



LIGHT FOR THE WORLD  
**Annual Report** 2022





# Dear friends and supporters,

**I joined Light for the World halfway through 2022, with a vision of a just world, without discrimination and poverty, where every person can live a life of freedom. Since then, it has been impressive to witness colleagues and partners continuing to put this into practice in everything we do. From championing inclusion to creating award-winning programmes, there is much to be proud of this year.**

2022 was a challenging year. Light for the World had to adapt to internal but also external change. The Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in large-scale disruptions to energy supply and food production, causing historically high inflation rates and directly impacting our funding. The climate crisis continued to worsen, disproportionately affecting lower-income countries, including some where we are implementing programmes. Despite all this, our colleagues and partners have gone above and beyond to ensure we can continue reaching out to those in need.

Thanks to their determination and commitment, this year was filled with many highlights. Light for the World contributed to improving access to eye health in several countries and make writing and reading accessible for students with vision loss in Burkina Faso. We empowered people with disabilities to shape disaster and emergency responses in Mozambique. We supported the approach of making sexuality education training disability inclusive in South Sudan. Our training manuals were adopted in Ethiopia and Cambodia. Our network of Disability Inclusion Facilitators expanded considerably. We completed our 4-year disability inclusion initiative in Uganda bringing companies and people with disabilities together. And we continued advocating for a more inclusive society in Kenya.

These are some of our successes, but there are many others. This would not have been possible without our committed, locally rooted partners. I feel humbled to lead an organisation which builds its programmes on the existing expertise in countries. At Light for the World, lasting positive change is our goal, and our programmes have sustainability at their heart. We work alongside experts in-country to strengthen social systems and ensure progress. We collaborate with outstanding individuals and organisations, who drive this change, providing invaluable lived experience as well as technical expertise. Their skills are irreplaceable, especially regarding the reach of people with disabilities who too often remain excluded from programmes and humanitarian responses.

Your continued support also contributes to make all this happen. Read on to learn more about what Light for the World has achieved this year. Thank you for supporting our work towards a just and inclusive society!

**MARION LIESER**

*CEO, Light for the World International*

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## Why we act

**Light for the World is a global disability and development organisation, supporting eye health services, education and work opportunities for people with disabilities.**

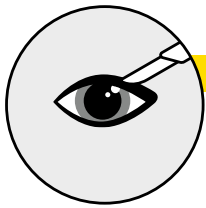
**We want to break down barriers to unlock the biggest potential! We aim at positive systems change because we want the empowerment and impact to last.**

We focus our work on countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan and Uganda. We work with local partners in eye clinics and schools as well as with government actors and Disabled People's Organisations, because together we are stronger. Our work is made possible by generous donors from our member organisations in Austria, UK, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland and USA.

# Highlights 2022

We reached **1,170,000** people in all their diversity with crucial support in eye health and disability inclusion.

Additionally, **1,200,000** doses of medication against diseases like Trachoma were distributed.



**65,471** EYE OPERATIONS

of which

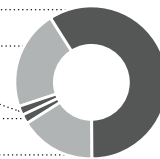
59% were cataract operations

16% were lid operations

2% were trauma operations

2% were glaucoma operations

21% were other eye operations



**795,700** EYE CONSULTATIONS

**301,500** STUDENTS SCREENED  
for eye problems at schools

**69,928** persons with disabilities reached with  
**DISABILITY INCLUSION**



**5,426** teachers trained in INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

**11,937** children and teens with disabilities received  
SCHOOL EDUCATION



**16,115** people accessed  
**INCOME GENERATING**  
activities

3 out of 5 are women



# Working towards a just and inclusive society

## ■ WHERE WE WORK

- International office
- Country offices
- Programme countries

## Eye Health

**There are 1.1 billion people globally living with vision loss, and 43 million people are blind. Yet 90 % of vision loss is preventable or treatable.**



We work to support the provision of comprehensive Eye Health — strengthening the whole spectrum of care by promoting good health, prevention of eye problems, quality care practice, rehabilitation, and the availability and use of assistive devices. We aim for eye diseases and conditions to be addressed and try to ensure that mobilisation strategies and referral systems are in place and services available.

We promote access to Eye Health for all, focusing on geographic regions where eye care is less developed (90 % of people affected by eye diseases live in low- and middle-income countries, sub-Saharan Africa being one of the worst-affected regions). We also provide scholarships for ophthalmology students, subspecialisation training for ophthalmologists and nurses, equipment and medicines — equipping trained medical personnel to work effectively with appropriate infrastructure in hospitals. Our interventions are fully integrated into the existing health systems.

In 2022, Eye Health programmes represented over a third of our projects worldwide. We reached 1.1 million people with our Eye Health services (including over 65,000 eye surgeries) in Mozambique, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso and Rwanda. Of those we reached, 39 % (436,000) were children up to the age of 15.



