A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships.

Helen Keller
2008 saw substantial achievements in our efforts to improve the quality of life and access to human rights for persons with disabilities in underprivileged regions of our world:

35,000 cataract surgeries were performed in order to restore eyesight for people who otherwise would have been blind for the rest of their lives. 16,000 children with disabilities were assisted in developing their abilities, many gaining access to education and training. All in all we were able to reach 600,000 people with our work. Today LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports 123 projects in 18 countries, among them some of the poorest regions of our world.

Restoring eyesight and blindness prevention is a major focus in the programme work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. Cataract is the main cause of curable blindness worldwide. To perform this sight saving operation, teams of eye care specialists travel even to remote areas, for example to villages in Southern Sudan. In order to ensure sustainability we support the training of local ophthalmologists and paramedical staff in collaboration with university hospitals in several African countries.

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalised in developing countries. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports 18 Community Based Rehabilitation programmes, mainly in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. Rehabilitation workers visit children with disabilities in their homes to perform therapy, show the parents how to support their children in their development and supply them with assistive devices. The inclusion of children with disabilities in their social environment, their communities and the local mainstream schools is a key condition for successful rehabilitation.

Persons with disabilities are often exposed to discrimination, social exclusion and the denial of their rights. We lobby for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all development programmes and we work towards the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which entered into force on 3 May 2008. We collaborate with international organisations and alliances such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), VISION 2020 and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Austria, Czech Republic and Belgium joined forces in December 2008 and established a confederation in order to strengthen our collaboration in our programme countries.

With our competent partners, committed supporters and a strong team, together we plan to deepen and expand our programmes for persons with disabilities.

We are grateful for your contribution!

Sincerely,

Filip Zoubek
Director Czech Republic

Johan Elsen
Director Belgium

Rupert Roniger
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Honorary Board Members

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LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is a European confederation of national development NGOs committed to saving eyesight, improving the quality of life and advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in the underprivileged regions of our world.

Internet: www.light-for-the-world.org

Preface

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Our mission

There are around 37 million blind people in the world, 90% live in developing countries. 75% of cases of blindness are treatable by relatively simple means or could have been avoided in the first place. 80% of the world’s 650 million persons with disabilities live in developing countries. 45 million of them are children. 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 addition, poverty means that millions of people are at risk of acquiring impairments and becoming disabled.

In more than 50% of the cases an impairment is avoidable. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD provides access to treatment and therapy for affected people by supporting local partner organisations.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD commits itself to the task of creating new prospects for persons with disabilities, to increase mobility with the help of devices, as well as to start initiatives that will provide education and income.

Another objective is to raise awareness on inclusion of persons with disabilities in their family and social environment. This is an important basis for inclusion and for the autonomy and self-determination of persons with disabilities.

The basis of our work are the supporters of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. Due to the support of our donors we are able to work towards our mission. Raising public awareness on the situation of persons with disabilities in developing countries forms an important part of our work.

Guiding principles in cooperation with partners in the developing world
- We support local partners in underprivileged regions of the world in their work with and for people who are blind, have other disabilities or are at risk of becoming disabled.
- We provide help irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or religion and in particular to very underprivileged groups, such as women, children, indigenous peoples and marginal groups in society.
- We act according to the needs of the people affected.
- Our programmes reach as many people as possible.
- We support programmes leading to sustainable strengthening and social inclusion of people who are blind or have other disabilities in their communities.
- We support programmes who operate in difficult periods and respond to current challenges with endurance, perseverance and flexibility.
- In our projects we apply efficient and economical use of funds and take into consideration principles of ecological and social sustainability and fair trade wherever possible.
- We enable a global exchange of experiences regarding effective and efficient concepts in the programme areas that we support.

Development cooperation as a mandate
- We enable access to adequate health care.
- We support the establishment of social and health care systems in our partner countries.
- We improve the chances and life conditions sustainably and in the long-term.
- We advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, especially in cases where they are not yet in the position to speak for themselves.
- We support representative groups led by persons with disabilities themselves, to self-advocate for their rights and concerns.
- We increase public awareness in Europe for the concerns and interests of persons with disabilities in developing countries.

20 years of commitment
From the desire to help the less advantaged ...

In 1988 a group of dedicated people met in Vienna to mobilize help for blind and otherwise disabled people in developing countries, following the ideals of Ernst Jakob Christoffel. Among the first projects of the young Austrian organisation were eye care units and rehabilitation programmes in Ethiopia and Kenya.

In 1996 the Austrian Government started to collaborate with LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supporting a training programme for ophthalmological staff in Kikuyu, Kenya, as part of Austrian Development Cooperation.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Belgium was founded in 1997 under the name of Christian Blind Mission Belgium. One of the first programmes supported was CCBRT – an orthopaedic and eye care hospital and rehabilitation programme in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

In 1999 the initiative “VISION 2020 – The Right To Sight” was launched in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO). LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has been an active member in this global action plan to eliminate preventable blindness by the year 2020 since the beginning.

In 2003 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD established a child sponsorship programme to intensify support for children with disabilities in developing countries.

As part of the implementation of a national blindness prevention programme in Ethiopia in 2006 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD established a much needed eye care department in Jijiga, Somali Region.

Since 2003 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is involved in developing the eye care department of the Kabgayi hospital in Rwanda.

In 2006 the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has advocated successfully to include International Development Cooperation in the UN-Convention.

In 2007 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in the Czech Republic was founded in Prague and currently supports programmes in Ethiopia.

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... to an international confederation.

In 2008 a formal agreement of confederation was signed by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Austria, Belgium and Czech Republic in order to strengthen the collaboration in the programme countries and to improve possibilities to distribute funds and resources.

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Focus Areas

Prevention of blindness

161 million people worldwide have a visual impairment, 37 million of them are blind. 90% of all blind people live in developing countries. Over 75% would not have lost their eyesight in the first place, if they had been treated in time.

The leading cause of visual impairment is cataract. It is responsible for 48% of all blindness cases worldwide, even though it is treatable by relatively simple means.

In 1998 the World Health Organisation (WHO) and NGOs working in the field of blindness prevention launched the global initiative "VISION 2020 - The Right To Sight". The ambitious objective: to eliminate preventable blindness by the year 2020. The core of the campaign is to develop and implement national blindness prevention plans. Government institutions define the priorities, coordinate and implement activities in their respective countries with non-governmental organisations, professional associations and educational institutions.

