



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 April 2018

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

Dr. Terence Pang

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 the 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 family's life 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.

In November 2016, the purchase of the 6-hectare piece of land in Ouessou was completed, with one of the six hectares being a donation from the mayor office in Ouessou. A team of topographic surveyors from Brazzaville completed land studies. An architect from South Africa, along with an engineer and project adviser from Kenya, joined us for a feasibility visit in Ouessou for the masterplan of the Ouessou project. This future eye hospital is in a strategic location that can reach out to the whole of Congo, and perhaps even to neighbouring countries such as Cameroon and Central Africa Republic. The Ouessou Hospital will include:

- i. Inpatient Department
- ii. Outpatient Department
- iii. Optical shop and Workshop
- iv. Pharmacy
- v. Surgical Unit
- vi. Training Centre
- vii. Staff and Visitors Quarters
- viii. Core Infrastructure (electricity and water supply, incineration facility)

In line with the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development, the vision of the World Health Organisation, and the WHO Global Action Plan 2014-19, OUR VISION is a world

- Where nobody is needlessly visually impaired
- Where those with unavoidable visual loss can achieve their full potential
- Where there is universal access to comprehensive eye care services

The target is a 25% global reduction of avoidable blindness and visual impairment by the year 2019 from 2010. New Sight aligns itself with this vision and works to ensure delivery of these targets. 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 technical guidance provided by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness in collaboration with the WHO to plan, budget and purchase the equipment and consumables needed. In the year ending April 2018, the number of consultations in the clinic was 1236 and the number of people screened was 320 (to confirm). The total number of patient encounters was therefore 1556. The bulk of our charity's surgery is to remove cataracts. To remove cost as a barrier to access of care, we provided all operations free of charge. 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 ‘accident 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.

For the year ending April 2018, some key development and activities included:

- In April 2017, New Sight celebrated its 5th anniversary in the Republic of Congo.
- In the year ending April 2018, the number of consultations in the clinic was 1236 and the number of people screened was 320 (to confirm). The total number of patient encounters was therefore 1556.
- New Sight partnered with the American Leprosy Missions medical mission team on a very successful a 10-day screening and educational campaign in Betou and Enyelle where we were able to help hundreds of patients. We are thankful for the support of the local government and health authorities, as well as the Médecins Sans Frontières team there (June–July 2017).
- In July 2017, New Sight completed the screening and community health program for the entire region of Likouala.
- In July 2017, doctors from Terre Sans Frontières (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees implementation partner) and local hospitals spent a few days at our eye centre.
- New Sight helped host several overseas volunteers to Impfondo. Amongst them were a team of American electricians who worked on the electric system (May 2017), as well as several college students in Pioneer Christian Hospital (April – August 2017). Of

¹ Javitt JC, Venkataswamy G, Sommer A. ‘The economic and social impact of restoring sight’. In: Henkind P (ed) ACTA: 24th International Congress of Ophthalmology. Philadelphia, PA: JB Lippincott, 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. *Int. Ophthalmol.* 1983; 1308-1312.

⁴ Kuper et al. ‘Does Cataract surgery alleviate poverty? Evidence from a Multi-Centre Intervention Study Conducted in Kenya, the Philippines 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.

note, New Sight provided training for Sophie Kwok, medical student (May–June 2017), and Rebecca Hung, teacher (July 2017), both from Hong Kong. Rebecca taught the three Samoutou children, so that Joyce and Henri could be relieved from home-schooling responsibilities to spend more time on New Sight.

- New Sight overcame the challenges from the national shortage of fuel in kerosene and gas bottles.
- In August 2017, our four nurses successfully completed their training and took over Impfondo eye centre. The Impfondo eye centre was given as a gift in its entirety along with all its equipment, assets and trained staff to Pioneer Christian Hospital, with a partnership agreement for New Sight to continue to provide remote support and regular surgical campaigns (renewable in August 2019).
- The Impfondo Eye Centre has been self-running successfully since August 2017 and continues to see about 130 patients a month. The nurses who we trained there can now perform duties in emergency, consultation, inpatient, anaesthetics and minor surgery. We have conducted two surgical campaigns since the hand-over (December 2017 and March 2018).
- In August 2017, New Sight made the bold decision for the Samoutou family to relocate temporarily to Hong Kong for 4 reasons: 1. finish fundraising, 2. progress with construction plans, 3. pack a container with supplies and prepare medical operations, 4. build capacity of the overseas team.

