It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

Mahatma Gandhi
In this activity report we present an account of what our work has achieved through 93 projects in 14 of the poorest countries in the world: We restore eyesight, give children with disabilities a future, and improve the chances and rights of persons with disabilities in the long term.

Founded in Austria 20 years ago, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is now among the most important European expert organisations working for persons who have eye diseases, are blind or are otherwise disabled in developing countries. Our partners and local staff in projects, volunteers in Europe, the support of the Austrian Federal government, the Austrian federal states as well as the EU and the combined efforts of more than 120,000 supporters carry through our commitment.

Our guiding principle is to build sustainable structures and to support people individually at the same time. Following this principle we were able to extend the work in the countries we focus on: In Ethiopia we broadened the training of local professionals and the establishment of two new eye clinics is nearing completion. The rehabilitation programme for children with disabilities will be extended to rural areas in the South of the country. In Mozambique we used our experiences establishing an eye clinic in Beira to set up basic medical eye care in other provinces. In Southern Sudan the eye clinic in Mapurdit conducted cataract surgeries for the first time in April 2008 and a programme is currently being established for the integration of disabled children into regular schools.

Our effective efforts for the rights of people with disabilities are also visible in a UN-Resolution, which was initiated by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD at the UN General Assembly in December 2007. The resolution asks for persons with disabilities to be taken into consideration in the context of international development cooperation.

On European level, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD was successful in proposing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in health and education within the EU-Africa Strategy.

In 2007, our sister organization SVĚTLO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD was founded in the Czech Republic. This was an important step towards a European network raising awareness and support for people who have eye diseases.

“Austrians save eyesight” is an initiative to increase the awareness for the concerns of people who are blind or have eye diseases. The initiative is supported by 144 eye doctors all over Austria within the framework of our educational and public relations efforts and makes further projects possible.

In early 2008, we also started a new sponsorship programme for children with disabilities in Africa where sponsors in Austria can take responsibility and give a child a chance to live an autonomous life.

I hope that you, too, will support us!

Sincerely,

Rupert Roniger
Executive Director of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD - Christoffel Development Cooperation

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Evolved from an exemplary personal initiative ...

In 1908 E.J. Christoffel founded the first home for blind people in present day Turkey and laid the foundations for a network which is active worldwide.

E.J. Christoffel dedicated his life to help the blind and disabled persons and orphans in the Orient. The political turmoil during the two world wars twice set him back and he had to start over from scratch.

At the age of 74 the sick pastor went on a mission for the last time. In the Iranian town Isfahan he continued what he had done all his life: help blind people, children with disabilities, poor and orphans – regardless of nationality, gender, religion or ethnicity.

E.J. Christoffel died at the age of 78 in Iran. His example in individual initiative lives on in the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Austria. The organization’s efforts focus on the most marginalized regions in the developing world.

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2007 On 30 March, Austria is one of the first countries to sign the “UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” at the UN Head Quarters in New York.

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LIGHT FOR THE WORLD advocates for the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities and that are at risk of disabilities in marginalized regions of the world, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, gender or religion.

Carrying on with the spirit of the work of Ernst Jakob Christoffel, we feel committed to values like charity and solidarity as well as human rights.

Thanks to the support of over 120,000 Austrians, the support of the Austrian Federal government, the Austrian federal states and the EU we are able to support 93 projects in 14 countries. We are very pleased with the development of our newly-founded sister organization SVĚTO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in the Czech Republic, which has already supported two projects in Ethiopia in 2007.

Voluntary commitment, which pays off!

To raise awareness in Austria and worldwide for the situation of people who have eye diseases, people who are blind or otherwise disabled, the commitment of volunteers and prominent supporters like Chris Lohner is invaluable.

Chris Lohner is a Good Will Ambassador for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and is tirelessly engaged for people who have eye diseases, are blind or otherwise disabled in developing countries. Her personal commitment made the financing of an eye clinic in the Ethiopian city of Jijiga possible. Her ongoing charity project “caftans – it fits” finances cataract surgeries, herself having experienced cataract. “If I were at home in Africa, I would have gone blind long ago. In developing countries cataract for most people means life long blindness. Believe me: There is hardly a more beautiful moment than the smile of a person who sees again after years of blindness!” says Chris Lohner regarding her motivations for voluntary engagement.

Chris Lohner – the grateful supporter!

I would like to say thank you with all my heart personally to each of the donors for the very important support of the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. Without your help we could not help others help themselves. Each of you has contributed to making life for another human better. It is a very good feeling, which should fill you with happiness and pride. Thank you!

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All the best, good health and happiness to you!

Shamimu can see again! Thanks to a cataract surgery, the girl from Tanzania will go to school and lead a self-determined life!

Bukhina Plass, September 2006: Chris Lohner looks after Balboni Habibou, who had just undergone cataract surgery.
**Our mission**

Our long-term experience of interfacing between blindness prevention, work with disabled people, and development cooperation means for us to act as advocates for people who are blind or disabled or at risk of becoming disabled in the poorest regions of the world. Our work contributes to combating poverty and enforcing human rights.

**Our work focuses on the following activities:**
- preventing avoidable blindness and restoring eyesight
- rehabilitating persons who are blind and persons with other disabilities,
- preventing and treating disabling conditions, and
- promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Our guiding principles are:**
- to empower people to help themselves,
- to build up sustainable structures,
- to train local skilled workers,
- providing support to integrate disabled people in all areas of life.

**Our motivation is based on:**
- Christian charity and solidarity,
- ethical principles that are inclusive and sensitive to other world views and
- human rights and non-discrimination.

**Towards a European network**

To accomplish these goals it is important that LIGHT FOR THE WORLD reaches outside the borders of Austria as an expert organization and advocates in Europe the concerns of people who have eye diseases, who are blind or have other disabilities.

Our sister organization, which was founded in 2007, SVĚTLO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, makes a major contribution towards this goal in the Czech Republic.

Since 2006, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD operates a small office in Brussels to work with the institutions of the European Union (Council, Parliament, Commission). The goal is to ensure that European development cooperation does not exclude persons with disabilities and instead that all development programmes reach out to and actively involve persons with disabilities. Also, our long-term experience of interfacing between blindness prevention, work with disabled people, and development cooperation means for us to act as advocates for people who are blind or disabled or at risk of becoming disabled in the poorest regions of the world.

