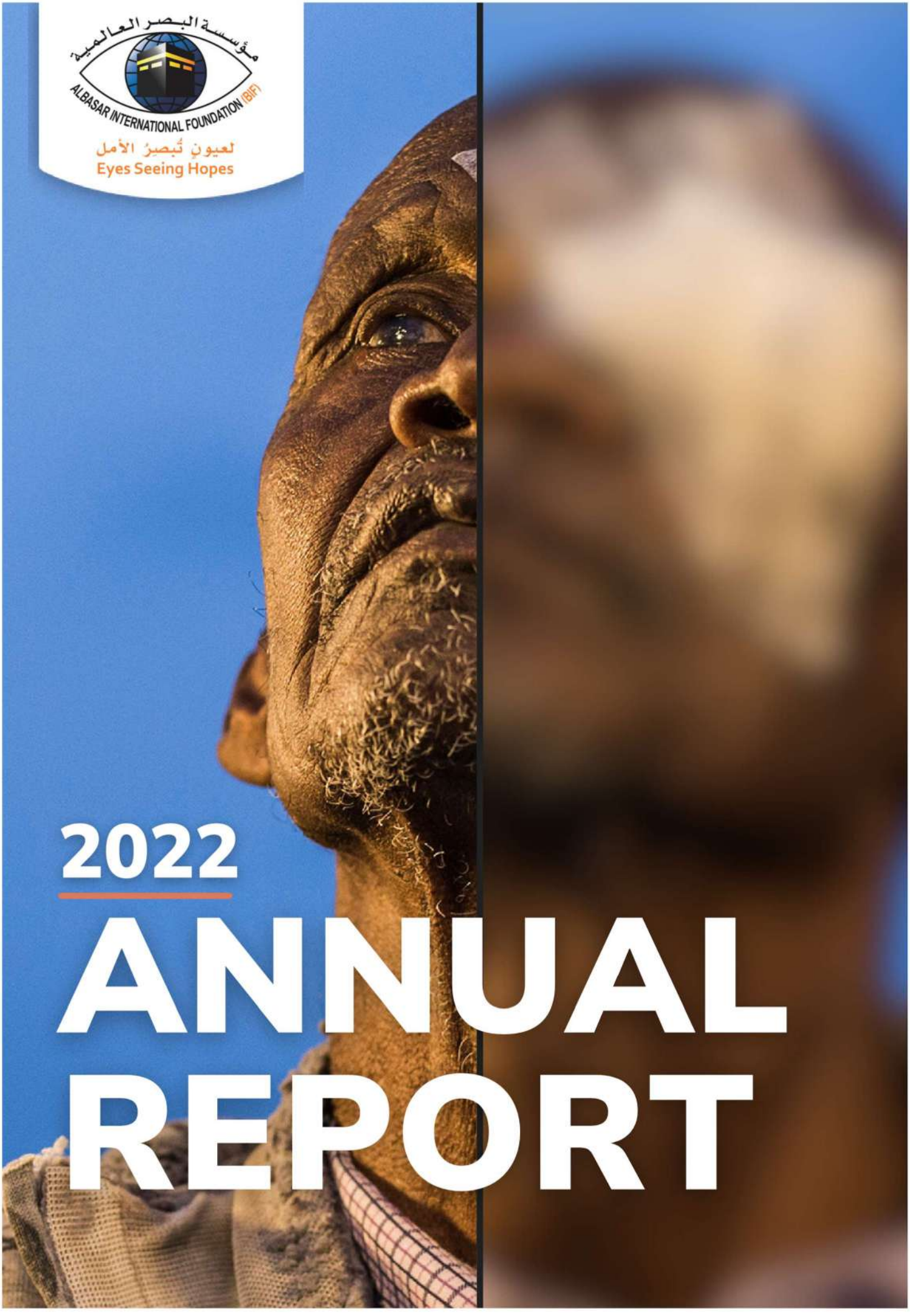
مؤسسة البصر العالمية
ALBASAR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (BIF)
لعيونٍ تُبصِرُ الأمل
Eyes Seeing Hopes



2022 ANNUAL REPORT


#Eyesopen
Seeing loved ones through cataracts is a clouded reality for millions. Thankfully, cataracts are treatable with effective medical interventions.

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Message from our chair & CEO

As we reflect on 2022, I am moved by the resilience, dedication, and collaborative spirit demonstrated by each one of you. Your tireless commitment to our mission, and the generosity of our donors and partners, has not only enabled us to navigate a year full of challenges, but also led us to significant strides in our work.

The global health crisis demanded adaptability and innovative solutions. We rose to the occasion, introducing robust safety measures and modifying our operations to protect the health of our staff and those we serve. It's been inspiring to see how quickly and seamlessly we were able to adapt to these challenges.

Our expanded outreach program served thousands of individuals at each clinic. It's not just about the numbers, but about the real human impact of these services. People received critical eye care, sometimes for the first time in their lives, which is an achievement that we can all be immensely proud of.

The 26 eye hospitals in our network across Africa and Asia remained stalwarts of healthcare in their communities, providing a range of essential services. We were able to prescribe glasses, perform cataract surgeries and other specialised procedures, that greatly enhanced the quality of life for our patients. We are proud to say that our services reached even more communities, including those in Bangladesh, India, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sudan, and Yemen.

A particular point of pride was the expansion of our school eye screening program. We reached 59 schools, giving us the opportunity to provide essential eye care to tens of thousands of children. By conducting free eye tests and distributing glasses, we gave these children the gift of clear vision, improving their ability to learn and engage in school activities.

