

BCPB is a registered charity which funds research and training to prevent blindness in children and adults in low income and lower middle income countries. Our belief and our aim is that no-one, should lose their sight if it can be prevented.

▶ *Blindness facts*

- Somewhere in the world, a child goes blind every minute
- 75% of this blindness is avoidable. With adequate funding it could be treated or prevented
- Blindness affects over 36 million people globally with a further 124 million experiencing significant sight loss. 89% of these people live in low income countries.

▶ *Our key achievements over the past 40 years*

- We have funded 160 eyecare professionals from the world's poorest countries to train and undertake research, developing their expertise in planning and managing blindness prevention programmes, as well as leadership and advocacy skills
- Each of these eyecare professionals will save the sight of up to 40,000 people during their career and will on average train a further 200 people in eyecare
- In total the sight of 6.4 million people has been, or will be, saved by these BCPB-funded eyecare staff
- We funded research which validated the use of smartphones for the diagnosis of eye diseases in Kenya, meaning we have been able to save the sight of thousands of people in the region
- Research funded by BCPB led directly to the discovery of the breakthrough eye medication Ivermectin. This is now used widely in Africa to prevent 'river blindness' (onchocerciasis) - a condition which once blinded millions of people.

Our projects empower local professionals and communities to undertake preventative sight saving programmes.

Our innovative work changes lives, and relieves communities of the burden that blindness places upon them, reducing poverty and boosting economic growth.



▶ *Case study:*

We funded Dr Ciku Mathenge to undertake a survey of blindness in Kenya.

Examining and treating 5000 people, she gained her doctorate in the process, becoming Africa's first female ophthalmologist with a PhD.

She is now a Professor, training other eyecare workers in Rwanda, passing on her knowledge and skills.

This 'skills cascade' is what our work is all about.

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