



LIGHT FOR THE WORLD  
**Impact Report**

2020





# Dear friends,

**Last year, we provided access to eye care, education and work for some of the poorest and most marginalised groups. In these ways, we reached more than 843,000 people. Using our humanitarian expertise, we quickly pivoted our programme work to reach 150,000 more with COVID-19 emergency aid, in response to the global pandemic.**

**Eye health:** We continued consultations, eye surgeries and other emergency services to support people in need.

**Education:** With schools closed, children with disabilities faced serious, and potentially life changing, isolation. With the support of community workers and remote learning, we were able to reach many of them.

**Work:** The economic crisis facing people in our programme countries is severe. We doubled our efforts to support income generating activities projects, access to micro credit systems and vocational training for people with disabilities.

**Inclusive humanitarian aid:** COVID-19 is raging in many regions we work in, in addition to crises including cyclones, floods, and political unrest. We make sure that crisis intervention is accessible to all.

Moving forward with important lessons from the

pandemic under our belt, we are ready to launch our ambitious Strategy 2023, focused on increasing our impact and breaking down barriers in the way of eye health, disability, inclusion, gender rights and Global South equality.

Thank you for your continuous support in these trying times. Together we can make a difference to build a better world for all of us.



**KARIN KROBATH**  
*Chair Light for the World*



**RUPERT RONIGER**  
*CEO Light for the World*

## Why we act

**Light for the World is a global disability and development organisation, enabling eye health services and empowering people with disabilities in some of the poorest regions of the world. We want to break down barriers to unlock the biggest potential! We aim at systems change, because we want our impact to last.**

We focus our work on African countries including Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Uganda. We work with partners, such as local eye clinics, schools, government actors, and Disabled People's Organisations, because together we are stronger.

Our work is made possible by our generous donors including from our member organisations in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, South Tyrol, Switzerland, UK and USA.

### **CEO:**

Rupert Roniger

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

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# Think global, act local

- members
- programme countries
- country offices



**Eyesight**



**Inclusive Education**

**Global demand for eye care is set to triple by 2050, without drastic action. Light for the World focuses on accessible and affordable eye health for all, integrated into health systems. Last year — despite restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic — we increased eye care in massively under resourced regions:**

- + more than 43,065 eye operations were performed in hospitals and mobile outreaches supported by Light for the World.
- + Alongside our partners we stood up for affordable eye care for all: together pledging to reach 1 billion people globally who currently have no access.
- + We equipped seven health centres in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mozambique to strengthen glaucoma services.
- + Six ophthalmologists on Light for the World scholarships graduated in Burkina Faso and Mozambique.
- + The first paediatric eye care unit in Mozambique was constructed, equipped, and opened.
- + Despite violence in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, we continued our fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases like trachoma with our partners — including those funded by USAID and UKAID.

**Children with disabilities in low income countries are often denied their right to education. We are committed to quality, inclusive education for all. Last year COVID-19 had a devastating impact on the schooling of children around the globe. Our work continued throughout the pandemic, including:**

- + Ensuring access to education for 10,253 children with disabilities, including distance learning during lockdowns and support getting back to school afterwards.
- + Advocating for home school resources to be accessible in all countries, including Burkina Faso where we ensured classes held in sign language on TV.
- + Calling for increased funding for early childhood development with partners including Open Society Foundations and Global Campaign for Education US.
- + Together with Action Aid, we are urging governments to invest in inclusive teaching through our joint report "Bedrock of inclusion".

## COVID-19 Response

**The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to find new ways of working, to keep up eye health services, respond to immediate emergency situations, and continue to support people with disabilities.**

- + Through our COVID-19 response, we reached 151,761 people with disabilities and their families.
- + Together with Ministries in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso we made sure that information on COVID-19 was accessible and hygiene products and measures reached all.
- + Light for the World became a proud partner in The “ReCouVrer” programme, funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation, supporting the economic resilience of disadvantaged groups during and after the pandemic.
- + As a member of the global campaign for ‘Equitable and inclusive COVID-19 vaccinations’, we are fighting to ensure people with disabilities are not left behind in national plans.

