AL BASAR FOUNDATION

مؤسسة البصر العالمية

ALBASAR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (BIF)

لعيونٍ تُبصِرُ الأمل



ANNUAL REPORT OF 2024



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A Message from Our Chair

As we look back on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, resilience, and unity that continue to define our mission at Al Basar International Foundation. This year has brought both new opportunities and important shifts in how we serve, deepening our impact across the communities we reach.

While the number of individuals screened this year was slightly lower than in the previous year, we saw a remarkable increase in the number of people who received sight-restoring surgeries. This shift reflects a more targeted and intensive approach — prioritising those in urgent need and expanding our capacity to deliver complex procedures with precision and care.

We also observed a decrease in the number of eyeglasses distributed, a change shaped by our focus on surgical interventions and treatment-based solutions. Each decision has been guided by our commitment to restoring not just sight, but dignity, mobility, and opportunity.

Our long-standing network of hospitals remained central to this year's success. Although no new facilities were added, our hospitals delivered significantly more surgeries than ever before — a testament to our teams' commitment to maximising existing resources and reaching more patients with life-changing care.

This year, we also forged new and meaningful partnerships with international organisations who share our vision, including the Muslim World League, Muntada AID, Qatar Red Crescent, and AlBasar USA. These collaborations have expanded our reach and strengthened the foundation of our future growth.

Our training institutions continued to invest in the next generation of eye care professionals — young men and women who will carry this mission forward with skill, compassion, and purpose.

To our field teams, supporters, and partners around the world — thank you. Your steadfast belief in our cause has made it possible to bring light into countless lives.

As we prepare for the future, we do so with humility and hope — committed to reaching those still waiting, and to realising a world where no one is left in darkness.

Dr. Adel Al Rushood
CHAIRMAN





Why Sight?

Sight is more than a sense — it's a gateway to education, livelihood, safety, and independence. When vision is lost, so too is the ability to learn, work, and fully engage in daily life. In the communities we serve, this loss is often unnecessary — the result of treatable conditions like cataracts or uncorrected refractive errors.

The majority of those affected live in low- and middle-income countries, where access to eye care is limited. Conditions like cataracts and refractive errors — easily addressed with surgery or glasses — continue to cause unnecessary blindness, trapping individuals and families in cycles of poverty.

At Al Basar, we believe restoring sight is one of the most powerful, cost-effective ways to change lives. When vision is restored, children return to school, adults can work again, and communities grow stronger.

We focus on sight because it's not just about seeing — it's about restoring dignity, independence, and opportunity.



Key Facts

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2023:

2.2 Billion People

Globally have near or distance vision impairment.

1 Billion People

Have vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed.

89% Of Visually Impaired Individuals

Live in low- and middle-income countries.

Strategy and Aims



Our Vision

We envision a world without preventable blindness, where everyone has access to affordable and sustainable eye care services.

Our Mission

In partnership with local organisations, we strive to eliminate preventable blindness by delivering treatment and establishing sustainable eye care infrastructure. We empower local teams to lead efforts in saving sight within their own communities.

Guided by our core values—integrity, compassion, innovation, excellence, and ethical transparency—we are dedicated to serving humanity with commitment and care.

Strategy:

Prevention **Treatment** **Empowerment**

Al Basar International Foundation pursues a holistic strategy centered on prevention, treatment, and community empowerment to tackle blindness and eye diseases globally.

Prevention is fundamental to our mission. We focus on reaching underserved communities through initiatives such as primary ophthalmology centres and school screening programmes. Early detection and intervention, especially for children, not only improve eye health but also enhance educational outcomes and overall well-being. These efforts help close healthcare gaps in vulnerable regions, fostering lasting benefits for future generations.

In the **treatment** pillar, we work tirelessly to eliminate preventable blindness by operating eye hospitals and conducting outreach programmes in remote areas. Our network of 29 hospitals across Africa and Asia, together with specialised outreach services, provides critical eye care including cataract surgeries and the distribution of glasses.

Empowerment ensures the sustainability of our impact. Through training colleges and promoting local leadership and governance, we address the shortage of eye care professionals in Africa and Asia. Our educational programmes equip local healthcare providers to manage and lead eye care services autonomously.

This integrated approach—prevention, treatment, and empowerment—drives us toward our vision of a world free from preventable blindness.