**Development cooperation as a mandate**

- We enable access to proper medical care.
- We support the development of effective social and health care systems in our partner countries.
- We improve opportunities and living conditions in a sustainable way.
- We advocate, at a political level, for universal and fundamental human rights of persons with disabilities. In particular we advocate for those unable to represent themselves.
- We support interest groups led by people with disabilities themselves so they can self-advocate for their rights and concerns.
- We raise public awareness of concerns and interests of persons affected by disability.

**Focus Areas in programme work**

**Improvement of living conditions and sustainable development**

Eighty percent of the world’s 650 million disabled persons live in developing countries. Only a very small percentage has access to basic health care and basic education. In this cycle of poverty and disability, people are deprived of their fundamental human rights. They are largely excluded from development processes.

In more than fifty percent of the cases, disabilities are avoidable. This is true for the woman who went blind from a cataract as well as the child who cannot walk due to a club foot. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD provides access to treatment and therapy for affected people by supporting local partner organizations.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD also committed itself to the task to open new prospects for people with disabilities, to create mobility with the help of devices, to start initiatives that will provide education and income.

Another objective is to raise awareness of the family and social environment of disabled people; this is an important basis for inclusion and as a consequence self-determination of persons with disabilities.

In 91 projects, which LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supported in 2007 in 14 countries, a total of 4,900,000 people were examined, treated, trained or operated. And among them:

- 27,281 cataract surgeries,
- 13,072 children with disabilities received assistance and rehabilitation.

In 2007, the development funds were distributed in accordance with the following four focal points of the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD:

- Prevention of avoidable blindness and restoring eyesight 51.89%
- Rehabilitation of persons who are blind or persons with other disabilities 34.38%
- Prevention and treatment of disabling conditions 9.55%
- Promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and disabled people’s organisations 4.17%

**Our principles of action for cooperation with partners in the marginalized regions of our world**

- We support local partners in marginalized areas of our world in their work with/to people who are blind, otherwise disabled, or are more likely to acquire a disability.
- We provide help regardless of gender, ethnicity, or religious affiliation and in particular we take into consideration population groups who are especially disadvantaged, such as women, children, indigenous peoples, and marginal groups of society.
- We act according to the needs of the people affected.
- Our programmes reach as many people as possible.
- We support sustainable programmes which promote the social integration of blind or otherwise disabled people into their community.
- We support programmes even in difficult times and tackle current challenges with patience, perseverance and flexibility.
- We ensure that our funds are used efficiently and economically in our project work and uphold the principles of ecological and social sustainability as well as fair trade relations whenever possible.
- We enable people to participate in a global exchange of experience about effective and efficient concepts for the programme areas we support.
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Vision 2020

Eliminating Preventable Blindness

37 million people in the world are blind. 90% of them live in the poor regions of the world. In three out of four cases, blindness could be avoided or eyesight restored. The WHO and the NGOs working in the field of blindness prevention have set a very ambitious goal for the international campaign “VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight”: preventable blindness is to be a thing of the past by the year 2020.

VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight

The core of this campaign is to develop and implement national plans for blindness prevention where government agencies coordinate the priorities and bundle efforts in their respective countries in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, professional associations and educational institutions.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD actively cooperates in its focus countries – like Mozambique – to develop national plans for blindness prevention.

The programme support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD for partner countries is directed alongside existing plans and provides input to blindness prevention committees for determining focus and coordination. This ensures that the 46 programmes which are supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD are in line with the priorities defined by the respective country, and that no parallel structures are established – which could not be kept up anyway – and that double financing is avoided.

Another focus of VISION 2020 lies in the mobilization of additional support for the fight against preventable blindness. The “Austrian Initiative against Blindness” (ÖIB) was founded in 1999, which since 2004 has been under the patronage of the Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer.

While the implementation of VISION 2020 has seen much progress in Ethiopia and Mozambique in the past few years, many challenges still remain in Burkina Faso:

VISION 2020 in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the second poorest country of the world, access to eye care is still a privilege available to only a few people. Until 2004 this was also true for the 2.5 million people around Ouagadougou and Garango east of the capital Ouargaye. The eye clinic built with the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Zorgho has changed this situation:

In 2007 alone, 9,930 people were treated in Zorgho and 858 cataract surgeries were performed. The training of medical personnel has also recently begun, which gives support to blindness prevention activities in other health institutions in Burkina Faso. This is an important contribution to the implementation of the VISION 2020 National Plan in Burkina Faso.

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LIGHT FOR THE WORLD will reinforce its work in the coming years to make the successful realization of the National blindness prevention programme possible.

The major causes of preventable blindness

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses in its programmes – according to the principles of “VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight” – on the major causes of preventable blindness:

Cataract

Cataract is the most common cause of blindness and causes almost half of all cases of blindness (18 million people) worldwide. However, eyesight can be restored: with surgery that lasts around 15 minutes, the opaque lens is removed and replaced by an artificial intraocular lens and eyesight is saved. In 2007, in Ethiopia alone, 10,409 cataract surgeries were conducted in projects supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

Trachoma

In Ethiopia, as well as in Sudan, the infectious disease trachoma is widespread. Worldwide, 84 million people are infected and 1.5 million went blind as a consequence of this infectious disease. Repeated infections and secondary infections cause a scarring of the conjunctiva. The eyelid turns inward and the lashes rub on the cornea – which is very painful and irreversibly leads to blindness.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports preventive measures as well as mass treatment with effective antibiotics to treat the infection, and the necessary eyelid surgery at a more advanced stage.

Childhood blindness

Around 1.5 million children worldwide are blind due to preventable causes like Vitamin A deficiency, as well as congenital cataract, untreated infections and injuries. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports mass screenings in schools to prevent childhood blindness, as well as projects for the identification and surgery of children with cataract.

Low Vision and uncorrected refractive errors

Some 124 million people worldwide experience severe Low Vision. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports projects such as one in Kikuyu, Kenya, which focuses on the medical, therapeutic and pedagogic treatment of children with Low Vision.

Over 153 million people worldwide are functionally blind or suffer from Low Vision due to uncorrected refractive errors. Without adequate help and support they do not have a chance to lead a self-determined life.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the examination of refractive errors and the provision of eyeglasses in its projects. In Uganda LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is supporting the first National Programme in this area, in co-operation with ICEE.

