

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

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# New Sight Eye Care

Registered Address:-

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

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1144893

Hong Kong: Unit 19, 7/F, Chevalier Commercial Centre, 8 Wang Hoi Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Charitable Company Number: 91/12469



**New Sight**





# Overview

**New Sight Eye Care serves in the Republic of Congo to restore and protect sight, transforming lives and communities in the region.**

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 in our work to restore and protect sight in the Republic of Congo. We transform lives and communities in the region through pioneering the first and only eye surgery centres in the northern part of the country and in building a new eye hospital in Ouesso. The charity is governed by trustees in the UK and by directors in Hong Kong, and is a non-profit limited company. See bottom left chart of key governing boards and committees.

The Trustees/Directors for New Sight Eye Care have reviewed our objectives and activities as set out in deeds of trust to ensure they continue to reflect our aims now and in planning future activities. While carrying out this review, the trustees/directors have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

## Objectives

The objectives of the charity are:

- 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
- 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 Advisory
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. Steve Pyle
		Mr. Henri Samoutou	Mr. Henri Samoutou
		Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong	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 based at the Pioneer Christian Hospital in Impfondo, the capital of the Likouala Department, provided much needed eye care and education to the community and region. New Sight was able to establish good relationships with the government, the Ministry of Health, as well as the local authorities and communities. New Sight also collaborated frequently with other non-profit organisations such as United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees and Médecins d'Afrique, who frequently referred their patients for eye treatment. New Sight ended its services in Impfondo in August 2023 and refocused its resources in Ouessou with the Interim Eye Centre, Interim Surgical Centre and the upcoming dedicated comprehensive eye hospital.

## Ouessou 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 Ouessou. The strategic location of Ouessou can make eye care accessible for the entire country of Congo. 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's office in Ouessou. A team of topographic surveyors from Brazzaville completed land studies.

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 initial plan for the Ouessou Hospital will include:

1. Inpatient Department
2. Outpatient Department
3. Optical Shop
4. Pharmacy
5. Surgical Unit
6. Community Development Centre
7. Core Infrastructure (electricity and water supply, incineration facility)

Subsequent extensions may include training facilities and staff and visitor quarters.



*The Republic of Congo, also called Congo-Brazzaville, is a central African nation.*



# Our Vision

## Our vision is for a world where no one is needlessly blind.

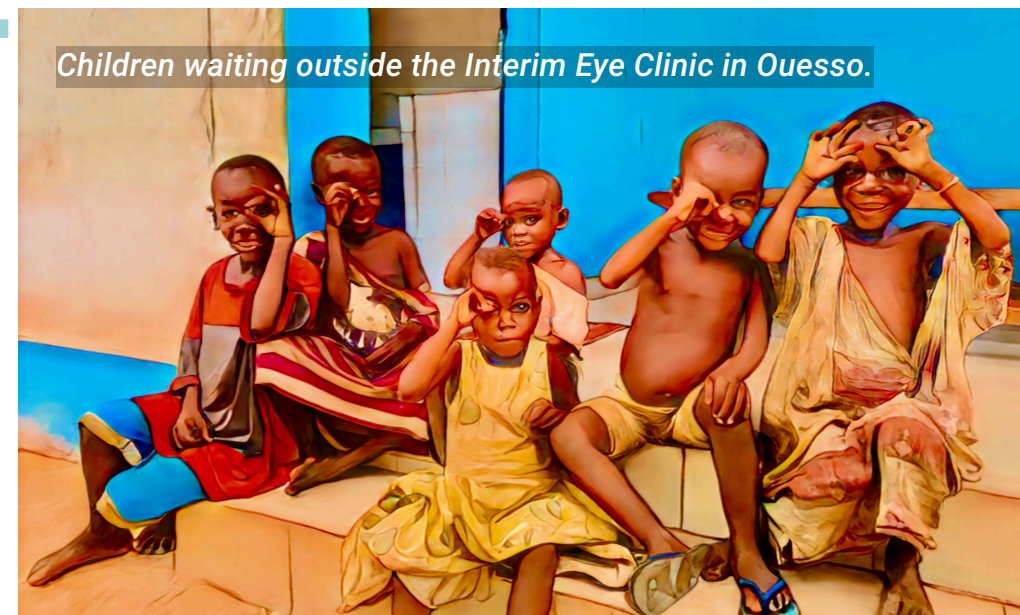
In line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the World Health Organisation's (WHO) inclusion of eye care as an integral part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), New Sight's Vision is:

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

The WHO World Report on Vision,<sup>1</sup> published in October 2019, states that more than 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or blindness, of whom at least 1 billion people do not have access to the services they need. Poor vision and eye health needs are expected to increase substantially in the coming decades, with the number of people living with blindness projected to triple by 2050. The impact of vision loss cuts across many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Improving eye health helps to reduce poverty (Goal 1) and helps to deliver on quality inclusive education, gender equality and decent work and economic growth (Goals 4, 5 and 8). According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), worldwide, 90% of vision loss is preventable or treatable.<sup>2</sup>

The IAPB has set out the eye care sector's strategic plan for the next decade with '2030 In Sight'<sup>3</sup> – a call to action to embed vision as a fundamental, economic, social and development issue, incorporate eye health in wider health care systems and drive patient, consumer and market change. Child eye health is an important aspect of the provision of comprehensive eye health; and school eye health programmes are an integral part of that. Children who are blind are more likely to die in childhood than a child with good vision, especially in low-income countries.<sup>4</sup>



Children waiting outside the Interim Eye Clinic in Ouesso.

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,<sup>5,6</sup> and supported the argument that it offers economic benefit to relieve poverty.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

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 of Advancement and Connection

For the year ended 31 March 2024, some key progress and activities included:

- Our Ouesso Interim Eye Centre (IEC) conducted 3,327 consultations; that is close to 11,800 consultations since its establishment in July 2019.
- The Ouesso Interim Surgical Centre (ISC) carried out 54 sight-restoring surgical procedures; thereby providing 102 surgeries since it was launched in October 2022.
- The eyeglasses workshop made 39 prescription glasses this year; crafting 125 prescription glasses since its establishment in July 2021. In total, New Sight has provided 910 life-transforming glasses to date.
- Our children's magazine, per issue, now reaches around 22,000 children in over 30 schools.
- We continue to work on staff and student training and improving clinical standards, including the drug formulary and inventory system.
- We have an incredible core team of volunteers and pro-bono workers, along with 31 full-time and 5 part-time staff.
- Local authorities have reaffirmed their ongoing support.
- There has been exciting progress on the hospital construction with the structure 100% complete and interior 85% complete.
- New Sight has succeeded in raising more than HK\$ 6 million (USD 0.8 million / GBP 0.7 million) in this fiscal year.

