

NEW SIGHT EYE CARE

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2020



'I Want To See' by Karis Faith Samoutou (Age 9)

"Thomas had always dreamt of going to school with his brother and sister. He wanted to learn and play with other children, and see a brighter future."

Childhood blindness has a significant impact on children's health, education and quality of life and the loss of income and productivity associated with a lifetime of blindness are costly for individual children, their families and society in general.

Registered Address:
21A Upper
Accommodation Road,
Leeds LS9 8RZ,
United Kingdom



'New Sight Logo'
by Karis Faith
Samoutou.

Overview

New Sight Eye Care is a registered charity founded in the UK in 2011 and in Hong Kong in 2013. We provide support and financial aid to the Republic of Congo, pioneering the first and only eye surgery centre in the northern part of the country, and now to build a new eye hospital in Ouessou.

The charity is governed by trustees in the UK and by directors in Hong Kong, as well as being a non-profit limited company.

Objectives

The objectives of the charity are:

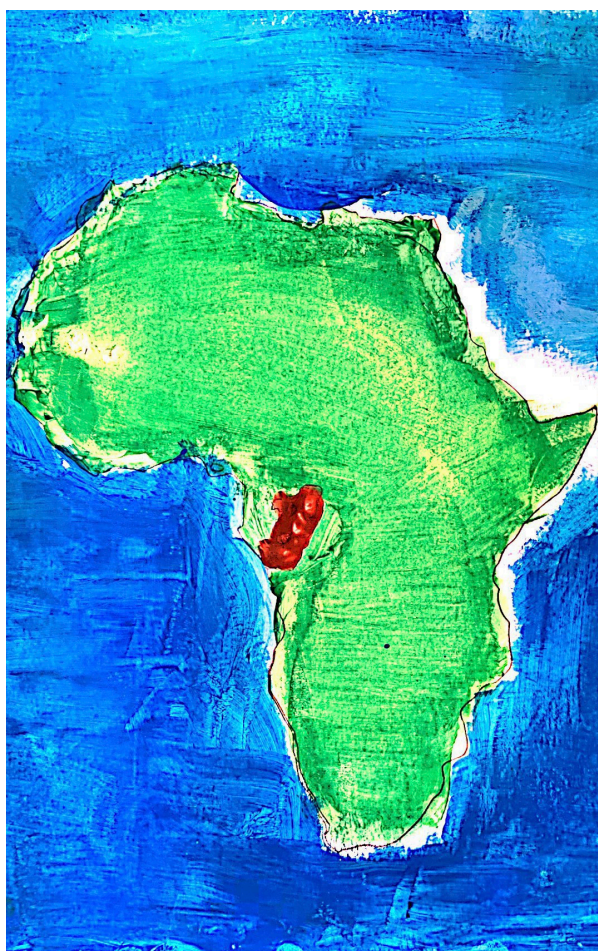
1. *The advancement of health, and the saving of lives in particular (but without limitation), by providing assistance overseas principally (but not exclusively) in the Republic of Congo for those affected with sight difficulties; and*
2. *To fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable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

KEY GOVERNING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES			
UK Board Trustees	HK Board Directors	Executive Committee	Project Steering Group
Mr. Christopher Denham	Ms. Evelyn Chan	Ms. Evelyn Chan	Ms. Silla Chow
Dr. Terence Pang	Ms. Pauline Lo	Ms. Phoebe Chan	Dr. Alan Ng
Mr. Henri Samoutou	Dr. Alan Ng	Ms. Po Cheung	Mr. Chuck Ng
Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong	Dr. Hannah Too	Mr. Victor Kam	Ms. Rita Pang
		Mr. Charles Leung	Dr. Terence Pang
		Ms. Stephanie Ng	Mr. Henri Samoutou
		Ms. Agnes Ng Lai	Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong
		Mr. Henri Samoutou	
		Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong	

Impfondo Eye Centre

The north of Congo had never had an eye centre. This was 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 enjoys good relationships with the government, the Ministry of Health, as well as the local authorities and communities. New Sight has collaborated frequently with other non-profit organisations such as United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees and Médecins d'Afrique, who frequently refer their patients for eye treatment.

