

## New eye unit in Kenya is transforming lives

In September, we opened a new eye unit at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital in Kenya. The eye unit is part of a larger community eye health project being implemented in partnership with the Kirinyaga County government, through support from Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing program and donors like you.

**This is the first project in Kenya that has fully embraced Operation Eyesight's Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program model.** Working with the Ministry of Health, we will open two more eye units, provide training for ophthalmic workers and community health workers, and support our partners in providing quality eye care for everyone.

**Our goal is to declare 150 villages in Kirinyaga County as avoidable blindness-free by March 2020.** Even better, this project will become self-sustaining, and our partners will continue to provide quality eye care for generations to come – thanks to YOU!



Our President and CEO, Aly Bandali (centre), attended the grand opening of our new eye unit in Kenya. This was the first stop of his international trip to see Operation Eyesight's work first hand. Read more about Aly's trip inside.

## Taking time to appreciate the view

"I couldn't work or even tell people apart unless I recognized their voices, and my wife Pauline had to lead me around our home," says James, a 70-year-old farmer from Kenya.

James suffered from bilateral cataracts and desperately needed surgery. To get treatment, he'd need to save enough money to cover a trip to Nairobi, two hours away. But how could he save money if he couldn't see to work?

**Then everything changed with the opening of our new unit at nearby Kerugoya County Referral Hospital.** James learned that he could receive cataract surgery there free of charge.

"I was not at any point afraid of surgery," he says. "In fact, I was among the first patients at the eye unit."

**Thanks to the generosity of people like you, James received surgery on one eye. He can see again!**

Today, James is working on his farm and eagerly awaiting his second surgery. In his spare time, he enjoys taking a moment to appreciate the world around him.



James is so happy now that his sight has been restored – and it's all because of donors like you!

"We are always in too much of a hurry to notice our surroundings," he says. "One thing being blind for three years taught me is to always take time to appreciate the beauty around me."

*Thank you for helping people like James see the world around them again!*

## Watch for your electronic tax receipt

We recently switched to a new payment system and, whenever possible, will be **sending tax receipts by email** rather than by postal mail. This allows us to send your receipt to you as quickly and efficiently as possible. If your email address has changed, or if we don't already have your email address on file, please contact us so we can update your information.

You can reach us at **1-800-585-8265** or **info@operationeyesight.com**. To ensure you receive your e-receipt, please add Operation Eyesight to your contact list and remember to check your 'junk mail' folder. Thank you for your patience and support as we implement our new system!



## Make your gift today!



**Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more unless otherwise requested.**

We do not sell, trade or otherwise share our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of Operation Eyesight, including our programs, special events, funding needs and more. If you have questions about our organization or wish to be removed from any of these contacts, please call us at 1-800-585-8265 or email [admin@operationeyesight.com](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com).

I understand that my monthly donation will be automatically withdrawn from my bank account or charged to my credit card. I can change or cancel my monthly contribution at any time. To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information about my right to cancel a PAD Agreement, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement.

To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

<b>Operation Eyesight Canada</b> Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW Calgary, AB Canada T2N 3T8 Tel: 403-283-6323 Fax: 403-270-1899 Toll-free: 1-800-585-8265 admin@operationeyesight.com	Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization. #11906 8955 RR0001
	Operation Eyesight USA is a registered charitable organization. #20-2682468

## My Special Year-End Gift!

**By mail:** Operation Eyesight Canada  
Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 3T8

**Operation Eyesight USA**  
14900 Interurban Ave. S. Suite 271 PMB 35  
Seattle, WA, United States, 98168-4654

**By telephone:** 1-800-585-8265 (Toll-free in Canada & the USA)

**By emailing this form to:** [admin@operationeyesight.com](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com)

**By scan or fax:** 403-270-1899

**Online:** [operationeyesight.com/donate](http://operationeyesight.com/donate)

**Yes!** I will support Operation Eyesight's sight-saving projects by making a regular monthly gift of:

\$50  \$30  \$20  \$10  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 min

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to make a one-time gift of:**

\$100  \$75  \$50  \$20  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options:

I have enclosed my cheque payable to Operation Eyesight (or a blank cheque marked VOID to pre-authorize a monthly gift).

Charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is made on behalf of:

an individual  a business

**Please note that if more funds are received for a particular program, project or item than required, Operation Eyesight will re-allocate the funds to areas of highest priority.**

Please cut or tear this page out before filling it out and mailing it back to Operation Eyesight.