Equally important is our investment in the future of eye care. At our dedicated institutions in Sudan, Niger, and Pakistan, we trained and graduated a new cadre of eye care professionals. Their energy, diversity, and commitment give us confidence in the future of our field.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our team, and the generous support of our donors and partners.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission. Let's celebrate the victories we have achieved together and brace ourselves for the opportunities that lie ahead. Here's to a future where quality eye care is accessible to all, no matter where they live.



Dr. Adel Al Rushood
Chair



Dr. Mohammed Al Qahtani
CEO

"We dedicate this report to our friends, colleagues and heroes on the front line in our hospitals and operations."

- Dr Adel Al Rushood
Chairman





"In a year of unprecedented challenges, we've held true to our vision - transforming darkness into light, and despair into hope."

- Dr Mohammed Al Qahtani
CEO

Context

05

Why sight?

Those of us who can see, take vision for granted. But vision is the most dominant of our senses, and it plays a critical role in every facet and stage of our lives. Without it, we struggle to learn to walk, to read, to participate in school and to make a living through work.

2.2 **billion**
people have vision impairment and half of these is treatable or preventable.

253 **million**
people are blind or visually impaired.

89 **percent**
of vision impaired people live in low and middle-income countries.



"Restoring sight is one of the most cost-effective health interventions to reduce poverty"
- WHO

Source: WHO (link)



POVERTY

People living in poverty are more likely to become blind because they're unable to access and afford healthcare. Access to eye health care breaks the cycle of poverty, as restored vision allows people to work and provide for their families again.



STIGMA

There are often negative stigmas associated with blindness, which further alienates those suffering, from their communities. Regaining sight removes significant social disadvantages, like losing social standing and decision-making authority.



MOBILITY

75% of visually impaired people need assistance with everyday tasks. Often, that means children become their parent's caretakers. But when these parents regain their sight, they can fall back into their natural roles and reclaim their independence.



EDUCATION

When a child is freed from taking care of their parents, they can attend school and escape the poverty cycle. Our school programmes also give children access to free eye care, because children who can see do better in school.

Where we work

Across 48 countries and 3 continents, we're turning your generosity into opportunity. With our strategically located health centres, we work with local communities, hospitals and government agencies to make preventable sight loss a thing of the past. We even send dedicated mobile teams to people who live in remote areas that are hard to reach.