New Sight gave the Impfondo eye centre with all the equipment and trained staff as a gift to Pioneer Christian Hospital in August 2017. The nurses who were trained by New Sight can now handle emergency, consultation, inpatient, anaesthetics, and minor surgery. Henri has been going back regularly about every 3 to 4 months to perform major surgery. The clinic is self-running and continues to see about 80 patients a month.



'This is where we are' by Karis Faith Samoutou. Showing the position of Republic of Congo on the continent of Africa.

Ouesso Eye Hospital

Following the successful establishment of the Impfondo eye centre, New Sight was invited by local authorities to build a new eye hospital in Ouesso. The strategic location of Ouesso can make eye care accessible for the entire country of Congo. In November 2016, the purchase of the 6-hectare piece of land in Ouesso was completed, with one of the six hectares being a donation from the mayor's office in Ouesso. 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 Joyce and Henri for a feasibility visit in Ouesso for the masterplan of the Ouesso 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 African Republic.

The Ouessou Hospital will include:

1. Inpatient Department
2. Outpatient Department
3. Optical shop and Workshop
4. Pharmacy
5. Surgical Unit
6. Training Centre
7. Staff and Visitors Quarters
8. Core Infrastructure (electricity and water supply, incineration facility)

Our Vision



'A world where nobody is needlessly visually blind' by Megan Ng

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, New Sight's 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

"A world where nobody is needlessly visually impaired"

-NEW SIGHT VISION

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. 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.

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,^{1 2} 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.

A Year Full of Provision, Challenges and Progress

For the year ended 31 March 2020, some key progress and activities included:

- New Sight has provided more than 11,500 consultations to date in Congo.
- While we are the process of constructing our new hospital, consultations have started since July 2019 from our new Ouessou Interim Eye Centre (IEC) located in the Department of Health's busy, centrally located health centre.
- New Sight has completed its first course on 'Introduction to Health Care Fundamentals', and commenced its first one-year nurse training program for students selected from the local community.
- We now have an incredible core team of volunteers and pro-bono workers along with 24 full-time and 2 part-time staff.
- By June 2019, the field team had grown to 12 expat adults and 7 children to work with and train up the local community at our new greenfield location of Ouessou.
- Local authorities have reaffirmed their ongoing support.



'Ouessou Pioneer Team'
by Karis Faith Samoutou.

- New Sight has succeeded in raising HK\$5.7 million (GBP 0.6 million / USD 0.7 million) in this fiscal year. We entered 2020 financially poised to support the growth of its operations in Congo and to best serve its goal of eliminating avoidable blindness.

Three key goals for 2019/2020: 1. To provide accessible and comprehensive eye services; 2. Empower the local community; 3. Ensure sustainability by partnering with local and international partners.

1. Provide accessible & comprehensive eye services

New Sight worked hard to establish and equip the new Ouesso Interim Eye Centre, support the Impfondo Eye Centre through surgical missions, mentoring and consultation, and continued to pursue the most pragmatic approach to hospital construction in Ouesso.

New Ouesso Interim Eye Centre launched July 2019

The Department of Health blessed New Sight with a generous space in their busy, centrally located health centre. The team worked hard making furniture, fixtures and other preparations. Without any advertisement or promotion, the Interim Eye Centre (IEC) opened on 18 July 2019 and saw ten patients on the first morning alone. The IEC did not engage in any advertising until September 2019, when the team spread the word via radio, churches and the hiring of 'criers'. The vast majority of patients have heard about New Sight from family and friends. By the end of March 2020, the Interim Eye Centre in Ouesso has provided a total of 1,570 consultations. On average, the IEC is seeing around 200 patients per full month. This has far exceeded expectations. As expected the number of new and follow up appointments has evened out with close to half of appointments being new patients. This also reflects the fact that the team is

getting a good response to people keeping their follow up appointments allowing treatment to be completed. So far, the most common eye conditions seen at the IEC have been presbyopia, cataracts and allergic conjunctivitis.

