

About the British Council for Prevention of Blindness

BCPB is a registered charity which funds research and training to prevent blindness in children and adults. We are proud to be celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2016/17.

Our belief and our aim is that no-one, anywhere in the world, should lose their sight if this can be prevented.

BCPB
British Council
for Prevention
of Blindness

40
YEARS OF
BLINDNESS PREVENTION

▶ *Blindness facts*

- Somewhere in the world, a child goes blind every minute.
- 80% of this blindness is avoidable. With adequate funding it could be treated or prevented.
- 90% of the world's 39 million blind people live in low income countries.

▶ *Our key achievements*

- We have funded some 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 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 4 million people has been, or will be, saved by these BCPB-funded eyecare staff.
- 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 in low-income countries, mainly sub-Saharan Africa. This 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.

To continue our work we need your help.

Please help to prevent blindness and text BCPB04 £ to 70070.

Donating to BCPB by text is free apart from the standard network text charge, and we will receive the whole of your donation.

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