the backlog of cataract blindness, expanding local clinical capability, and leveraging the expertise of our master training partners from Nepal and India. Our organizational model – the DNA of what we do – prioritizes cooperating with health ministries, corporations, INGO's and implementing partners (in particular Tilganga, LV Prasad and Aravind for professional training, and Essilor for refractive services) to address blindness as a public health epidemic and to prioritize the development of accessible, quality national systems of eye care.

DIRECT IMPACT

Based on funding priorities and interests, HCP|CureBlindness can implement broad scaling plans across our main country programs in Ghana, Ethiopia and Nepal; or focus our scaling initiatives by specific country or program area (direct care, training, provision of equipment). An investment of \$5-10 million over five years would contribute to the following global impact:

\$1 Million	\$5 Million	\$10 Million
» 400,000 screenings and basic eye exams	» 2,000,000 screenings and basic eye exams	» 4,000,000 screenings and basic eye exams
» 25,000 sight-restoring surgeries (includes 9,000 in a remote/outreach setting)	» 125,000 sight-restoring surgeries (includes 45,000 in a remote/outreach setting)	» 250,000 sight restoring surgeries (includes 90,000 in a remote/outreach setting)
» 150 clinical training opportunities	» 650 clinical training opportunities	» 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 and Ghana, starting a cascade that can spread throughout Africa and around the world.

AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS IS ONE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM WE CAN SOLVE.