مؤسسة البصر العالمية
ALBASAR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (BIF)
لعيونٍ تُبصرُ الأمل

AL BASAR FOUNDATION



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A Message from Our Chair

Reflecting on 2023, I am deeply impressed by our team's resilience and dedication. Your collaborative spirit and the generous support of our donors and partners have enabled us to overcome significant challenges and achieve meaningful advancements in our mission.

This past year, our expanded outreach programme profoundly impacted thousands at each clinic. For many, it was their first critical eye care experience, a milestone that fills us with immense pride.

Further, our 29 eye hospitals across Africa and Asia continued to be a cornerstone of healthcare in their communities, offering a spectrum of vital services including prescribing glasses, performing cataract surgeries and specialised procedures. These services have significantly improved the quality of life of our patients' globally.

We also extended our reach in Bangladesh, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, and Yemen. A highlight of the year was the growth of our school eye-screenings programme, reaching 50 schools and providing essential eye care to thousands of children. By offering free eye tests and distributing glasses, we've enhanced their learning and school participation through clearer vision.

Our institutions in Niger and Pakistan also trained and graduated a new generation of enthusiastic and dedicated healthcare professionals, securing the future of eye care in their communities. These achievements are a testament to our team's unwavering dedication and the generous support of our donors and partners.

As we celebrate our victories, we also prepare for future opportunities,aiming to make quality eye care accessible for all and eradicate preventable blindness globally.



Dr Adel Al Rushood
Chairman



Why Sight?

Vision is key to learning, working, and participating in society. Yet millions suffer from preventable blindness due to a lack of resources. Al Basar Foundation is eradicating preventable blindness by providing critical eye care in vulnerable communities across Africa and Asia.

By treating cataracts and refractive errors, we improve health, independence, and mental well-being. Our work reduces the economic burden on families, boosts productivity, and promotes education, fostering social inclusion and upholding healthcare as a human right. Sight is central to our mission, creating lasting impact toward global health, equality, and development goals.

Key facts

2.2 billion
people globally suffer from near or distant vision impairment.

Globally 33 million
people are living with preventable blindness

89%
of visually impaired people live in low or middle-income countries



Restoring sight for Nadia

Nadia, an eight-year-old from Borboshilmandi, Bangladesh, was diagnosed with cataracts after her teacher noticed her struggling to read the classroom board. Her parents, concerned for her future, sought help through an eye care campaign organised by Al Basar. Nadia underwent successful cataract surgeries at Makkah Eye Hospital, restoring her vision. Her mother expressed heartfelt gratitude, as Nadia can now continue her education and embrace a brighter future.

Strategy and aims



Our Vision

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

Our 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.

Guided by our values, we serve humanity with integrity and compassion, strive for innovation, commit to excellence and maintain ethical transparency.

Strategy:

Prevention **Treatment** **Empowerment**

Al Basar International Foundation's strategy focuses on a comprehensive approach to prevent, treat, and empower communities to combat blindness and eye diseases worldwide.

Prevention is at the heart of our mission, targeting underserved communities with initiatives like primary ophthalmology centres and school screening programmes. By detecting and addressing vision impairments early, especially in children, we not only improve individual eye health but also contribute to better educational outcomes and well-being. Our efforts in preventive care help bridge the gap in regions with limited healthcare access, ensuring long-term benefits for future generations.

In the treatment pillar, Al Basar is committed to eliminating preventable blindness through a combination of establishing eye hospitals and outreach programmes in remote areas.

Our outreach efforts deliver specialised care directly to underserved populations, while our network of 29 hospitals across Africa and Asia provides essential eye care services.

These initiatives, combined with cataract surgeries and distribution of glasses, have restored vision and transformed the lives of millions. In 2023 alone, our outreach reached over 600,000 people and performed more than 62,000 surgeries.

Empowerment is key to sustaining our impact. By establishing training colleges and fostering local autonomy through governance policies, we are addressing the global shortage of eye care professionals in Africa and Asia. Our educational programs train local healthcare providers to lead and manage eye care services, ensuring that communities can sustain their own healthcare systems. In 2023, our training programmes produced 47 graduates, ready to take on leadership roles in their regions, furthering our mission to reduce blindness and eye disease on a global scale.

This tri-fold strategy of prevention, treatment, and empowerment reinforces our long-term vision of a world free from preventable blindness.

Key Challenges

Addressing issues such as poverty, stigma, mobility, and education is crucial to achieving our goals and improving the lives of those affected by vision impairment.



Poverty

People in poverty face a higher risk of blindness due to limited healthcare access and costly treatments. Restoring vision can help break the poverty cycle by enabling employment and self-sufficiency.