Glaucoma

The second most common cause of blindness is glaucoma. It is a challenge to make this difficult diagnosis and provide treatment particularly in developing countries. It is therefore important to develop adjusted intervention strategies.
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**VISION 2020 in Burkina Faso**

In Burkina Faso, the second poorest country of the world, access to eye care is still a privilege available to only a few people. Until 2004 this was also true for the 2.5 million people around Ouargaye and Garango east of the capital Ouagadougou. The eye clinic built with the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Zorgho has changed this situation:

In 2007 alone, 9,930 people were treated in Zorgho and 858 cataract surgeries were performed. The training of medical personnel has also recently begun, which gives support to blindness prevention activities in other health institutions in Burkina Faso. This is an important contribution to the implementation of the VISION 2020 National Plan in Burkina Faso.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD will reinforce its work in the coming years to make the successful realization of the National blindness prevention programme possible.

**The major causes of preventable blindness**

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses in its programmes – according to the principles of “VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight” – on the major causes of preventable blindness:

**Cataract**

Cataract is the most common cause of blindness and causes almost half of all cases of blindness (18 million people) worldwide. However, eyesight can be restored: with surgery that lasts around 15 minutes, the opaque lens is removed and replaced by an artificial intraocular lens and eyesight is saved. In 2007, in Ethiopia alone, 10,409 cataract surgeries were conducted in projects supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

**Trachoma**

In Ethiopia, as well as in Sudan, the infectious disease trachoma is wide-spread. Worldwide, 84 million people are infected and 1.5 million went blind as a consequence of this infectious disease.

Repeated infections and secondary infections cause a scarring of the conjunctiva. The eyelid turns inward and the lashes rub on the cornea – which is very painful and irreversibly leads to blindness.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports preventive measures as well as mass treatment with effective antibiotics to treat the infection, and the necessary eyelid surgery at a more advanced stage.

**Childhood blindness**

Around 1.5 million children worldwide are blind due to preventable causes like Vitamin A deficiency, as well as congenital cataract, untreated infections and injuries. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports mass screenings in schools to prevent childhood blindness, as well as projects for the identification and surgery of children with cataract.

**Low Vision and uncorrected refractive errors**

Some 124 million people worldwide experience severe Low Vision. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports projects such as one in Kikuyu, Kenya, which focuses on the medical, therapeutic and pedagogic treatment of children with Low Vision.

Over 153 million people worldwide are functionally blind or suffer from Low Vision due to uncorrected refractive errors. Without adequate help and support they do not have a chance to lead a self-determined life.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the examination of refractive errors and the provision of eyeglasses in its projects. In Uganda LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is supporting the first National Programme in this area, in co-operation with ICEE.

**Glaucoma**

The second most common cause of blindness is glaucoma. It is a challenge to make this difficult diagnosis and provide treatment particularly in developing countries. It is therefore important to develop adjusted intervention strategies.
Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities need special support to be able to develop their abilities and talents: receive therapeutic appliances, access to education, health care and employment, as well as social inclusion into family and community.

Children with disabilities in developing countries hardly have a chance for an autonomous life. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is engaged in targeting support to enable them to lead an autonomous life and later generate their own income for their families.

Community-based rehabilitation

This becomes particularly clear in community rehabilitation programmes. Rehabilitation fieldworkers visit persons with disabilities, especially children, in their family homes. Together with the parents, they discuss the next therapeutic steps and define the potential need for medical treatment and therapeutic appliances. However, schools and other community institutions are also contacted to make sure that persons with disabilities are not being excluded. In 2007, in 12 countries, 13,072 children with disabilities received rehabilitation and support in 44 projects, which cooperate with LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

In Burkina Faso alone 5 projects managed to reach 2,726 children within the framework of community rehabilitation with the involvement of their families and communities.

In Gondar, Ethiopia, deaf children were integrated into a regular school.

In Mundri, South Sudan, teenagers who could not walk due to Polio were equipped with hand bicycles – now they can take part in village life, finish an education and later generate their own income.

In many regions of Northeast India, for the first time children with disabilities receive access to rehabilitation services through the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

School inclusion

One of the key conditions for the successful rehabilitation of children with disabilities is access to education. Out of the 77 million children worldwide that do not have access to basic education, one third are children with disabilities.

In many cases efforts are not only needed to persuade school directors and teachers but also the correct policy framework is needed to ensure education for disabled children. An important prerequisite is specific teaching material like Braille books and specially trained teaching personnel.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is engaged in efforts for the inclusion of disabled children: for example in Northeast India, centres for deaf and blind children are used for training teachers who then make the inclusion of blind and deaf children at regular schools possible.

In Tanzania LIGHT FOR THE WORLD facilitates the networking of local organizations of and for persons with disabilities, which work for inclusive education and political participation of persons with disabilities.

In 13 provinces of Papua New Guinea, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is, with the support of the European Union, engaged in a programme to achieve the inclusion of deaf children in regular schools.

Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Across the world, the rights of persons with disabilities are being denied. Persons with disabilities experience everyday discrimination, social exclusion and the refusal to recognise their abilities and talents everyday could be the first or last work of the sentence. Persons with disabilities enrich society and can accomplish an important contributions to it. Their accomplishments show us how vital it is to value diversity.

Human rights are valid for all

The full enjoyment of all human rights by all is articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which came into force on 3 May 2008. For the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD it is especially important that in this Convention, for the first time an obligation was laid down stipulating that the rights of persons with disabilities have to be taken into consideration in the context of development cooperation as well.

Public development funds shall not be used anymore to build schools not accessible for children with disabilities. Women with disabilities shall not be excluded from micro credit programmes, and people with disabilities have to be included in official development aid mechanisms such as budget and sector support.

Everyone: Also persons with disabilities

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD advocated the inclusion of international cooperation in the UN Convention. Now the mission is to turn those principles into reality: LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is actively working to make European and Austrian development cooperation more inclusive.

All actors, public development cooperation, non-governmental organisations and private initiatives are asked to actively include persons with disabilities in their programmes and projects.

Based on an initiative by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, the UN General Assembly recognised in its resolution in December 2007 that persons with disabilities have to be taken into consideration in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Get rights – internationally and locally

For us it is important to connect our commitment for human rights for persons with disabilities on International, European and Austrian level with the work in the partner countries as well as to support respective initiatives in partner countries and their networks.