In order to improve New Sight services and better understand the needs of the community, each patient at the IEC has been invited to complete a feedback form. The responses received have been overwhelmingly positive. 100% positive reviews with 97% rating New Sight in the best category. New Sight is mindful that without the IEC, most patients would not have accessed the right help and could have ended up with much more serious problems.



'Examining a patient's eyes' by Karis Faith Samoutou.

The majority of patients came from Ouessou itself with 12% travelling from other towns in the La Sangha region (of which Ouessou is the regional capital). The fact that 2% of patients travelled all the way from Brazzaville, where no publicity has been done, enduring a bus journey of 12 or more hours, is testament to the great need for eye care in Congo.

Impfondo Eye Centre

The eye centre in Impfondo continues to thrive and remains self-sufficient. Henri Samoutou travelled for 3 days in May 2019 from Ouessou to Pioneer Christian Hospital over mud and river, endured long waits, thunderstorms, motorbike falls, breakdowns and flat tyres, and made it in one piece. Surgeries and problem cases awaited him, and he was able to operate on patients, helping to restore sight and bring new life to them and their families. Henri returned to Impfondo for another two-week surgical campaign in March 2020.

Construction Progress on Ouessou Eye Hospital

Despite airplane cancellations and other travel difficulties, the first site meeting with New Sight's local contractor, project manager, design team and field team, was successfully held in May 2019 in Ouessou. As both the original and back-up plans for the digger did not work out, the New Sight facilities supervisor along with some hired workers hand dug the metres-deep holes for soil evaluation to be carried out. The site's soil quality was evaluated, and the final review concluded that it was sufficient.

No one ever expects a construction project in rural Africa to be easy. In October 2019, New Sight site engineers successfully undertook a project to fit new drains to direct water away from the site and the nearby airport. It was no mean feat and they worked incredibly hard under the scorching sun.

The Project Steering Group (PSG) along with pro bono project manager, Steve Pyle, and volunteer construction experts from Hong Kong and the US continue to work tirelessly on construction plans and preparation. Various options are currently under consideration in an effort to find cost saving measures and the most pragmatic route with which to proceed.



'Uncle Doug and team digging holes' by Karis Faith Samoutou

2. Empower the local community

With a view that education and training provides the most direct route to empowering the local community, New Sight has established a nursing school and is looking to conduct health education outreach.

Introduction to Health Care Fundamentals Course (paid for by generous donors of New Sight)

New Sight has completed its first course on 'Introduction to Health Care Fundamentals'. Through this 5-week introductory course, 15 students out of 43 applicants were introduced to the following topics:

- Principles of general nursing care
- Introduction to ophthalmology
- Role of the nurse in ophthalmic care
- Christian principles in health care

A number of students who participated in the introductory course were invited to continue onto the next 1-year-course that began in January 2020.

Nurse Training (paid for by generous donors of New Sight)

In January 2020, nine students who had completed the introductory course in October and November began the first one-year training course based at the IEC. They attend each day and receive a range of tuition including classroom-based theory and practical teaching in the IEC.



'A classroom full of student nurses' by Karis Faith Samoutou.

As well as nursing, the course covers spiritual development and general skills including IT and administration.

The local Department of Health (DDS) has shown further support for New Sight by providing a space right next to the IEC for use as a classroom free of charge. With the help of the students, New Sight cleaned and prepared the room and arranged to provide lockers for the students. This room may also be used for future community outreach.

The New Sight team has worked to empower the community with information about preventing the spread of COVID-19 and has supported and advised the local health authorities in their preparation.

3. Ensure sustainability by partnering with local and international partners

New Sight continued to strengthen relationships with local authorities, and work towards best practice communications, fundraising, team structure and operational processes.

Engagement with Local Authorities

New Sight continues to operate under a Protocole d'accord signed with the Ministry of Health of Republic of Congo which covers performance as a health institution and provides for tax exemptions, visas and work permits.

