CHANGING THE ARC OF GLOBAL BLINDNESS

After ChandBee underwent a life-changing corneal transplant, she was able to resume farming and be reunited with her children.

HCP CUREBLINDNESS IN INDIA

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

- 17 million people are blind due to untreated cataracts alone, a condition that can be cured with a ten-minute surgery and under $25 in material costs.

- There are millions in the world who needlessly suffer from corneal blindness, which is the scarring of the cornea caused by a wide variety of diseases. In many cases, corneal blindness is preventable or treatable. For the 12.7 million people waiting for a corneal transplant, only one cornea is available for every 70 needed. A large percentage of the corneal blind live in India.

- An estimated 9.2 million people in India are currently blind.

- The blindness rate in India ranks the highest in the world, topping rates in China, Indonesia and Russia.

- In India, there are currently not enough eye banks and/or trained providers at every level of care to meet the demand for adequate eye health. HCP is working with in-country partners to build foundational structures to support sustainable systems.

HISTORY OF HCP IN INDIA

2009: Work begins in India by SightLife International to address corneal blindness with a heavy focus on developing eye banks.

2016: SightLife International launches policy and advocacy work focused on increasing access to tissue, reinforcing operating standards and promoting appropriate reimbursement policies.

2016: The KGMU UP Community Eye Bank, a state-of-the-art facility in Lucknow, the capital of the state of Uttar Pradesh (UP), opens.

2018: Training of local female community health workers in Nepal and India continues allowing for immediate care of corneal abrasions in remote areas. 96% of cases are resolved after four days of antibiotic treatment.

2023: HCP Cureblindness acquires SightLife International to expand reach and magnify impact in curing blindness in India.

2023: Through the training of community health workers in Nepal and India, more than 50,000 men, women and children in these countries have been successfully treated for corneal abrasions and their sight saved.

2023: A milestone 200,000 patients have received a sight-saving corneal transplant since efforts to address corneal blindness started in 2009.

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.

IMPACT IN INDIA
Since our first in-country partnership in 2009, together with our partners in India and Nepal:

- 50,000 cases of corneal blindness prevented
- 200,000 corneas provided through eye bank partners for transplant
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- 200,000 corneas provided through eye bank partners for transplant
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.\(^5\)
- Vision loss is linked to social exclusion more broadly, including the experience of negative attitudes, violence and bullying, sexual assault, and loneliness.\(^8\)
- The restoration of sight helps break the cycle of poverty and inequity.\(^9\) Studies show that as many as 90% of blind individuals in poor communities cannot work.\(^10\) 55% of the world’s blind are women - and 90% of women who are blind are living in poverty.\(^11\)
- Sight helps people learn. Children can learn twice as much when they see clearly.\(^12\)

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 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, Tanzania, the Philippines, Eritrea, and Somaliland.

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.

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\(^1\) IAPB Vision Atlas
\(^2\) American Academy of Ophthalmology
\(^3\) Lancet
\(^4\) Unite for Sight
\(^5\) Aravind Eye Hospital
\(^6\) World Economic Forum
\(^7\) BMJ Journals