## In 2023/2024, New Sight continued to work towards its three key objectives:

1. To provide accessible and comprehensive eye services;
2. Empower the local community;
3. Ensure sustainability by engaging with local and international partners.



*Student checking the eyes of a baby.*





Students conducting a preliminary assessment of patients at the IEC.



Henri examining the eyes of Pastor Freddie from Impfondo.

## Provide accessible & comprehensive eye services

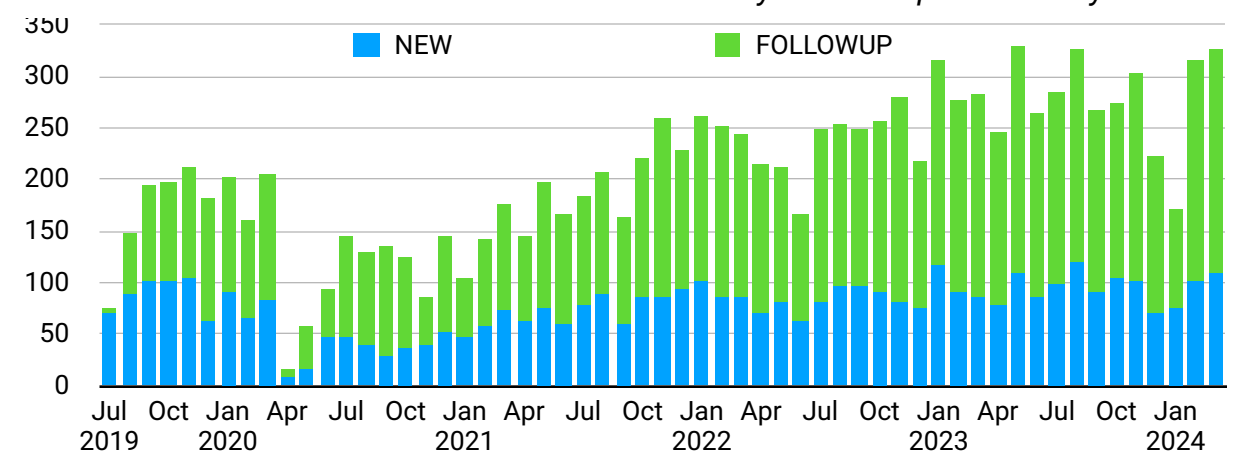
Advancing our eye medical services through improving and equipping the Ouesso Interim Eye Centre and Ouesso Interim Surgical Centre, whilst pursuing the most pragmatic approach to hospital construction in Ouesso.

### Ouesso Interim Eye Centre (IEC)

The past year has been the busiest ever for the Interim Eye Centre. The team saw an average of 277 patients per month over the course of the year, treating infections, vision loss and emergencies. Total number of patient consultations for the year ending 31 March 2024 was 3,327, which represents a 12% increase from the 2,968 consultations in the year before. It is with growing urgency that we look to find more medical and support staff to join the team. The pharmacy's drug formulary and the clinic's inventory system continue to be improved and updated. Medicine and clinical supplies are ordered and shipped from the UK, India, the Netherlands. By the end of March 2024, the IEC has completed a total of 11,747 patient consultations since its establishment in July 2019. So far, the most common eye conditions seen at the IEC have been eye infections, need for glasses, allergic conjunctivitis, cataract, pterygium, pinguecula and glaucoma.

Over the past year, 321 patients completed the feedback questionnaire at the interim eye centre. 100% of patients said that they were satisfied with the care they received (90% awarded New Sight with the highest satisfaction score), and that they would return and recommend others to the eye centre again.

Patient consultations since the Interim Eye Centre opened in July 2019.





## Ouesso Interim Surgical Centre (ISC)

The Interim Surgical Centre continues to provide an essential lifeline for patients who need surgical care for their eyes. The ISC carried out 54 surgical procedures for the year ending 31 March 2024. There was a pause in surgery between September 2023 and January 2024 while Henri was representing New Sight in North America. Surgery restarted in February 2024. To date, all operations have gone very well with excellent outcome. By the end of March 2024, the ISC has provided a total of 102 surgeries since it was launched in October 2022. More patients are receiving new sight after surgery and treatment.

## Optical Workshop

A number of our students are now confident in making glasses. Our lens edger machine continues to make prescription glasses more easily available and affordable. As of 31 March 2024, we have provided 237 pairs of glasses (including 39 prescription/fabricated) for our patients in the last 12 months. A total of 910 life-transforming glasses have been made/sold since the establishment of the Interim Eye Centre in July 2019.

## Hong Kong and China research trip in September 2023

Joyce and Henri travelled to Hong Kong for two weeks in September to visit eye clinics and hospitals and to meet ophthalmologists and suppliers. Henri also attended the Hunan Ophthalmology Conference in China to look at eye equipment. He was able to try out different instruments and equipment and gain an understanding of what is available, including some of the advances that have happened since New Sight started. Joyce and Henri are extremely grateful to Dr Yannie Soo and New Sight Board Director Dr Alan Ng for connecting and organising such a productive trip. It was wonderful to learn, explore and inspire vision casting for how the Ouesso hospital should operate in the future.



Students assisting with surgery at the ISC.



Henri, Alan and Joyce visiting a hospital in Hong Kong.



Henri and Alan trying out equipment at the Hunan Ophthalmology Conference.





Building walls.



Solar panel installation.



Plumbing works.



Fence installation.



Drone view of hospital building.

