

# PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS

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As part of a five-year action plan aimed to fight avoidable blindness in 13 African countries, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Project C.U.R.E, the world's largest provider of donated medical equipment and supplies, are partnering to provide much needed equipment and supplies. **The overall goal is to contribute to improving the quality of life of persons with visual disability** and uplifting their socio-economic status in the IsDB member countries. The specific objective is to **provide comprehensive, accessible, and sustainable eye care services** in the target countries through provision of eye care equipment, strengthening tertiary, secondary hospitals and faculties of medicine and technician training centers.

## JOIN US

We invite manufacturers, hospitals, and eye care professionals to become part of this impactful project which will contribute to strengthening the overall health systems in the targeted countries by building strong eye care service.

## THE SITUATION

Approximately 90% of the world's visually impaired people live in low-income settings. Of the 285 million people that are visually impaired, 39 million people are blind. **Sub-Saharan Africa carries 15% of the global burden of blindness**, with 5.9 million people being blind.

The World Report of Vision, published by the WHO, estimates that at least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or are blind, of whom *at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed* (WHO, 2020). Sub-Saharan Africa has at least 20 million people with vision impairment that could have been prevented.

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According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), 80% of cases of blindness are avoidable. **With proper treatment, the conditions leading to blindness can be prevented or cured, and it is possible for lost eyesight to be restored.** The staggering shortage of human resources and health infrastructure and equipment for eye care is a fundamental obstacle preventing full access to crucial eye care services for Africa's largely poor and rural populations. Cataracts are the main cause of blindness (70%), and the 2019 Cataract Surgical Rate of approximately 500 per million was far below IAPB recommended 2,000 per million for Sub-Saharan African countries.

In the targeted countries, most of the equipment and infrastructure exist in the capitals and larger cities, with limited capacity in small cities and rural areas. An analysis of the current state of essential equipment in ophthalmology centers shows that **there is a general inadequacy of equipment to provide quality eye health services.** Most items included in the essential instrument list produced by IAPB are generally not available in the eye care units.

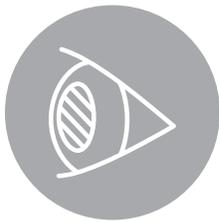
Many facilities lack basic ophthalmic equipment for treatment. Existing equipment is often damaged or nonfunctional. Certain crucial equipment is unavailable to allow for treatment considered standard of care. For example, some hospitals that offer cataract surgeries do not have biometry equipment for calculation of the adequate intraocular lens. **The shortage of consumables including cataract kits, knives, IOL, and viscoelastic also contributes to poor postoperative results.** Advanced techniques such as phacoemulsification for cataract surgeries are not used in most of the eye health facilities due to the lack of adequate equipment or insufficient capacities of available machines.



*Targeted Countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Comores, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia, and Togo*

# OUR SOLUTION

Project C.U.R.E. will focus on the provision of eye care equipment which will contribute to **strengthening the capacity of the designated eye care centers and eye health systems in the targeted countries.** The equipment delivery will cover treatment of cataract, uncorrected refractive error, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. It will be based on technical standards as set out on the respective guidelines of IAPB and WHO.



## CATARACT

For cataract, the delivery will include equipment and consumables for cataract surgery campaigns, as well as for tertiary and secondary eye health services.



## GLAUCOMA

For glaucoma, the service delivery will include provision of equipment and instruments for diagnosis and surgery of glaucoma and strengthening/ establishing national glaucoma centers within the targeted countries.



## DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

For diabetic retinopathy, the delivery will include the equipment of screening programs and diagnosis and treatment services.



## UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERROR

For Uncorrected Refractive Error (URE), the most common ways to deliver equipment will be through school eye health programs and Community Vision Centers. Activities such as provision of equipment and spectacles and creation of national optical workshops.

# THE PARTNERSHIP

The Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) is a Partnership Program formed to address blindness that can be prevented or cured in ISDB member countries. **The Alliance brings together ministries of health through National Programs for the Control of Blindness (NPCB), NGOs, training centers, donor institutions and volunteers; all involved in eye care.**

Planning of activities in the beneficiary countries will be undertaken in a participatory approach with IsDB and the NPCB of the respective Ministry of Health as well as participating NGOs. The overall coordination is with IsDB which is also responsible for monitoring of the implementation of this project and review of the reports, consolidation of information, and communication to the involved partners along with the financial management.

# ABOUT PROJECT C.U.R.E.

Established in 1987, and headquartered in Denver, Colorado, Project C.U.R.E. is today the world's largest distributor of medical donations to developing countries. Since our founding, **we have delivered more than \$1 billion gift-in-kind value to communities in more than 135 countries.** As a non-profit, 501(c)(3), Project C.U.R.E.'s goal is to bridge the staggering health resource gaps in the developing world by empowering doctors and nurses with the tools they need—medical supplies and equipment—to treat disease, deliver vaccines, perform life-changing surgeries, and ensure safe childbirth. Project C.U.R.E. operates distribution centers in Denver, Nashville, Houston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Kansas City with 10 additional collection centers across the U.S., which collect, sort, and pack donations of excess medical supplies and previous-generation equipment donated from over 500 U.S. hospitals and medical manufacturers. Working with hundreds of partners globally, Project C.U.R.E. matches these valuable donations with hospitals, rural clinics, and healthcare facilities in severely resource-limited communities all over the world so **they can offer quality care and critical medical services to their most vulnerable patients, especially women and young children.** Thanks to the dedication of thousands of volunteers nationwide, three to four cargo containers of life-saving aid leave our warehouses every week. Project C.U.R.E.'s demonstrated capabilities and expertise have helped strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve healthcare systems in 135 countries, helping save the lives of patients, families, and children.

## PRIORITY PROJECT ITEMS

- Slit lamp
- Operating microscope
- Phacomachine and accessories
- Ophthalmoscope
- Volk 90D
- Biometer A
- Biometer B
- Automatic kerato-refractometer
- Cataract instruments/sets
- YAG-Laser
- IRIS Hook
- Catalys
- Autoclave
- Poupinel
- Hydro-coagulation cautery
- Goldman Tri-Mirror Glasses
- OCT-retina
- Fluorescein angiograph
- Multi-spot laser
- Non-mydratiac retinograph
- Pulsed air tonometer
- Tonometer at Perkins
- I-care 100
- Visual field device
- Pachymeter
- SLT-Laser
- Glaucoma surgery instruments/sets
- Trial glass boxes
- Phoroptor-projector
- Lens frames for children and adults
- Auto-refractometer (portable and fixed)
- Retinoscope
- Semi-automatic grinder
- Drill
- Heater
- visual acuity scale
- Parinaud
- Test projector
- Pupillometer
- Frontofocometer

To make your tax-deductible donation and **become a member of this partnership**, please contact Janet Thomason, Director of Procurement, at [JanetThomason@projectcure.org](mailto:JanetThomason@projectcure.org)