## This holiday season, give a gift that will change a life forever!

It's so easy to forget the true meaning of the holiday season when we get caught up in the stress of shopping to find the perfect gift. Rather than rushing to the mall to find things your loved ones don't really need, surprise them by giving the **gift of sight!**

A donation to Operation Eyesight is a thoughtful and meaningful gift. When you donate in someone else's name, the recipient will receive a greeting card and a description of the important work the gift will support. **To order today, visit [operationeyesight.com/giftguide](http://operationeyesight.com/giftguide) or call us at 1-800-585-8265.**

Even better, become a monthly donor and invest in our work throughout the year! All year long, your support will help people like Emilia.

Emilia was an independent mother of eight living in Rangmaw, India. She kept busy with gardening and cooking, and she loved playing with her grandchildren.



*This holiday season, change the lives of a family like Emilia's by giving the gift of sight in honour of your friend, colleague or loved one.*

Unfortunately, she began to suffer from age-related cataract and she could no longer do these things.

"I was miserable," Emilia said. "I felt like a huge burden on my family." This was not the life she wanted, but with no

understanding of her condition and no financial resources to seek medical assistance, she helplessly assumed that her vision would continue to worsen until the end of her life.

Everything changed with the arrival of a community health worker at her door. The community health worker had been trained by Operation Eyesight to conduct door-to-door eye screenings. She assessed Emilia's condition and referred her to our partner, Bansara Eye Care Hospital, for cataract surgery. Thanks to someone like YOU, Emilia received surgery for free. Her vision was restored, bringing hope to a family who had lost all hope.

**Your generous gifts this holiday season will provide families like Emilia's with a brighter future!** Thank you for your support.

*And on behalf of all of us at Operation Eyesight, our warmest wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!*

## Charity Intelligence Top 10 Impact Report

*You're investing in a top charity and creating a huge impact!*

Charity Intelligence Canada has named Operation Eyesight one of their Top 10 Impact Charities of 2018. Charity Intelligence measures impact by determining the return for every dollar donated, highlighting charities that accomplish more with the donations they receive.

We're so grateful to our amazing donors and staff for making this possible! Your donations go a long way towards eliminating avoidable blindness and improving the lives of individual people and entire communities.

Be confident that your gifts are making a real difference and changing lives! To learn more, visit [charityintelligence.ca/2018-top-picks](http://charityintelligence.ca/2018-top-picks).



## A tour with a **Community Eye Health Worker**

Have you ever wanted to see the difference you're making, as a supporter of Operation Eyesight? Aly Bandali, our President and CEO, just got back from visiting some of our countries of work, where he got to see our **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program (HBCEHP)** model in action. Through this model, we empower people living in the service area of our partner hospital to seek eye care, while improving the hospital's ability to deliver quality eye care services. On his journey, Aly saw the impact you're having, every single day. We want you to see the same things he has, **so we arranged a tour.**

**Meet Harriet, a Community Health Worker (CHW)** who lives and works in Ghana's Mfantseman Municipal District. Formerly a community nurse, she's been helping us deliver eye care services to families in need for the past 10 months. **She's going to show you first hand the lives you're changing...**



*What I enjoy most is counselling patients to go for treatment. The smiles on their faces showing how happy they are when their sight is restored gives me great joy.*



Harriet works out of Saltpond Government Hospital, which has been our partner since 2011. Harriet screens people in the surrounding communities and refers patients to the hospital for treatment.

When we implement our HBCEHP model in districts like Mfantseman, we divide the area into clusters, containing about 5,000 to 25,000 people. We recruit people like Harriet, preferably female and a part of the health community, to be CHWs, because they have experience and have already established trust within the community. The CHWs are trained according to our curriculum by our partner hospitals, in this case Saltpond Government Hospital.

Then CHWs visit everyone in the cluster. Yes, everyone. They go door to door to identify those with eye problems. When they find someone with eye health issues, they refer them to the appropriate level of care, such as a vision centre for eyeglasses or the hospital for surgery. The goal is to declare entire communities as free of avoidable blindness. That means nobody is suffering from blindness that can be cured or prevented.

## Harriet's patients

Harriet has lots to do! She's trained in survey methodology, maternal and child health care, immunization, women's empowerment and more, so she serves as a resource for the community. That helps build trust, so she can make sure people get the care they need.

Today Harriet is following up with patients. She visits around 40 people a day, and she'll introduce you to three people whose sight has already been restored. Each of them will have the same thing to say: **"Because of you, we can see. Thank you!"**

**Joseph** permanently lost his vision in his left eye after an injury four years ago. Then he developed cataract in his right eye, robbing him of his remaining sight. He lives alone, so there was nobody to look after his farm.



