



## **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 2013**

#### **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;

Joyce Samoutou-Wong

Henri Samoutou

Christopher Denham

Linda Adam

Evelyn Tan (resigned in May 2013 due to personal reasons),

and replaced by

Safi Newton (appointed in November 2013 following recruitment and discussion by the remaining 4 trustees)

The resignation and new appointment were both passed by a resolution of the Trustees as per our Memorandum and Articles of Association 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. We laid the foundation by registering as a limited company with Companies House, as a charity with the Charities Commission, and as charity for tax purposes with the HMRC. Several fundraising efforts were made through events, networking, publicity and media. The website ([www.newsightcongo.com](http://www.newsightcongo.com)), facebook ([www.facebook.com/newsightcongo](http://www.facebook.com/newsightcongo)), twitter (@newsightcongo), quarterly e-newsletters were created and are regularly updated to give information about our work.

We worked very hard to purchase, source, pack and ship all the equipment and supplies needed. Vision 2020 is the WHO global initiative to eliminate all avoidable and reversible causes of blindness and severe visual impairment by the year 2020. We have been authorised to access its recently released online catalogue that sources the best value for money eye equipment and consumables from suppliers from all over the world. New Sight follows the Vision 2020 technical guidance to plan, budget and purchase the equipment and consumables needed.

New Sight was welcomed by the regional representative for the Minister of Health, the Prefet (the President's regional representative) as well as the local government hospital in Congo. We started clinics and limited surgery in Congo in May 2012. The eye centre is based in Pioneer Christian Hospital in Impfondo, the capital of the Likouala Region. This rapidly expanding 50-bed general hospital was founded in 2006. It enjoys good relationships with the government. In fact, the 17-acre site and 32 buildings were donated by President Dennis Sassou-Nguesso. We benefit from the infrastructure of the established hospital, as well as their good relationships with the Ministry of Health, local authorities and local communities.

Over 110 boxes purchased/donated, packed and shipped from over 6 countries, and tax exoneration was applied. Our medical shipment took 8 months to clear customs and arrived in November 2012. We started our full surgical service in January 2013. We performed over 1600 consultations in the first year of operation (Jan 13 – Jan

14). The bulk of our charity's work is cataract surgery. Patients blind from cataracts can see again the day after this one-off operation. They stay as in-patients for 5-7 days before discharge. When sight is restored, lives are transformed, not just for the patients, but also for their families and even the wider communities.<sup>1 2</sup> 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.<sup>3 4 5</sup>

In addition to cataract surgery, we provide consultations, vision tests and aids e.g. glasses, and other surgeries such as glaucoma to our patients, at affordable prices. Free administration of Vitamin A supplements and River Blindness treatment are offered to the local community. 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.

Training and empowerment are some of the core values of New Sight. We teach weekly in the nursing school, and provide clinical, IT and administrative training to local staff. The Congolese government recently granted us approval to start community health and screening programs. Henri successfully obtained the Certificate of Community Eye Health with honours to allow him to lead the program better. We have met with local community leaders to start planning to train members of the community.

We renovated and extended an old building for our clinic, and are renting an operating theatre from General Surgery. 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. We have experienced significant delays in our application for building permission from the government. The majority of the funds raised have been reserved in preparation for the construction.

Joyce and Henri represented New Sight at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) General Assembly through a poster presentation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Javitt, International Congress Ophthalmol 1983

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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

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

Several useful links have been formed through this conference attended by 1500 delegates from over 80 countries.

In the next 12 months, we plan to continue to develop our centre during this early stage of our project. We hope to obtain more help with administration, accounting, logistics and supportive systems both in Congo and abroad. In addition, we hope to continue to build our reserve so that we will have enough funds to build, help more patients and pay for staff to meet our increasing needs.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Financial summary

Monies are held and administered through one bank account and 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, the funds are planned for the construction of an educational centre within our new building, as well as for 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 Global Outreach Mission, a charity in North America. Medication, clinical supplies, medical, surgical and administrative equipment were almost all paid for from Hong Kong due to logistics reasons.

Joyce and Henri Samoutou do not receive any salaries from New Sight Eye Care in the UK. The start-up expenses of their relocation and travels to Congo, as well as some of the expenses for home schooling their 3 children were covered by New Sight in the UK.

The charity will hold between £40,000 - £500,000 reserves to fund the construction of the new centre and shortfalls in income and/or unexpected expenditure. At the year end 5th of April 2013, the charity had unrestricted reserves of £55,417.37

*Signed by Joyce Samoutou-Wong, trustee, 4 February 2014*

**Income & Expenditure for the year ended 5 April 2013**

		£	
		Unrestricted Fund	Total Fund
<b><u>Incoming resource from generated funds</u></b>		(A)	
<b>Voluntary income</b>			
Donation & Grant		48,616.77	48,616.77
<b><u>Charitable Expenditure</u></b>			
Travelling expenditure	TE	7,718.93	
Postage	PO	2.60	
Eye clinic medication	EM	462.04	
Member & application fees	MA	246.67	
Miscellaneous	MI	88.74	
Depreciation		2,875.71	
Home Schooling	HS	1,055.20	
Relocation Cost	RELO	1,520.79	
Accounts and Filing	FAR	13.00	
		13,983.68	13,983.68
Net income for the year		34,633.09	34,633.09
Total funds brought forward		20,784.28	20,784.28
Total funds carried forward		55,417.37	55,417.37

**Notes**

(A) This is a normal donation received accounts. Unrestricted fund are available for use at the discretion of the trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Grant received from Novartis Pharma Switzerland of Euro50,000 (£42,065.02) has not been restricted for the Charity.

**Fixed Assets**

Tangible assets	BS	2,875.71
-----------------	----	----------

**Current Assets**

Bank		52,516.14
------	--	-----------

Cash in hand		25.52
--------------	--	-------

---

**55,417.37**

---

**Capital**

Total unrestricted fund

b/f		20,784.28
-----	--	-----------

Net income for the year		34,633.09
-------------------------	--	-----------

---

Total unrestricted funds carried forward		<b>55,417.37</b>
--	--	------------------

---

I can confirm that I have audited the attached "New sight charities commission report" and that these are consistent with the accounts for 2012/13, and a true and fair reflection of the accounts based on the information provided to me.

Huei Wearn Koh

7 Feb 2014