## Inclusive Education

**Lacking or low quality of education is the major cause of inequality and children with disabilities are disproportionately affected. Denying children with disabilities their right to education has a lifelong impact on learning, achievement and employment opportunities, hence hindering their human, social and economic development.**

Inclusive Education is schooling for all children in an established public system, where every child — including children with disabilities — is given the opportunity and support to learn in the same classroom. Inclusive Education systems increase and promote access, acceptance, participation and achievement of all children by removing barriers and enhancing the capacity of the education system to accommodate diversity. Therefore, we are committed to reach children with disabilities from the early age, supporting them to develop their abilities.

In 2022, Inclusive Education represented a quarter of our programme work. We supported almost 12,000 students with disabilities in accessing education in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania and trained over 5,000 teachers on Inclusive Education practices.



## Economic Empowerment

**We promote Economic Empowerment so people with disabilities can make a living, which contributes to their independence, socio-economic status and well-being.**

We support recognised development actors, including governments and non-governmental organisations, to become disability inclusive in their Economic Empowerment programmes. We assist private employers in adapting their policies and workplaces to the needs of people with disabilities.

We work hand in hand with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) as well as with technical and vocational training institutes, to ensure people with disabilities can access an inclusive curriculum tailored to the requirements of the labour market. We also educate vocational teachers in inclusive skills and develop awareness and accessible learning materials. We support various livelihood and employment services and solutions (e.g., Village Saving and Loan Associations) and provide financial bursaries to students and entrepreneurs with disabilities. Additionally, we coach Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs), to build relationships with public and private employers and to train them in disability inclusion.

In 2022, Economic Empowerment activities represented 22% of our projects. Over 15,000 people with disabilities were enrolled in our Economic Empowerment programmes in South Sudan, India, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Kenya, Bangladesh, Tanzania and Nepal.

## Humanitarian Action

**An estimated 15% of the world's population have a disability. In some humanitarian contexts, the proportion is as high as 27% and these figures are set to rise, with conflicts, natural disasters and climate change.**

People with disabilities are among the most excluded and forgotten in humanitarian responses, something Light for the World makes every effort to prevent.

We advocate for equal access to information, food, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and provide psychosocial support in specific settings. We work closely with local stakeholders to provide rehabilitation, opportunities and social protection for people with disabilities in crisis situations and in camps. We also provide training and technical expertise to humanitarian organisations so they can build relief programmes that are accessible to people with disabilities. And we promote detailed data collection, so their needs are recorded and addressed.



## Amplifying Voices

**We had a year of recognition, with awards for our eye health and disability inclusion work in many countries in Africa. Here are some of the highlights:**

- In March, Light for the World Kenya's InBusiness programme was named Best Social Enterprise in the country's National Diversity and Inclusion Awards.
- In May, our international head of Rights and Advocacy, Elie Bagbila, was elected to the board of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).
- In June, the Optometrists Association of Uganda recognised our dedicated work on eye health, declaring it an outstanding contribution towards the development of optometry in the country.
- In December, two of our programmes in Kenya and Burkina Faso, won a Zero Project Award 2023.

# A BIG THANK YOU to our supporters!

Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo | Austrian Development Agency | Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection | Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture, Civil Service and Sport | Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol | Croma-Pharma GmbH | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Elrha | EnableMe Foundation | Essilor International | European Commission | Fondation L'OCCITANE | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office UK | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) | Global Affairs Canada | International Fund for Agricultural Development | Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development | Leopold Bachmann Stiftung | Mastercard Foundation | Medicor Foundation Liechtenstein | Merck Family Foundation | Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic | Novartis Pharma AG | PRANA-Stiftung | Premium Immobilien | Scheppach GmbH | SeeYou Foundation | Sightsavers International | Standard Chartered Bank | The National Lottery Community Fund | UEFA Foundation for Children | UNESCO | UNICEF | USAID | VSO | W. P. Schmitz-Stiftung



## Memberships and platforms international

African Child Policy Forum | African Disability Forum (ADF) | Coalition for Clear Vision | CBR Global Network | College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (COECSA) | CONCORD European Confederation of NGOs working on sustainable development and international cooperation | DAISY Consortium | European Disability Forum (EDF) | FoRS (Czech Development Cooperation Forum) | Global Business and Disability Network (convened by ILO) | Global Campaign for Education (GCE) | Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GP CWD) | Global Responsibility Austria (AGGV) | Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) | International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) | International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC) | International Disability Alliance (IDA) | International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) | International Ophthalmological Fellowship Foundation (IOFF) | VENRO (German Platform of Development NGOs) | Women in Development WIDE

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**PUBLISHING INFORMATION — Editor & Publisher:** Light for the World International (Registration number 315688676) has member organisations in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. • **Editors:** Elisa Fourt, Robert Kidd, Natalie Pihak, Stephanie Paul • **Photos:** Light for the World, KIO Photography, Mango Sound, Gregor Kuntscher • **Graphic Design:** Barbara Weingartshofer, www.nau-design.at • **Print:** Druckerei Der Schalk • All data as of July 2023