



Dear friends,

We are sending you the memory of the activities accomplished by Visión Mundi throughout the whole of 2018.

Currently, our projects are active in Bolivia, Peru, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Senegal, Cameroon and Spain and are managed entirely by local personnel.

Throughout 2018 our projects as well as the interns trained by us have achieved to

- Assist over **65.000 people**
- Perform over **3.500 surgeries**
- Provide over **2.500 glasses**

Inside its strategy, Fundación Visión Mundi has decided to keep betting on help towards **Africa**, being the place with the highest amount of poor people suffering from blindness.

This year we were able to open an optic + optics workshops in Burkina Faso, the fourth poorest country in the world, complete **four ophthalmology scholarships** for **African ophthalmologists** or collaborate in creating the first ever MBA in pediatric ophthalmology for francophone Africa.

However, we find ourselves with the paradox that **most African countries, the poorest, are not being prioritized for official aid in development** and it is impossible to obtain public funds for these places. That is why, if you like how we work, we invite you to help us with a simple gesture that can go a long way.

**Help us find within your friends and family a new partner that would be interested in collaborating with Vision Mundi.**

**For more information:**

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## 1. Blindness

- 260 million people in the world suffer from blindness or have very limited vision, usually due to cataracts and not wearing glasses.
- $\frac{4}{5}$  of these cases are evitable and treatable.
- 90% of these people live in developing countries.
- $\frac{2}{3}$  are women.
- Along with vaccines, the World Health Organization believes that the improvement of vision is the most effective sanitary action to fight poverty.

## 2. How does the organization work?

We support local professionals in being in charge of their own development

- We **create ophthalmology centres** led entirely by local personnel, whom we help with management and training.
- We issue **scholarships** for ophthalmologists and opticians, due to there only being 1-3 ophthalmologists per 1 million inhabitants in African countries, compared to 1 per 10 000 in Spain.
- We help with **citizen awareness** actions.
- Vision Mundi counts with an **Ethics committee** in charge of deciding the partners we work with and if we accept donations.
- **Unifying efforts.**

Vision Mundi drove the creation of the **Spanish Society Against Blindness in Developing Countries (PODERVER)**, which groups together 11 Spanish NGOs which work in 25 countries in Africa and South America. Currently, **Vision Mundi** holds **the presidency** in this society, with headquarters in Logroño.



[www.poderver.com](http://www.poderver.com)

Vision Mundi, throughout its projects, works in collaboration with very prestigious institutions such as:

- Cáritas(Bolivia)
- Hermanos Carmelitas (Burkina Faso)
- Hermanos de San Juan de Dios (Perú)
- ISCE (Santa Cruz, Bolivia)
- Senegalese government
- Presbyterian eye hospitals (Cameroon)

### 3. Projects

#### 1. CREATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY CENTRES



Ophthalmology centre in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Vision mundi collaborates in constructing, equipping, training the personnel, and managing of ophthalmology centres with the condition that they will be **managed 100% by local personnel** and that they help the people most in need. We have built and are currently collaborating with 4 ophthalmology centres in

- Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Cuzco, Peru
- Potosi, Bolivia
- Bobo, Burkina Faso

**Managed entirely by local personnel**, our centres deal with around **20.000 medical consultations**, perform **1.000 surgeries** which cost **between 50-200 euros** and provide **2.500 glasses** with a minimum cost of **10 euros**, with **100% sustainability** each year.

Throughout 2018, we have aided in particular the project in **Burkina Faso**, fourth poorest country in the world. Our aid resulted in the construction of the operating room, optics workshops, scholarships for two local ophthalmologists and one local optic; the future leaders of the project which is going to be fully operative by the end of 2019. Moreover, we have acquired new equipment and sent funds for the purchase of a plot of land.



San Juan de Dios hospital, Cuzco, Perú



Hospital de La Concepción



Eureka Medical Centre, Burkina Faso

## 2. PROGRAMME TO DECREASE INFANT BLINDNESS IN BOLIVIA

**Location:** Santa Cruz region, Bolivia

**Local partners:** Maternity home Percy Boland, Japanese hospital, and Hernández Vera hospital

More than 25.000 infants each year benefit from this programme, which has reduced the infant mortality rate by 10% since its introduction and stops around 20-25 children from becoming blind each year.