## Construction Progress on Ouesso Eye Hospital

We have made exciting progress on hospital construction, with the structure 100% complete and interior 85% complete. One major milestone was the installation of the solar panels kindly sponsored by a generous family in Hong Kong. The building structure is now effectively complete apart from some interior electrical and plumbing work, and some ancillary low voltage work. There are still some ongoing exterior work, which should be finished in the first half of 2024.

### *Hospital construction work over the past year at a glance*

April to June 2023	July to September 2023
Water tank and plumbing system installation Interior and exterior plastering Tiling Window fitting Main access work excavation and grading Installation of air conditioning units Incinerator installation Wiring for light and fan installation Solar panel installation Ceiling and fiberglass installation Exterior toilets building	Installation of air-conditioning Fibreglass and plasterboard installation Exterior and interior painting Tiling Septic tanks and cesspools Fans and lights wiring and layout Fence post layout Internal window and door installation Handrail installation Mosquito net and frame installation Kitchen building
October to December 2023	January to March 2024
Resolution of site boundary issues Fence installation around the 6-hectare site Interior access road works Excavation and construction of canals Topsoil and grass installation Chimney installation for the generator Rainwater drainage Waste management building Installation of mosquito nets Fuel tank and plumbing system installation	Finishes (plastering, painting, flooring) Topsoil and grass installation work completed Borehole evaluation was carried out by the Hydraulic Office Sourcing and purchasing of equipment, furniture and the final materials for the hospital construction Battery and solar commissioning

The focus for the first quarter of 2024 has been the sourcing and purchasing of materials for the hospital construction as well as equipment and furniture to fitout the hospital. The next container being shipped to Congo will include a lot of fitout material and accessories that will go towards finishing the hospital in 2024. In addition, the topsoil and grass installation work were completed, and a borehole evaluation was carried out by the Hydraulic Office. In March, a solar team from South Africa working with the battery team from Pointe Noire arrived to connect the solar panels up to the batteries to power the site.



## 2. Empower the local community

Enabling and empowering the local community through education and training, our training school students are growing in knowledge and experience.

### Training School (paid for by generous donors of New Sight)

The students received continuous on-the-job training under Henri's supervision. They have been taught how to wash their hands, set up the operating room, and do pre-op and post-op. Two out of the four students are now confident in making glasses. In March 2023, we invited a staff member from the local fire station to train the team on how to use the new fire extinguishers. Joyce also gave the students training on waste management at the clinic in April 2023. The students sat final exams in May 2023 marking the completion of the practical component of their training course. They graduated on 13 July 2023 with a simple ceremony followed by a celebratory meal with their guests. They then began trial work as Community Health Agents at the Interim Eye Centre as they continued to learn as they worked while serving the community. The Samoutous coordinated remote learning while they were in North America. The students finished their trial period as Community Health Agents in February 2024 and started on one-year contracts.

### Children's Magazine and School Partnerships

Our children's magazine, the first and only one of its kind in Congo, continues to grow in popularity, with requests for copies from across the country. There are many stories about the positive impact that New Sight is having on the children. The print quantity continues to increase with each successive issue. As of 31 March 2024, we have distributed a total of over 109,600 children's magazines. In April 2023, Wendy Ossaga, our lead for children's outreach and school partnership travelled to Pointe Noire, the economic capital of Congo, to provide the first training outside of Ouessou.



Students sitting exam.



Students' presentation.



Students with their certificates.



Students celebration lunch.



Students with the children's magazine at Complexe Scolaire Evangelique Daniel Bokangue.





*Happy pandemonium at Ecole Primaire La Sangha.*



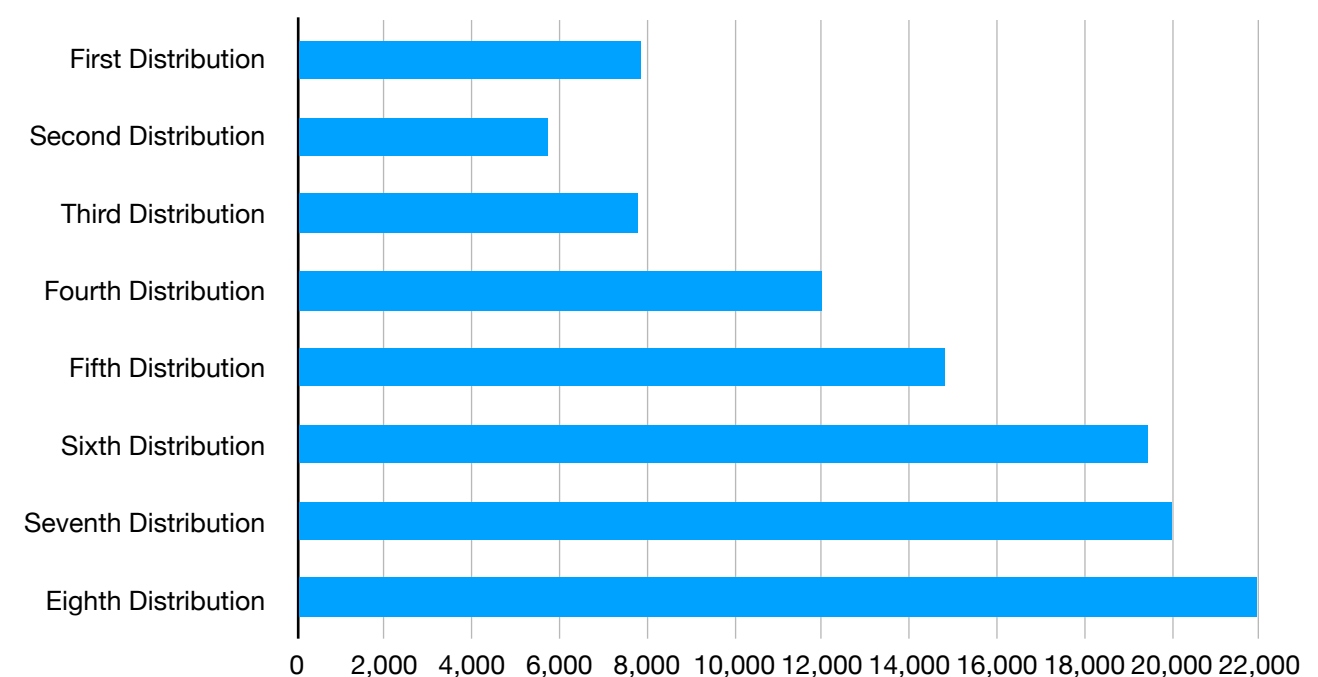
*Students excited to raise their hands at Ecole Mboma.*

