



NEW SIGHT EYE CARE

Registered Address: The Megacentre, 32 York Road, Leeds LS9 8SY

Charity Commission Registration Nr: 1144893

Annual Report for the year ending 5 April 2015

OVERVIEW:

New Sight Eye Care is a registered charity founded in the UK in 2011, and is constituted by Memorandum and Articles of Association. We provide support and financial aid from the UK to the Republic of Congo to pioneer the first and only eye surgery centre in the northern part of the country.

The charity, whose objects are below, is administered by the Trustees, namely;

Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong

Mr. Henri Samoutou

Mr. Christopher Denham

Mrs. Linda Adam

Mrs. Safi Newton

The charity is governed by trust deed administered by the trustees, as well as being a non-profit limited company. There are five trustees at any time. When a vacancy occurs, the trustees note the fact in the minutes of their next meeting. The trustees discuss a possible candidate with relevant experience and commitment. Apart from the first trustees, every trustee is appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting.

The **OBJECTIVES** of the charity are:

1. The Advancement of health and / or saving of lives in particular (but without limitation) by providing assistance overseas principally (but not exclusively) in the Republic of Congo for those affected with sight difficulties; and
2. To fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected to the charitable work of the Charity as the Trustees may from time to time think fit

ACTIVITIES, PROGRESS and PLANS to date:

The north of Congo has never had an eye centre. This is the reason that Joyce and Henri Samoutou uprooted their families' lives in the UK in April 2012 to pioneer the first and only non-profit eye centre in the north of Congo. The eye centre is based in Pioneer Christian Hospital in Impfondo, the capital of the Likouala Region. This general hospital founded in 2006 is developing rapidly. It has 32 buildings

in a 17-acre site. It has grown to 75 beds in recent years. New Sight and the hospital continue to enjoy good relationships with the government, the Ministry of Health, as well as the local authorities and communities. We collaborate frequently with other non-profit organisations such as United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees and Médecins d’Afrique, who frequently send their patients to us for eye treatment.

Vision 2020 is the WHO global initiative to eliminate all avoidable and reversible causes of blindness and severe visual impairment by the year 2020. According to the WHO, worldwide, 4 in 5 people who are blind or severely visually impaired are blind from avoidable causes. This means that we can prevent or treat their blindness. New Sight follows the Vision 2020 technical guidance to plan, budget and purchase the equipment and consumables needed. In the year ending April 2015, the number of consultation has increased 22% to 1505. The bulk of our charity’s surgery is to remove cataracts. Patients blind from cataracts can see again the day after this one-off operation. When sight is restored, lives are transformed, not just for the patients, but also for their families and even the wider communities.^{1 2} There have been several well documented studies that proved cataract surgery to be one of the top operations with the most measurable improvement in quality of life, and supported the argument that it offers economic benefit to relieve poverty.^{3 4 5}

In addition to cataract surgery, we provide vision tests and aids (e.g. glasses), prevention and treatment of eye diseases and systemic illness involving the eye (e.g. diabetes and hypertension), an ‘accidents and emergency’ service, as well as other surgeries (e.g. for glaucoma and pterygium). Free administration of Vitamin A supplements and River Blindness treatment are also offered. For those who are assessed to be genuinely unable to afford paying for our very low-cost non-profit services, their costs are covered by New Sight’s charitable poverty fund.

In March to April 2014, Henri represented New Sight at Mercy Ship, the biggest floating hospital in the world that was visiting and docked in Pointe Noire, about 1000km away from our hospital in the south of Congo. A visiting ophthalmologist would come for 2 weeks at a time and operated round the clock with Henri. Together, they performed 350 surgeries (of which 323 were cataracts) in the 6 weeks that Henri was on the ship. Several useful links with both Mercy Ship and the local authorities have been formed through this mission.

In August 2014, Ebola broke out in the Equateur region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is our immediate neighbouring region. We are only separated by the Oubangui River, which also serves as our common wildlife source. Because of our extremely remote location, the challenges were immense. Along with Pioneer Christian Hospital, the government and other health agencies, we became part of the emergency response team to prepare Congo against the very real threat of Ebola. Using the 400kg of Personal Protective Equipment donated by Samaritan’s Purse to our hospital, we

¹ Javitt, International Congress Ophthalmol 1983.

² International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment. Annual Report 2004. <http://www.icevi.org/publications/Annual%20Report%202004.htm>.

³ Javitt et al. The economic and social aspect of restoring sight. International Congress Ophthalmol 1983; 1308-1312.

