HCP CUREBLINDNESS’ WORK IN GHANA

Globally, 43 million people are blind—80% of this burden is treatable or preventable.

- About 230,000 people are currently blind in Ghana.
- Cataracts continue to be the leading cause of low-vision and blindness with hundreds of thousands waiting for care. Care in rural communities lags behind that available in cities. HCP strives to provide necessary equipment and training so doctors can care for those in the most remote areas.
- Only 128 ophthalmologists treat the more than 30 million people who live in Ghana. HCP is expanding access to care by training front-line healthcare workers to diagnose and treat eye diseases.
- In Ghana, HCP Cureblindness has over 14 implementing partners and a volunteer network of collaborators. Our 2023 acquisition of SightLife International, an organization dedicated to addressing corneal disease, expands our reach and magnifies our impact further.

IMPACT IN GHANA

Since our first in-country partnership in 2006, together with our partners.

1.55 million eye screenings and basic treatments

150,300 sight-restoring surgeries

GHANA MILESTONES

2006: First partnership with the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) Eye Center in Jumaal to support training and cataract outreach.

2014: Inaugurate of KATH's standalone Eye Center funded by USAID ASHA as a center of excellence in care and training serving West Africa. The completed facility saw a 26.5% increase in surgical eye care during the year following its opening.

2017: First Country Representative, Dr. Oscar Debrah is hired to advise HCP program activity and partner expansion.

2018: The number of HCP partnerships reaches 13 and includes Ghanian service providers from both the public and private sectors.

2018: In partnership with Ghana Health Service (GHS), the National Cataract Outreach Program (NCOP) is established with the goal of eliminating needless blindness in Ghana while building a financially sustainable program.

2020: HCP receives USAID grant to construct a stand-alone eye center and teaching facility (modeled after KATH) at Cape Coast Teaching Hospital.

2021: GHS assigns four staff members (optometrists, ophthalmic nurse, biomedical engineer and program manager) to train eye care personnel in NCOP’s standard operating procedures for cataract surgeries.
WHY WE HELP
For millions of people, blindness is treatable. Unfortunately, 90% of people suffering from vision loss live in low- and middle-income countries where a solution isn’t available. Without care, blindness dramatically affects individuals, their families and their communities.

- Blind children are more likely to die in childhood than children with good vision, especially in low-income countries.
- Vision loss is linked to social exclusion more broadly, including the experience of negative attitudes, violence and bullying, sexual assault, and loneliness.
- The restoration of sight helps break the cycle of poverty and inequity. Studies show that as many as 90% of blind individuals in poor communities cannot work. 55% of the world’s blind are women - and 90% of women who are blind are living in poverty.
- Sight helps people learn. Children can learn twice as much when they see clearly.

HOW WE HELP
HCP’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.

WHERE WE STARTED
Founded in 1995 in Nepal by Dr. Geoff Tabin and Dr. Sanduk Ruit on their dream to end needless blindness in the world, HCP Cureblindness today provides critical eye care services, training for ophthalmic professionals, and enhanced eye care infrastructure where they are needed most.

OUR VISION
We envision a world in which no person is needlessly blind.

OUR MISSION
We enable countries to cure needless blindness by developing high-quality, cost-effective eye care in underserved areas of the world.

CHANGING THE ARC OF GLOBAL BLINDNESS: WHERE WE WORK
HCP Cureblindness tackles avoidable blindness in over 25 countries in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with core country operations in Nepal, Bhutan, India, Ethiopia, and Ghana. Expansion initiatives are underway in countries including South Sudan, the Philippines, Tanzania, Eritrea, and Somaliland.