A unique aspect of the IDB – and thus of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness – is the idea of South-South partnership. As nations join the Alliance and share their expertise and resources with other IDB members, strong partnerships are formed. This co-operative spirit and solidarity have an impact that goes well beyond eye care. It is teamwork that can light up lives and transform whole nations.

**SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIP**
A UNIQUE ASPECT OF THE IDB

**A BRIGHT FUTURE**

The results of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness have been spectacular so far. Now, as the program enters its Second Generation, thousands more people are going to be given the gift of sight and a clear path out of poverty.

**Targets for the Second Generation 2018-2022**

- **1 million** children will be screened for URE
- **100,000** children will be provided with eyeglasses
- **4000** children with cataract and URE will receive an eye prosthesis
- **20 prototypes of eye prosthesis** will be developed
- **90%** of all eye surgeries will be funded
- **3 eye care units** will be built or renovated
- **20 pediatric ophthalmologists** will be trained
- **20 cornea donors** will be trained
- **20 cornea retrieval teams** will be trained

**Join the Alliance**
Help give a Bright Future to people, and nations, who need to see a clear path out of poverty.

Your involvement today could expand our reach and bring the gift of sight to more people, transforming their lives. To find out more about how you can help, contact:

Islamic Development Bank
8111 King Khalid St. Al Nuzlah Yamania Dist.
Unit No. 1
Jeddah 22332-2444
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

afab@isdb.org
+966 12 6361400

Restoring sight to give people a clear path out of poverty

Provide 20 scholarships to medical doctors to be specialised in ophthalmology and a further 20 to ophthalmic nurses
Perform 100,000 cataract surgeries, with 80% achieving good visual outcome within five years
Develop eye health teams by training or re-training at least 90 eye care specialists
Screen 1 million children for URE and provide them with eyeglasses if required
Initiate diabetic retinopathy programs in selected member countries
Develop glaucoma treatment centers in six selected member countries
Strengthen at least 3 regional centres through capacity development of faculty, scholarships and e-learning
Establish national intervention programs on uncorrected refractive error in 4 selected member countries
A powerful partnership making a clear difference
First Generation: 2008-2015

The First Generation of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness officially began in 2008, but by then, Orbis had already been working to fight blindness for years. We began funding eye care campaigns in some of our African member countries in 2000, and when we saw the difference it made, we knew we had to do more.

So in 2008 we launched the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness, a regional initiative that used South-South partnerships and a multi-faceted approach to address the problem of blindness in eight of our member countries in Africa. Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Niger.

Our particular focus was on treating cataracts, the leading cause of blindness in many countries, especially those where ophthalmic services are in short supply or people have no money to afford surgery.

The First Generation of the program was a huge success and led to many countries and communities deciding to work with us to expand the initiative. By the end of the First Generation, we had treated 1,077,406 people, and our partners had carried out a further 1,177,725 consultations.

Finally, in order to make lasting change, we decided to expand the capacity of eye care services in the countries where we work. In the Second Generation of this program, we aimed to provide comprehensive, accessible care, from diagnosis to treatment, in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Togo.

The Second Generation of the program was a huge success, and we continued to expand into more countries, where we now have our sights set on working in 12 African countries by the end of 2022. We have treated over 2,000,000 people so far, and we continue to do more to improve diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions, so that everyone who needs treatment will have on people’s lives and their countries’ development.

More countries, more treatment, more capacity development
Second Generation: 2018-2022

During the first phase of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness, we learned a good deal as we formed key partnerships, established infrastructures and devised best practice and effective ways of working together to fight blindness.

Now we are applying what we have learned as we broaden our scope and ramp up the scale of this program.

Firstly, we are going to be working in many countries – 12 in total compared to 8 during the First Generation. In this second phase of this ambitious program, we will have to do more.

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