Stigma

Blindness often carries negative stigmas, leading to social isolation. Restoring sight can allow individuals to regain their social status and fully participate in society.



Mobility

Around 75% of visually impaired individuals need help with daily tasks, often relying on their children. Restoring vision can restore their independence, easing the caregiving burden on their children.



Education

When children are freed from caregiving, they can focus on education, key to breaking the poverty cycle. Our school screenings also offer free eye care, essential for academic success.

Our Global Impact

In 2023, Al Basar made a significant impact by transforming the lives of the neediest.

2023 Impact



2,131,993

screenings



174,888

surgeries



529,603

glasses distribution



2,131,993

total individuals served

2023 Income and expenditure

Income

£18,016,418

Expenditure

£18,237,223

Our impact in conflict zones

Sudan Crisis

Violent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces displaced 8.6 million people, further exacerbating Sudan's disease outbreaks, and political instability. In 2023, the demand for urgent humanitarian aid surged, prompting a significant increase in our medical efforts.

In 2023, Al Basar provided essential eye healthcare services to 132,168 individuals in Sudan, conducted 96,332 screenings, distributed 26,480 pairs of glasses, and performed 9,356 surgeries.

Yemen Crisis

After nine years of conflict, 21.6 million people in Yemen require humanitarian aid, with 17.8 million in urgent need of healthcare services. Essential medicines and health workers are critically scarce, and only half of the healthcare facilities in the country are operational.

In 2023, 110,147 Yemenis received eye care assistance. Our initiatives included screening 77,240 people, performing 11,434 operations, and distributing 21,473 pairs of glasses. Our ongoing efforts aim to support the Yemeni population, focusing on mothers, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.



Naser's Story: From Darkness to Light

At 68, Naser, a skilled Yemeni rug weaver, struggled with vision loss due to cataracts. His once vibrant life, filled with intricate designs and joyful moments with loved ones, had dimmed to shades of grey. Relying on his grandson Ahmed for daily tasks, Naser's hands, once adept at weaving, lay idle, and he had lost his passion for work. When Al Basar's mobile eye clinic arrived, it brought hope. After cataract surgery, Naser's vision returned in a burst of colour. Overwhelmed with emotion, he saw Ahmed clearly for the first time in years, reigniting his independence and passion. Naser's restored sight transformed his world and reignited his purpose, showcasing the profound impact of vision restoration.

Our work

Prevention

Al Basar is dedicated to preventing blindness and eye diseases in underserved rural communities worldwide, where access to affordable eye care is limited. Our initiatives include establishing primary ophthalmology centres and conducting school screenings to detect and address vision issues early. By focusing on pre-ventive care, we aim to improve eye health and deliver essential services inregions with scarce healthcare resources.





School eye-screening programmes

Our school screening programme combats childhood vision impairment by providing free eye tests and glasses to children. Al Basar initiated these screenings in Bangladesh, examining 30,000 students in 50 Dhaka schools. Poor vision often affects students' learning and participation, impacting their educational success.

Given that 80% of learning is visual, corrective eyewear can greatly improve educational outcomes and overall well-being. By ensuring clear vision, we enable children to fully engage in academic, social, and physical activities, thereby boosting self-esteem and addressing educational disadvantages.



Treatment

Al Basar is committed to eliminating preventable blindness and eye diseases globally. We overcome barriers like cost and accessibility through outreach and specialised programmes, and the development of eye hospitals. Our efforts ensure that individuals from all socio-economic backgrounds receive the essential, high-quality vision care they need.







Outreach programmes

A cataract is a condition where the eye's lens becomes cloudy, leading to blurred vision. As the leading cause of global blindness, cataracts can significantly impair vision and lead to blindness if untreated, particularly in communities with limited access to healthcare.

Al Basar outreach programmes deploy specialised medical teams to remote areas in developing countries to provide critical medical care. Our initiative is dedicated to serving underserved populations to significantly reduce the global incidence of preventable blindness.

In 2023, we conducted 154 outreach programs, reaching 612,651 individuals. These initiatives included 62,218 eye surgeries, which restored vision, and the distribution of 152,198 pairs of glasses.

From July to August 2023, we conducted two specialised programs in Kano, Nigeria, focusing on a wide range of eye treatments. These included retinal, glaucoma, orbital, and squint surgeries. The programs served a total of 6,291 patients.



Alamgir's Journey: A Story of Transformation

At just eight years old, Alamgir's cataracts began to cloudhis vision, isolating him from his friends and disrupting his education. His father, a dedicated boatman in Lohajang, Bangladesh, struggled to support their family of six, making Alamgir's condition even more distressing.

