

# Report of Activities 2023



cbm.lu  
info@cbm.lu

christoffel blannemissioun  
zesumme méi erreechen

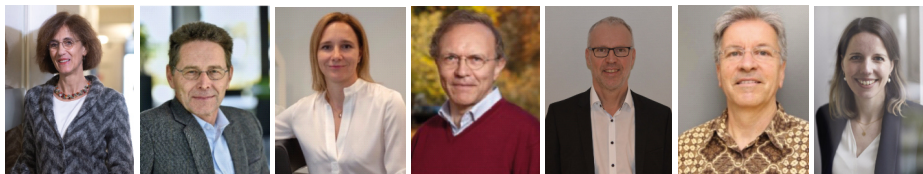
# Governance

## A word from our President

### Board of Directors

### Volunteers

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/who-we-are/](https://cbm.lu/en/who-we-are/)*



**Diane Wolter** President  
**Hansjörg Baltensperger** Member  
**Dr. Michelle Berna-Thill** Member  
**Dr. Nico Diederich** Member  
**Frank Groben** Treasurer  
**Mark Schmid** Member  
**Isabelle Schwall** Secretary

### OUR MISSION

#### Prevent avoidable blindness and visual impairments

*The CBM Luxembourg Foundation has set itself the goal of supporting projects that prevent avoidable blindness and visual impairment.*

*It also helps improve the quality of life for people with other disabilities.*

Dear donors,

In 2023, the CBM Luxembourg Foundation significantly expanded its efforts to combat preventable blindness and visual impairments, in collaboration with local partners in Angola, Laos and Madagascar.

Through our partnership with the National Ophthalmologic Institute of Angola (IONA) four doctors in the process of ophthalmology specialisation and two nurses were able to follow three months of training in cataract surgery.

These interventions have a life-changing impact on patients with visual impairments. Additionally, we donated 500 kits for 2,500 cataract surgeries to IONA, helping to reduce their lengthy waiting list.

Following the generous in-kind donation of a used OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography) by the Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, CBM

Luxembourg worked diligently to have the machine repaired and shipped to IONA in Luanda, where it currently helps diagnose eye diseases in visually impaired individuals in Angola.

These two flagship initiatives, as well as our support for projects aimed at improving eye care in Laos and particularly paediatric eye care in Madagascar, would not be possible without the generosity of our growing number of donors.

I would like to express my warm gratitude to the CBM Luxembourg team for their dedicated commitment, often volunteered, as well as to all one-time and regular donors, both private and institutional, for their trust.

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

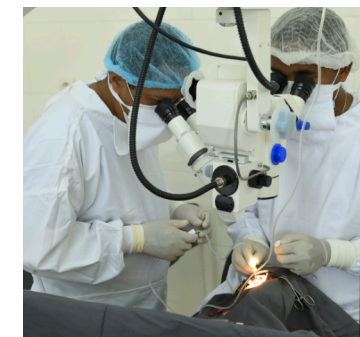
**Diane Wolter**

*President CBM Luxembourg*

# Project in Madagascar

## Promoting children's eye health

The provision of medical care is insufficiently developed in Madagascar. Undernutrition, injury or eye disease can lead to early blindness in children. Cataract is common and paediatric ophthalmology has too few specialists. 40% of children with severe visual impairment could have been cured with adequate help but have been left untreated.



In 2023, a new project commenced, setting out 3-year goals and investments. The project aims to provide comprehensive care for children's eye health.

For 2023, this project has several goals, and some good progress has been made so far:

Versus our target of 4,400, 4,888 children with eye diseases and their families benefited by receiving treatment measures in health centers.

We had a goal of training three paediatric ophthalmologists, against which we were only able to train one.

This challenge was due to the trainers for ophthalmologists not being available in sufficient volumes.

We didn't reach our target of 440 eye operations on children (271 were completed). This was a direct result of not enough health care professionals completing their training yet.

Over 2,400 families from low-income families had access to reduced fees and glasses, significantly ahead of the goal of 1,080 for 2023.