You can see it in: <https://vimeo.com/56361421>

## 3. PROGRAMME TO DECREASE BLINDNESS BY DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

**Location:** Santa Cruz region, Bolivia      **Local partners:** Hernández Vera hospital

Between 5-10% of the population in Bolivia suffers from diabetes. 25% of those have a high risk of becoming severely visually impaired, which is around 50 000 people in the region.

Since 2015, we are carrying out a programme for the prevention and treatment of retinopathic diabetes in the Santa Cruz region in Bolivia, which includes 3 million inhabitants. This is done with the Logroño Town Hall's funds issued for aiding in development.

## 4. PROGRAMME FOR TRAINING PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGISTS IN AFRICA

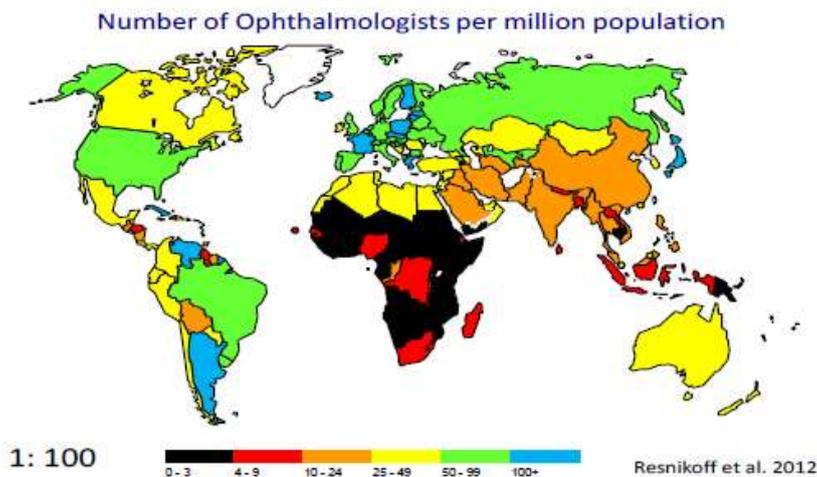
**Location:** National Ophthalmology Centre, Senegal      **Local partners:** Senegalese Ministry of Health

In collaboration with the San Juan de Dios hospital in Barcelona and the NGO *Ocularis*, we are supporting the first MBA in paediatric ophthalmology in Africa, issuing scholarships to 4 ophthalmologists so that they can later help the Senegalese children with problems connected with visual impairment.



## 5. PROGRAMME FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The lack of local professionals is one of the primary causes for a high amount of people with blindness or visual impairment in developing countries. In Africa there is one ophthalmologist for every 1 million population. In Spain there is one for every 10.000.



We train our professionals in places that contain similar resources, equipment and technology to the place they will be working in afterwards:

- University of Nairobi
- Kilimanjaro Medical College of Tanzania
- National Centre for Ophthalmology of Burkina Faso
- Fundación Visión in Paraguay

Vision Mundi is the **Spanish NGO that fights against blindness which dedicates the most resources towards scholarships.**



Vision Mundi has issued a total of **16 scholarships** to doctors in developed countries so that they could study ophthalmology. These ophthalmologists already attend over **45.000** people in some of the most disadvantaged places in Africa and Latin America, multiplying our help.

## **6. International congresses for the prevention of blindness in Developing countries.**

We have already conducted 6 editions of the biggest congress for the prevention of blindness in developing countries which takes place in Spain, which is already a reference point in this sector.

The primary specialists at a world class level have been present in these congresses for the prevention of blindness. In October 2019 the 7<sup>th</sup> edition will take place.



## **7. New projects 2019**

We have initiated contact to collaborate with an ophthalmological centre in Senegal, in the Casamance region. **Senegal** sits on the 164<sup>th</sup> place in the Development Index and Casamance, is located in the southern part of the country is one of the primary zones for the exit of African immigrants in **rafts** towards Europe.

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