In Ethiopia, for example, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the National Union of disabled persons in implementing the UN Convention.

In Guwahati, Northeast India, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports a legal assistance office for persons with disabilities. In 2007 it had several successes, like in the case of Mr. Nirupme Mahante, who lost his eyesight as a consequence of the removal of a brain tumour. The bank employee was refused his re-entry into his old job with the remark that this job can be carried out only by “seeing” people. The legal assistance office took this case to court – and the court sided with Mr. Nirupme Mahante. Only three months later he was re-employed and able to support his wife and kids again.
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LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses its project work on four priority countries and eight more programme countries. This ensures competent, sustainable and therefore effective cooperation with local partner organisations, government authorities, regional networks as well as specialized organizations and experts.

Only by knowing the situation of persons with disabilities, health care and educational institutions, social structures, local civil society in our target region, can we develop sustainable programmes. The alignment with national policies and development strategies as well as the coordination with international initiatives and providers of development aid is also gaining more and more relevance. It is important too to be able to offer our project partners competent expert support and advice.

**Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Southern Sudan**

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses its efforts on four of the most disadvantaged countries in the world. The situation of people with eye disease, who are blind or have other disabilities is dramatic in these countries, especially due to the high level of poverty and the lack of any health care or social structures. Despite a multitude of challenges it was possible to achieve progress in all four focus countries in the past year:

In **Ethiopia**, the most important priority country, the focal point lies in the area of blindness prevention, and further community rehabilitation initiatives are being set up in rural regions.

In **Burkina Faso** the focus of the programmes lies in community rehabilitation, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is seeking to deepen its involvement in eye health programmes inside the state health care system.

The focus of efforts in **Mozambique** is blindness prevention in the central- and northern regions of the country. In addition, rehabilitation programmes are being developed.

In **Southern Sudan** the focus is blindness prevention. A programme to provide schooling for children with disabilities in an inclusive setup is also being implemented.

Apart from the four focus countries in Africa, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is active in the following countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Northeast India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Bolivia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The programs of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD are built around a concrete focus regionally and sector-wise. This leads to best efficiency in coordination with other organizations active in the country to reach persons who have eye diseases, are blind or have other disabilities and need our support the most.

We also support projects in Sri Lanka and Nepal within the cooperation framework together with other non-governmental organizations like Leonard Cheshire Disability (UK) and Dark & Light (NL).
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**Ethiopia**

**Ethiopian skilled personnel save eyesight**

1.2 million people in Ethiopia are blind and the need for support is enormous. For this reason Ethiopia is the most important priority country for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD conducts 16 projects in the area of blindness prevention alone. Important support comes from the Austrian federal government within the framework of the Austrian Development Cooperation.

In 2007 in the projects supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD 10,409 cataract surgeries were performed. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports within the framework of National Blindness Prevention Plans the training programmes for local skilled eye care personnel at the universities in Gondar, Awassa and Jimma. In Jimma right now a cataract surgeon from the Somali region is about to finish her education and will support the work of two eye doctors and a cataract surgeon in the Somali region starting from this year. This represents another important step for the 5.4 % blind persons out of the total 4.1 million inhabitants.

**People with disabilities**

To support people with disabilities, especially children, in their development and the evolution of their talents, rehabilitation field workers visit families with disabled family members in Gondar. Apart from therapeutic treatment and the work with the families, the focus is put on awareness raising in the village and with the local institutions. Pupils clubs were founded and ensure that children with disabilities are well included in the schools and can take part in the tradition of partner organisations in southern Sudan to make basic education possible for children with disabilities. It is the basis for their future. This increases the chances for their own development and access to income generation possibilities as well as an active and equal participation in the daily life.

More community based rehabilitation projects will be added this year to this model project in Gondar, especially in Awassa and the rural areas around Arba Minch in the south of the country.

**Zelalem can walk again!**

When eight year old Zelalem lost her right leg in an accident with a horse cart, her world broke down. However, a therapy centre in Arba Minch, which works with the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, provided her with a prosthesis and crutches.

With the help of her rehabilitation helper, Zelam has now learned how to use them. She is learning how to have the prosthesis support her weight and how to keep the balance. The exercises are strenuous and time consuming, but she has already achieved the first successes. In about two years Zelalem will be able to walk without crutches.

Her first steps with the prosthesis gave Zelalem her courage back. Now she can play and laugh with her friends!

**Relief flights save eyesight**

Aktuek Nal lives together with her daughter and her family close to Padak in southern Sudan. Aktuek used to be at the centre of family life, she cooked, kept the courtyard and hut clean, helped in the fields and took care of her grandchildren. However, two years ago she lost her sight. The once cheerful woman started to spend her days quietly on her own, without contributing to family life.

One day she heard in the village that someone would arrive that examines blind people and perhaps even can restore eyesight. Anxiously she waited with her family for the arrival of the flight which is supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. She was diagnosed with cataract and operated on the very next day.

Today Aktuek can see again, and again she works and takes care of her grand children!

**Sudan**

**An eye clinic is created**

The hospital in Maprudit in south-western Sudan had to refuse people with eye problems until not long ago. They needed equipment and medication simply was not available and nobody could diagnose eye conditions.

In 2006, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD took on the challenge to set up a continuous eye care clinic for the 1.8 million inhabitants of the region.

An ophthalmic nurse was employed, and an adequate building for the small eye medical clinic is under construction. In April 2008 for the first time an eye specialist team could travel to Maprudit and operate on patients diagnosed with cataract.

Also people with infectious eye diseases, trachoma and children at risk of blindness will receive better treatment at the new eye clinic in the future.

**Inclusive education for children with disabilities**

After years of civil war the education system in Southern Sudan is facing many challenges. One complete generation did not have access to school education. It is difficult to find qualified teachers. Schools need to be furnished, teaching material has to be provided. The people have to informed about the importance of basic education for children. All these challenges increase the risk that children with disabilities might be forgotten.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports together with the Dutch organization Dark & Light initiatives of partner organisations in southern Sudan to make basic education possible for children with disabilities. It is the basis for their future. This increases the chances for their own development and access to income generation possibilities as well as an active and equal participation in the development of southern Sudan in general.
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Mozambique

Seeing into the future

Since October 2007, the Ethiopian eye doctor Dr. Assegid Aga is working in the eye care programme in the provincial capital Beira, developed by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. Apart from the eye examinations and surgeries in the clinic in Beira itself – 22,690 patients came to the clinic in 2007 – he will focus in 2008 on reaching patients in other parts of the province of Sofala aswell.