Since 20 years LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is actively involved in prevention of blindness and focuses on activities to ensure medical eye care for people in less advantaged regions and successfully helps to restore and save eyesight. In Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Southern Sudan, Northeast-India and Pakistan, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is engaged in national blindness prevention programmes to reach the goal defined by VISION 2020.

Major causes of preventable blindness

Cataract

Cataract is the most common cause of blindness worldwide and responsible for the loss of vision of 18 million people. Cataract is an opacity of the eye lens and can occur as a consequence of the ageing process, after untreated infections, trauma, or various illnesses. Congenital cataract is often due to a rubella infection during pregnancy. The sight of a person blind from cataract can be restored in a surgical procedure that lasts about 15 minutes. Under local anesthetic the opaque lens is replaced by a clear artificial lens. Having regained their sight, the patient can return home the following day. Cataract surgeries are among the most effective health interventions according to the World Health Organisation.

In the last 20 years, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has made over 340,000 cataract surgeries possible.

Trachoma

150 million people worldwide suffer from trachoma while 6 million have already gone blind from it. Trachoma is a consequence of untreated eye infections prevalent in regions that lack clean water for daily hygiene. Repeated infections can cause the lid to develop scars, turning the eye lashes inwards and rubbing on the cornea. The process of going blind from trachoma is long and very painful. Once sight is lost it cannot be restored again, but pain and suffering continues. In Ethiopia LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the mass distribution of antibiotics in highly endemic areas, reaching 400,000 people in 2008, and also provides assistance for the eyelid surgery necessary at a more advanced stage of the infection. The programmes follow the WHO established SAFE standards, addressing all necessary factors of Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environment, to be successful with the treatment.

Childhood blindness

Around 1.5 million children worldwide are blind due to preventable causes like Vitamin A deficiency, congenital or traumatic cataract, untreated infections, and unidentified refractive errors.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports child screenings in schools for early identification and treatment, the provision of spectacles, as well as programmes for childhood cataract surgeries. In addition, the programmes address parents and teachers to raise their awareness on preventing childhood blindness.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a common cause of blindness worldwide, responsible for 5 million people’s sight loss. In developing countries the eye clinics often lack equipment to diagnose glaucoma and providing treatment is particularly challenging. It is important then to train ophthalmologists in this field and to develop adjusted intervention strategies.

Visual impairment

Low Vision and uncorrected refractive errors

About 124 million people worldwide live with Low Vision. A person with Low Vision has a moderate to severe visual impairment, even after all possible medical intervention was performed. People with Low Vision need suitable medical attention, assistive devices and rehabilitation to develop their abilities and manage their daily lives.

Additionally, 153 million people live with uncorrected refractive errors. Without adequate help they have limited access to education and employment opportunities and consequently cannot lead an independent life. It is estimated that in the majority of Africa only 20% have access to adequate visual aids. In Uganda, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the first national programme for the correction of refractive errors.
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Focus areas

Community Based Rehabilitation

80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries. They often have virtually no access to medical attention, education or employment. Additionally, children with disabilities frequently experience discrimination and social exclusion. As a result, an overwhelming majority of persons with disabilities or families of children with disabilities in developing countries are exposed to poverty. The mortality rate of persons with disabilities is extraordinarily high.

Community Based Rehabilitation

The concept of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is a comprehensive and sustainable way to reach and support persons with disabilities of all ages in developing countries, even in remote areas, aiming at rehabilitation, equal opportunities, poverty reduction and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Community Based Rehabilitation serves an important purpose: family, neighbours and the whole community are included in the therapeutic process and experience first-hand how the abilities and qualities of a child with a disability can enrich their daily life.

Rehabilitation workers visit the children in their homes on a regular basis. They show family members how to do exercises with their children, for example how to strengthen their muscles and increase mobility and coordination. The children gain access to necessary medical treatment and therapeutic appliances. This way, the children are not taken away to special institutions, but remain part of their family and social environment, facilitating both the integration and rehabilitation process significantly and reducing discrimination against and marginalisation of persons with disabilities.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports 18 Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes in 7 countries. Trained rehabilitation field workers screen the villages for children with disabilities. Raising awareness is an important part of the daily work of a rehabilitation worker: the families often are ashamed to have a child with a disability, so it requires sensitivity to persuade them of the efficacy of therapy. They also inform the community about different kinds of disabilities, which therapy works best for them and how much children with disabilities can achieve.

In Papua New Guinea the diocese of Kiunga runs a project where more than 350 children and adolescents with disabilities are regularly visited by field workers. In addition to these visits, 12,000 children are approached through screenings for early intervention in schools.

With the project partner, the diocese of Kiunga, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD aims to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities, concerning their access to education and health services, raising awareness in the community and supporting them to develop their ability to lead a self-sustained and independent life.

Inclusive education

It is estimated that only 1-2% of children with disabilities in developing countries receive any education. Many school buildings are not accessible for children with physical impairments. Children with hearing impairments are often thought of as unintelligent or unable to communicate because they require and use different means to interact with their environment. A significant lack of specialized teachers also complicates the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools.

But access to primary education for all children is a key condition for the development of each individual as well as of a country.

Education for everybody

Similar to the concept of Community Based Rehabilitation, educating children with disabilities within their usual familiar environment achieves the best results. By attending a regular school they are not separated from their friends and family but remain within their community.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD advocates for the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools whenever possible. Inclusive Schools, the training of special education teachers and resource centers to provide assistance to educational institutions including children with disabilities are supported. Furthermore, support is provided for programmes providing technical skill trainings.

Teachers trained in sign language, tutors for children with a learning disability and specific teaching material such as Braille books are important prerequisites for inclusive education.

In North East India, the Mary Rice Centre offers inclusive education in schools, different therapies and vocational training to children with disabilities. Over 150 children are supported directly in the centre and more than 60 children visit the facility on a weekly basis. In addition, to support these children a main focus remains on strengthening and empowering their parents and families.

Child Sponsorship Programme

To ensure support for children with disabilities on a long-term basis, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD offers a child sponsorship programme in Austria for children in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Bolivia. A monthly contribution of EUR 25 ensures stable support of the programme and facilitates the planning process.