The magazine currently reaches about 22,000 students in over 30 schools, including:

Complexe Scolaire ByBocasses  
Héritier  
Complexe Scolaire Evangelique  
Daniel Bokangue  
Ecole Bethanie Celeste  
Ecole de Lombo  
Ecole du Parti – Djambo  
Ecole Emile Verhill  
Ecole Horizon Meya  
Ecole Initiation  
Ecole Jesus Ressuscité  
Ecole La Sangha  
Ecole Le Bon Berger  
Ecole Le Printemps  
Ecole Les Cadres de Demain  
Ecole Maria  
Ecole Mboma  
Ecole Ndjombo

Ecole Notre Dame des Anges  
Ecole Primaire Bokouaye  
Ecole Primaire La Sangha  
Ecole Primaire Les Aiglons  
Ecole Primaire Les Vainqueurs  
Ecole Primaire Mambeke Dzika  
Ecole Primaire Mambake Mboko  
Ecole Primaire Milandou  
Ecole Primaire Saint Pierre Claver  
Ecole Saint Jean Denis  
Ecole Vol d'Oiseau  
Ecole Okomba Mystère  
Institut Henri Lopes  
Complexe Scolaire les Oliviers  
Ecole Gemitseruja, Pointe Noire  
Ecole Priveé Mémé Louise, Pointe Noire

*Print circulation of the Children's Magazine*





This map shows how the number of our distribution centres have grown exponentially since its first issue in May 2021.



The team distributed the latest two issues from April to June 2023 and from January to March 2024. They have been able to share with children all over Ouessou, as well as other towns and cities, including Brazzaville, Impfondo, Pointe Noire, Pokola, Mouale and Betou.

We were excited to announce our first drawing competition. Our team and volunteers spent some time with the class and the teachers to explain the contents of the issue and the drawing competition. With the theme of 'My dream, my future', all children in Ouessou were invited to join. There were over 600 entries from which the winners were chosen and presented with a prize.



New Sight intern teaches student at Complexe Scolaire ByBocasses Héritier.



Eleven-year-old Edouze is our drawing competition winner.



Drawing competition wall of fame.



### 3. Ensure sustainability by engaging with local and international partners

Strengthening relationships and partnering with local authorities, we continue to 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 the Republic of Congo, which covers performance as a health institution and provides for tax exemptions, visas, and work permits. In recognition of New Sight's positive reputation and good standard of care, several businesses, insurance companies, and organisations, including the Ministry of Health and Director General of Hospitals, look to send more patients to New Sight.