1. FUNDRAISING

- New Sight continued its Ouesso fundraising campaign launched in March 2017. Of note, we completed the USD1.25 million match donation scheme by a generous anonymous donor (May–Dec 2018), and won a USD600,000 grant from a private foundation in Hong Kong (Nov 2018).
- Amongst the 40-plus public engagements in the YE April 2018 were:
 - Forbes Philanthropy Forum in New York (Samoutous - Sep 2017)
 - New Sight Fundraising Tour in Singapore (Samoutous - Feb 2018)
 - New Sight Fundraising Tour in London (Edith Chan and Joyce Samoutou - Mar 2018)
 - UNESCO sharing (Joyce Samoutou - Dec 2017) and
 - Presentation at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress (Samoutous - Feb 2018)
- We continued our fundraising efforts through our Priceless Gift Store – an online donation gift store.
- New Sight was featured by Creation TV, Hong Kong (May 2017), and Joyce’s work was honoured by the Women of Hope Award (June 2017).

2. PROGRESS WITH CONSTRUCTION PLANS

- In August 2017, the Samoutous were granted an audience with the Minister of Health, Republic of Congo, where the support for the New Sight Ouessou Project was secured, and subsequently resulted in a Convention of Partnership signed with the Government of the Republic of Congo in January 2018. This is the formal approval for New Sight to build and operate the hospital compound, send out screening and community teams, and details how the government will collaborate with New Sight, e.g. sending their health professionals and community leaders to us for training, providing tax exemptions, visas and work permits etc.
- The design team continued its work on detailed design phase.
- In August 2017, Project Steering Group (PSG) was formed for the New Sight Ouessou Project. The group consists of the two New Sight founders, representatives from New Sight boards in UK and HK, as well as independent experts in engineering, architecture and legal / business.
- In September 2017, Steve Pyle was engaged as the project manager for the Ouessou Project on a pro-bono basis.
- In February 2018, Silla Chow, a civil engineer and PSG member and Steve Pyle travelled to South Africa for a two-day workshop with the design team consisting of engineers, architects and quantity surveyors. In March 2018, Henri and Steve travelled to Republic of Congo for a site visit as well as meetings to identify potential suppliers and contractors.
- In recognition of their architectural design of the New Sight Ouessou Project, Geysers-Hahn won the international Silver A' Architecture, Building and Structure Design Award, the Highly Commended Award at the World Architecture Festival, and was a finalist at the German Design Award.

3. PACK A CONTAINER FOR CONGO and PREPARE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS

- In November 2017, Columbia International Removals offered New Sight the free use of their container warehouse, packing, pick up and transportation services.
- Several donations of equipment and furniture from individuals, clinics, Crossroads (a charity in Hong Kong), and Columbia's contacts have come in, and nearly half a container has been filled.
- A partnership with Baptist Hospital, Hong Kong has been formed. Their technical department will test our all sourced equipment closer to the container shipping date to ensure validity of testing results. Baptist Hospital has requested ophthalmologists to be present during testing for more effective testing results.
- A partnership with Association of Private Eye Surgeons, Hong Kong has also been formed. New Sight is recruiting medical volunteers, and has completed the first draft of the future hospital operational blueprint.

4. BUILD CAPACITY

- New Sight has assembled an experienced team of officers, volunteers, advisers and affiliated organisations who dedicate their time and resources to advance the project. Apart from supporting the above goals, this group takes care of matters relating to governance, legal and compliance, auditing, accounting and financial management, business and administrative support.
- Allen and Overy continued to support New Sight as pro-bono legal and governance adviser. In October 2017, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP was engaged to support any New Sight's future activities in the United States on a pro-bono basis.
- We continue to actively recruit long-termers to join the team. Annabel and Douglas Targett, along with their three children, have committed to joining the New Sight Team in Congo for initially 1-2 years, starting from when the Samoutous return. They are currently undergoing language studies and are volunteering for New Sight in Leeds, UK.

Over the next 12 months, we will concentrate on supporting the staff to continue to improve the clinical services in Impfondo. We will continue fundraising, building capacity, and planning for the new future Ouessou Eye Hospital. We will work on the translation of tendering documents to invite suitable candidates for the bidding and selection process and hope to commence construction as soon as sufficient funds have been secured.

Respectfully submitted by
Joyce and Henri Samoutou
Founders, New Sight
30 July 2018