In Manga, Burkina Faso, over 1000 children were reached by field workers in 2008. Through our local partner organisation OCADES, which dedicates its work to the reduction of poverty. In southern Ethiopia the Community Based Rehabilitation programme in Arba Minch is being expanded to reach 900 more children with disabilities in neighbouring regions in 2009.

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Inclusive education is the key to personal development. In the Bethany Society in North-East India, children with and without disabilities are being educated side by side.

80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries. They often have virtually no access to medical attention, education or employment. Additionally, children with disabilities frequently experience discrimination and social exclusion. As a result, an overwhelming majority of persons with disabilities or families of children with disabilities in developing countries are exposed to poverty. The mortality rate of persons with disabilities is extraordinarily high.

Community Based Rehabilitation

The concept of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is a comprehensive and sustainable way to reach and support persons with disabilities of all ages in developing countries, even in remote areas, aiming at rehabilitation, equal opportunities, poverty reduction and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Community Based Rehabilitation serves an important purpose: family, neighbours and the whole community are included in the therapeutic process and experience first-hand how the abilities and qualities of a child with a disability can enrich their daily life.

Rehabilitation workers visit the children in their homes on a regular basis. They show family members how to do exercises with their children, for example how to strengthen their muscles and increase mobility and coordination. The children gain access to necessary medical treatment and therapeutic appliances. This way, the children are not taken away to special institutions, but remain part of their family and social environment, facilitating both the integration and rehabilitation process significantly and reducing discrimination against and marginalisation of persons with disabilities.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports 18 Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes in 7 countries. Trained rehabilitation field workers screen the villages for children with disabilities. Raising awareness is an important part of the daily work of a rehabilitation worker: the families often are ashamed to have a child with a disability, so it requires sensitivity to persuade them of the efficacy of therapy. They also inform the community about different kinds of disabilities, which therapy works best for them and how much children with disabilities can achieve.

In Papua New Guinea the diocese of Kiunga runs a project where more than 350 children and adolescents with disabilities are regularly visited by field workers. In addition to these visits, 12,000 children are approached through screenings for early intervention in schools.

In North East India, the Mary Rice Centre offers inclusive education in schools, different therapies and vocational training to children with disabilities. Over 130 children are supported directly in the centre and more than 60 children are reached by field workers in 2009.

Education for everybody

Similar to the concept of Community Based Rehabilitation, educating children with disabilities within their usual familiar environment achieves the best results. By attending a regular school they are not separated from their friends and family but remain within their community.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD advocates for the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools wherever possible. Inclusive Schools, the training of special education teachers and resource centers to provide assistance to educational institutions including children with disabilities are supported. Furthermore, support is provided for programmes providing technical skill trainings.

Child Sponsorship Programme

To ensure support for children with disabilities on a long-term basis, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD offers a child sponsorship programme in Austria for children in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Bolivia. A monthly contribution of EUR 25 ensures stable support of the programme and facilitates the planning process.

In Manga, Burkina Faso, over 1000 children were reached by field workers in 2008, through our local partner organisation OCADIES, which dedicates its work to the reduction of poverty. In southern Ethiopia the Community Based Rehabilitation programme in Arba Minch is being expanded to reach 900 more children with disabilities in neighbouring regions in 2009.

Inclusive education

It is estimated that only 1-2% of children with disabilities in developing countries receive any education. Many school buildings are not accessible for children with physical impairments. Children with hearing impairments are often thought of as unintelligent or unable to communicate because they require and use different means to interact with their environment. A significant lack of specialized teachers also complicates the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools.

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Focus Areas

Community Based Rehabilitation

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FOCUS AREAS

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities ...

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights articulates the right to equality and non-discrimination for all.

Nevertheless, persons with disabilities experience discrimination, stigmatisation, social exclusion and violation of their rights daily. Particularly in developing countries, persons with disabilities are part of the most marginalised groups. According to World Bank estimates, one in five of the world’s poorest persons is disabled. It is estimated that one third of the children without access to basic school education are children with disabilities.

Due to their economic and social status in developing countries, persons with disabilities frequently remain invisible and voiceless. Children with disabilities are frequently not registered with a birth certificate, thus depriving them of all state privileges from birth.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports representative groups and disabled peoples organisations in partner countries to develop the capacities and knowhow to make their voices heard. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD complements this support by European and International level advocacy and lobby work aimed at the active inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development cooperation policies and programmes.

The UN Convention and the Millennium Development Goals

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force in May 2008. For the first time, a UN human rights instrument links human rights and social development. In Art. 32 it demands the consideration of the rights of persons with disabilities in International Cooperation. Initiated by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD a number of initiatives and resolutions within the UN system have taken up this issue. UN agencies are at present exploring ways to include persons with disabilities in their programme work more effectively.

Today it is widely recognised, that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without inclusion of persons with disabilities. Still, neither the goals, nor the targets or indicators make reference to persons with disabilities. In partnership with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), with active involvement of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD as a member, the UN Millennium Campaign has started to raise awareness on this issue, e.g. by setting up the webpage www.includeeverybody.org.

... and advocating for inclusive development

Towards an inclusive Development Cooperation

Up to the present day persons with disabilities are excluded from the vast majority of development cooperation programmes. But to make economic and social change effective and long-lasting, persons with disabilities must have access to development cooperation.

Therefore inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU development co-operation is extremely important. In the EU-Africa Strategy developed over the past years, specific reference is made to persons with disabilities in the areas of education and health of the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) partnership.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is engaged in the respective work of the Joint Expert Group set up. Over the last two years LIGHT FOR THE WORLD led a consortium of twelve partners in ten European countries on a project to promote Disability Mainstreaming in EU Development Cooperation.

As an output of this project, inclusive programming tools such as an Inclusive Project Cycle Management manual, sector strategies, and training manuals on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development co-operation policies were produced. These documents and best practice are now available to all actors in the process, to help end the notorious exclusion of persons with disabilities in development co-operation programmes.

Advocacy work in partner countries

All advocacy work on EU and international level for an increasingly inclusive international political framework needs mirroring efforts at partner country level. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is actively engaged in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in partner countries. We also encourage and support local initiatives of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to engage in a dialogue with the government offices at local, regional and national level. In matching these initiatives with the work on international level it is envisaged to achieve a coherent approach for sustainable inclusion of persons with disabilities in national development strategies.