Together with a team from the eye clinic, he is planning 24 visits to villages sometimes several hundred kilometres away. Patients, whose eyesight can be saved with surgery, are transported back to the clinic in Beira. Only a few days later the patients see their village again, in the true sense of the word.

Also in the neighbouring province the efforts of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD to support northern and central Mozambique in the framework of the National Blindness prevention plan showed good results. At the eye clinic in Quelimane in total 7,432 patients were examined and 234 cataract surgeries were performed in 2007.

Moreover, it was possible to provide the eye clinics in Lichinga and Tete with instruments and drugs.

Rehabilitation and education

In Beira LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports an initiative to teach blind people how to use computer software, email and internet. This acquired computer literacy increases their chances for education and jobs.

With the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD 14 blind persons in the provinces of Sofala and Chimoio will over the next three years be trained to become teachers. After completing their education they will be employed in the state school system and hence be integrated in the job market.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD faces a big challenge in the province of Sofala, where a pilot project for community based rehabilitation for people with disabilities is to be built.

Julieta’s way into the light

Half a year ago Julieta went blind. The active grandmother - who used to cook, work in the fields and look after the grand children - was suddenly dependent on the help of her family.

Her son Augusto heard that an eye doctor would come for a day to the nearby village of Muanza. He put his mother on his bike, and carried her through the high reed and across streams. Julieta’s transport to the hospital was taken care of.

The next day surgery was performed, after which she could not believe her eyes: she could count the doctor’s fingers! And later she was even happier when she could finally see her youngest granddaughter!

Burkina Faso

Steps into Life

For many children with disabilities in Burkina Faso there are neither therapy nor therapeutic appliances available. This changed in the region around Kaya since the programme for community based rehabilitation started in 2006 with support from LIGHT FOR THE WORLD: rehabilitation field workers show parents during family visits how they can assist their children to learn skills to handle everyday life. In this manner the children’s development is facilitated in the familiar environment. Small miracles take place when the children slowly but surely take steps towards independence and no longer need to rely on others in the daily routines of life.

In 2007, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supported four community based rehabilitation projects – more than 2,700 children were supported. Since the beginning of 2008, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD also supports two additional community based rehabilitation projects. Where possible, these projects work closely together with medical facilities, such as the eye clinic that LIGHT FOR THE WORLD established in Zorgho. The goal is to expand eye care services to other regions in future.

Signs of Hope

CEFISE in the capital Ouagadougou is not like any other school – here groups of pupils communicate with each other and with teachers with signs. Deaf and hearing-impaired children receive support on different levels – from preschool to job training.

In addition to expanding the offers for the hearing-impaired children, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has made the enlargement of the centre possible. Moreover, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the training of a teacher to become a much needed logopedician, a qualification that is rare in Burkina Faso.

Gérard learns to walk

Since birth, Gérard cannot move his legs and his right hand, nor can he get up or move forward. While his mother Monique is very caring and looks after him, she cannot help him. Rehabilitation field worker Jean-Claude noticed the family:

With professional care, Gérard will make progress, even learn to walk!

With massages and exercises Jean-Claude started to strengthen the boy’s muscles. And soon Gérard could stand up. For further progress he needs parallel bars. The whole village helped in the construction and now notices what abilities the disabled boy has.

Gérard was radiating with happiness when he for the first time raised himself up along his new bars.

Overjoyed Julieta holds little Gisa. Finally she can not only feel her grand child, but also see her!
**Mozambique**

### Seeing into the future

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The goal is to expand eye care services to other regions in future.

### Signs of Hope

CEFISE in the capital Ouagadougou is not like any other school – here groups of pupils communicate with each other and with teachers with signs. Deaf and hearing-impaired children receive support on different levels – from preschool to job training.

In addition to expanding the offers for the hearing-impaired children, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has made the enlargement of the centre possible. Moreover, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the training of a teacher to become a much needed logopedician, a qualification that is rare in Burkina Faso.

### Gérard learns to walk

Since birth, Gérard cannot move his legs and his right hand, nor can he get up or move forward. While his mother Monique is very caring and looks after him, she cannot help him. Rehabilitation field worker Jean-Claude noticed the family: with professional care, Gérard will make progress, even learn to walk!

With massages and exercises Jean-Claude started to strengthen the boy’s muscles. And soon Gérard really could stand up. For further progress he needs parallel bars. The whole village helped in the construction and now notices what abilities the disabled boy has.

Gérard was radiating with happiness when he for the first time raised himself up along his new bars.

The parallel bars are hardly finished before Gérard takes the first steps into life on his own legs!
We take action

Project work in other countries

Eye medical training in Kenya

Africa has a high demand for eye doctors. However, only a few training centres in Sub-Saharan Africa offer well-founded education with a practical orientation where doctors learn treatment methods and techniques in surgery, which they can apply in their home countries.

One training centre is the university clinic in Nairobi, where LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has been providing scholarships to prospective physicians for years.

Several scholarship holders are meanwhile successfully active in blindness prevention, such as Dr. Chisi in Zambia.

Treatment of refractive errors in Uganda

In Austria strong short-sightedness, long-sightedness, astigmatism and other refractive errors are well treatable due to area-wide health care and access to corrective eyesight devices. When this system is lacking, many people – worldwide more than 250 million – must walk through life with severe visual impairment.

In Uganda LIGHT FOR THE WORLD works in partnership with the Ministry of Health to change this situation. A National Programme to address uncorrected refractive errors is currently being set up, which will serve as a model for other countries.

Rehabilitation and blindness prevention in Tanzania

In Dar es Salaam LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports – funded by the EU and the Austrian Development Cooperation – a comprehensive programme for community based rehabilitation and a disability hospital where not only eye surgeries but also orthopedic operations are performed and where children with hydrocephalus are treated.

The work in the outskirt districts of Dar es Salaam also focuses on people with HIV and their families. Persons with disabilities are often neglected in AIDS information campaigns.

Giving children in Bolivia a future

In Bolivia LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports six rehabilitation and education projects for children with disabilities. In addition to medical treatment and physiotherapy, integration into schools and vocational training are focussed on.