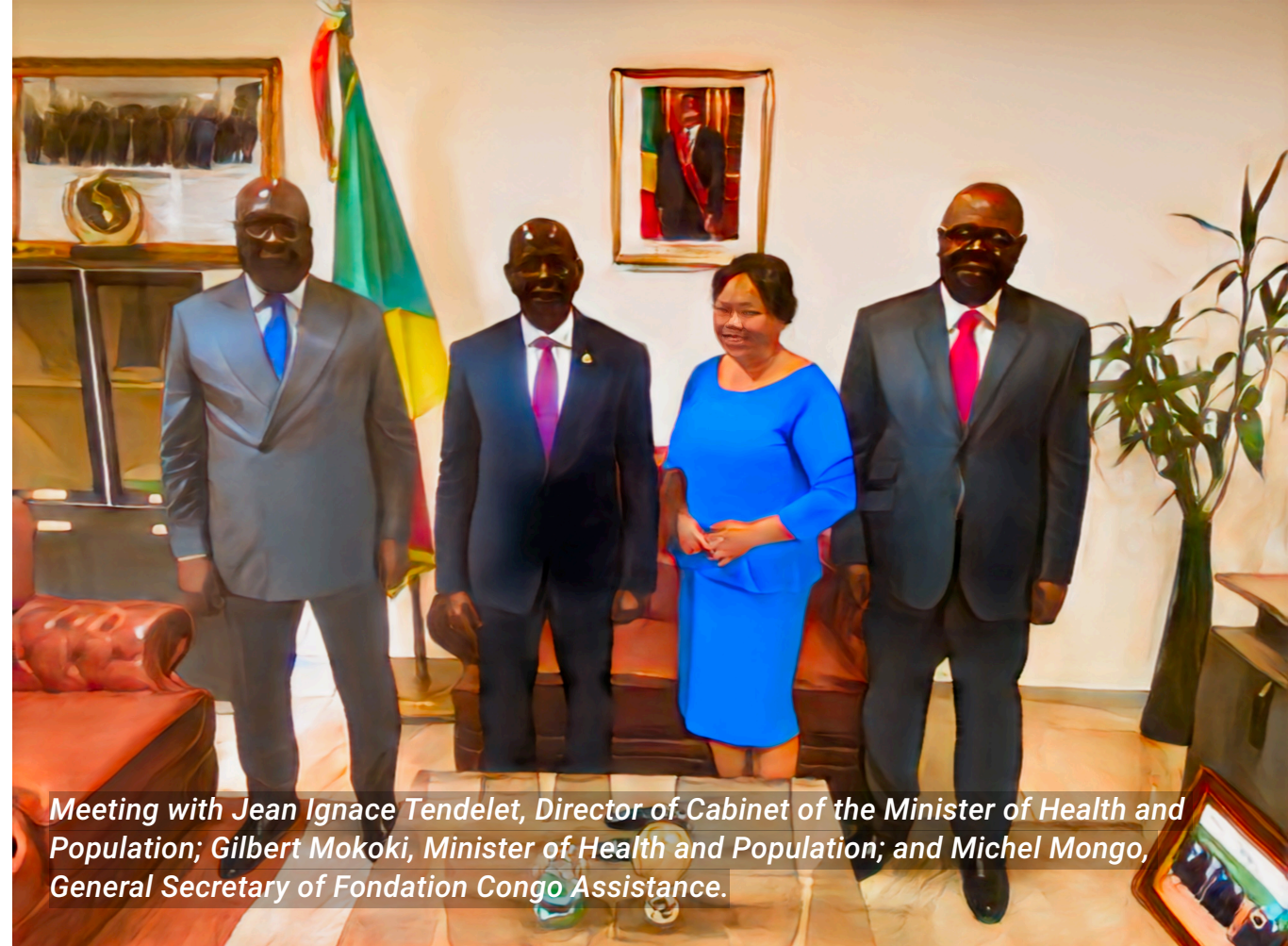
#### Meetings with local authorities

Over the past year, we were honoured to meet with several government officials. We had meetings with the Minister of Health, Gilbert Mokoki, in the capital Brazzaville and with the new Préfet for the La Sangha region, Edouard Denis Okouya, in Ouessou. We also welcomed Dr Felicite Dolama, the Director of Health of the La Sangha region, Dr Dieudonné Okemou, Director General of Hospitals, and his team from Brazzaville to our Interim Eye and Surgical Centre and the construction site of our future hospital. We look forward to our continual partnership to better serve the needs of Congo.

#### The Story of New Sight Video

Over the previous year, New Sight celebrated its 10th Anniversary in the Republic of Congo. As the anniversary year drew to a close in April 2023, a short video called 'The Story of New Sight' was crafted to mark key achievements and milestones; recognise the invaluable partnership and encouragement from our generous supporters; and look forward to another exciting decade to come. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlFawi329lQ&t=5s>

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*Meeting with Jean Ignace Tendelet, Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Health and Population; Gilbert Mokoki, Minister of Health and Population; and Michel Mongo, General Secretary of Fondation Congo Assistance.*



*Meeting with the Director General of Hospitals, Dr Dieudonné Okemou, and his team.*





*Volunteers Jack & Jason with Henri & Joyce and Fred of Fortis at the hospital site.*



*Wendy and Karen working at the IEC.*

## Visiting volunteers

New Sight is extremely thankful for amazing visiting volunteers who have travelled from across the world to work with the team in Ouessou over the past year. We were delighted to welcome Karen Wan from Hong Kong in January 2023 to spend four months working in Ouessou. We appreciated her diligence, creativity and heart to serve. Jack Eisenbach, our voluntary engineer from the US, returned for a second mission in May 2023 to make further advances and plans for the next phase of construction.

## Establishing and growing the team

Our volunteer Wendy Ossaga, who has been so instrumental to expanding the reach of our children's magazine, continues to play a pivotal role in administration, team training and partnering with schools. Wendy did a wonderful job overseeing the operations while Joyce and Henri were away on their North America speaking tour. Two guards have been promoted to take on extra duties. Sandrine, our IEC receptionist, returned to work in October 2023 after taking maternity leave.

New Sight-trained nurse Ghislain was seconded from Impfondo from the end of August to December 2023 to help staff the eye centre while Joyce and Henri were in North America. The team did an excellent job in keeping the clinic running and managed to see 797 patients over the quarter, which is only a slight reduction on the previous two quarters. Surgical procedures and prescription glasses were postponed until Joyce and Henri's return. In November 2023 there was a conjunctivitis outbreak area in the local region. The team managed the situation well and reinforced hand-washing procedures for staff and patients.

Performance has been enhanced through training and regular reviews. Better guidelines, job descriptions, communications, structured review of salaries and compensation have also been implemented. New Sight looks to guide and see improvements in individuals, listen to staff and try to help make their jobs easier. The team acquired a second-hand vehicle in April 2023 for the New Sight Brazzaville office, from a missionary in Pointe-Noire who was returning to the US. Patrick, our Brazzaville team member, has taken his revision driving course and is now able to drive the vehicle, which makes operations a lot smoother.

New Sight has been blessed with some of the most extraordinary volunteers, including members of the Executive Committee and Board, and experts in video and graphics production, sourcing and legal advice, and event and fundraising organisation.



## Joyce in Hong Kong April/May 2023

From 23 April to 24 May 2023, Joyce made an unexpected trip to Hong Kong due to family circumstances and took the opportunity to catch up with as many New Sight supporters as possible. The team was able to pull together a full and productive schedule for her within the space of a few weeks. They organised four major New Sight lunch events and numerous speaking engagements and meet-ups. Joyce was able to share 15 times publicly, giving an exciting update of the latest plans and developments, and connected with many existing and new supporters.

## North America Tour 2023

Joyce and Henri Samoutou embarked on a North America (USA & Canada) Speaking Tour from 26 September to 11 December 2023. At the very start of the tour, Joyce and Henri were honoured to be invited to attend the Forbes 400 Philanthropy Summit in New York. In total, they visited 15 cities, connected with more than 27 organisations, and spoke 53 times. Joyce was interviewed by Fairchild Radio while in Calgary. The Samoutou children, Cherissa, Ezra and Karis, joined the tour in LA and Boston during their school holidays. They shared four times during their time in the US. In November, Joyce and Henri attended the 2023 Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) in Louisville, Kentucky. The GMHC is the world's largest gathering of healthcare professionals, students, and organisations dedicated to healthcare missions, and provides a key meeting point. The primary focus for the trip was to raise support, recruit staff, explore partnerships and make connections. Attendees to their talks in North America were very encouraging and responsive with many motivated to volunteer.

Extensive travel to share the good news of New Sight, New Life with new and old friends:

### CANADA:

Toronto, Ontario (25 Sep to 7 Oct)  
Edmonton, Alberta (7 to 12 Oct)  
Calgary, Alberta (12 to 19 Oct)  
Vancouver, British Columbia (20 to 30 Nov)

### USA:

New York City, New York (19 to 25 Sep) – Forbes 400 Philanthropy Summit  
Los Angeles / Irvine / Southern California (19 to 29 Oct)

Boston, Massachusetts (29 Oct to 6 Nov)  
Cincinnati, Ohio (6 to 8 Nov / 11 to 14 Nov)  
Louisville, Kentucky (8 to 11 Nov) – GMHC conference  
Missouri City / Houston, Texas (14 to 20 Nov)  
San Francisco / Bay Area California (30 Nov to 11 Dec)

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Joyce's lunch talk at EFCC Kong Fok Church in Hong Kong.