Northeast India: Access to the job market

In 2008, Indian Railways in Assam, the biggest of the seven states in Northeast India, advertised 967 jobs. Although India’s Disabilities Act stipulates that three percent of jobs have to be filled by persons with disabilities, not one person with disability was employed for these vacancies. As a consequence, the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supported Disability Law Unit filed a case in the Guwahati High Court to sue the Railway Company for discrimination. The High Court decided in favor of this case! More than 100 persons with disabilities will have to be employed by Indian Railways.

Successes like this being covered in the local media contribute to a wider knowledge on the legal advice and support provided by the Disability Law Unit to fight discrimination against persons with disabilities. This enhances the power of the Disability Law Unit to successfully address discriminatory issues and contributes to a wider awareness in the region.
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LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has chosen 6 priority countries and 9 more programme countries to focus its work. This ensures optimal cooperation with local partner organisations, government authorities, specialized organisations, experts and the use of local infrastructure to keep administration costs at a minimum. Wherever possible, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD contributes to the implementation of National Development Strategies such as the National Plans for Prevention of Blindness, or facilitates the development of them.

**Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Mozambique, Rwanda and Southern Sudan**

In Ethiopia, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD works in the fields of blindness prevention and Community Based Rehabilitation. With assistance of the Austrian Development Cooperation LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has substantially contributed to the establishment and the implementation of the National Plan for Prevention of Blindness. In Somali region, the most neglected in the country, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD pioneered the Eye Care Work in partnership with the Regional Health Bureau. Ethiopia is also a focus country for the child sponsorship programme.

The main thrust in Burkina Faso is to support children with disabilities to master their lives. This is achieved through Community Based Rehabilitation, funded partly by the child sponsorship programme. A successful eye care programme has been launched east of the country’s capital Ouagadougou in close collaboration with the Community Based Rehabilitation initiatives in that region. With disabled peoples organisations and educational institutions, we promote schooling for visually and hearing impaired children.

In DR Congo, the focus lies in blindness prevention in the Upper Katanga province. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is also involved in education programmes for children with visual or hearing impairments.

In Southern Sudan LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, in partnership with the Dutch organisation Dark & Light, supports the only existing comprehensive eye care programme outside the Southern Sudan capital Juba. A programme for the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools has also recently been set up.

In Mozambique the involvement of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses on the central and northern region of the country in which, so far, persons with disabilities have very limited access to services and support. A pilot project on prevention of blindness was set up in Beira, the capital of Sofala province, offering high quality eye care services to the 1.7 million inhabitants in the province. Next steps have been taken to expand the programme of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD sustainably to the other provinces.

In Rwanda LIGHT FOR THE WORLD contributes with its support to the National Programme for Prevention of Blindness. The eye department in the hospital of Kabgayi, closely related to a Community Based Rehabilitation programme, is a model character for eye care that reaches to the poor people of the region.

**And 9 more partner countries**

In addition to the six priority countries, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is active in the following countries and regions: Kenya, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Northeast India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Bolivia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. For an effective development cooperation, detailed knowledge of a country or region, its social structure, the health and educational system and strong links with civil society are essential. In the partner countries, specific programmes are developed and implemented cooperating with regional partners and other international NGOs. This ensures high effectiveness and efficiency in reaching people who are blind, have eye diseases or are otherwise disabled.
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**Ethiopia**

### 20 years for eyesight

Ethiopia is LIGHT FOR THE WORLD’s most important focal point, in close collaboration with the Austrian Development Cooperation. Within the framework of the national Ethiopian programme for the prevention of blindness, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports ten eye clinics, the training of ophthalmologists and medical personnel as well as measures for the prevention of trachoma. This programme for the prevention of blindness bundles the strengths of local partners and selected experts. It has already greatly improved eye health in Ethiopia. Futhermore, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD distributes medication against trachoma, an illness that can lead to irreversible blindness. In 2008 we were able to reach over 400,000 people with this programme.

More than 220,000 blind persons live in the Somali region in the south-east of the country: an extraordinarily high number. Here help is particularly needed. At the eye clinic supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Jijiga, 1,447 eyesight-restoring cataract surgeries were carried out in the base hospital and during outreaches in 2008. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD also supports a comprehensive eye care programme on community level together with the regional health bureau.

### Support for children with disabilities

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports Community Based Rehabilitation programmes in Gondar, Arba Minch und Awassa. The project in Gondar is unique because of its combination of rehabilitation work with physiotherapy students’ training. The integration of families with children with disabilities into the community is also an important aspect of this project.

Currently LIGHT FOR THE WORLD – with local partner organisations – works intensely on establishing further CBR-programmes in the South of the country, in order to start reaching the semi-nomadic population, such as in Yabelo.

450 children were rehabilitated during home visits in Ethiopia in 2008.

**Zinabuwa – on her way into the future**

Zinabuwa was born in a small village in southern Ethiopia. As she grew older her mother noticed that her development was slow compared to other children. At the age of seven, Zinabuwa was not able to walk or even to stand up.

But then a rehabilitation worker from the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme in Arba Minch discovered the little girl. Surprised parents and neighbours looked on as the rehabilitation worker started to exercise with Zinabuwa to train her muscles. For further therapy simple but effective therapeutic equipment was built: parallel bars. Now, Zinabuwa can take her first steps. Soon she will be able to walk on her own two feet and into her future.

**Sudan**

### Blindness prevention

In Sudan LIGHT FOR THE WORLD mainly operates in the South of the country. Providing medical care is a great challenge: there is a lack of hospitals, medication, dressing materials and qualified doctors. The rate of blindness is shockingly high at 3.2 %.

In 2006 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD opened a primary eye care unit at the provincial hospital in Mapurdi. The clinic is an important facility for the 1.8 million people living in this region, who up to this point had no access to eye care. Now infectious diseases such as trachoma or blinding conditions such as cataracts can be diagnosed and treated on time. In April 2008 a team of surgeons came to Mapurdi for the first time, carrying out 117 cataract surgeries in only a few days.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports a three-year programme in the regions Jonglei and Upper Nile, establishing the only eye care service with surgeries in Southern Sudan outside of Juba. As a result, 31 local eye care staff were trained and 2400 people blind from cataract had their eyesight restored. All in all 150,000 people were reached through this programme.