Addressing the social and economic barriers linked to vision loss is essential to achieving our mission. In many of the communities we serve, preventable blindness is deeply connected to poverty, stigma, limited mobility, and restricted access to education.

Key Challenges



Poverty

#1

Limited access to healthcare and the high cost of treatment make people living in poverty more vulnerable to blindness. Restoring sight helps break this cycle by enabling individuals to work, earn, and support their families.



Stigma

#2

Blindness often carries harmful stereotypes that can lead to social isolation and loss of status. By restoring vision, individuals can rejoin community life and regain their roles in decision-making and social participation.



Mobility

#3

The majority of visually impaired people require daily assistance, often relying on children or other family members. Restoring sight allows people to live independently, easing the caregiving burden on their loved ones.



Education

#4

When children are no longer needed as caregivers, they can return to school and pursue their education — a crucial step in breaking the cycle of poverty. Our school screening programmes also give children direct access to free eye care, improving their ability to learn and thrive.

Our Global Impact

In 2024, Al Basar International Foundation continued to bring life-changing eye care to some of the world's most underserved communities. Through our hospitals, outreach programmes, and partnerships, we reached people in both remote and urban areas, restoring vision and transforming futures.

2024 **Impact**



2.16 million
Individuals screened



200,048
Surgeries performed



186,392
Pairs of glasses distributed



Programmes delivered in
110 cities across 33 countries

2024 **Income and expenditure**

Income

£18.6m

Expenditure

£18.6m

Our impact this year reflects not just the scale of our work, but the dedication of our teams and the trust of our donors and partners — all working together to bring light where it is needed most.



#Story

MEET DR. RAFIQUE

For more than ten years, Dr. Rafique Ahmed has been a driving force in delivering quality eye care at Al Basar's Makkah Eye Hospital in Kano, Nigeria. Originally from Pakistan and a graduate of the Isra School of Optometry in Karachi, he specialises in paediatric eye care, low vision, contact lenses, lasers, orthoptics, and biometry. Since joining Al Basar in 2014, Dr. Rafique has played a key role in school screening programmes and in leading both local and international eye camps. His dedication continues to bring vital eye care to underserved communities, restoring sight and improving lives



Our work

Prevention

Al Basar remains committed to preventing blindness and eye diseases in underserved rural and urban communities worldwide, where affordable eye care is often inaccessible. Our efforts include expanding primary ophthalmology centres and scaling up school eye-screening programmes to identify and address vision problems early. By prioritising preventive care, we strive to improve eye health and deliver vital services in regions with limited healthcare infrastructure.

School Eye-Screening Programmes



Our school screening initiatives continue to combat childhood vision impairment by offering free eye tests and distributing corrective glasses to children. In **2024**, these programmes expanded their reach, screening more than **43,000** students across **66** schools in Bangladesh and Nigeria. In Bangladesh alone, over **30,000** children in **52** schools were screened, while in Nigeria, nearly **14,000** students in **14** schools benefited.

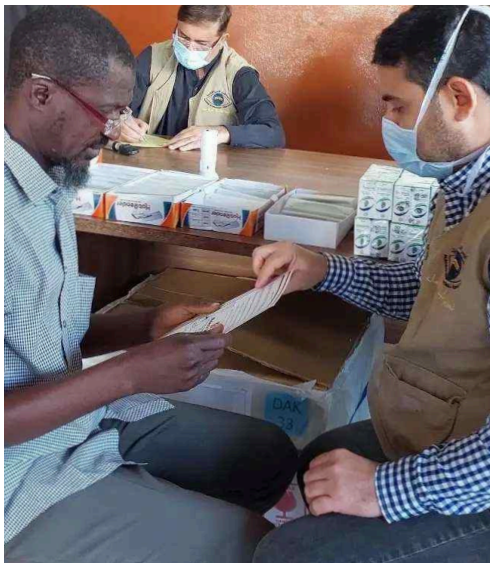
According to a UCLA study published in 2022, "approximately 80% of classroom learning is visual." Providing children with clear vision is essential to their academic success and overall well-being. By correcting vision problems, we empower children to fully participate in their education, social activities, and physical development — boosting confidence and helping close educational gaps.