The rehabilitation centre in San Ignacio, founded by the Austrian Irmgard Prestel, consists of a school for deaf and children with multiple disabilities, rooms for medical examination and treatment, a physiotherapeutic ward and workshops.

Work in the villages in Northeast India

In the severely disadvantaged North-East India live around 40 million people of 209 different ethnic groups, most of them in deep poverty. Outside of the cities there are no basic education and health systems in place. As a consequence, the rate of blindness reaches 3% in the federal state of Assam.

Thanks to cooperation with LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, four eye clinics are currently conducting regular visits to the villages of North-East India. Over 50,000 people were examined and 2,600 cataract surgeries performed.

The work in the communities is also the focus of the community based rehabilitation programme, being accompanied by the Indian specialised organisation CBR-Forum. With the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, it is being extended each year into new regions. Today seven respective projects in four North-East Indian federal states are implemented.

Blindness prevention in Pakistan

In Pakistan LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses its support on the area of blindness prevention. A comprehensive eye care system will be established in four districts of the Northwest Frontier Province over the next few years, and these will include the establishment of and equipment for an eye unit in district hospitals as well as training of health personnel at the village level.

Moreover, the Pakistan Institute for Community Ophthalmology is training ophthalmic medical personnel within the framework of the National blindness prevention programme.

Education in Papua New Guinea

In Papua New Guinea LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports in particular the education of children with disabilities in regular schools. For children to be accepted in schools, it is necessary to also work sufficiently with the families of the children.

Within the framework of a project funded by the EU and the Austrian Development Cooperation, deaf and hearing impaired children will get access to school education in 19 provinces.

Inclusion in Bosnia-Herzegovina

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in a country-wide programme supports the inclusion of persons with disabilities into their communities through a project funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation. Initiatives suggesting actions for improving the involvement and inclusion of persons with disabilities have to be proposed by the communities, and following a positive screening will receive a matching fund.

Moreover LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the School for the Blind in Sarajevo.
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93 projects worldwide

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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Slavobulgari</td>
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<td>Gasava</td>
<td>Community-based rehabilitation programme</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Nova</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Manda</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ouagadougou</td>
<td>School for deaf children and adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ouagadougou</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Zaire</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Kikuyu</td>
<td>Advanced Training programme for ophthalmology specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Beira</td>
<td>Eye Clinic with mobile eye care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Beira</td>
<td>Training for people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Beira</td>
<td>Project coordination for Mozambique</td>
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<td>Beira</td>
<td>School for the blind people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Lichinga</td>
<td>Eye Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Maputo</td>
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<td>Sofala</td>
<td>Education for children with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Sofala</td>
<td>Development of Community-based rehabilitation programme</td>
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<td>Abyei</td>
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<td>Upper Nile</td>
<td>Blindness prevention programme</td>
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<td>Orthopaedic Clinic for people with disabilities, eye clinic, Community-based rehabilitation programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>Advocacy for the integration of children with disabilities in schools</td>
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#### Projects supported 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Town/Region</th>
<th>Type of project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Moshi</td>
<td>Ophthalmological treatment of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Moshi</td>
<td>Advanced training programme for ophthalmology specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Mbale</td>
<td>Eye Clinic and advanced training programme</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>National programme for the correction of refractive errors</td>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Advocacy work for the rights of people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Braille books for the central library for blind people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Project coordination for Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and integration of deaf children</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Awareness raising campaign on trachoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Afar</td>
<td>Programme to combat trachoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Arba Minch</td>
<td>Community-based rehabilitation programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Awassa</td>
<td>Training of healthcare personnel in the field of ophthalmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Bahir Dar</td>
<td>Eye Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Bahr (Ereysye)</td>
<td>Eye Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Butajira</td>
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#### 93 projects worldwide

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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Cochabamba</td>
<td>School and community-based rehabilitation programme for blind children and children with multiple disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Concepcion</td>
<td>Kindergarten and school for children with disabilities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>San Ignacio</td>
<td>School and rehabilitation programme for children and adolescents with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Sucre</td>
<td>Vocational training for children with disabilities</td>
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<td>School for deaf children and adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia Herz.</td>
<td>Sarajevo</td>
<td>Community integration of persons with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia Herz.</td>
<td>Sarajevo</td>
<td>School for blind and vision impaired children and adolescents</td>
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Building awareness …

Our commitment for people who have eye diseases, are blind or have other disabilities is only possible with the help of people who are informed about the worldwide situation on persons with blindness and other disabilities. To strengthen our roots in Austria, it is important to increase awareness also in Austria - in society and in politics.

Children learn to understand blindness

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD staff regularly visits schools in Austria to talk to children and teenagers about the situation of people who are blind or have other disabilities in Africa and increase the understanding for their needs. Children learn to understand the serious matter of blindness in a playful manner. In spring of 2008 they also visited several schools in Bad Ischl to inform students about a very special project: In cooperation with LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and the federal state of Upper Austria, the Fair Trade Shop in Bad Ischl was able to build an eye clinic in the Ethiopian city of Soddo in south-western part of the Wolayta Region, where 41,000 blind people live.

Austrian companies bring light

The Austrian company Premium Immobilien and Croma Pharma provide significant support for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. While the Viennese real estate investment company helps to realize infrastructural projects for eye care in Ethiopia and supports specific communication on the situation of people who are blind or have eye diseases in developing countries, the pharmaceutical company in Korneuburg is the main sponsor of the initiative “Austrians save eyesight”. We say “Thank you” for this exemplary commitment!

…creating understanding

Austrians save eyesight

For the third time LIGHT FOR THE WORLD organized the successful campaign AUSTRIANS SAVE EYESIGHT to increase awareness for the needs of blind people in developing countries in 2007. The 2007 initiative was focused on the South and East of Austria. Under the patronage of the governor of Styria, Franz Voves, and support from the Odillien-Institute Graz, many Styrian eye doctors contributed with slide shows and appeals for donation. The proceeds of this initiative enabled the realisation of additional projects for people who are blind or have eye diseases in the focus countries of Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Sudan.