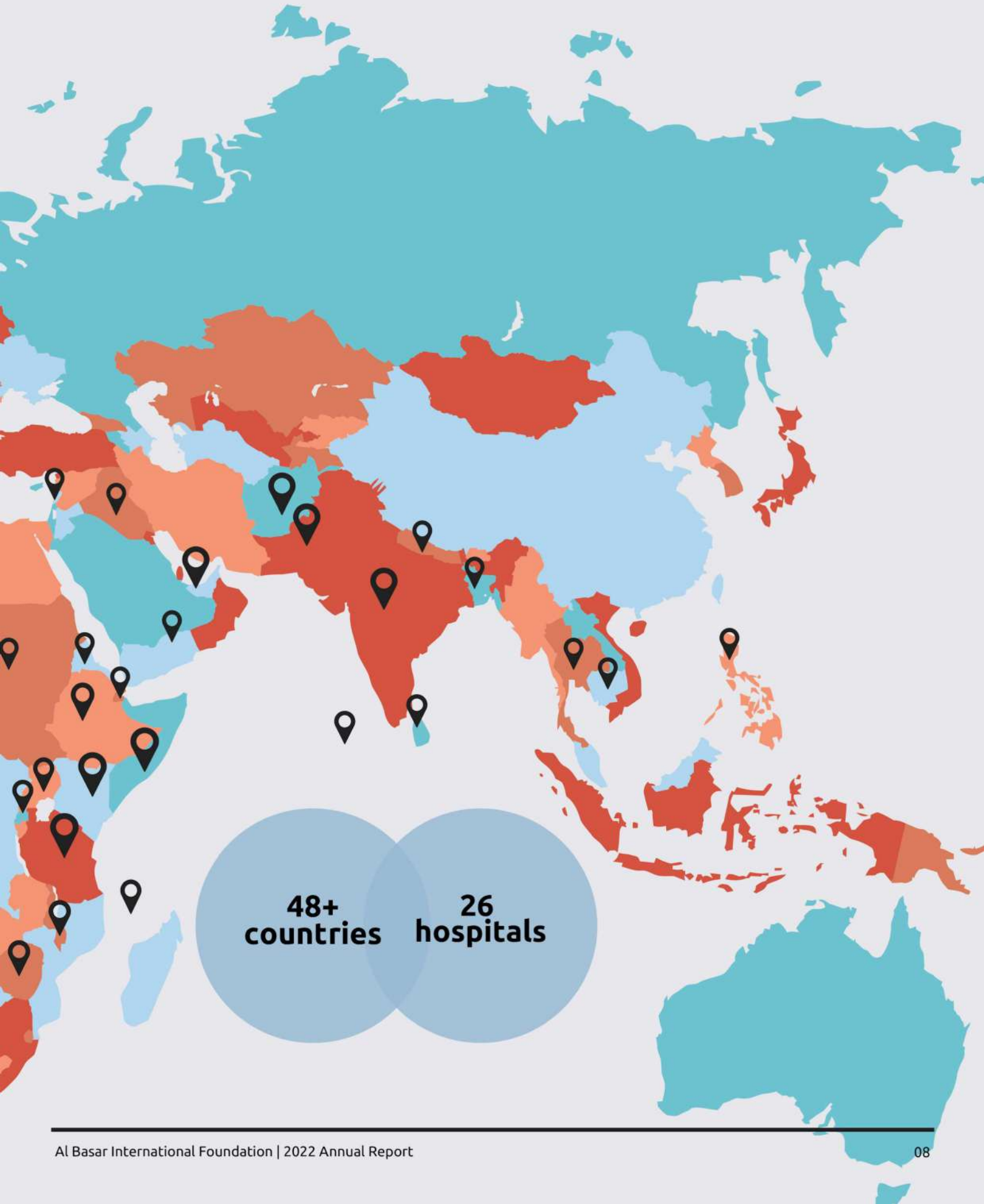


Vision

"We are creating a world free from preventable blindness, and where people have access to affordable and sustainable eye care."

Mission

"We work with local partners to treat preventable blindness, and ensure we set up sustainable infrastructure that inspire local teams to save sight in their communities."


48+
countries
26
hospitals

Our work

1
Outreach programs

Cataracts is the world's leading cause of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. Our medical teams provide free treatment in hard-to-reach places so poverty-stricken individuals can gain their sight back

2
Low cost hospitals

Access to sustainable and affordable eye care is vital in the fight against preventable blindness. That's why we are building specialist hospitals that offer free eye care, highly trained staff and the latest medical technology.

3
Training institutions

We build colleges that train the next generation of committed optometrists, nurses and physicians. We already have 750 graduates who are bringing quality and accessible eye care to society's most vulnerable individuals.

4
Schools screening programs

Millions of children around the world are suffering from vision impairment. Without access to eye care, they continue to struggle in school – even though the treatment is simple: they just need a pair of glasses.



Our work

Beating cataracts

Cataract outreach

Most people experience at least one eye condition in their lifetime, and with the right eye care, most conditions are easily treatable. The same goes for cataracts – a condition that's caused by the lens of the eye developing cloudy patches.
The difference is: cataracts worsens over time. When it's left untreated, sufferers develop severe vision impairment and even blindness.

That means in poverty-stricken communities, the most vulnerable in society (like children and the elderly) experience vision impairment and sight loss, simply because they can't access or afford the necessary treatment.
Cataracts is preventable and treatable, which is why our team is working across 48 countries to provide free medical eye care to those who need it most.



Your impact

We significantly increased our reach by conducting additional outreach clinics, serving **4,000 to 5,000** individuals per clinic. Following the global health crisis from the previous year, we adapted our operations to ensure the safety of our service users and staff. We introduced robust safety measures, including providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for our staff, establishing attendance limits per clinic, and enforcing strict social distancing protocols.

Despite these hurdles, our dedicated teams managed to successfully conduct **167 clinics** throughout the year. We provided critical eye care services in a selection of countries such as **Sudan**, **Nigeria**, **Bangladesh**, **Gambia**, **Gabon**, **Guinea-Bissau**, **Yemen**, **Chad**, **Congo**, **Pakistan and Djibouti**. We also expanded our operations to include two new countries, **Ivory Coast** and **South Sudan**.

167 **clinics**
were carried out in 26 countries in Africa and Asia.

500 **thousand**
people were examined for eye conditions.

54 **thousand**
people received free eye surgery for cataract.

Meet Toma, 11

Toma, 11, and Nada, 7, are two sisters living in rural Sudan. Both of them were born with childhood cataracts; a condition which clouds sight with the build-up of protein in the eyes. A simple surgery costing $160 could have restored their sight a long time ago; but their parents who live on less than a $1 a day could not afford the operation.

Their father, Omar, expresses the same fears and aspirations for his children as any parent, *"I worry about their future, because we want them to see and read and to be able to achieve things in our community."*

All this was to change when the family heard of a cataract outreach clinic being carried out by Al Basar International Foundation; the UK based INGO that works to restore vision to blind children and adults in some of the world's poorest countries.

Eye care services are out of reach for millions of people in the developing world, and it is even more challenging for rural communities. Which is why Al Basar International Foundation carries over 160 outreach clinics annually around the world.

The simple procedure took 12 minutes and involved the removal of the cloudy lens and replaced with new clear artificial lens.

As the bandages are removed, Toma and Nada begin to slowly observe their surroundings. Their father attempts to test their sight by holding a bottle and asking them to reach for it. They grab the bottle. Mother and father both shout out in happiness, *"they can see!"*.



"I worry about their future, because we want them to see and read and to be able to achieve things in our community."
- Omar