### Inclusive education

As a result of the civil war of the past two decades a whole generation has little or no education. There is a lack of both schools and teachers. Armed conflict also leads to a higher number of persons with disabilities — children are particularly affected.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD campaigns for children with disabilities to be taken into account in the rebuilding of the Sudanese education system. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports four local organisations that enable children with disabilities to go to school, thus giving them perspectives for the future.

Our programmes in Southern Sudan are developed and implemented with our partner organisation Dark & Light.

**Alier left the darkness behind**

Three years ago, everything was fine with Alier’s eyes. The Grandfather spent most of his time with his herd, providing for his family. But after a severe illness, his sight started to decline rapidly. Soon he was completely blind.

But then a team of ophthalmologists, sponsored by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, came to Padak, a village near his home in Southern Sudan. Led by his nephew, Alier arrives at the outreach camp, where cataract is diagnosed and treated the very next day. On his way home he needs no assistance, his eyesight has returned.
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Alier can see again after cataract surgery performed at an outreach camp in Southern Sudan.
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Restoring eyesight

DR Congo is the third largest country on the African continent. Even though its population of over 60 million is among the highest in Africa, its population density in the rural areas is very low. Medical and eye care facilities are not accessible for many people, resulting in a high prevalence of blindness from cataract (50%), glaucoma (15%), onchocerciasis (river blindness, 10%) and other causes. These causes of blindness are all either avoidable or curable.

About 32,000 children in DR Congo are blind. In developing countries, 60% of the children die within a year of losing their eyesight. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports programmes in the area of blindness prevention and cure in the capital Kinshasa and in Lubumbashi, the second biggest city of DR Congo. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD enables cataract surgery for these children and restores their sight, giving them a higher chance of survival.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is also active in the field of deafness prevention and supports a school for children with hearing impairments.

At the eye and ear clinic at the ‘Saint Joseph’ Hospital in Kinshasa, about 4,000 volunteer community workers of the Elikya project trace blind or visually impaired children and adults in the areas surrounding the capital. They refer them to the ‘Saint Joseph’ Hospital for medical treatment. The volunteers then organize the follow-up care and help the people to reintegrate into their communities.

In Lubumbashi LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is setting up a major Vision 2020 programme in collaboration with the university and local eye care services. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD also supports the Institut Nuru, a school for blind and visually impaired children. The school also has reach out to the community and promotes integrated education for children with visual impairment in regular schools.

Glodi goes to school!

Glodi was born with cataract. His parents did not know where to turn for help, so Glody grew up with very low vision. At the age of five he was noticed by the volunteer workers of the Elikya project. 4,000 volunteers of the Elikya project work in and around Kinshasa to trace adults and children with eye or other health problems. Glodi was sent to the ‘Saint Joseph’ Hospital, supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and received surgery on both eyes. A few days after the treatment his sight improved considerably.

Today Glodi is 18 years old. He is in very good shape and with his glasses his sight is perfect. He is very happy that he can go to school. “I learn French, technology and science.”, he says proudly.

Burkina Faso

Community Based Rehabilitation

In 2008 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD was able to extend its support in Burkina Faso from 5 to 7 Community Based Rehabilitation programmes for children with disabilities. The rehabilitation workers attended to 4,246 children with disabilities in 2008. Apart from medical and therapeutic care, sensitization of the community to the needs and abilities of children with disabilities is a key feature of our work.

Education is the key to development. The CEFISE school in the capital Ouagadougou is a pioneer project for integrated education: deaf children are taught together with hearing children. Further cooperation with schools is planned; the integration efforts will also be extended to include blind children.

Elimination of avoidable blindness

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the eye clinic in Zorgho since 2004. In 2008 not only 786 cataract surgeries were carried out there, but LIGHT FOR THE WORLD ophthalmologist Jerome Sanou also conducted several ophthalmologic outreachs, amongst others to Diebougou in the western and Kaya in the southern part of the country, thereby providing over 9,000 people with urgently needed ophthalmic care.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has assumed the coordination of international non-governmental organisations working in the blindness prevention field in Burkina Faso and will, within the framework of the governmental healthcare system further improve the eye care services available to the population.

Juliette can walk again!

When she was ten years old, Juliette fell ill with a bone infection. As a result, she could no longer move her legs and was confined to her bed for six long years. A rehabilitation worker from the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme in Manga discovered the teenager and organized access to much needed medical care to treat the infection.

After that, a long and arduous physical therapy process began. Instructed by the rehabilitation worker, Juliette started to train her legs again, gradually increasing their movability. Now Juliette is 18 years old. She can walk with crutches to the market and visit the neighbours. Juliette has found work too: she is being trained as a seamstress and can now support her family.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and received surgery on both eyes. A few days after the treatment his sight improved considerably.

Today Glodi is 18 years old. He is in very good shape and with his glasses his sight is perfect. He is very happy that he can go to school. “I learn French, technology and science.”, he says proudly.
We take action

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Restoring eyesight

DR Congo is the third largest country on the African continent. Even though its population of over 60 million is among the highest in Africa, its population density in the rural areas is very low. Medical and eye care facilities are not accessible for many people, resulting in a high prevalence of blindness from cataract (50%), glaucoma (15%), onchocerciasis (river blindness, 10%) and other causes. These causes of blindness are all either avoidable or curable.

About 32,000 children in DR Congo are blind. In developing countries, 60% of the children die within a year of losing their eyesight. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports programmes in the area of blindness prevention and cure in the capital Kinshasa and in Lubumbashi, the second biggest city of DR Congo. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD enables cataract surgery for these children and restores their sight, giving them a higher chance of survival.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is also active in the field of deafness prevention and supports a school for children with hearing impairments.

At the eye and ear clinic at the ‘Saint Joseph’ Hospital in Kinshasa, about 4,000 volunteer community workers of the Elikya project trace blind or visually impaired children and adults in the areas surrounding the capital. They refer them to the ‘Saint Joseph’ Hospital for medical treatment. The volunteers then organize the follow-up care and help the people to reintegrate into their communities.

In Lubumbashi LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is setting up a major Vision 2020 programme in collaboration with the university and local eye care services. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD also supports the Institut Nuru, a school for blind and visually impaired children. The school also promotes integrated education for children with a visual impairment in regular schools.

Glodi goes to school!

Glodi was born with cataract. His parents did not know where to turn for help, so Glodi grew up with very low vision. At the age of five he was noticed by the volunteer workers of the Elikya project. 4,000 volunteers of the Elikya project work in and around Kinshasa to trace adults and children with eye or other health problems. Glodi was sent to the ‘Saint Joseph’ Hospital, supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and received surgery on both eyes. A few days after the treatment his sight improved considerably.

