We open eyes
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Suffering, poverty and exclusion – Srisatya from India has experienced it all. Because she was unable to see properly. But we helped her, and others too. Thanks to our donors, we as Christian Blind Mission (CBM) are improving the situation of persons with disabilities in low and middle income countries.

Disabilities arise from poverty. And poverty results from disability. A vicious circle. And one we are striving to break.

Together with local partners, we are working to prevent disabilities wherever possible – through medical assistance, screening and rehabilitation.

If a disability cannot be cured, we provide support to those affected: through raising awareness, education and employment, these persons become respected members of their community. In this way, persons with and without disabilities are provided with equal opportunities to develop their full potential.

We change the lives of persons with disabilities for the better. This was the path chosen by our founder, Pastor Ernst Jakob Christoffel, more than 110 years ago. And we will only have reached our goal when no person has to live with a curable disability or is being excluded because of it.
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Loneliness in blindness

Nahel is three years old and blind. Every day he feels his way to his spot in front of the house, where he sits and listens to other children in the village playing together outside. His parents are poor – what will become of Nahel?

Nahel was born with cataracts and can barely see. He lives, together with his three siblings and his parents, in a village in Cameroon. Money is tight and there is often only one meal a day.

If the three-year-old wants to see something more clearly, he needs to hold it up close to his eyes. While the other children are out playing, he sits alone in front of his house.

There are millions of persons like Nahel in the world. And yet their situation can be prevented! Cataracts are easily treated with a simple operation. It only takes a matter of minutes to replace the damaged eye lens with a clear, plastic one and the patient is able to see again. This surgery has also helped Nahel: He now attends school and instead of sitting at home, he is out playing and having fun with his siblings and the other children.
A helping hand for everyone

Loneliness, poverty and despair – this is the fate of persons living with disabilities in low and middle income countries worldwide.

Cataracts are the most common cause of blindness in the world. A simple operation cures those affected – however it is an unaffordable option for persons living in poverty. Since 1966, we have made this operation accessible and provided more than 15 million times adults and children with the gift of vision. In 2021 alone, the donations we received funded 285,667 cataract operations. However, that’s just one piece of the puzzle:

That same year, we distributed 335,669 visual aids. We have provided 40,214,254 adults and children with medication that has protected them against a tropical
disease that causes blindness. Another 379,397 persons received treatment for ear-related problems. 258,619 persons with physical disabilities received medical assistance, rehabilitation and educational support.

We continue to support those affected as their journey continues: we make it possible for children with disabilities to attend school, to receive an education, to obtain a loan and to open their own business. We make sure they are aware of their rights and are not left alone in the aftermath of natural disasters. We also make sure the government knows and respects the rights of persons with disabilities.

We give persons with disabilities the chance to have a better life and the opportunity to shape their own future.
Experts for over 110 years

We provide persons with disabilities with the chance to lead independent lives. We enable them to develop their full potential. That is our objective, that is our driving force. For over a hundred years.

We have been helping persons with disabilities since 1908. We are often the first to be involved in new developments, such as the fishhook technique for cataracts or testing out a new smartphone app for eye tests in remote areas.

We combine our experience with the local knowledge of our partners and the support of our donors. This has enabled us, for example, to eradicate river blindness, a Neglected Tropical Disease, in Columbia and Ecuador.

We share our expertise: as a specialised organisation for inclusion and the prevention of disabilities, we advise the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations (UN). We highlight the needs of persons with disabilities. We provide other aid organisations with training and help them incorporate a more inclusive approach to their work. We provide training to doctors in the Global South and further promote inclusion here, too.

In this way, we have already reached millions of persons with disabilities.
Making life better for others

Without your help, nothing would ever change: the donations we receive enable persons with disabilities to live a better life. You can help too!

- **Donate**: It’s very easy to give hope! The quickest way to do this is by visiting [www.cbm.org](http://www.cbm.org). Or donate over the phone: +49 62 51 131-131. You can also donate via bank transfer: IBAN: DE46 3702 0500 0000 0020 20 BIC: BFSWDE33XXX

- **Sponsor a child**: Become a CBM child sponsor! Each year, you accompany a child with disabilities as they make a new and better life for themselves. Call us today: +49 6251 131-456

- **Major donations**: You can help us get a project started, such as building a classroom. As a company, you can enter into a business cooperation with us. Or you could organise a fundraising campaign together with your employees, around Christmas time e.g. More information: +49 6251 131-300

- **Legacy**: Many people decide to bequeath a donation to those living with disabilities in the poorer regions of the world. We will be happy to advise you on this. Call us today: +49 6251 131-249.

“**My bequest will be put towards projects supported by CBM that fundamentally change lives for the better in the long-term. I’m certain of it!”**

Magdalene Domajnko-Kienast
– Bequeather –
It is our declared aim to improve the lives of persons with disabilities who are living in some of the poorest regions of the world.

This requires trust – between us and our local partners, however also between you and us.

Anyone who donates money, wants to know where it goes. And we want to show you that your donation is making a difference.

We consider security and transparency to be top priorities: since 1993, we have held the DZI Seal of Approval from the German Institute for Social Issues. This seal proves that your donations are managed by us responsibly and appropriately.
Turkey, start of the 20th century: Blind children are sitting on the street, begging. Our founder and name giver Pastor Ernst Jakob Christoffel cannot look away. And decides to act. He starts a movement that travels around the world.

Financially supported by friends in Germany, Christoffel takes care of those affected. His vision: nobody should have to live a life of misery, simply because they have a disability. Christoffel becomes a pioneer for inclusion and dedicates his life to this cause.

Today, more than 110 years later, we are still supporting persons with disabilities – currently with 492 projects in 46 countries.

And you make this possible!