About cataracts



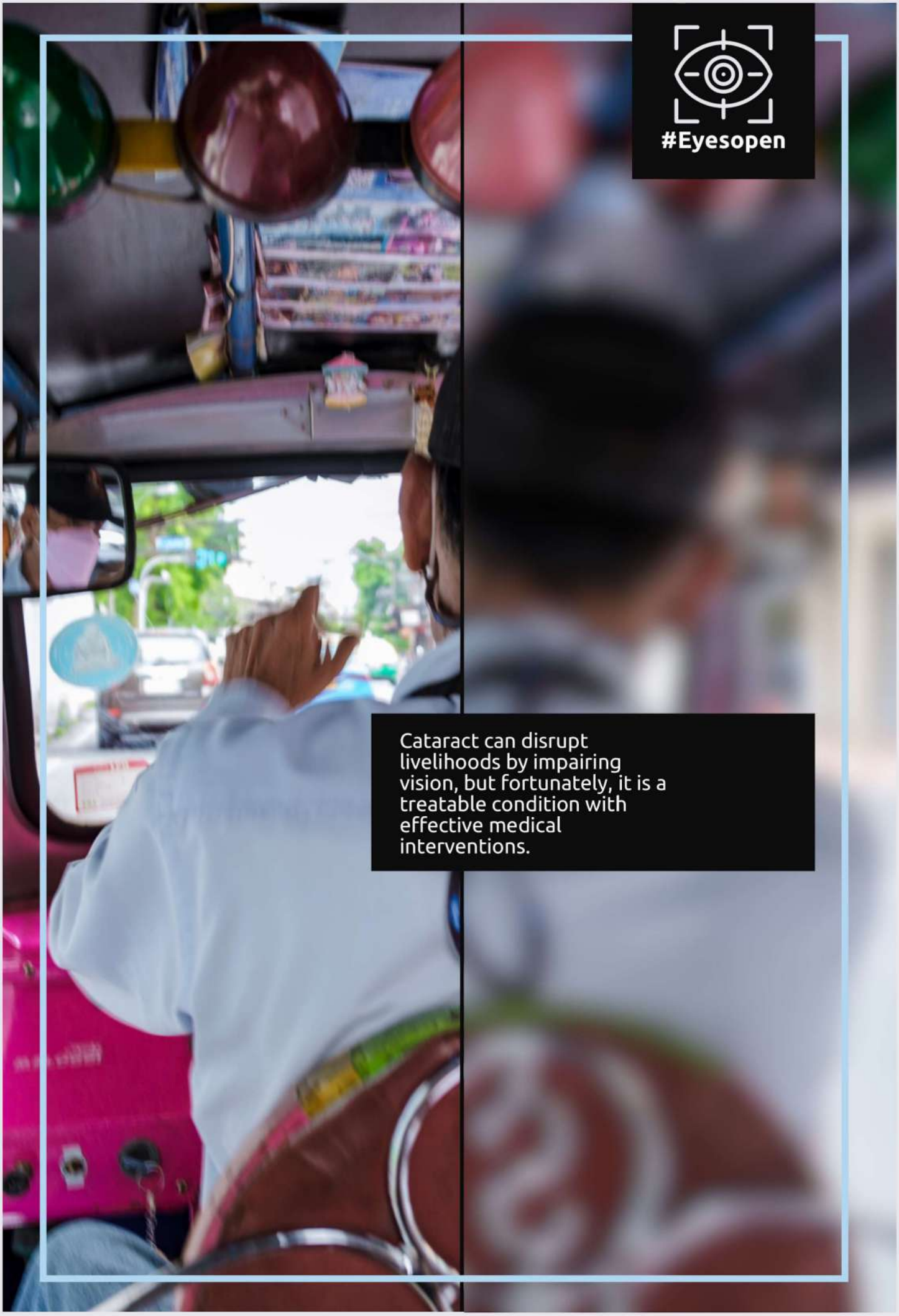
Every day, across the globe, individuals find their world slowly darkening. This loss of sight is gradual and often painless, yet it has a profound impact on the quality of life of those affected. The culprit? A condition known as cataracts – a clouding of the normally clear lens of the eye. It affects approximately 94 million people as of 2022.

Cataracts can strike anyone but are particularly prevalent among populations in developing countries. While cataract surgery is one of the most effective and common surgical procedures globally, access to these services remains uneven. Therefore, this highlights the importance of cataract operations in these regions. combination of factors, including lack of access to healthcare services, affordability, and awareness about the condition and available treatments.

WHO's Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-2019 report shows that more than 90% of visually impaired people live in low- and middle-income countries. Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia have disproportionately higher rates of cataract-induced blindness, owing to a dearth of ophthalmic services and limited access to quality, affordable eye care.

Al Basar International Foundation is committed to eliminating avoidable blindness and visual impairment, with a focus on cataract surgery in developing countries. We are partnering with international organizations, healthcare providers, and local communities to increase access to quality eye care services.

While the statistics paint a sobering picture, they also illuminate the path forward. By supporting initiatives that provide access to affordable, quality eye care in underserved communities, we can make a significant impact.


#Eyesopen
Cataract can disrupt livelihoods by impairing vision, but fortunately, it is a treatable condition with effective medical interventions.

Accessing eye care

Hospitals

We believe that where you happen to be born shouldn't determine your access to eye care – and neither should your income. In our fight to leave no one behind, we've set up 26 fully functioning affordable eye hospitals in Africa and Asia.

There are many barriers that prevent people from accessing eye treatment, including availability, accessibility, affordability, and acceptability of such services. Factors like gender, socioeconomic status, and perceived cost of eye care can prevent patients from accessing services too. In some settings, women aren't given the same access to eye care as men.

By creating specialist eye hospitals in hard-to-reach places, Al Basar is bringing sight back to thousands of people – one eye at a time.



Your impact

We are immensely proud to report that we were able to continue services at our hospitals and even expand our reach to help more people. Our comprehensive network of **26 eye hospitals** across Africa and Asia served as vital healthcare hubs.

This year, a remarkable number of people could access a range of essential services at our facilities.

