



Photo: Geoff Oliver Bugbee

DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

We are proud to present ORBIS Africa's first report and share our success and future vision for child eye health. While ORBIS International celebrates 30 years, as the newest member of the global family, we too have much to celebrate. Since ORBIS started the Africa Initiative in 2010 we have opened an office in Cape Town. We have registered as a South African not for profit organisation, initiated programmes in South Africa, Zambia and Cameroon, conducted ground-breaking research, formed meaningful partnerships and hosted the Flying Eye Hospital in Zambia.

We are passionate about putting children's eye health on the mainstream public health and human rights agenda as we believe no child should be blind from preventable conditions simply because they could not access services. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 23% of the world's blind children; yet within the 54 sub-Saharan countries only 11 countries have facilities to treat and manage childhood blindness.

Blindness affects a child's physical and cognitive development as most early learning comes through vision. There is a huge social and economic cost to the child, the family and society. Loss of sight is also linked to poverty and children in resource poor environments seem to be most adversely affected.

Advocacy efforts therefore underpin our approach in Africa. We are working with governments and civil society to lobby for priority to be given to eye health to truly transform service delivery and children's lives.

ORBIS Africa's mandate is to drive ORBIS's expansion into Africa, focussing on the development of comprehensive child eye health services. In 2010 ORBIS committed to opening 10 paediatric Eye Care Centres over the next 10 years. To date we have opened child-friendly centres in South Africa, Zambia and Ethiopia with further programmes in development in Cameroon and Ghana.

We thank our partners and supporters who share our vision and believe that children have the right to sight.



Robert Walters
Photo: Geoff Oliver Bugbee



Lene Øverland
Photo: Clare Louise Thomas

Robert Walters
Chair, ORBIS Africa

Lene Øverland
CEO, ORBIS Africa



ORBIS IN SOUTH AFRICA

ORBIS is exploring a partnership with the National Department of Health to develop a national plan for child eye health, and have partnered with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health to pilot a comprehensive model for quality eye care for children.

In 2011 we opened the state of the art ORBIS Paediatric Eye Care Centre at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban, in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health. The Centre treats the most serious children's eye diseases and is only the second such sub-speciality unit in the country. Over the past two years ORBIS has worked on multiple levels of the health care system rolling out extensive human resource training, facility development, equipment procurement and public awareness campaigns.



Dr. Daniel Neely, ORBIS Volunteer and leading paediatric ophthalmologist, is the programme's official mentor and conducts annual training visits with the ophthalmic team. He has high praise from Dr. Dharmesh Parbhoo, the head paediatric ophthalmologist at the Centre, commenting that **"DR. PARBHOO HAS AS GOOD A SET OF PAEDIATRIC HANDS AS I HAVE SEEN."** The Centre provides world-class care to the children it treats.

Early detection and swift referral is the key to a successful blindness prevention programme for children. ORBIS has therefore rolled out an innovative Primary Healthcare Nurse Training Programme throughout the province to empower the frontline health workers to identify early signs of visual impairment and refer these children to our specialised Centre for treatment. Through research we are also exploring societal barriers hindering children's speedy uptake of services that could save their sight.

In the years to come ORBIS is looking to extend our reach in the Province, equipping more centres with the tools and technology to address child eye health. We will continue training and developing the eye care teams of the future and use our research towards developing appropriate interventions towards ensuring that all children have access to treatment.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE NURSES TRAINING IN KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE



Photo: Brynne Fortuin



Photo: Musa Gumede

ORBIS has initiated an innovative training programme with Primary Healthcare Nurses throughout the province to address the urgent need of early identification. It was found that, all too often, children in rural or impoverished communities were not presenting at hospitals early enough so the window of opportunity to save or restore their sight is missed. To date over 240 primary healthcare nurses have been trained to perform a basic eye examination for children. They have been given the tools and resources to treat or refer the children as necessary. The strategy is to imbed this simple test into their regular primary healthcare checks. By the end of 2013 all primary healthcare nurses in the province will have been trained and will have received the innovative resource kit at their local clinics.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA SO FAR

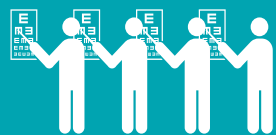


196

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NURSES TRAINED IN BASIC VISUAL SCREENING