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/project/Madagascar](https://cbm.lu/en/project/Madagascar)*



Another achievement for 2023 was the inauguration of a new paediatric ophthalmological operating room at University Hospital Center. The Center now has new infrastructures to receive child patients. This new access block is a real asset for the children of Toamasina and its surroundings, who will now receive quality care in an adapted and inclusive environment.

CBM Luxembourg donated €70,000 to the project in Madagascar during 2023.

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/Mahita](https://cbm.lu/en/Mahita)*

## Project in Angola

Ophthalmology in Angola continues to be a huge challenge. Eye health care for most people is not freely available and the number of trained professionals is highly inadequate or insufficient.

In 2023, we continued to work closely with IONA, the National Institute for Ophthalmology. We completed a 3-year memorandum of understanding. Over this period, we achieved the goals set out and went even further, thanks to exceeding our original donation expectations.

### Goal 1 Installation of a laboratory training “wet lab”

The wet lab installation was completed with two microscopes. In addition to the training lab equipment, CBM has also supplied an OCT medical device (more on the next page).

### Goal 2 1,000 surgical kits

Over 3 years over 3,000 kits were donated allowing IONA to perform operations on the people in need of cataract treatment.

### Goal 3 Cover costs of external trainings

Dr. John Clements from America travelled to Angola, funded by CBM, to provide training and insights in experimental surgery.

### Goal 4 Tuition and lodgings for training courses abroad

Over 3 years, 9 professionals have conducted trainings funded by CBM, 7 doctors and 2 nurses, at the Sheikh Zayed Center in The Gambia.

2023 was a very successful year for cataract operations – operations in the year were 3,617, up 65% compared to 2022. This growth was partly due to the additional work done on Saturdays where IONA opened its doors to reduce the cataract waiting list and performed surgeries.

From 2024, we form a new memorandum of understanding with IONA to deepen the focus on ophthalmological training and equipment and extend our collaboration further.

CBM Luxembourg donated €180,000 to the project in Angola during 2023.

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/project/angola/](https://cbm.lu/en/project/angola/)*

## OCT shipped and installed at IONA, Angola

CBM has organised the repair and shipping of a used OCT to IONA, Luanda. Now in place, the OCT is helping to diagnose eye conditions on people with visual impairments in Angola.

Providing key equipment, such as kits for cataract surgeries, continues to be an important area of focus for CBM Luxembourg. The opportunity for donating equipment, to augment the level of care at IONA, Luanda, Angola, arose when Hôpitaux Robert Schuman (HRS) offered to donate a previously used OCT.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is a non-invasive imaging test. It uses light waves to take cross-section pictures of the retina. With OCT, an ophthalmologist can see each of the retina's distinctive layers. This allows users to map and measure their thickness, helping with diagnosis. OCT can guide treatment for glaucoma as well as retinal disease, like age-related macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease. HRS had an old OCT that it no longer needed. Rather than dispose of it, the hospital contacted CBM to see if it could be used in another country. Although the OCT is used, it still has many years of use and with some expert repairs and updates, it can work perfectly. After discussing the opportunity at IONA, HRS donated earlier in 2023 the OCT to CBM Luxembourg to send to Angola.

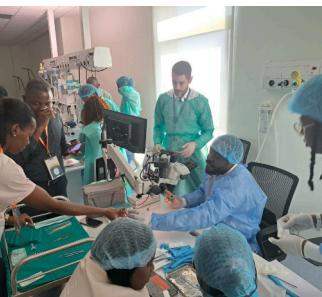
The machine needed some repairs and updates, these were made by the manufacturer, Heidelberg Engineering in Germany, throughout March to June.

The shipment had to be organised from Germany to IONA which also took time. The OCT was eventually sent and passed customs in August.

The technical set up was completed in September when an engineer flew to Luanda from Germany; travel and board for the engineer was organised and paid for by CBM Luxembourg.

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/oct/](https://cbm.lu/en/oct/)*

**Thank you to Hôpitaux Robert Schuman for the kind donation of the OCT machine and to Heidelberg Engineering for the repairs and technical support. We hope the OCT will help many patients at IONA.**



# Project in Laos Inclusive eye healthcare

The CBM program to improve eye health care in Laos includes two complementary projects: a national-level component and care improvement project in the capital city of Vientiane, and a project to strengthen eye health care in the four southern provinces. In these projects, we focus on training eye health professionals, conducting cataract operations, and improving accessibility for those with disabilities.



