Cure Blindness PROJECT®

2025 Ghana Impact Report



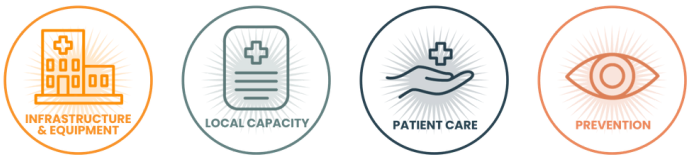
Cure Blindness Project in Ghana

Cure Blindness Project began work in Ghana in 2006 with its first in-country partner Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi. Today, work has expanded to over 15 partners throughout all regions of the country including a partnership with the Ministry of Health to support a National Cataract Outreach Program.

Cure Blindness Project's large partner network in this middle income country of ~34M makes it an attractive place to build a replicable, scalable countrywide outreach program that takes advantage of national health insurance and includes a comprehensive suite of services.

Eye Care Pillars

Cure Blindness Project's approach to eye care is unique—it focuses on building local capacity, ensuring quality infrastructure and equipment are available, enabling quality patient care and aiding effective prevention. We provide training and equipment to healthcare professionals, who then go on to provide eye care services in their own communities. This action-based approach builds local leadership, empowers key actors, and develops sustainable practices from the ground up.



2025 Ghana Impact Numbers

SCREENINGS 200,000+

267 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SURGERIES **20,000+**

$670,000+
VALUE OF EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTED TO **15 PARTNERS**

Cure Blindness Project Ghana Impact Numbers to Date

1.9 MILLION SCREENINGS

187,300+ SURGERIES

Building Local Capacity in Ghana

In order to provide quality eye care, eye care personnel at all levels of ophthalmology require specialized ophthalmic training. Cure Blindness Project offers dozens of training opportunities to the staff members of its partners throughout Ghana through a variety of methods from long-term fellowships for ophthalmologists that take place in another country to an hour-long lecture by a Cure Blindness Volunteer.

2025 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Number of Training Opportunities	2025
Allied Opthalmic Personnel	115
Ophthalmology Residents	129
Ophthalmologists	23
Total	**267**

Residency Training

Live Classroom

The Live Classroom programme complements virtual learning with in-person lectures, practical demonstrations, and hands-on training designed to strengthen the clinical skills of ophthalmology residents. In 2025, **54 residents from the two teaching programmes** at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) participated in the training. The sessions were delivered by five local and four international faculty members, who brought specialized knowledge, practical experience, and technical guidance to support the development of the next generation of ophthalmologists in Ghana.

Virtual Classroom

The Virtual Classroom provides ophthalmology residents with structured, accessible learning through a bi-weekly online lecture series delivered over an 18-month curriculum. Sessions are facilitated by both international and Ghanaian expert faculty, with content based on the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Basic Clinical Science Course. In 2025, **42 ophthalmology residents participated** in the programme, gaining access to consistent, high-quality clinical education alongside their residency training.

IIn 2025, Cure Blindness Project Ghana expanded opportunities for professional development among Ghanaian eye care workers, providing 267 training opportunities across the eye health workforce. These included 23 opportunities for ophthalmologists, 129 for ophthalmology residents, and 115 for allied ophthalmic personnel (AOPs). The increased number of training opportunities reflects Cure Blindness Ghana's continued investment in strengthening the skills and capacity of eye care professionals at different levels of the health system.

Compared with the 161 training opportunities reported in the previous period including 46 ophthalmologists, 24 residents, and 91 AOPs—the 2025 programme reached a broader range of eye health professionals, with a particular expansion in opportunities for ophthalmology residents and AOPs. These investments contribute to building a stronger and more capable eye care workforce equipped to deliver quality services to patients across Ghana.

Satellite Rotation & Surgical Outreach Programme

The Satellite Rotation and Surgical Outreach Programme provided **70 ophthalmology residents** with opportunities to gain practical clinical and surgical experience beyond their primary teaching hospitals. Through rotations and participation in surgical outreach activities, residents were exposed to real-world service delivery and gained hands-on experience in managing patients and supporting cataract surgery in different clinical settings.

Wet Lab Stations

To strengthen practical surgical training, wet lab stations were established at both Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH). Each institution received five surgical microscopes, along with SimulEye simulation systems, pig-eye practice models, and SICS surgical sets. These resources provide residents with opportunities to develop and refine essential microsurgical skills in a controlled training environment before applying them in the operating theatre.

Building Local Capacity in Ghana

Hospital-Based Training Programmes

- In 2025, Cure Blindness Project Ghana supported 16 hospital-based training programmes, providing ophthalmologists and other eye care professionals with opportunities to strengthen specialized clinical and surgical skills. The trainings covered key areas of ophthalmic care, including cornea, retina, cataract surgery, and complication management.

- Key trainings included Cornea Transplant Training at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) in March, with five participants; Retina Training at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in April, with four participants; and Phacoemulsification Training at KATH in May and November, involving three participants. In addition, six participants received Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS) training, while five ophthalmologists from NCOP and KBTH received specialized complication management training at Aravind Eye Care System.

- These hospital-based programmes strengthened the technical capacity of eye care professionals in Ghana and supported the development of specialized skills that can be applied within partner facilities to improve access to comprehensive and quality eye care.



Ophthalmic Nurses at Koforidua Regional Hospital

2025 Research Grants

- Secure II
- DME
- Cornea Research Publications

Allied Ophthalmic Personnel

- Cure Blindness Project Ghana also invested in strengthening the skills of allied ophthalmic personnel (AOPs), recognizing their critical role in supporting the delivery of quality eye care. Training and capacity-building activities covered both clinical and operational areas, helping to strengthen the multidisciplinary teams supporting ophthalmic services across partner facilities.