These included prescription glasses, which made a significant difference in daily life for many. Moreover, we carried out cataract surgeries, glaucoma and other specialised procedures, thereby greatly improving the quality of life for our patients.

Our services continued in **Bangladesh**, **India**, **Niger**, **Nigeria**, **Pakistan**, **Philippines**, **Sudan** and **Yemen**.

1.6 **million**
people have received an eye assessment through our hospitals.

149 **thousand**
people have received eye treatment, including for cataract.

26 **hospitals**
eye hospitals in Africa and Asia run services.

Meet Dr Ayda

Dr Ayda Khidr a Consultant Paediatric Anaesthesiologist, is considered to be a legend amongst her peers. She works tirelessly to bring eye care to people who need it, and often goes above and beyond to serve them. Her passion and determination led to the creation of the General Anaesthesia department at our partners' hospital in Khartoum.

Dr Ayda is known to often enquire about the personal circumstances of her patients with all the challenges they face, *"the biggest challenge is the problem that most of the patients are coming from outside of Khartoum. And they have no place to stay here, they are poor, they cannot arrange for residence. And many, times I am the one who ask the people"*.

She plays an important role in making sure that patients, especially women and children feel safe and are able to gain access to the care that they need and deserve.

Dr Ayda is a pioneer in her field and has taken the initiative to advance paediatric care in anaesthesiology in Sudan.

She recalls setting up the first general anaesthesia department at Al Basar International Foundation's hospital, *"we all celebrated when we successfully operated on a child under general anaesthetic, this was a big achievement"*.



"They have no place to stay here (Khartoum), they are poor and they cannot arrange for residence."

- Dr Ayda

Champions in the field



Our medical teams are the lifeline for combating avoidable blindness like cataracts in hard-to-reach areas of the globe. Their role extends far beyond the operating table - they diagnose, educate, and counsel underserved communities about the importance of eye health, setting the stage for a more enlightened future.

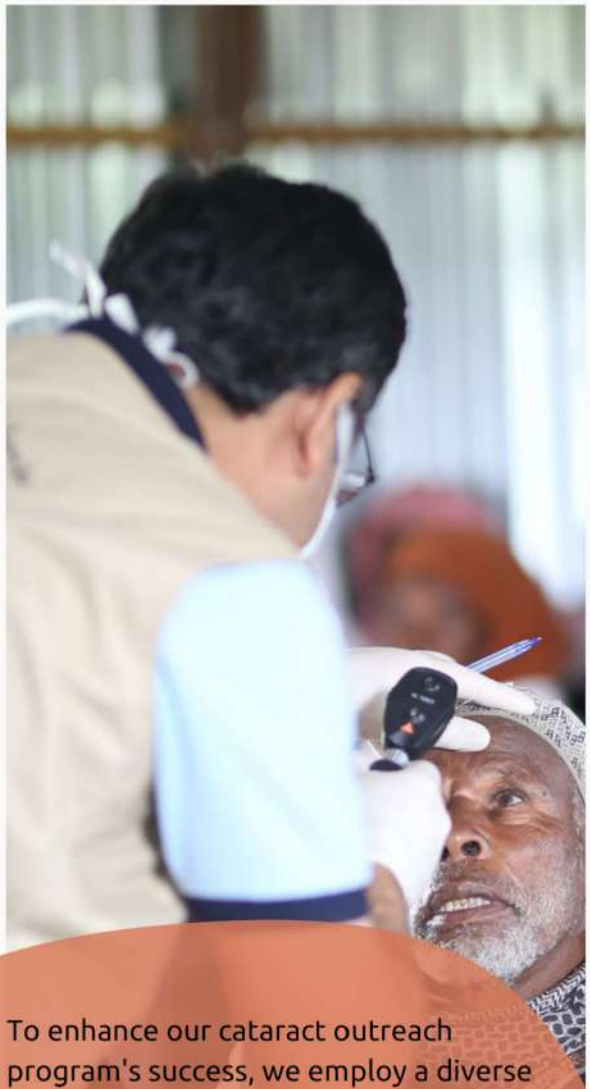
Despite the austere conditions they often face, these teams demonstrate remarkable resilience and adaptability. They conduct successful cataract surgeries in makeshift operating rooms, using limited resources but unlimited determination. Their commitment doesn't stop with the surgery; they ensure comprehensive post-operative care, restoring not just sight, but quality of life.

A crucial facet of their mission is empowering local healthcare providers. Adopting a 'train-the-trainer' approach, they mentor local nurses and doctors, thereby creating a sustainable network of skilled professionals who can continue the fight against avoidable blindness.

Our medical teams also raise vital awareness. Through their stories and experiences, they spotlight the often overlooked issue of preventable blindness, driving dialogues that can influence policy changes at local and national levels.

This journey, while transformative for the patients they serve, also brings about personal growth among volunteers. In essence, medical teams are the torchbearers of sight, bringing light to the darkest corners, helping us inch closer to a world free from needless blindness.

Cataract outreach timeline



To enhance our cataract outreach program's success, we employ a diverse array of announcement mediums including radio, TV, and speaker-equipped vehicles to reach even the most remote areas. Post-surgery, our committed teams ensure the operations' success through diligent follow-up visits, monitoring patients' recovery, thereby underpinning our mission to restore sight effectively and efficiently.