Catching up with the Board, Executive Committee and volunteers in Hong Kong.



Joyce and Henri at the Forbes 400 Philanthropy Summit in New York, USA.



Joyce being interviewed by Fairchild Radio host Terry.



Samoutou kids sharing at the Chinese Evangelical Free Church of Los Angeles.



Our booth at the 2023 Global Missions Health Conference in Kentucky, USA.



Speaking at the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church's Mission Conference.





*New Sight Making Way for Sight 2024 Calendar.*

## Making Way for Sight Calendar 2024

The main goal for the 2024 calendar was to reconnect with supporters, provide a year-round reminder, and help to raise profile. Cherissa, Ezra and Karis Samoutou chose the theme of 'Making Way' because just like roads, paths and bridges, New Sight makes a way where there might not have been a way otherwise. They also wanted to wish supporters a year of new ways, opportunities and possibilities and to thank them for giving new life through their support of New Sight. The calendar was filled with beautiful photographs from around the world generously provided by our talented supporters and chosen by the Samoutou kids. This was the sixth year of calendar sales with around 41% sold and the rest given away to major donors and stakeholders. Design and production of the 1,500 calendars was again a generous donation from QP Group.

## The Hong Kong Inter-school Choral Festival 2024

New Sight was invited by the Hong Kong Inter-school Choral Festival (HKICF) to organise its own local children's choir to join 60+ Hong Kong school choirs in the 2024 Virtual Choir Project. The theme song "Love's Boundless Flight" was composed by renowned jazz pianist Ms Joyce Cheung, especially for this project with New Sight. The lively piece starts with an Afro-rhythmic melody, symbolising the connection with Africa, delivering love and care across geographical boundaries. The virtual choir connects different cultures with music and enriches the learning experience of the students. Our Congo choir and supporting team of Ezra, Karis, Wendy and Spencer, all poured their hearts into the song rehearsal and video recording. The project premiere will be held in August 2024. This is exciting as New Sight looks to raise awareness and empower the local community to go beyond the limitations of a resource-poor setting.

## Reaching Out

Outside of our clinic work, the team have been making connections and seeking to serve our community in other ways. As with previous years, the team visited the prison and orphanage run by the Catholic nuns with supplies for Christmas.



*New Sight Children's Choir.*



## Inspirational fundraising activities

We are humbled and excited by the creative ways in which our supporters fundraise and partner with New Sight.

### Sebastian Correa's Everest Fundraiser

In May 2023, Sebastian Correa, one of our young supporters in Singapore, accomplished a truly epic adventure for New Sight. After months of training and preparation, Seb and his father Anthony took part in a sponsored climb and conquered Everest base camp and thereby raising funds for New Sight.

### Seasonal Charity Fairs

As part of Union Church's mission fair, New Sight had a booth next to other NGOs serving Hong Kong and beyond. Our team member Stephanie created cute potholders and potted plants for a special Christmas sale.

Diocesan Girls' School and Diocesan Girls' Junior School once again invited us to be part of their Mini Bazaar. We appreciated their support as our team of volunteers were able to share the wonderful message of Project Two Front Teeth via our "Making Way for Sight" 2024 Calendars.

### Little Pianists competition and fundraiser

On 17 December 2023, Little Pianists held a piano competition among their students and fundraised for New Sight.

### Dean Close School fundraiser

In February 2024, Dean Close School, Cheltenham, UK held their annual fundraising event called 'Disguised Decanian' where pupils and teachers sang well known songs totally incognito, similar to 'The Masked Singer'. This year, the public were invited to purchase tickets to a night of great fun, in aid of New Sight and one other charity.

### Victoria (Belcher) Kindergarten's "Little Inventors" fundraising activity

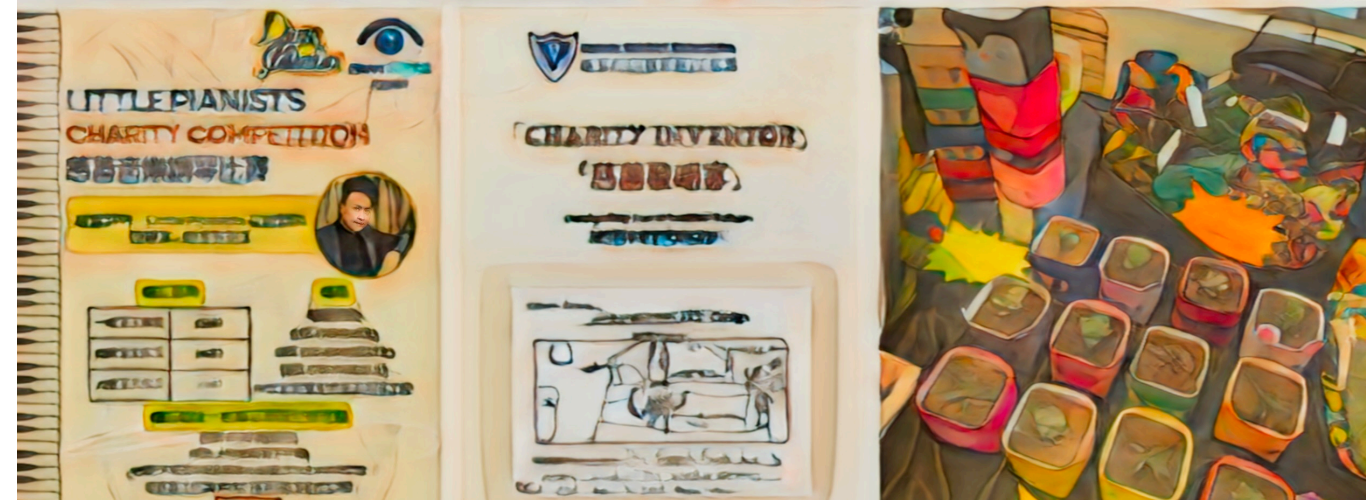
New Sight was the beneficiary of Victoria (Belcher) Kindergarten's fundraising class activity, "Little Inventors" of the K3A1ampm class. The participants described or depicted inventions that would make a better future for the world and generated donations for their efforts.