## Work

**People with disabilities want to earn and learn but are often shut out the job market. We support programmes which strengthen the living conditions of people with disabilities through access to rehabilitation and a disability-inclusive labour market. COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on low income economies; our work last year responded to this emergency:**

- + 7,438 people with disabilities received support in their economic empowerment.
- + Our Disability Inclusion Facilitators debunked myths about disability in the workplace; and advocated for the inclusion of people with disabilities in COVID-19 response activities.
- + In Uganda, we trained 96 women with disabilities to make liquid soap and gave them a start-up kit to make enough money to feed their families.
- + In Kenya, we helped produce and distribute 500 transparent masks to people in the Deaf community; allowing better communication through lip reading and facial expressions.



- + In Mozambique, “dignity kits” containing hygiene and sanitary items were distributed to 2,775 girls and women.
- + We became a proud partner of the Inclusive Futures Initiative, funded by USAID.

- + Our innovative programmes Enable Me, Make 12.4 % Work and InBusiness continued to support micro-entrepreneurs and other people with disabilities success in the job market.



## Amplifying new voices

**The voices of people with disabilities are key to a more equal world.**

- + South Sudan’s disability movement made history last year, launching its first ever national umbrella body for people with disabilities. Light for the World was honoured to support the organisations that joined forces: including South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network and South Sudan National Association for the Deaf.
- + For the third year, Light for the World’s Her Abilities Award celebrated excellence among outstanding women with disabilities: Dr Robbie Watene, Gamze Elibol and Bernice Oyeleke.

# 843,617

Women and men, girls and boys reached with crucial support, including eye health, rehabilitation, and education.

**4,706,318** **DOSES OF MEDICATION DISTRIBUTED**  
against trachoma, river blindness and  
lymphatic filariasis.



**43,065** **EYE OPERATIONS**  
26,702 Cataract operations  
3,222 Trachoma operations  
13,141 other eye operations

**10,080** **TRAINING IN EYE CARE**  
for Ophthalmologists, Nurses and  
other Personnell



**37,384** **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
REACHED**

**2,117** **TEACHERS TRAINED IN  
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**



**10,253** Children and Teens with disabilities received  
**SCHOOL EDUCATION**

**7,438** People accessed  
**INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

**151,761** People reached with **COVID-19 EMERGENCY AID**  
+ with food and hygiene products  
+ with economic empowerment  
+ with education support



# A BIG THANK YOU to our 111,700 supporters!

**Our partners and supporters** africa action / Deutschland e.V. | Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo | Aumund Foundation | Austrian Development Agency | Bärbel und Paul Geissbühler Stiftung | Briano Stiftung | Croma-Pharma GmbH | Czech Development Cooperation | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | DSV Air & Sea GmbH | Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Elrha | Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung | EnableMe Foundation | Essilor International | ETHOS.legal | European Commission | Fondation L'OCCITANE | Fondation Raymond et Thérèse Gummy | Fondation Vision For All | Fondazione Nando ed Elsa Peretti | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office UK | Frommer Rechtsanwalts PartG mbB | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) | Global Affairs Canada | ICCO | Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development | Land Tirol | Leopold Bachmann Stiftung | Mastercard Foundation | MEDEVAC | Medicor Foundation Liechtenstein | Merck Family Foundation | Metecno Bausysteme GmbH | Ministry of Civil Service and Sports Austria | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic | Ministry of the Interior | Mobile Betonkonzepte GmbH | OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) | optrel AG | OWP Brillen GmbH | PRANA-Stiftung | Research Triangle Institute | Save the Children | SeeYou Foundation | Sightsavers International | Stiftung Braloba | Stiftung Fons Margarita | Stiftung Sternschnuppen für Kinder | The National Lottery Community Fund | UEFA Foundation for Children | UNESCO | UNICEF | USAID | VSO | W.P.Schmitz-Stiftung | Walter Haefner Stiftung | WHO



**Memberships and platforms** Afri-CAN | African Child Policy Forum | African Disability Forum | Bridging the GAP | CBR Global Network | CONCORD European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs | EU CORD | European Disability Forum (EDF) | FoRS (Czech Development Cooperation Forum) | Global Business and Disability Network (convened by ILO) | Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and GCE US | Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GP CWD) | Global Responsibility (Austria) | Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) | International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) | International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC) | International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) | International Disability Alliance (IDA) | International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) | Women in Development WIDE

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# Light for the World Income-Expense Statement