Phase 1

We raise awareness of the upcoming campaign on different media platforms such as radio, TV and social media

Phase 2

At the start of campaign we screen people for various eye conditions as well as HIV, diabetes and Hepatitis

Phase 3

Sight related operations are carried out including other treatments such as glasses and medicine

Phase 4

First post operation follow-up is carried out after one day

Phase 5

A second post operation follow-up is carried out a month later to make sure procedure was a success

Reaching schools

Every child

Millions of children around the world are suffering from vision impairment. Without access to eye care, they continue to struggle in school – even though the treatment is simple: they just need a pair of glasses.

80% of what a child learns is processed through the visual system – from textbooks to visual cues, to teachers writing on a blackboard.

Vision is vital to educational attainment. It allows children to participate in sports and social activities, and it allows them to foster friendships, strengthen self-esteem and maintain overall well-being – as well as being essential to the development of their physical and mental health.

But for many children in the developing world, life without clear vision is the norm. Picture sitting in a classroom and struggling to see the blackboard, or the faces of the friends you interact with every day.

Imagine the impact on your learning and eventually your future beyond education. For many, doing well in school is the difference between escaping the cycle of poverty, and passing it on to the next generation.

Your impact

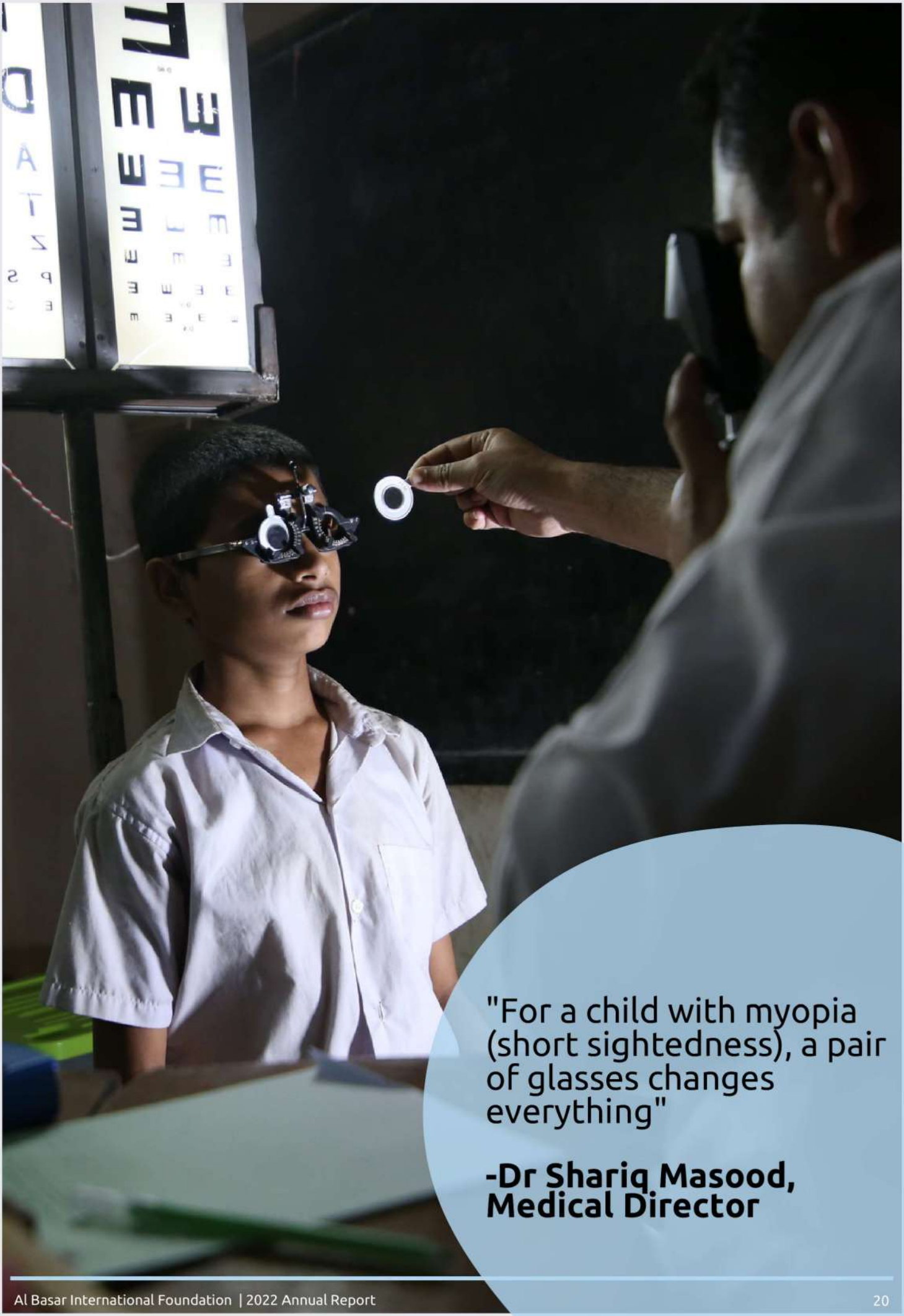
In 2022, we achieved a significant milestone by extending our reach to **59 schools** in Africa and Asia through our dedicated school eye screening programme. This concerted effort ensured that a larger number of children had access to essential eye care services. We distributed over **2000 pairs of glasses**, a simple yet impactful solution for vision impairment.

Beyond that, we conducted free eye tests for over **42,000 children**. This initiative allowed us to detect and address vision problems early, thereby making a substantial difference in the lives of these children. Their ability to learn and engage fully in school activities has been enhanced, thanks to these crucial eye care services.