- Key training activities included Biomedical Engineering training at KATH, Theatre procedures for ophthalmic nurses, and Biometry training at the NCOP host site. In preparation for the opening of the Eye Center at Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH), nine clinicians also received targeted training. Additional capacity-building covered hospital management, patient counselling, optical dispensing, and refraction, equipping AOPs with skills to support patient care across different stages of the eye care pathway.

- Together, these training opportunities strengthened the technical and operational capacity of AOPs and supported partner facilities to provide more comprehensive, efficient, and quality eye care services.



Ophthalmic Nurses participating in activity

2025 Travel Grants

- Global Ophthalmology Conference in Chicago, US
- (Prof Vera Essuman, KBTH; Dr Afake Hornametor, Head, Eye Care Unit, GHS)
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Conference, Orlando, US
- (Dr Gladys Fordjour, KBTH)

Advocacy

In 2025, significant progress was made in advancing advocacy for tissue and corneal donation in Ghana. The Corneal Blindness Working Group (CBWG) established, met weekly to develop strategies, coordinate advocacy efforts, and identify opportunities to advance tissue donation policy and legislation in Ghana.

As part of its continued advocacy efforts, the CBWG collaborated closely with the Ministry of Health to support the development of a National Policy on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation. The development of this policy represents a critical step toward establishing the necessary framework for subsequent legislation on organ and tissue donation in Ghana. The CBWG and the Ministry of Health are optimistic that the policy will be formally adopted in 2026.

Throughout the year, the CBWG also conducted a series of advocacy and stakeholder engagement meetings to build support for the policy and legislation. These engagements brought together key stakeholders and helped strengthen awareness of the need for a comprehensive legal and policy framework to support tissue and corneal donation.

The passage of effective organ and tissue donation legislation has the potential to transform the lives of more than 26,000 Ghanaians living with corneal blindness and awaiting access to sight-restoring corneal transplantation. By establishing a sustainable national system for tissue donation and transplantation, Ghana can significantly expand access to corneal transplants, reduce avoidable blindness, and improve the quality of life for thousands of individuals and their families.

A Corneal Blindness Working Group (CBWG) met weekly to discuss strategy and initiatives to move this forward in Ghana's Parliament.



Members of the Corneal Blindness Working Group



Michael Oboo Gyan from Cure Blindness Project Ghana making remarks



Corneal Blindness Working Group and Cure Blindness Project team

"I'm looking forward to having surgery so I can **take care of my children.**"

Emefa, 36



@ Cape Coast Teaching Hospital



@ Tamale Teaching Hospital

"There are no words that can fully explain **my joy** at this moment."

Appiah, 30

Happy, **Happy,** Happy!"

A cataract patient when asked how he was feeling.



@ Koforidua Regional Hosptial

Infrastructure

Work on the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH) Eye Center progressed steadily throughout 2025, with construction completed in December. Final interior and exterior finishing works continued, alongside the installation and setup of equipment in preparation for the Center's inauguration in March 2026.

The development represents an important step toward expanding access to comprehensive and specialized eye care services in the Central Region and Ghana as a whole.



Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH) , March 2026

Equipment

IIn 2025, Cure Blindness Project Ghana provided more than **$670,000 worth of ophthalmic equipment** to strengthen the capacity of 15 implementing partners and training institutions across Ghana. The investment supported facilities to expand and improve their ability to provide quality eye care services, while strengthening the infrastructure required for clinical care, training, and surgical services. Equipment support was provided to:

- Agogo Presbyterian Hospital
- Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH)
- Crystal Eye Hospital
- Friends Eye Hospital
- Holy Family Hospital, Techiman
- Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH)
- Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH)
- National Cataract Outreach Programme (NCOP)
- St. Patrick's Hospital, Offinso
- Tarkwa
- Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH)
- Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital
- Watborg Eye Hospital
- St. Barnabas Family Hospital
- Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons



CCTH will serve as a Centre of Excellence for the region.



Equipment training with Biomedical engineers

This equipment investment strengthened the operational capacity of partner facilities and helped ensure that eye care professionals have the appropriate tools and resources to deliver essential ophthalmic services and support ongoing training and skills development.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and Primary Care

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
Cure Blindness Project strengthened the capacity of five implementing partners to systematically improve the quality and consistency of eye care services through Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). Partners were equipped with practical tools, enabling them to identify gaps in service delivery, develop targeted solutions, monitor progress, and make data informed adjustments to their service delivery and patient care.

The initiative also strengthened partner ownership and accountability for quality by establishing Quality Champions within participating facilities and developing facility-specific improvement plans. These mechanisms provide partners with a structured approach to continuously assess their services and address quality gaps across the cataract surgical pathway, from patient selection and biometry to surgery, post-operative care, and complication management.

By integrating CQI into routine partner operations, the programme is helping to shift quality improvement from a one-time training activity to an ongoing process of learning and improvement. This provides a foundation for partners to sustain improvements, strengthen clinical practices, reduce variations in care, and ultimately improve the quality and safety of services provided to patients.



Associate VP of Strategic Initiatives Pamela Clapp leads CQI training in Ghana.

Primary Care
In 2025, Cure Blindness Project Ghana launched its Primary Care Program, strengthening the capacity of Ophthalmic Nurses to identify and treat eye conditions at the primary care level. As part of the program, 24 Ophthalmic Nurses (ONs) were trained in the early identification and management of corneal diseases, refractive errors, cataract, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. The training also equipped nurses with skills to use mobile devices and the PEEK software to conduct eye screenings in their health faciltiies.

Through PEEK, trained nurses can screen and triage patients, identify those requiring further assessment, and facilitate referrals for appropriate follow-up care. The digital platform also supports tracking of patient referrals, helping to strengthen continuity of care.


CQI Training Participants







Cure Blindness PROJECT®

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