Today Glodi is 18 years old. He is in very good shape and with his glasses his sight is perfect. He is very happy that he can go to school. “I learn French, technology and science.,” he says proudly.

Burkina Faso

Community Based Rehabilitation

In 2008 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD was able to extend its support in Burkina Faso from 5 to 7 Community Based Rehabilitation programmes for children with disabilities. The rehabilitation workers attended to 4,246 children with disabilities in 2008. Apart from medical and therapeutic care, sensitization of the community to the needs and abilities of children with disabilities is a key feature of our work.

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Programme work in other countries

Mozambique: Prevention of Blindness and Rehabilitation

In Mozambique LIGHT FOR THE WORLD focuses on supporting blindness prevention initiatives in the central and northern part of the country; these will be further developed in 2009. The establishment of ophthalmic departments in provincial hospitals is key to this. With the support of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD the eye department in the Beira Central Hospital, Sofala Province, performed more than 1,000 cataract surgeries in 2008. Regular eye care service has been taken up in Quelimane and Lichinga, two other provincial capitals. All activities are implemented within the government health system and in coordination with the National Eye Care Coordinator.

In 2008, the country’s first Community Based Rehabilitation programme was started by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Beira. This initiative will serve as a model to be replicated in other regions from 2010 onwards. In the provinces of Sofala and Manica, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports blind persons to train as teachers and to be employed in public primary schools. The first experiences of this are very encouraging and show that the abilities of visually impaired persons are useful in the education system.

Rwanda: Eye clinic in Kabgayi

In 1937 a Belgian professor founded a small maternity hospital in Kabgayi. The ophthalmic department was established in 1992 and LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has supported the eye clinic since 2003. Under the management of the Belgian ophthalmologist Stefan De Smedt, the number of consultations and operations has more than tripled to 1,600 operations a year. The hospital in Kabgayi was the first one in Rwanda to carry out cataract surgery on children. There are no academic ophthalmology studies in Rwanda, but students from the University of Nairobi in Kenya come to the Kabgayi eye clinic to complete their training. In addition to ophthalmologists, paramedic staff, nurses and community workers are also trained here.

East Africa: Scholarship for medical training

In many African countries there is a huge shortage of well trained medical personnel. Accordingly the development of human resources in Eastern Africa has been a priority for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD over the past years. In cooperation with universities in Nairobi (Kenya), Moshi (Tanzania) and Mbarara (Uganda) the training of ophthalmologists has been sponsored, aiming at educating 45 new ophthalmologists by 2011. In a new initiative as a partner of the British organisation Sightsavers International, a comprehensive programme for human resources development in eye care across Eastern Africa began recently. This programme, cofunded by the European Union, will considerably strengthen the eye care cadres in this region.

Tanzania: Eyesight and a future

In Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the CCBRT hospital to make treatment and rehabilitation accessible and affordable for persons with disabilities. The hospital has departments for eye care, orthopaedics and gynaecology with the latter specialized in treating women with VVF (Vesico vaginal fistula). Over 4,400 sight-saving cataract surgeries were performed there in 2008. Additionally, community rehabilitation workers visit children and adults with disabilities in Dar es Salaam and outlying rural areas.

In the field of advocacy, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the local initiative Inclusive Tanzania, where people with disabilities take action to demand their rights.

In Moshi, Kiliimanjaro, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports an eye clinic specialised in providing surgery for children with cataract.

Uganda: Treatment for refractive errors

About 1.1 million people in Uganda have an uncorrected refractive error. They have little chance on the labour market and consequently run a higher risk of poverty. With the Ugandan Ministry of Health and the ICEE (International Center for Eye Health Education) LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has set up the first national programme for training personnel to detect and treat patients with a refractive error. Affordable spectacles are produced at the 1st National Optical Workshop based within a Government hospital where also opticians are trained. The aim of this programme is to build a decentralised optical service structure - a unique pilot project, the concept of which will come to operation in other countries as well.

North-East India: Rehabilitation and ophthalmic work

In Assam, the most populous state in North East India, Centers of Excellence in Eye Care are in place, but the poor rural population has very limited access to them. As a result, the blindness rate is exceptionally high (over 3%). LIGHT FOR THE WORLD strategically directs its support to bridge the gap between the rural population and the available eye care facilities.

In a unique partnership with the Indian CBR-Forum, 13 Community Based Rehabilitation Initiatives have been built up in five of the seven Northeastern States. Inclusive Education is another focus, with a specific orientation towards training of special education teachers, supporting resource centers and the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools.

Pakistan: Prevention of blindness

In Pakistan LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is engaged in setting up structures for blindness prevention at district level in the North West Frontier Province, bordering Afghanistan, as well as in training eye care personnel. These programmes are implemented within the National Prevention of Blindness programme, as partner of the Community Health and Education Forum and the Pakistan Institute for Community Ophthalmology.

Papua New Guinea: Rehabilitation and education

Within the framework of a country-wide network of disability resource centers promoting inclusive education and Community Based Rehabilitation, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports the units in Kiunga/Western Province and in Bougainville. With the support of the European Union in 2008 a national programme for hearing impaired children to access primary education and primary health care was successfully launched.

Bolivia: Giving a future

Six rehabilitation and education programmes for children with disabilities are supported under the auspices of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Bolivia. Apart from medical care and physiotherapy the children in Sucre and San Ignacio also receive a solid education. A Community Based Rehabilitation programme is currently being set up.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Integration

The inclusion of persons with disabilities into community development initiatives is one of the key priorities of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD. With support of the Austrian Development Cooperation a respective pilot project was implemented over the last three years. The encouraging results of an impact assessment lead to the development of a second phase of this initiative, enhancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their communities.
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<td>Eye Clinic and Blindness prevention programme in Somali region</td>
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<td>University Eye Clinic with mobile eye care</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Makelle</td>
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<td>Distribution of Zithromax to control trachoma</td>
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<td>Construction of Eye Clinic</td>
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<td>Programme to eliminate River Blindness (Onchocerciasis)</td>
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<td>Blindness Prevention programme</td>
</tr>
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<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Sana'a</td>
<td>Inclusive education for children with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Harare</td>
<td>Community Based Rehabilitation programme</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam</td>
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<td>Eye Clinic</td>
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<td>Awassa</td>
<td>Training of healthcare personnel in the field of ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Bahar Dar</td>
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<td>Constan</td>
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<td>South Sudan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nuba</td>
<td>Mobile eye care</td>
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<td>Sofala</td>
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<td>Sports programme for people with disabilities</td>
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<td>Tog</td>
<td>Inclusive education for children with disabilities</td>
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### Asia