42 **thousand**
children have received an eye screening test.

2 **thousand**
glasses were distributed to children.

59 **schools**
took part in targeted eye screening campaigns.



"For a child with myopia (short sightedness), a pair of glasses changes everything"

-Dr Shariq Masood, Medical Director

Educating pioneers

Training

A shortage of trained medical experts is one of the greatest challenges to increasing the availability of eye care services and reducing preventable or untreated vision impairment and blindness.

Through our strategically placed colleges in Sudan, Niger and Pakistan, we give students the chance to train as registered ophthalmologists, technicians and nurses.

Our five programmes are run by medical experts, many of whom are affiliated with top academic institutions. With the help of their knowledge and training, Al Basar International Foundation is creating the next generation of qualified eye care professionals and filling the gap in human resources across Africa and Asia.



Your impact

We continued to nurture the future leaders of eye care through our dedicated institutions in Sudan, Niger and Pakistan.

This year we celebrated the graduation of **299 students** who completed a variety of courses, including Optometry, Ophthalmic Technician, and Refractionist Technician programs.

Meanwhile, in Sudan, our student body boasts a diverse mix of individuals hailing from eight different nationalities across Africa and the Middle East. Their academic performance continues to exceed expectations, testifying to their dedication and commitment.

Each student is driven by a shared goal: to contribute significantly to eye care in their respective home countries.

A shining example of this drive is embodied by Sulaiman Mohammed, whose story you will find on the next page.

3 **colleges**
situated in Pakistan, Niger and Sudan providing certified courses.

299 **students**
completed various courses gaining diplomas and degrees.

Meet Sulaiman

Sulaiman Mohammed is studying at Al Basar's Ophthalmic College in Sudan and hopes to fill the growing gap of ophthalmic professionals in Nigeria where he comes from.

He dreams of keeping talent in Africa which suffers from an ophthalmic brain drain.

"My dream is to take the talent there (Nigeria) and keep it in Africa."

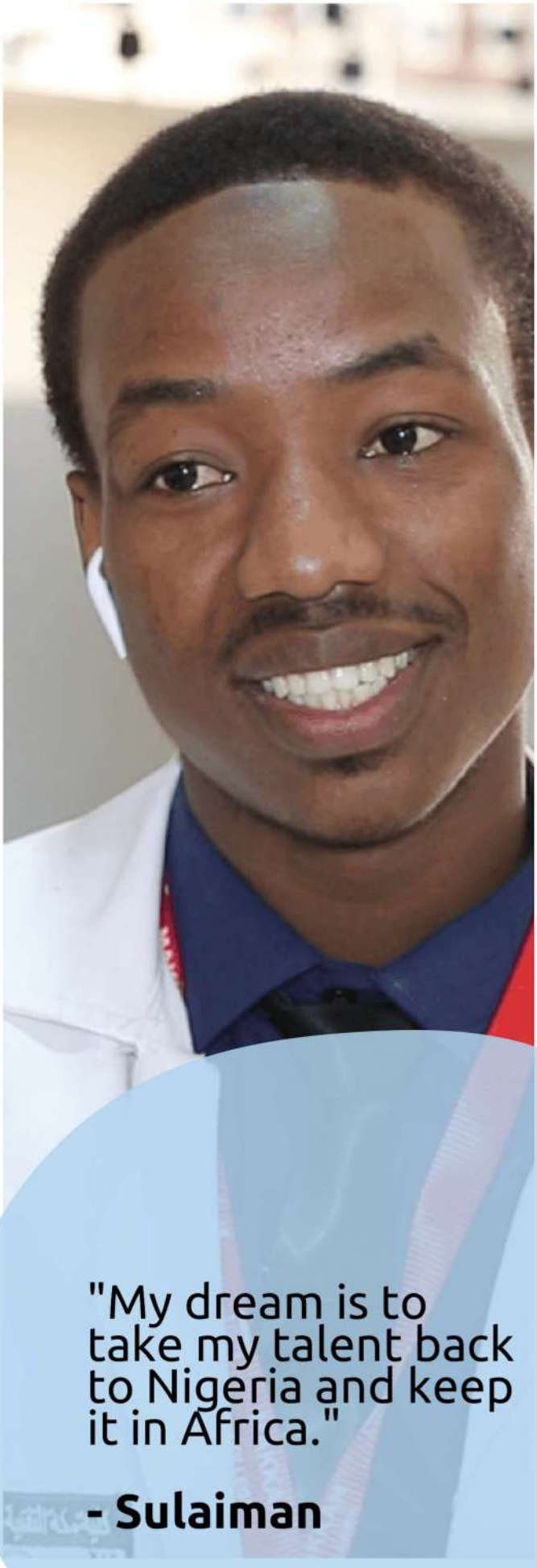
One of the biggest challenges the profession has is the lack of certified training institutions across resources challenged countries. Including Nigeria which lead Sulaiman to enrol on to Al Basar's college in Khartoum Sudan.

Sulaiman recalls the many eye conditions that are prevalent in his native country, be it congenital or age related conditions and yet there was a lack of access to ophthalmologists.

"It is painful to see children suffering with eye problems. But we can only help them if we work hard and study. And when you can treat eye conditions early you can save their sight."

It is through these kind of motivated young persons and institutions that Al Basar will be able to turn the tide on people suffering from eye conditions needlessly.

Over the years 100s of students have graduated from Al Basar colleges, returning to their native countries and making a positive impact.