Hope arrived through Al Basar's outreach programme, providing Alamgir with life-changing cataract surgery. The procedure was successful, and for the first time in years, Alamgir's world was once again filled with vibrant colours and clarity.

The campaign, held at Mecca Eye Hospital in Dhaka, achieved remarkable outcomes: 459 successful surgeries, 4,882 comprehensive eye exams, and 1,859 pairs of glasses distributed. Alamgir's story exemplifies the profound impact of humanitarian efforts and underscores the importance of accessible medical care towards transforming lives. His journey from darkness to light serves as a powerful reminder of the difference that compassion and collaboration can make.

Eye Hospitals

We aim to eliminate preventable blindness by establishing eye hospitals in developing countries. Operating 29 hospitals across Africa and Asia, we provide cataract and glaucoma treatments, prescription glasses, and other eye care services. In 2023, we served 1,348,544 people and performed 102,978 eye surgeries. Despite Covid-19 closures in India and the Philippines, we opened two new hospitals in Bangladesh.



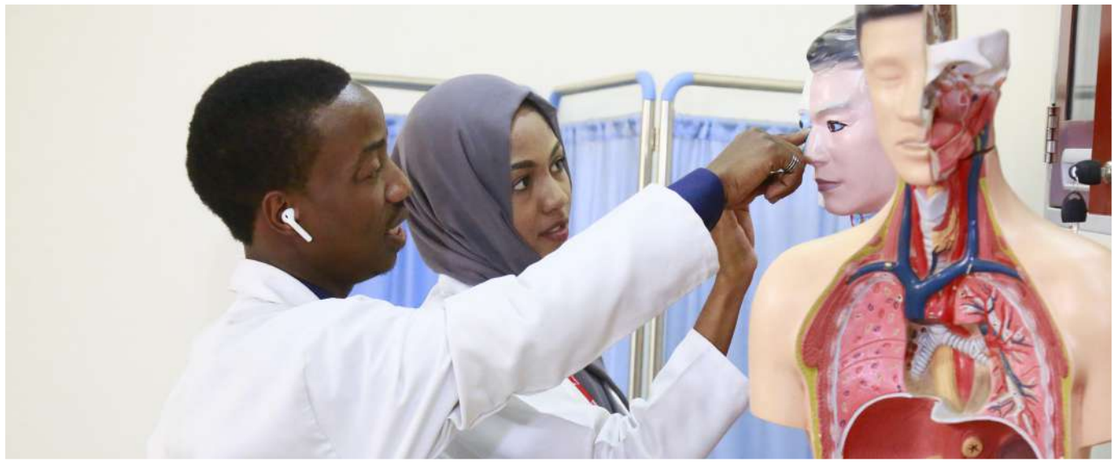
Our Global Eye Hospitals

Yemen	Sudan	Niger
4	10	1
Bangladesh	**Nigeria**	**Pakistan**
5	2	7

Empowerment

Al Basar is committed to expanding global access to eye care and prevention, addressing the shortage of eye care professionals in Africa and Asia by establishing training colleges and enhancing skills in eye hospitals. Our initiatives foster local autonomy through governance policies, empowering communities to manage their own health services and outreach programmes. These efforts contribute to the global fight against eye diseases.







Training and development

Al Basar manages five programmes, each directed by medical experts from leading academic institutions. With facilities in Niger and Pakistan, our training centres provide extensive education for aspiring ophthalmologists, technicians, and nurses. Our goal is to develop skilled eye care professionals to address critical shortages in Africa and Asia. By training future leaders locally, we aim to overcome the barriers posed by inadequate medical training and enhance eye care services to reduce preventable vision impairment and blindness worldwide.

In 2023, we celebrated the graduation of 47 students in Niger and Pakistan from various programs, including Optometry, Ophthalmic Technician, and Refractionist Technician courses. Their academic success underscores their dedication and potential to positively impact their communities.

Unfortunately, the Makkah Ophthalmic Technical College in Omdurman was closed in March 2023 due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

Outreach Programmes Impact

Country	Total reach
Sudan	132,168
Yemen	110,147
Bangladesh	99,219
Pakistan	58,191
Nigeria	53,982
Niger	52,704
Morocco	46,594
Somalia	31,222
Chad	27,715
Ethiopia	20,673
Mauritania	18,313
Burkina Faso	17,934
Congo Brazzaville	16,952
Gambia	15,841
Togo	12,419
Eritrea	13,194
Mali	12,228
Afghanistan	11,845
Cameroon	11,095
Burundi	10,728
Sri Lanka	10,156
Guinea Conakry	9,056
Ghana	8,629
Guinea Bissau	8,436
Sierra Leone	6,915
Djibouti	6,221
Gabon	4,490







Our Valued Partners

Memberships

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