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>Town/Region</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Kabul</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Vocational training for people who are blind or otherwise disabled</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and inclusion of persons with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Eye Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Orthopaedic Clinic for people with disabilities</td>
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<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Eye Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Rehabilitation programme for eye care personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Project coordination for Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Community Based Rehabilitation programmes</td>
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<td>Kabul</td>
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<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Project coordination for Bolivia</td>
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<td>Kabul</td>
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<td>Kabul</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Comprehensive disability programme</td>
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<td>Community Based Rehabilitation programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Eye Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of children and adolescents with disabilities</td>
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<td>Education and health programme for deaf children</td>
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<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Inclusion of people with disabilities in development programmes</td>
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### Latin America

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Town/Region</th>
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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>
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<td></td>
<td>Cochabamba</td>
<td>Coordination Community Based Rehabilitation in Bolivia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concepcion</td>
<td>Pre-school and school for children with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
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<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Guide for an accessible Addis Ababa</td>
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<td>Braille books for the central library for blind people</td>
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<td>Addis Ababa</td>
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<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and integration of deaf children</td>
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<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Medical goods for the national blindness prevention programme</td>
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<td>Arba Minch</td>
<td>Community Based Rehabilitation programme</td>
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**Building Awareness …**

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD dedicates its work to support persons who are blind or otherwise disabled in developing countries by providing medical assistance, building sustainable health structures, including persons with disabilities in their society and supporting them to participate in development programmes.

This is only possible with the help of our donors and supporters in Europe. In various campaigns and events, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD informs the public about the situation of persons with disabilities and the worldwide need to take action.

**Blindnote 2008**

With the Blindnote campaign LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Belgium raises awareness on blind children in Africa by organizing musical events. These events take place partially in the dark.


Blindnote was also present at the famous summer festivals Les Francofolies (Spa - Wallonie) and Dranouter (Flanders). Artists promoted the campaign on stage and encouraged the public to send text messages of support. In Dranouter, tickets to two special concerts were given as a prize to the participants. The winners were given a blindfold and attended the concert as “blind” persons.

On World Sight Day 2008 several musicians played a few moments of their concerts in the dark and flyers in the shape of eye-masks were distributed.

**Building Awareness in Schools**

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD considers it an important part of its mission to inform donors and supporters in Europe about the project work, to raise awareness on the situation and the rights of persons who are blind or otherwise disabled in developing countries.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD organises awareness days in schools to reach children and teenagers and create an atmosphere of understanding and solidarity with underprivileged people in Africa, Asia and South America.

In the course of these events, the pupils experience blindness by leading each other blindfolded along the hall or learning how to write their name in Braille. They learn about the link between disability and poverty, about the possibilities of rehabilitation and inclusion and that human rights are for everybody. In Austria, over 15 schools have been visited by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in 2008.

**… Creating Understanding**

**BlindRide World Sight Day 2008 in Prague**

On World Sight Day 2008, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in the Czech Republic organised an event in the historic centre of Prague to raise awareness for the situation of blind people in Ethiopia.

The event was launched by Bela Hlavackova, Czech paralympic winner in Beijing 2008 and member of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Czech Republic’s board. She led a “blind ride” of people on bikes and tandems through the streets of central Prague, joined by blind and seeing supporters.

The BlindRide carried a lantern with a flame that represented hope for 600,000 blind Ethiopians whose sight could be restored by a simple cataract surgery for 30 EUR. The fire from the lantern later ignited a balloon that flew high over the city with the desire to enable all people with cataract to gain access to sight-saving surgery.

Passersby were encouraged to pose for a picture of 100+1 people. This number represents the ratio of Czech and Ethiopian ophthalmologists per capita (1:10,000 in Czech Republic versus 1:100,000 in Ethiopia).

The celebrations were concluded with a benefit concert.

**Vienna Night Run 2008**

In November 2008 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Austria organized a sports event of an unusual nature: the Vienna Night Run started at 8 pm in the dark to point out the need for treatment of blind and visually impaired people in developing countries. The blind athlete Francis Karanja, silver medal winner at the paralympics in Beijing 2008, joined the event as ambassador for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

More then 7,100 people participated in the second Vienna Night Run. From amateur athletes to professionals to organisers to curious onlookers lining the streets, everybody took part with great enthusiasm. Every participant received a bag with information on the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD together with their starting number. The entry fees were used to finance 1,191 cataract surgeries in LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supported programmes.

“Next year, we would like to double the number of participants and increase the amount of humanitarian help for blind people in Africa!” says Hannes Menitz, CEO of sportmedia, one of the sponsors of the event.
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What was achieved in 2008

Our work in support of blind and partially sighted people and of persons with other disabilities was further expanded and developed in 2008:

**Allocation of funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation in EUR</th>
<th>8,881,857</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmes and projects including advocacy</td>
<td>2,415,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project information and educational work</td>
<td>288,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public relations</td>
<td>67,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations processing and services to donors</td>
<td>355,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>618,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free reserve Allocation</td>
<td>67,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,627,251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sum of all the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Confederation expenditures in 2008 amounts to EUR 12,627,251.

Over 70 % of the expenditures were used for project work and enabled us to conduct over 110 projects. Our support reached over 600,000 people in 18 countries who are blind, have eye diseases or other disabilities.

The focus of our work lies in Africa: With over 62.3 % of direct project support we currently support 83 projects, the regional focus is on the four countries Ethiopia (24 projects), Burkina Faso (14 projects), Mozambique (12 projects), DR Congo (7 projects), Southern Sudan (10 projects) and Rwanda (1 project). 30.4 % of direct project support is directed to Asia and the Pacific (59 projects), and 2.1 % to Latin America (7 projects).

52 of the projects we support are focused on the prevention of blindness and eye care, while 53 projects focus on rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities.