"My dream is to take my talent back to Nigeria and keep it in Africa."

- Sulaiman

How we did in 2022

Recognition for commitment to humanitarian services

In 2022, Al Basar International Foundation's unflagging commitment to humanitarian medical services was globally acknowledged. We received the prestigious Hamdan Award for Volunteers in Humanitarian Medical Services at the 12th Hamdan Medical Award ceremony, held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai. This recognition underscores our unwavering dedication to our cause.

Leveraging technology for efficiency

We embraced the future by integrating Salesforce's project management and CRM system into our operations. This has significantly enhanced our efficiency in managing grants and projects, ensuring that our work continues seamlessly in a rapidly digitising world.



Expanding reach amidst global challenges

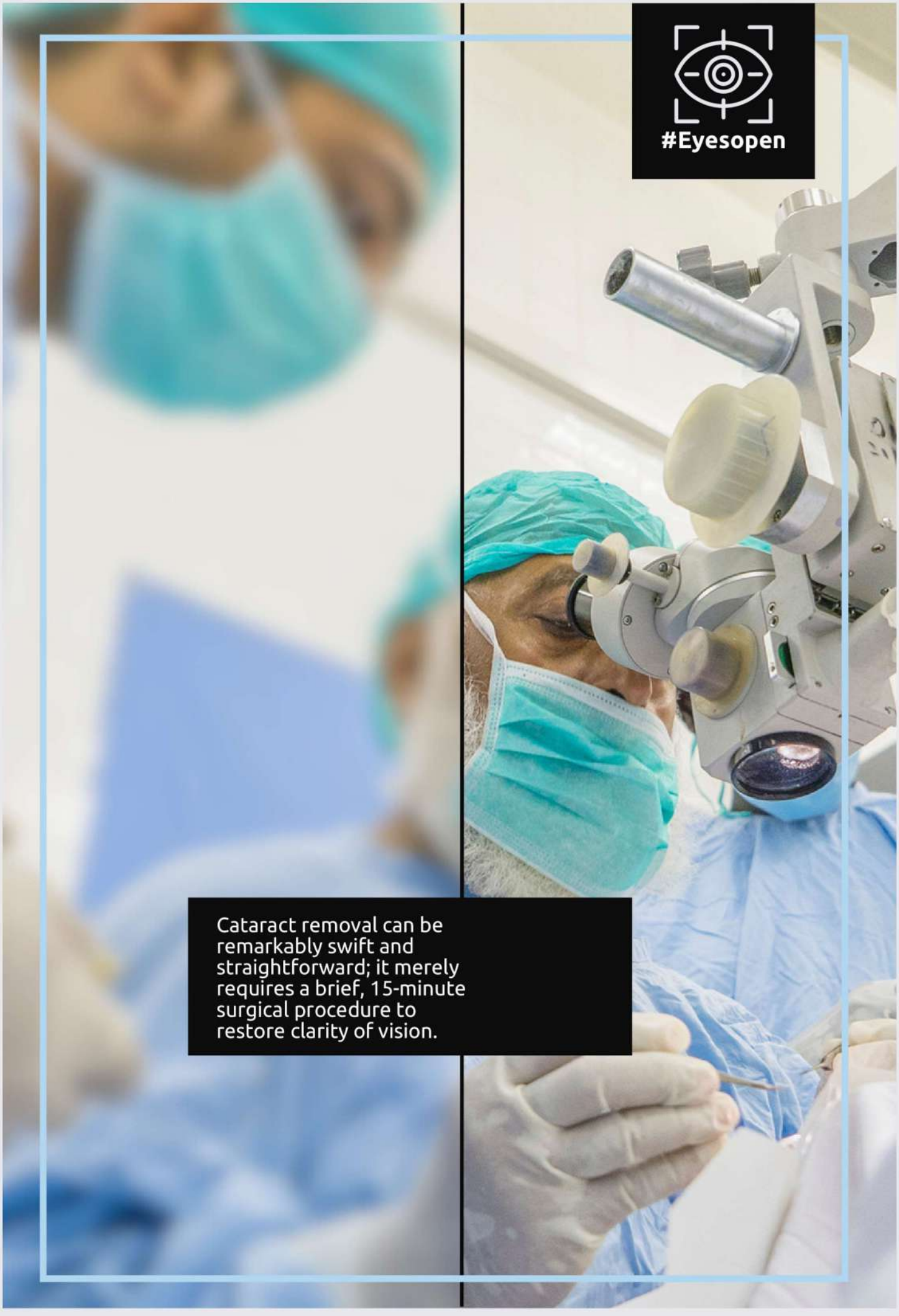
Despite the ongoing challenges of the Covid pandemic, our resilience shone through. We extended our reach, impacting more lives in 2022 than in the previous year. This demonstrates not just our recovery from the pandemic, but also our unwavering commitment to a future where vision is a right, not a privilege.

Strengthening staff through safeguarding training

To ensure the highest standards of conduct and safety, we conducted safeguarding training for our staff. This proactive approach has fortified our organisation, ensuring we maintain an environment of care, trust, and safety.

Enhanced organisational partnerships

Leveraging our robust partnerships with various organisations, we're proud to announce that we have seen a substantial increase in our income, which has risen by 65 per cent. This considerable growth allows us to expand our reach and deepen our impact in improving global eye health.


#Eyesopen
Cataract removal can be remarkably swift and straightforward; it merely requires a brief, 15-minute surgical procedure to restore clarity of vision.