Monk and painter gives eyesight

“Love and serve” is the motto of the Carmelites Order, which the painter and friar Father Meinrad Hugentobler expresses with his memorable art for blind people in Africa. For many years he has made use of his artistic talent for his social commitment. “Now that I got this gift, I want to use it to help others”, says the humble monk and painter. The renowned Hotel Kitzhof in Kitzbühel provided the setting for a charity vernissage for the painter friar on 31 August 2007. Chris Lohner, who has been the Good Will Ambassador for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD for many years, was responsible for the speech and the moderation of the evening in Kitzbühel. The proceeds of the charity vernissage, 2,000 Euro, went to LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2007, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD disseminated, with experts, information about the UN Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities. Rupert Roniger, Managing Director LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, demands: “It is high time for Austria to ratify the UN-Convention. There is basic consensus on this among all political parties. Only ratification is a clear commitment to full inclusion of people with disabilities into all social areas in Austria.”
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The proceeds of this initiative enabled the realisation of additional projects for people who are blind or have eye diseases in the focus countries of Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Sudan.
What has been achieved in 2007

Our work in support of blind and partially sighted people and of people with other disabilities was further expanded and developed in 2007:

Allocation of funds

The sum of all expenditures increased in 2007 by 6% to EUR 8.83 million (2006: EUR 8.34 million).

Over 75% of the expenditures were used for project work and made it possible to conduct over 91 aid projects. Our support reached over 490,000 people in 14 countries who are blind, have eye diseases or other disabilities.

The focus of our work lies in Africa. With over 77% of direct project support we currently support 63 projects, the regional focus is on the four countries Ethiopia (25 projects), Mozambique (13), Burkina Faso (9) and Southern Sudan (5). 18.4% of direct project support is directed to Asia (22 projects), and 2.8% to Latin America (6 projects).

4) of the projects we are supporting (56% of the budget) are focused on the prevention of blindness and eye care, while 48 projects focus on rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities. In 2007, 8.4% of project expenditures was used for preparation and coordination of our projects. 5.12% was used for advocacy work to establish the needs and rights of disabled persons and persons at risk of becoming disabled as a principle of Austrian, European and international development cooperation.

The support of network partners was particularly used to assist the establishment of our sister organisation SVĚTLO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Prague, Czech Republic.

We received in total EUR 1.1 million in public project subsidies in 2007:

LIGH FOR THE WORLD has received EUR 743,769.00 from the Austrian Development Cooperation (OEZA). These funds were used in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The European Union is funding a programme for people with disabilities in Tanzania as well as the project “Disability Mainstreaming in European Development Cooperation”, with a total amount of EUR 319,320.50.

What has been achieved in 2007

Sources of our funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources in EUR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Bequests</td>
<td>171,025</td>
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<td>Sponsoring</td>
<td>61,724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public project subsidies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project contribution network partners</td>
<td>3,426</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>228,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,833,172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reliability

For years now, the annual financial statements of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD have been audited by Hübner & Hübner Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung Gesellschaft m.b.H. and our use of the donations are accounted for. The result of the audit for the financial year 2007 was positive. According to the auditor’s opinion of 30 April 2008, “the audit did not lead to any reservations. Based on (…) our findings (…), the annual financial statements comply with the statutory regulations (…) and give a true and faithful picture of the Association’s net worth, financial and earnings position in keeping with the generally accepted accounting principles of Austria.”

The result of the audit required for the grant of the Austrian Seal of Quality for Donations (Spendenguetsiegel) was also positive for the year 2007.
What has been achieved in 2007

Our work in support of blind and partially sighted people and of people with other disabilities was further expanded and developed in 2007:

Allocation of funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation in EUR</th>
<th>Programmes and projects including advocacy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public relations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Donation processing and services to donors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support of network partners Europe</td>
<td>37,571</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free reserve Allocation</td>
<td>180,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
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The sum of all expenditures increased in 2007 by 6% to EUR 8.83 million (2006: EUR 8.34 million).

Over 75% of the expenditures were used for project work and made it possible, to conduct over 91 aid projects. Our support reached over 490,000 people in 14 countries who are blind, have eye diseases or other disabilities.

The focus of our work lies in Africa. With over 77% of direct project support we currently support 63 projects, the regional focus is on the four countries Ethiopia (53 projects), Mozambique (13), Burkina Faso (9) and Southern Sudan (5); 18.4% of direct project support is directed to Asia (22 projects), and 2.8% to Latin America (6 projects).

4) of the projects we are supporting (66% of the budget) are focused on the prevention of blindness and eye care, while 48 projects focus on rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities.

In 2007, 8.4% of project expenditures was used for preparation and coordination of our projects. 5.12% was used for advocacy work to establish the needs and rights of disabled persons and persons at risk of becoming disabled as a principle of Austrian, European and international development cooperation.

The support of network partners was particularly used to assist the establishment of our sister organisation SVĚTLO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Prague, Czech Republic. 14.1% was spent on expenditures for mailings and project information for donors and those interested, and educational work (slide presentations within the framework of the action “Austrians save eyesight”, development education programmes in schools).

For public relation work, e.g. press releases, events and reports about the project work 2.6% have been spent. Sponsoring and voluntary commitment of many people in Austria made more exhibitions, charity events and information evenings for people interested in the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD possible. 2.5% was used in 2007 for donor relations management (e.g. donation processing, database work) and 3.3% for administration. Approximately 2% of total expenditure was allocated as reserves.

Sources of our funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources in EUR</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>7,297,575</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Requests</td>
<td>171,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsoring</td>
<td>61,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public project subsidies</td>
<td>1,070,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project contribution network partners</td>
<td>3,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>228,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,833,172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The European Union is funding a programme for people with disabilities in Tanzania as well as the project “Disability Mainstreaming in European Development Cooperation”, with a total amount of EUR 319,320.50.

Thanks to increasing support for our work in Austria and in Europe, it was possible to extend our assistance. The proceeds increased by 6% from EUR 8.4 million in 2006 to EUR 8.83 million in 2007.

The foundation of our work is built on the commitment of 121,810 individuals, families, companies and institutions, who by making 76,788 donations account for 82.62% of total revenues. Total cash and in-kind donations rose to EUR 7.3 million in 2007, 264,979 Euro of this were valuable in-kind donations, especially medical products.

A positive development is the increase in bequests: they reached EUR 171,624.81 in 2007 (2006: EUR 126,139), 36% higher compared to the previous year.

The item “project contribution network partners” shows all project funds we handle in the name of our sister organisation SVĚTLO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Czech Republic.