Ouesso Pioneer Team

By June 2019, the growing team of amazing pioneers consisted of 12 adults and 7 children.

- **Delphine and Siko Bambemba** with their daughter **Michelle**
 - from Democratic Republic of Congo: Nurse supervisor; HR / Lab tech
- **Ruth and Jean-Marc Dunys**
 - from UK / France: Homeschool teacher; Administration
- **Spencer Lherisson**
 - from Haiti: Engineer
- **Steven Pyle**
 - from Hong Kong / UK / Thailand: Project Manager
- **Joyce and Henri Samoutou** with their children **Cherissa, Ezra and Karis**
 - from Hong Kong / Gabon / UK: Operations; Medical
- **Annabel and Douglas Targett** with their children **Hannah, Samuel and Sophie**
 - from UK: Finance; Facilities / Technology
- **Virginia and Jean-Pierre Vandevoorde**
 - from Canada / Belgium: Visitors; Construction

The Vandevordes successfully completed their 6-month mission and have now returned to Canada. Due to the delay in construction, Jean-Pierre was not able to fully perform as site supervisor during the time that they were there. However, they were able to make full use of their time, carpentry & sewing skills, and were a tremendous blessing for New Sight as well as to the community in Ouesso. The Targetts finished their one-year commitment at the end of March and returned to the UK as planned. The team are thankful that Annabel Targett has transitioned to supporting New Sight as a member of staff based in the UK.

Visitors bringing energy and expertise

New Sight visitors were a great source of fun and encouragement as they brought much needed help. Special thanks to medical student, Natalie Chau, from Hong Kong; career missionaries, James Kline, Jesse Mitchell, Sarah Speer and the Kimwanga family, from Pioneer Christian Hospital in Impfondo; Caroline and Paul Manser from UK; Fanny and Reynold Hung from Hong Kong; and community nurse, Ela Osuchowski, from UK.

In July, the field team enjoyed a wonderful visit from Stephanie Ng, our finance lead and faithful core volunteer from our Hong Kong team, along with her husband John and their children Megan and Max. The whole family enthusiastically threw themselves into a whirlwind of preparation for the opening of the Interim Eye Centre. Their hard work and fabulous company were a great encouragement to all.

Team accommodation in Ouessou

The team's new lodging, named "Ouessou Team Compound" (OTC), is a modern gated compound of 5 apartments with a communal kitchen, laundrette, pavilion and garden. The search for affordable housing with water and electricity once seemed impossible, and this place far exceeded their wildest expectations.

New Sight is renting an additional residential compound within one minute walking distance from OTC. This is our Ouessou Guest House (OGH) hosted by the Samoutou family for our visiting volunteers.

Henri Samoutou managed to successfully transport the family's boxes from Impfondo to Ouessou. Over the weeks, the Ouessou Pioneers worked hard and patiently to improve the team compound: cleaning; repairing; making furniture, clothes-drying racks and insect screens; creatively clearing the blocked drains in the neighbourhood that attracted mosquitoes and loud frogs; finding a way to dispose of rubbish; erecting and installing the satellite dish for internet.

Procurement of medicine and medical equipment

The team worked hard to order, pick-up/deliver and pack medicine and medical equipment essential for medical operations in Ouessou. Medical equipment was generously donated by ophthalmologists, many of whom were members of the Association of Private Eye Surgeons (APES), in Hong Kong.



'Uncle Jean-Pierre, the expert carpenter' by Karis Faith Samoutou.

Collection and warehousing by Columbia

Columbia International Removals continue to provide free use of their container warehouse, packing, pick up and transportation services for all equipment, furniture and household items.

Equipment Testing by Baptist Medical Equipment Maintenance Unit, 27 February 2020

On 27 February 2020, medical equipment stored at Columbia warehouse was tested by the Baptist medical equipment maintenance unit.

Air Freight to Congo, 30 March 2020

Essential medical and non-medical equipment, and household items were sent by air freight to Congo on 30 March 2020.