Joseph

Harriet found Joseph during a **door-to-door survey** and took him to Saltpond Government Hospital for surgery. Now he can see, but the surgery wound isn't completely healed, so Harriet visits to apply the eye medicine he needs.

At age 75 and suffering from cataract, **Kwabena** was able to make his way to his farm with great difficulty, but unable to do any meaningful work by himself. He had to depend on hired labourers to get even the simplest task done, which was a financial burden.



Kwabena

When Harriet found Kwabena during a door-to-door survey, he was able to pay for his surgery, but he didn't know where to go to get help. He was also scared. **Thanks to Harriet's counsel,** he had surgery at the hospital. Now he's back to harvesting his farm, all by himself!



When you support Operation Eyesight, you're part of a **worldwide solution** to avoidable blindness. We partner with local governments, hospitals, community leaders and other development organizations to **address the root causes of blindness.** We're proud to be a member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, the Ghana Eye Health Consortium, Vision 2020 India, Our Children's Vision and other collaborations.

Three years ago, 73-year-old **Effuah** lost her vision to cataracts in both eyes. That left her unable to work on her farm and caused her a great deal of financial stress.

As with Joseph and Kwabena, Harriet found Effuah during a door-to-door screening. Harriet helped her get to the hospital, where she had **surgery at no cost.** Her sunglasses protect her healing eyes from light and dust.



Effuah

This model of care was developed by our staff in India, and after so much success there, our model is now being replicated in places like Ghana by workers like Harriet. We hope this tour of the work has helped you understand just how important your support is. **We couldn't do it without you.**

*Thank You!*



Your support has already transformed more than 1,000 villages. How many more communities will be freed from avoidable blindness because of you, in your lifetime and beyond? Designating a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will is your opportunity to leave a lasting impact. For more information, contact Susan directly at 403-670-2635 or DeikeS@operationeyesight.com, or call our toll-free line at 1-800-585-8265.

## Aly's trip: inspired by your impact

During the month of September, Aly Bandali, our President and CEO, travelled to Kenya, India and Nepal to see our work for himself. Here's what he had to say about the trip...

"While I was away, I had two overwhelming feelings: On the one hand, seeing the poverty the people were living in was deeply affecting. It was hard stepping into a world where my privilege was so obvious. Knowing I would wake up in a quality hotel in the morning and visit a poor community that day really put into perspective just how different my life is. The other side of that feeling was the pride I felt at seeing the impact we're having on the lives of the people in these communities. No matter where I went, the gratitude I was met with was overwhelming. I left each village feeling even more inspired to continue doing what we do, **because the ripple effect of our work through our program model is enormous.** Because when someone can see again, they can work and enjoy life.

"The hardship faced by someone suffering from avoidable blindness is terrible. Not only are they unable to provide for themselves or contribute to their families, many of them are subjected to complete social isolation. The beliefs around blindness in many of the communities we work in are superstitious. If someone goes blind, it's often seen as divine punishment for a wrong the person committed in their life. **This is where our impact really shines** – community health workers are transforming the communities they work in by dispelling these limiting beliefs. They educate communities to take ownership of their own eye health.

**"Our staff and partners around the world are truly making a difference in the lives of others, and it's all thanks to the support of our generous donors!"**

To see more photos and videos from Aly's trip, check out @alybandali on Twitter.



Aly (left) witnessed the power of your amazing generosity. Everyone he spoke with said the same thing over and over again: "Thank you to Operation Eyesight and your donors!"

## Congratulations, Dr. Bo!

Dr. Boateng (Bo) Wiafe was recently honoured by the Ophthalmological Society of Ghana for his contributions to Ghana's eye health sector. Dr. Bo retired from Operation Eyesight a few months ago but is still our Technical Advisor.



As an ophthalmologist and our former Director of Quality and Advocacy, he contributed to the development of our policy on quality, setting the guidelines for our partners to provide "the best for the poorest."

With his passion and expertise, he's been instrumental in increasing support for eye care throughout Africa and the rest of the world. **Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Bo, for your dedication to eliminating avoidable blindness!**

## Halfway there: 2020 by 2020

2020 avoidable blindness-free villages by 2020. **That's our goal, and thanks to you, we're halfway there!**

As of November 21, we've reached 1,010 villages, surpassing our goal for 2018. When a village is declared free of avoidable blindness, it means that every child, woman and man living there has been screened for avoidable blindness. It means they've been treated and, if possible, had their sight restored.

**Without you, we wouldn't have reached even one of these villages.** You've made a huge impact!

There are still so many more people living with avoidable blindness. **You can help them.** Every donation will help us toward that 2020 goal and beyond. Thank you for your support!