24

OPTOMETRISTS AND OPHTHALMIC NURSES RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES



1088

CHILDREN SCREENED FOR EYE PROBLEMS



1053

RECEIVED MEDICAL OR OPTICAL TREATMENTS



692

CHILDREN RECEIVED PAEDIATRIC SURGERIES



ORBIS IN ZAMBIA

KITWE: VISION FOR CHILDREN

In 2011 the Kitwe Paediatric Eye Care Centre was opened in Kitwe as part of the thriving Eye Department at Kitwe Central Hospital. We have been working with our partner to build the capacity of their child eye health team and equip the facility with the necessary tools to provide high quality care to children. The high-tech Centre is the only paediatric centre in the country. This means that children from all over Zambia come to be treated for cataract, squint, glaucoma and any other serious eye conditions.



DR. CHILESHE Mboni – PAEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGIST, KITWE EYE DEPARTMENT



ORBIS has been working with Dr. Mboni since 2010. He has been on fellowship training to Tanzania and is mentored by ORBIS volunteer paediatric ophthalmologists Dr. Neely and Mr. Benjamin. Additionally he trained on the Flying Eye Hospital and spent time in America with Dr. Neely.

“SINCE ORBIS CAME TO KITWE, THEY PROVIDED US WITH WHAT WE NEEDED TO ACTUALLY SET UP THE ONLY PAEDIATRIC EYE CENTRE IN THE COUNTRY, I HAVE GAINED A LOT FROM WORKING WITH THEM, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS WITH DR. NEELY AND MR. BENJAMIN.”
 – DR. CHILESHE Mboni

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE: SEEING IS BELIEVING

ORBIS has been awarded the prestigious Seeing is Believing Grant, sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, to develop eye health services in the North Western Province of Zambia. The four-year programme commenced in 2013 and aims to develop a full range of services throughout the underserved province: from cataract to trachoma and refraction. A Vision Centre was opened in Solwezi in June 2013. It is the only facility in the province where people can have their vision tested and get prescription spectacles.

Photos: Generous Mukanga



BEFORE

74 year old Mrs. Jen Kalimpa of Chiwoma village, being assisted after cataract surgery to both her eyes.



AFTER

A happy Mrs. Kalimpa, centre, with her family after her successful surgery.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN ZAMBIA SO FAR

11794
 CHILDREN SCREENED FOR EYE PROBLEMS

1509
 RECEIVED MEDICAL OR OPTICAL TREATMENTS

1075
 CHILDREN RECEIVED PAEDIATRIC SURGERIES

14 024
 REACHED IN COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

38
 DOCTORS TRAINED

13689
 ADULTS SCREENED

270
 PEOPLE RECEIVED SPECTACLES

129
 ADULT CATARACT OPERATIONS

190
 NURSES, TECHNICIANS & OTHER MEDICAL PERSONNEL TRAINED

THANK YOU

Photo: Geoff Oliver Bugbee



Photo: Brynne Fortuin



Photo: Geoff Oliver Bugbee



The ORBIS Africa team thanks all the individuals who have supported us during our start-up period in South Africa. Thank you to our global colleagues for your guidance and support. We really appreciate everyone's unique contribution and generosity, we look forward to a bright future together.

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ORBIS Africa thanks Kenneth Youngstein and his team at BioCom for working with us on a pro bono basis to develop the Primary Health Care Nurse Training resource kit. The innovative tool is used to empower primary health care workers with basic eye care skills. To date over 200 Primary Health Care Nurses have been trained in the province.



Photo: Geoff Oliver Bugbee



FLYING EYE HOSPITAL PROGRAMME

The Flying Eye Hospital touched down for the first time in Zambia in November 2012. This exciting training event brought together eye health professionals from around the country for an intensive two-week programme with our international expert volunteers. The programme, designed in close collaboration with the Department of Health, focussed on paediatric ophthalmology and retina and nursing.

Highlights included the filming of an episode of Al Jazeera's 'The Cure': The Flying Eye Hospital, which has been broadcast to an international audience of over 20 million viewers. Over 120 medical professionals received training and lasting mentoring relationships were established.



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