Treatment

Al Basar International Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to eliminating preventable blindness and eye diseases worldwide. We tackle barriers such as cost, accessibility, and geographic isolation through comprehensive outreach programmes and specialised services, supported by our network of eye hospitals. Our goal is to ensure that people from all socio-economic backgrounds can access the high-quality vision care they need.





Outreach Programmes Impact

Cataracts — a clouding of the eye's lens — are the leading cause of blindness globally. If left untreated, they can severely impair vision, especially in communities with limited healthcare access. Al Basar's outreach teams travel to remote and underserved regions in developing countries to provide essential eye care services directly to those who need them most.

In **2024**, we conducted **188** outreach programmes, screening **749,600** individuals, performing around **75,300** surgeries, and distributing **186,400** pairs of glasses.



Country	Total reach
Sudan	148,691
Pakistan	126,288
Nigeria	51,726
Yemen	48,037
Chad	45,335
Niger	38,841
Ethiopia	33,043
Bangladesh	31,783
Senegal	19,932



Country	Total reach
Eritrea	19,133
Morocco	18,811
Afghanistan	17,674
Mauritania	16,599
Sri Lanka	16,240
Somalia	10,169
Guinea Conakry	10,000
Cameroon	9,600
Guinea Bissau	9,583
Jordan	9,120
Djibouti	8,168
Congo Brazzaville	7,818
Côte D'ivoire	7,125
Burundi	6,804
Burkina Faso	5,865
Gambia	5,805
Togo	4,606
South Sudan	4,021
Congo Kinshasa	4,000
Kenya	3,700
Ghana	3,229
Sierra Leone	3,162
Zambia	2,891
Gabon	1,817







SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Our specialised programmes expanded as well, delivering 1,590 targeted treatments including:

- 120 strabismus surgeries
- 100 orbit surgeries
- 120 glaucoma surgeries
- 600 retinopathy surgeries
- 150 laser surgeries
- 500 minor surgeries

These initiatives reflect our dedication to comprehensive eye care — addressing complex conditions beyond cataracts and improving quality of life across the communities we serve.



Eye Hospitals



Our network of eye hospitals remains a vital part of Al Basar's mission to eliminate preventable blindness in developing countries. In **2024**, we continued to operate **29** hospitals across Africa and Asia, delivering essential eye care services including cataract and glaucoma treatments, prescription glasses, and other specialised procedures.

This year, our hospitals served approximately **1.37 million** outpatients and performed an impressive **124,787** surgeries — a significant increase in surgical capacity compared to previous years.

Our facilities provide continuous, high-quality care in the following countries:

10	**Sudan** Hospitals	**07**	**Pakistan** Hospitals
05	**Bangladesh** Hospitals	**04**	**Yemen** Hospitals
02	**Nigeria** Hospitals	**01**	**Niger** Hospital

Despite challenges in healthcare accessibility worldwide, our hospitals remain anchors of hope and healing, delivering life-changing treatments to those in need.

Empowerment

Al Basar International Foundation is dedicated to expanding global access to eye care by addressing the shortage of trained professionals in Africa and Asia. Through the establishment of specialised training colleges and continuous skill development within our hospitals, we aim to build local capacity and strengthen community-led healthcare services. These initiatives not only improve the quality of eye care but also promote long-term sustainability and local ownership in the fight against preventable blindness.



Training and development

We operate five structured training programmes, each led by experienced medical experts from renowned academic institutions. Our training centres in Niger and Pakistan provide comprehensive education for aspiring ophthalmologists, ophthalmic technicians, optometrists, and nurses — equipping them with the skills needed to address critical shortages in their home countries.

In **2024**, **82** students graduated from our programmes, including **19** in Niger and **52** in Pakistan, alongside **11** postgraduate trainees in Pakistan. These achievements mark a significant step toward improving access to skilled eye care professionals across the region. Their success underscores the vital role of local training in strengthening healthcare systems and reducing preventable blindness.





ROBIUL ISLAM

Robiul Islam, a 38-year-old man from Rangpur, was diagnosed with a cataract in his right eye, causing significant vision impairment. He lives with his parents, wife, and three children—a daughter and two sons.

The vision loss affected his daily life and his ability to fully participate with his family.

Through Al Basar International Foundation's outreach camp in Rangpur in November 2024, Robiul received successful cataract surgery. The restoration of his sight has greatly improved his quality of life and his capacity to support and engage with his loved ones.



Our Valued Partners

Memberships

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