⁴ Kuper et al ‘Does Cataract surgery alleviate poverty? Evidence from a Multi-Centre Intervention Study Conducted in Kenya, the Phillippines and Bangladesh’ PloS Medicine 2010; 5.11.

⁵ Faal and Gilbert, "Convincing governments to act: VISION 2020 and the Millennium Development Goals" Community Eye Health. 2007 December; 20(64): 62–64

set up an Ebola tent and provided training to our staff. We also provided Ebola health education through opportunistic health promotion discussion with our patients, as well as through posters and leaflets. Some of the mission organisations evacuated their staff, which in turn led to a greater work load for us who remained. It was a stressful time, where the focus became one of survival. We were extremely thankful that the Ebola outbreak was contained very quickly, and that our neighbouring zone was declared Ebola-free on November 15, 2014..

As the threat of Ebola gradually lessened in 2015, we were liberated to progress with our projects. We were thrilled to enjoy several developments including:

- A very successful first health fair on 21 March, 2015. It was a fun day filled with games and learning activities, which ended in a grand finale of a prize draw and an educational play. Our staff enjoyed learning to make posters and preparing for the activities and prizes
- In January 2015, Joyce and Henri were blessed with a 4 by 4 pick-up truck donated by a church in Hong Kong. New Sight now uses this truck to travel to villages to transport patients, deliver medical care, and perform screening campaigns, as well as to transport medicine and visitors to and from the airport. Our outreach program is fortified by occasional radio programs and announcements
- Training and empowerment are some of the core values of New Sight. In March 2015, our first trainees completed their internship program. All three of them became full-time employees to join Henri and one other nurse. We teach through weekly group tutorials, as well as daily one-to-one clinical, IT and administrative training.
- In April 2015, we hosted our first short term mission team. A team of 7 from Hong Kong, Canada and the UK volunteered for 2 weeks. They successfully set up internet in the eye centre as well as in the New Sight office. They were also a great help in several other areas e.g. filming materials for promotional video
- On 10 December 2014, we were honoured to receive Her Excellency Stephanie Sullivan, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Congo, her team, representatives from the Congo Interior Ministry, as well as the Congolese military at our eye centre

We continue to rent surgical facilities from General Surgery, as well as the renovated and extended old building for our clinic. However, we are rapidly outgrowing these premises. We have plans for building our own dedicated eye centre, with our own optical shop, pharmacy, outpatient clinic, inpatient wards and theatre. Unfortunately, we continue to experience considerable delays in our application for building permission from the government. We also need to find the manpower to manage the construction project. The majority of the funds raised have been reserved in preparation for the construction.

In the UK, we continue our fundraising efforts by running our Priceless Gift Store – an on-line donation gift store.

Over the next 12 months, we will concentrate on developing our clinical service, with particular emphasis on identifying and removing barriers to surgery. With the arrival of the new vehicle, we will be able to cover more areas for screening, as well as provide health education. We will reduce our prices further to reach and help more patients. We will provide further training to our staff so that they can be empowered to take on more responsibilities. We have meetings planned with a non-profit construction organisation with a view to future partnership. We will continue to work on obtaining building permission from the government. In addition, we hope to continue to build our financial reserve so that we will have enough funds to build.

Financial summary

Monies are held and administered through one bank account and one PayPal account. They are reported as one in the annex to this report.

Joyce and Henri Samoutou won the international Excellence in Ophthalmology Vision award in November 2012 and won £42, 065.02 for New Sight. While this grant is unrestricted, we have allocated the funds for the construction of an educational centre within our new building, as well as towards the scholarships for an ophthalmic technician and cataract surgeon. The schools require our nurses to have a minimum of 3 years of working experience before they can be accepted. There is no deadline to when the funds must be used.

In addition to funding from New Sight Eye Care in the UK, the eye centre also receives funding through Alliance Global Serve, a charity in Hong Kong and also from Global Outreach Mission, a charity in North America. Medication, clinical supplies, medical, surgical and administrative equipment were almost all paid for through funding from Hong Kong due to logistics reasons.

Joyce and Henri Samoutou do not receive any salaries from New Sight Eye Care in the UK.

We are reserving funds in preparation for the construction of the new centre.

Signed by Joyce Samoutou-Wong, trustee, 2 July 2015

I can confirm that I have audited the attached accounts for "New sight Charities Commission Report", and that these are consistent with the accounts for 2013/14, and a true and fair reflection of the accounts based on the information provided to me.

Huei Wearn Koh

DATE