*Seb and his father Anthony at Everest base camp.*



*Creative ways in which our supporters fundraise and partner with New Sight.*





CHURCHES	SCHOOLS	CORPORATIONS
4C Christ Centred Community Church, CA, USA	Aberdeen Baptist Lui Ming Choi College, Hong Kong	Allen & Overy, Hong Kong
Alliance International Church, Hong Kong	Diocesan Boys' School, Hong Kong	Champion Eye Centre, Hong Kong
Arise Church, CA, USA	Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Hong Kong	Eye Care Charitable Foundation Limited
Birmingham Chinese Evangelical Church, UK	Diocesan Girls' School, Hong Kong	First Sentier Investors (Hong Kong) Limited
Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, USA	Funful Group of Schools, Hong Kong	Healing Hope Organisation, Hong Kong
C3 LIFE Church in Leeds, UK	Island School, Hong Kong	Hong Kong Association of Private Eye Doctors
Chinese Church In London, UK	St Paul's Co-Educational College, Hong Kong	Hong Kong Eye Surgeons
Chinese Evangelical Free Church Los Angeles, USA	St. Paul's Co-Educational College Primary School, Hong Kong	Little Pianists, Hong Kong
Christian Church of Divine Providence, Hong Kong	Victoria (Belcher) Kindergarten, Hong Kong	Optical 88, Hong Kong
EFCC Kong Fok Church, Hong Kong	Ying Wa Girls' School, Hong Kong	QP Group, Hong Kong
Fort Bend Community Church, TX, USA		SF Holding Company Limited, Hong Kong
Kowloon Tong Alliance Church, Hong Kong		Union Hospital Hong Kong
Island Evangelical Community Church, Hong Kong		ZEISS Vision Care, Hong Kong
North Point Alliance Church, Hong Kong		
San Francisco Chinese Alliance Church, USA		
The United Brethren Baptist Church, Hong Kong		
The Vine Church, Hong Kong		
Trinity Church of the Nazarene, CA, USA		
Union Church Hong Kong		

## New Sight 2023 Year in Review Video

As in past years, the team crafted a year in review video for 2023. For the music of this video, Wendy Ossaga composed an original song “Célébrons la gloire du Seigneur” (Let us celebrate the glory of the Lord), which the team brilliantly sang and recorded.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XuCh-I9SY&t=8s>

## Legal advisory teams

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

## The amazing support of churches, schools and corporations

New Sight’s work is made possible by kind donations from generous individuals and caring organisations. The chart on the left lists some of our supporters.

1 'World report on vision'. WHO, 2019. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/world-report-on-vision>

2 'Vision Atlas'. IAPB. <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas/>

3 '2030 In Sight'. IAPB. <https://www.iapb.org/about/2030-in-sight/>

4 Malik ANJ, Mafwiri M, Gilbert C. Integrating primary eye care into global child health policies. Arch Dis Child. 2018 Feb;103(2):176–80.

5 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.

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

7 Javitt et al. Int. Ophthalmol. 1983: 1308-1312.

8 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.

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



# Patient story

## Charelle, our first cataract surgery patient in Ouessou

Charelle started experiencing eye problems from the age of 12 or 13. It became so bad that she had to drop out of secondary school. Her vision continued to worsen until she couldn't see anything at all. It was very difficult to live without seeing – she couldn't do much at home and needed help even when going to the toilet. A niece had helped for a while, but she quickly gave up when faced with the challenge of taking care of a blind person. Her husband, a carpenter, did all the cooking, cleaning, taking care of his wife and the home.

At the age of 35 and carrying her baby, Charelle decided to venture into town to visit a clinic that she had heard might be able to help. She hoped that the doctor would be able to give her some medicine so that she could see, as she believed doctors always have a solution. Without a walking stick or someone to guide her and falling a few times, amazingly, she found her way to New Sight Eye Care's Ouessou Interim Eye Centre. After the consultation, Henri was shocked and worried about her journey home. As she was his last patient for the day, Henri drove her home, along with student Orchydée as a chaperone. Her family valued her bravery and were impressed that she had been driven home in a car. Her husband accompanied her for her second appointment.

Charelle was afraid when she heard that she needed cataract surgery. She also had to wait for the arrival of surgical equipment and the set-up of the New Sight Interim Surgical Centre. However, during the first surgical procedure she had joy in her heart with the hope to see again. When the eye patch was removed, she was overjoyed because she could see again. She could see her baby for the first time. Her family were surprised when they arrived home to find Charelle doing housework after so many years. After surgery on both eyes, her life has completely changed, and she is like a different person. Her and her family's lives have been transformed.



Henri examining Charelle's eyes.



Charelle with eye shield after surgery.



Charelle and baby walking home.