## Income per Income Stream

	in Euro	%
Individual Giving	9,451,605	41%
Leadership Giving	2,784,812	12%
Donations in Kind	267,385	1%
Institutional Funding	4,087,495	18%
Foundations	4,372,015	19%
Bequests	602,170	3%
Network partners	468,499	2%
Membership fees	171,131	<1%
Other Income	106,386	<1%
NPO COVID 19 Support Fund	645,580	3%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>22,957,078</b>	

## Income per Legal Entity

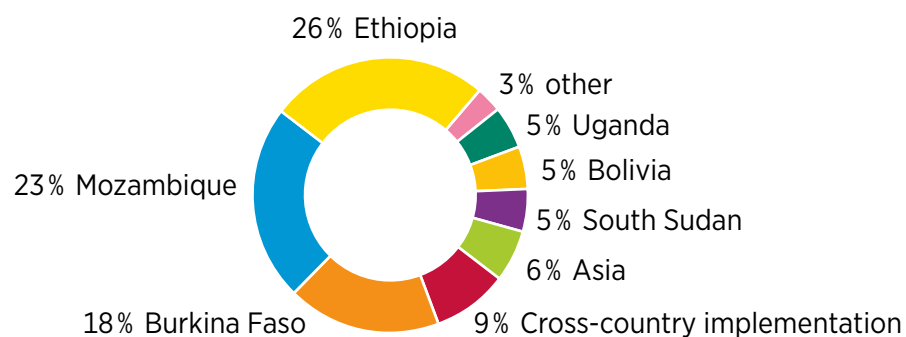
	before deferrals in Euro	%
L-INT	5,584,790	24%
L-AT	11,761,697	51%
L-CH	2,907,674	13%
L-DE	1,102,592	5%
L-CZ	548,227	2%
L-UK	994,462	4%
L-US	57,636	<1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>22,957,078</b>	

**TRANSPARENCY & ANTI-CORRUPTION** Those are the consolidated financial results for the year 2020 of the legal entity Light for the World and its core members in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, UK and USA. Light for the World adopted an Anti-Corruption Policy in 2014. A biennial anti-corruption report is available on request.

**RELIABILITY** The member organisations of Light for the World have their accounts audited/reviewed by independent external auditors and have been granted quality seals in several countries. Donations to Light for the World are tax deductible in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, UK and the USA.

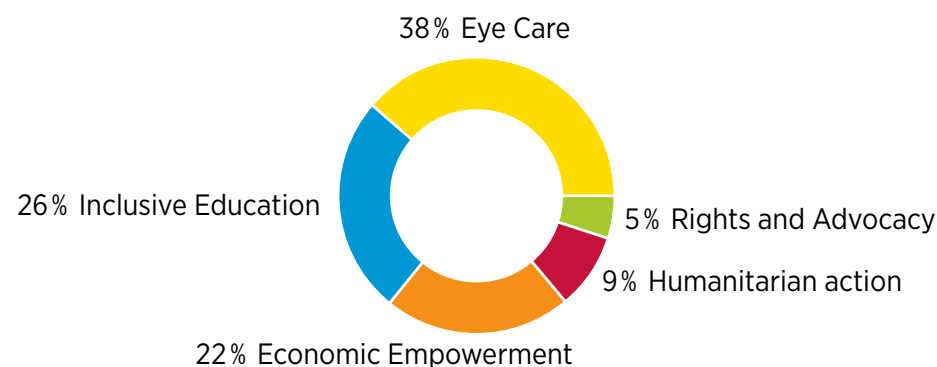
further information: [www.light-for-the-world.org](http://www.light-for-the-world.org)

## Expenses per country/region



	in Euro	%
Ethiopia	5,842,008	26%
Mozambique	5,104,207	23%
Burkina Faso	4,118,745	18%
Cross-country implementation	1,942,713	9%
Asia: Nepal, Cambodia, India, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea	1,332,688	6%
South Sudan	1,245,555	5%
Bolivia	1,194,240	5%
Uganda	1,158,625	5%
Kenya	501,748	2%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	153,877	< 1%
DRC	74,011	< 1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,668,417</b>	

## Expenses per mandate area



	in Euro	%
Eye Care	8,646,187	38%
Inclusive Education	5,933,918	26%
Economic Empowerment	4,997,749	22%
Humanitarian action	2,044,727	9%
Rights and Advocacy	1,045,836	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,668,417</b>	