Birthday and individual fundraising campaigns

Joyce and two supporters have turned their birthdays into donation campaigns for New Sight. Others also contributed through personal fundraising campaigns such as sponsored marathons and sky diving, as well as making and selling beautiful African fabric bags and hair scrunchies.

2020 African Animals calendar sale

This was the second year of calendar sales with around two-thirds sold and the rest given away to major donors and stakeholders. Design and production of the calendar was again a donation from QP Group. The main goal was to reconnect with supporters, provide a year-round reminder, and help to raise profile. Many photographs were provided by supporters and chosen by the Ouessou Pioneer kids in Congo. Calendar sales generated more than HK\$121,000 in funds.

The amazing support of churches, schools and corporations

New Sight's work is made possible by the kind donations from generous individuals and caring organisations such as:

CHURCHES	SCHOOLS	CORPORATIONS
Alliance International Church	Baptist Lui Ming Choi Secondary School	Dr Alan Ng
Aspire Church	Diocesan Boys' School	Healing Hope
Christian Church of Divine Providence	Diocesan Girls' Junior School	Little Pianists
EFCC Kong Fok Church	Diocesan Girls' School	Optical 88
Kowloon Tong Alliance Church	Funful Group of Schools	Prestique Limited
Island Evangelical Community Church	Island School	QP Group
North Point Alliance Church	St Paul's Co-Educational College	Solar-Med
Union Church Hong Kong	Ying Wa Girls' School	
United Brethren Baptist Church		
The Vine Church		

Marketing Subcommittee

Made up of individuals from the commercial field, the subcommittee brainstorms ideas and gathers resources to help the core team run marketing campaigns to create additional fundraising channels for New Sight. PwC Experience and MullenLowe Profero in Hong Kong provide pro-bono digital marketing and communications expertise.

Legal advisory teams

New Sight continues to be supported with pro-bono legal, governance and compliance advisory from Allen and Overy, and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Hong Kong, and Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in the US.



'Holding hands around the world' by
Karis Faith Samoutou

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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As of 31 March 2020, the Republic of Congo (Congo) had 22 confirmed cases and 2 deaths. Cameroon, which borders with Ouesso, the town that the New Sight team is based, had 139 cases and 6 deaths.

Over a number of weeks, the team, along with the New Sight nursing students, tirelessly initiated health education efforts by disseminating information through printed leaflets, posters, seminars, radio interviews, phone messaging and social media online. The students wrote a song in Lingala (the local language) to help spread word about the preventive measures needed to combat Coronavirus. They were joined by the members of the local basketball team 'The Black Panther Club'. This song was endorsed by the Director of Health of the La Sangha region, Republic of Congo. All the resources produced by New Sight, available for free, have been used not just to help the local community, but throughout Congo and even other African countries. In the same way that New Sight partners with the Ministry of Health and local authorities in eye work, the Congo team worked closely with the local health department officials and community leaders during this challenging time.

The government of Congo implemented several measures to control the spread of this disease, including the temporary closure of schools and places of worship on 19 March 2020, as well as a 30-day period of home confinement and curfew for the whole population starting 31 March 2020.

Although COVID-19 is mainly transmitted by respiratory droplets, it can also be transmitted through the eyes. The American College of Ophthalmologists recommended temporary closure of all non-urgent and some urgent eye services. As a result, New Sight regretfully had to temporarily reduce its eye services for a period of 30 days. New Sight's free phone advice remained open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

New Sight continues to monitor the situation closely and hopes to resume normal service as soon as the authorities and situation permit the team to receive patients in safety.

As the threat of COVID-19 grows and puts further strain on the community, New Sight is continuing its health education efforts, assisting local health departments and seeking to provide sanitising or medical supplies to the neediest. New Sight has set up a special fund set apart for COVID-19 relief of people in Congo. Any remainder from this fund will be set aside for special projects in community health.



'My beautiful, life-saving mask' by
Karis Faith Samoutou.



New Sight
Restoring Sight. Changing Lives.