We received in total EUR 1.1 million in public project subsidies in 2007:

Reliability

For years now, the annual financial statements of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD have been audited by Hübner & Hübner Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung Gesellschaft m.b.H. and our use of the donations are accounted for. The result of the audit for the financial year 2007 was positive. According to the auditor’s opinion of 30 April 2008, „the audit did not lead to any reservations. Based on (...) our findings (...) the annual financial statements comply with the statutory regulations (...) and give a true and faithful picture of the Association’s net worth, financial and earnings position in keeping with the generally accepted accounting principles of Austria.“

The result of the audit required for the grant of the Austrian Seal of Quality for Donations (Spendengütesiegel) was also positive for the year 2007.
United We Are Strong

Our Sponsors

PREMIUM IMMOBILIEN AG – PERMANENT SPONSORING PARTNER
CROMA PHARMA GmbH – Main sponsor of “Austrians save eyesight”
Essilor – Main sponsor of “Refraction & optical aids”

Adobe Systems GmbH

Public Sources

Austrian Development Cooperation
Ethiopia - Prevention of blindness
Burkina Faso - Community Based Rehabilitation
Mozambique - Prevention of blindness
Sri Lanka - Construction of a center for people with disabilities after the Tsunami
Tanzania - Rehabilitation programme
Bosnia-Herzegovina - Community integration of persons with disabilities
Bosnia-Herzegovina - School for the blind and vision-impaired children and adolescents
Papua New Guinea - Access to Education and Health Systems for hearing impaired children
 EU – European Union
Tanzania - Rehabilitation programme
Europe - Disability Mainstreaming in Development Cooperation
Papua New Guinea - Access to Education and Health Systems for hearing impaired children

The Federal Province of Upper Austria
Kenya - Grant for ophthalmologist training; Low Vision training

The Federal Province of Lower Austria
Ethiopia - Distribution of Zithromax to combat trachoma

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Executive Director: Rupert Roniger

Vienna Office
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD - Christoffel Development Cooperation
A-1120 Vienna, Niederhofstraße 26
Tel.: +43 1 810 13 00
e-mail: info@light-for-the-world.org

Brussels Liaison Office
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD - Christoffel Development Cooperation
B-1050 Bruxelles, Rue Washington 38-40
Tel.: +32 2 275 00 85
e-mail: c.cranfield@light-for-the-world.org

Sister organization:
SVĚTLO PRO SVĚT – LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Czech Republic
CZ-14002 Prague 4, Zeleny pruh 1560/99
Tel.: +420 773 070 007
e-mail: info@svetloprosvet.cz

Our thanks go to all voluntary and full-time employees.

Responsibilities (according to Austrian Seal of Quality for Donations):
Donation allocation and acquisition: Rupert Roniger
Data protection: Erika Tschöföng
Central association registry number: 75489293

Memberships and networking:

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Adobe Systems GmbH
Software | AMO GmbH
Project financing | ATV Privat-TV Services AG TV commercials |
artlife Künstlerplatform
Benefit Art Exhibition |
BBDO Austria Werbeagentur
GesmbH & Co KG
Advertising campaigns |
bvp Braun, Prag Consulting |
Cargo Partner AG
Transport of aid supplies |
Chris Lohner caffen - it fits |
Project financing |
CPT Couvert GesmbH
Envelopes |
diamonddogs webconsulting gesmbH
Internet |
Draibek Kay
Medical supplies |
EPA-MEDIA
– Europäische Plakat & und Außenmedien GmbH
Advertising space |
Feibra Werbung
GmbH
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Freytag-Berndt u. Artaria KG Maps |
GEA Klimatechnik GmbH
Office sponsoring |
GEWISTA Werbe GmbH
Advertising space |
Gulin Olle
Benefit Art Exhibition |
Hörbücherei ÖSV + Lions Club Wien Laudon
Audio cassettes for Tanzania |
IBZ Bienenhof
Handels GesmbH
Wax plates |
IPA-plus GesmbH TV commercials |
IT-Design
Hardware |
Julius Blum
GmbH
Project financing |
Kain Audio Technik GmbH & Co KG
Sound equipment |
and Project financing |
LEASFINANZ GmbH
Company vehicle |
L’insieme
O.N.L.U.S.
Project financing |
Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder
Linz Medical supplies |
Krillyszyn
Rudolf, Dr.
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Manak & Partner Rechtsanwälte
Consulting |
Merck Sharp & Dohme
GmbH Project financing |
Microsoft Österreich GmbH Software |
Mondi Business Paper Holding AG Paper |
MS-Kommunikation - Michael Schallabück
Communication training, workshop moderation |
Neue Sentimental Film AG TV commercials |
Nevole Karl, Dr.
Legal counsel |
Oberösterreichische Landesabfallverwertung GmbH
Hearing aids |
Objektwerbung
Salzburg GmbH Advertising space |
ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG
Train name LICHT FÜR DIE WELT |
ORF Österreichischer Rundfunk
Commercials |
Porgy & Bess (Dr. Pfeger, Dr. Pelal, Dr. Schönheiter)
Benefit concert |
Privatstiftung
Karl Kahane Project financing |
Privatstiftung
Medicor (Liechtenstein) Project financing |
Redmail Logistik u. Zustellerverservice GesmbH
Appeals for donations |
RMS Radio Marketing Service GmbH Austria Commercial |
Rotary Club Bludenz + Dr. Margit Habicher Project financing |
Rotary Club Wien Schwechat
Project financing |
Roechel
HandelsgesmbH Project financing |
Rüsch Austria
GmbH Medical supplies |
Schreiner
Werner, Dr. Medical supplies |
Schweizer Optik
GmbH Reading aids |
SevenOneMedia Austria
GmbH TV commercials |
Silhouette
International Schmied AG Scholarship for training in ophthalmology |
Sportmedia marketing GmbH (Vienna Night Run)
Project financing |
Tonstudio
Holly Sound recordings |
Trennwandsysteme Scheicher GmbH Office sponsoring |
TVt Tourismus Fernsehen GesmbH TV commercials |
Unafilm
City-Revue GesmbH Cinema Advertisements |
Verein Direkthilfe
Welt Drei (Bad Ischler Weltladen)
Project financing |
Werbering
GmbH Advertising space |
Windhager
Project financing |
Zumtobel Lighting GmbH Project financing

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It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

Mahatma Gandhi