In 2008, about 8 % of project expenditures was used for preparation and coordination of our projects. Roughly 5 % was used for advocacy work to establish the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and persons at risk of becoming disabled as a principle of European and international development cooperation.

19.1 % was spent on expenditures for mailings and project information for donors and those interested, and educational work (e.g. for development education programmes in schools).

For public relation work, e.g. press releases, events and reports about the project work 2.3 % was spent. Sponsorship and the voluntary commitment of many people made exhibitions, charity events and information evenings for people interested in the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD possible.

2.8 % was used for donor relations management (e.g. donation processing, database work) in 2008 and 4.9 % for administration.

Approximately 0.6 % of total expenditure was allocated as reserves.

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Sources of our funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources in EUR</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
<td>1,216,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9.64 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public / Government funding</td>
<td>1,119,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.68 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>

The overall income of the confederation LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in 2008 amounts to EUR 12,627,251. Thanks to increasing support for the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Austria, Belgium and the Czech Republic, it was possible to expand our work.

The foundation of our work is built on the commitment of over 990,000 individuals, families, companies and institutions, who account for 76 % of total revenues.

Income from donations account for EUR 9.6 million in 2008, EUR 573,000 were donations in-kind. A positive development is the increase in bequests: They reached a total of EUR 1,216,982 in 2008.

We received in total EUR 1,119,540 million from public bodies in 2008.

The European Union funded programmes for persons with disabilities in Tanzania and Papua New Guinea as well as the project “Disability Mainstreaming in European Development Cooperation“, with a total amount of EUR 640,138.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has received EUR 441,804 from the Austrian Development Cooperation (OEZA). These funds were used in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Czech Development Cooperation supported LIGHT FOR THE WORLD with EUR 21,737.

The overall income of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in the Czech Republic with EUR 21,737.

Reliability of all three member organisations audited

Since their foundation, all three member organisations of the confederation LIGHT FOR THE WORLD had their accounts audited by external auditors. The accounts 2008 were audited in Austria by Hübner & Hübner Wirtschaftsprüfung Gesellschaft m.b.H., in Belgium by Bedrijfsevizoren Clybouw and in the Czech Republic by Audit Novotný.

In Austria, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has been granted the Austrian Seal of Quality for Donations (Spendengütesiegel) for 2008, based on the external audit of the internal control system. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Belgium and the Czech Republic follow similar quality standards.
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The focus of our work lies in Africa: With over 62.3 % of direct project support we currently support 83 projects, the regional focus is on the four countries Ethiopia (24 projects), Burkina Faso (14 projects), Mozambique (12 projects), DR Congo (7 projects), Southern Sudan (10 projects) and Rwanda (1 project). 30.4 % of direct project support is directed to Asia and the Pacific (29 projects), and 2.1 % to Latin America (7 projects).

52 of the projects we support are focused on the prevention of blindness and eye care, while 53 projects focus on rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities.

In 2008, about 8 % of project expenditures was used for preparation and coordination of our projects. Roughly 5 % was used for advocacy work to establish the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and persons at risk of becoming disabled as a principle of European and international development cooperation.

19.1 % was spent on expenditures for mailings and project information for donors and those interested, and educational work (e.g. for development education programmes in schools).

For public relation work, e.g. press releases, events and reports about the project work 2.3 % was spent. Sponsorship and the voluntary commitment of many people made exhibitions, charity events and information evenings for people interested in the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD possible.

2.8 % was used for donor relations management (e.g. donation processing, database work) in 2008 and 4.9 % for administration.

Approximately 0.6 % of total expenditure was allocated as reserves.

What was achieved in 2008

Sources of our funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources in EUR</th>
<th>9,626,949</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>9,216,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>351,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>232,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public / Government funding</td>
<td>1,119,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>99,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>351,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,627,251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The overall income of the confederation LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in 2008 amounts to EUR 12,627,251. Thanks to increasing support for the work of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Austria, Belgium and the Czech Republic, it was possible to expand our work.

The foundation of our work is built on the commitment of over 150,000 individuals, families, companies and institutions, who account for 76.2 % of total revenues.

Income from donations account for EUR 9.6 million in 2008, EUR 573,000 were donations in-kind. A positive development is the increase in bequests: They reached a total of EUR 1,216,982 in 2008.

We received in total EUR 1,119,540 million from public bodies in 2008.

Austrian Development Cooperation

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has received EUR 441,804 from the Austrian Development Cooperation (OEZA). These funds were used in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Czech Development Cooperation supported LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in the Czech Republic with EUR 21,737.

Reliability of all three member organisations audited

Since their foundation, all three member organisations of the confederation LIGHT FOR THE WORLD had their accounts audited by external auditors. The accounts 2008 were audited in Austria by Hübner & Hübner Wirtschaftsprüfung Gesellschaft m.b.H., in Belgium by Bedrijfsexaminen Cybouw and in the Czech Republic by Audit Novotny.

In Austria, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has been granted the Austrian Seal of Quality for Donations (Spendengußzeichen) for 2008, based on the external audit of the internal control system. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Belgium and the Czech Republic follow similar quality standards.
**STRENGTH IN UNITY**

**MEMBERSHIPS & PLATFORMS**

VISION 2020 - The Right to Sight
International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)
International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)
Global Campaign for Education
Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP)

**CO-FINANCING AND PUBLIC SOURCES**

**European Union**
Tanzania - Orthopaedic Clinic for people with disabilities, Eye Clinic and CBR programme
Europe - TRIALOG project to raise awareness of development issues in the enlarged EU

**Austrian Development Agency**
Burkina Faso - Community Based Rehabilitation programme, Prevention of blindness
Ethiopia - Community Based Rehabilitation programme
Mozambique - Community Based Rehabilitation programme, Prevention of blindness
Bosnia-Herzegovina - Community integration of persons with disabilities
Papua New Guinea - Access to Education and Health Systems for hearing impaired children

**The Federal Province of Upper Austria**
Kenya - Scholarship for training an ophthalmologist

**The Federal Province of Lower Austria**
Burkina Faso - Community Based Rehabilitation programme in Diebougou
Ethiopia - Distribution of Zithromax to combat trachoma

**The Federal Province of Vienna**
Bosnia-Herzegovina - Vocational training for women with disabilities

**Czech Development Cooperation**
Capacity building

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**Coordination Office Mozambique**
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Our thanks go to all voluntary and full-time employees.

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A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships.

Helen Keller