# Financials

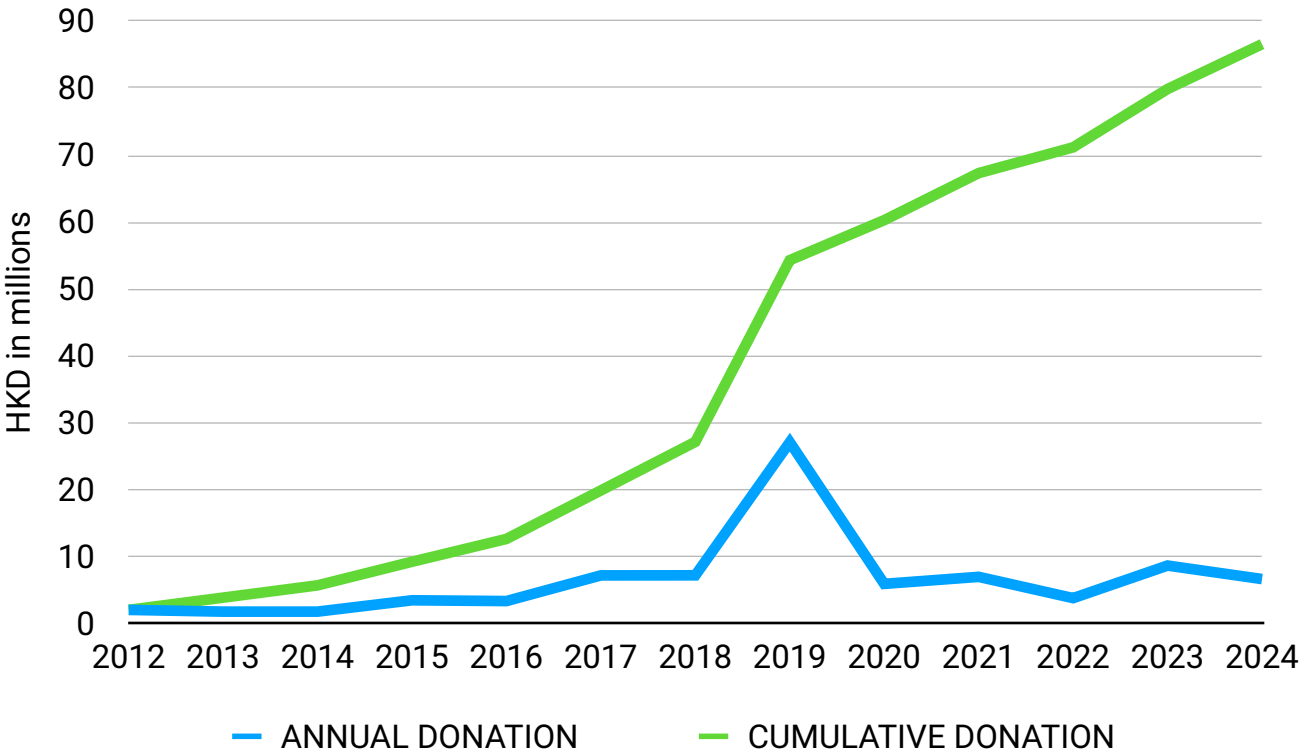
For the past 12 years, New Sight has raised more than HKD 86 million (USD 11 million), around half of which was used in the construction of the Ouessou hospital. The Eye Block is now 100% complete, and the work on the fittings will be finished by the second quarter of 2024. We have reserved a portion of the remaining funds for the future construction of the Accommodation Block, where our expatriate staff will live and where we will host our volunteers and visitors. New Sight continues to have sufficient funds in sustaining our daily operations in medical consultations and surgery, eye screening, community outreach, and the children’s magazine.

In 2024, 77% of our operating expenses were spent on programme cost, staff training and operation of our clinics, 19% on systems and costs required to maintain a viable presence in Congo, and 4% on overhead costs. Only 0.1% was spent on fundraising as generous donors have sponsored the cost of various events.

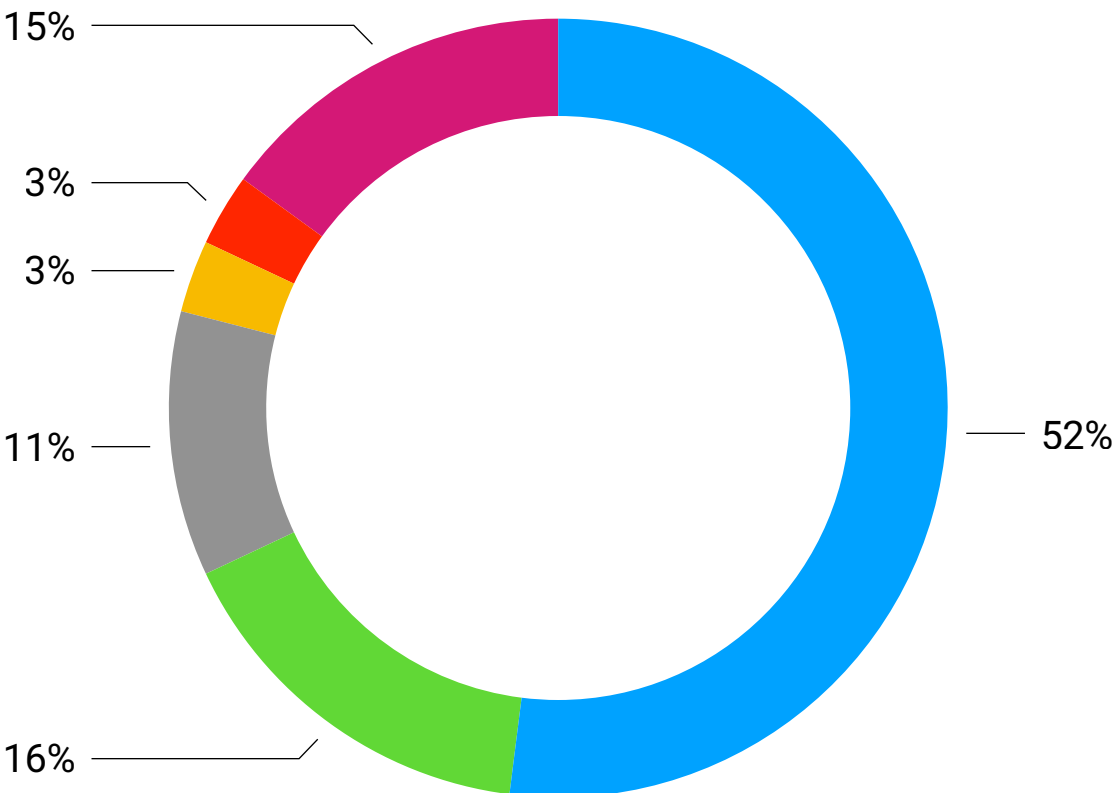
New Sight has benefitted greatly from numerous in-kind donations, such as medical equipment, office furniture, printed materials, waiver of storage space and office space rental, as well as pro-bono services in engineering, architecture, logistics, legal, compliance, finance, human resources, marketing and event management from professionals around the world.

- Interim Eye Centre/Surgical Centre operations
- Logistics and transport of goods within Congo
- Programme staff travelling within Congo
- Children's Magazine / school outreach
- Medical Supplies
- Others

Donations received over the years.



Programme Cost Breakdown for the year ending 31 March 2024.







Web: [www.newsightcongo.com](http://www.newsightcongo.com)

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YouTube: New Sight Eye Care

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