Within the **National-level Project**, there were several achievements in training. Ten ophthalmology nurses were trained (achieving the goal) while five basic eye doctors were trained (exceeding the goal of two). Additionally, two ophthalmologists have completed their 2nd year of training, including 3 months of training in Thailand. In 2024, these two ophthalmologists will conclude their 3-year training program.

In terms of cataract operations, 326 were carried out compared to our target of 375.

The delta was primarily due to the rainy season, resulting in outreach programs only being partially implemented. For accessibility and access to services for people with disabilities, further training in accessible health services and mobility requirements for people with disabilities were successfully delivered.

In the **Southern provinces Project**, 1,441 cataract operations were conducted (compared to our goal of 1,625). Intensive training of staff was undergone, raising awareness of eye health services for 30 nurses from district hospitals, 35 nurses for orientation and mobility as well as 33 nurses on the topic of mental health in patients with eye problems.

In terms of accessibility, the project was able to reach 85 people with disabilities with treatment (our goal was 150). We also made some construction adjustments in Champasak due to inaccessibility.

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/project/laos](http://cbm.lu/en/project/laos)*



# Key events and financials 2023

## Fondation CBM Luxembourg 2023 Conference

Over 70 donors and friends joined us at C.H.L. on World Sight Day for our annual conference, where our project leaders shared important updates. We were also honoured to have 2 guest speakers, Roberto Lomba and Dr. Matthias Afting of LUNEX University. Led by Dr. Nico Diederich, the speakers provided their insights on the Inclusion of Blind people.

*More info: [cbm.lu/en/2023-conference/](http://cbm.lu/en/2023-conference/)*

## Rallye des Gazelles

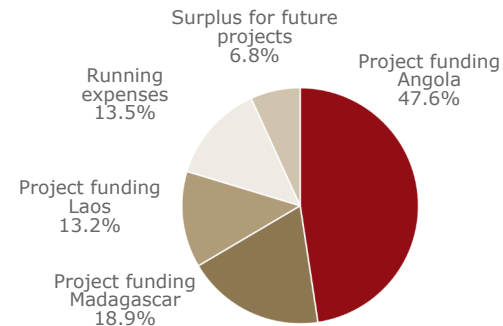
Over 50 sponsors and friends of the Rallye des Gazelles came to hear about CBM Luxembourg and the experience of the Rallye team on their mission across Morocco. The event was kindly hosted by LaLux in Leudelange.

## Summary of CBM Financial reports 2023

Donations increased 41% in 2023 compared to 2022. This allowed us to invest much more in projects, almost doubling project spending in 2023.

Receivables	2023	2022
Total donations (individuals, institutional, occasions)	€ 367,962	€ 261,591
Other income (interest earned)	€ 9,448	€ -
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>€ 377,410</b>	<b>€ 261,591</b>
Expenses		
Ophthalmological training & equipment – Angola	€ 179,555	€ 50,718
Children eye care – Madagascar	€ 71,465	€ 68,423
Inclusive Eye Care - Laos	€ 50,000	€ 40,000
Other external charges	€ 50,826	€ 21,163
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>€ 351,846</b>	<b>€ 180,304</b>
<b>Surplus for future projects</b>	<b>€ 25,564</b>	<b>€ 81,287</b>

## Split of 2023 donations



In terms of projects, we were able to invest significantly more in Angola, due to the high number of consumables & equipment provided.

CBM's running expenses increased compared to 2022 but remained below 15% at 13.5% of total receivables.

# Thank you for your continued support

## *In the name of all of our beneficiaries, our sincere thanks to*

- Our generous private and institutional donors
- Dr. Michael Ketema, Head of DESSO project, Guinea
- Amis du Guidisme Bettembourg
- Rotary Club Luxembourg Horizon
- Mrs. Stéphanie Obertin and Michelle Thill, the Rallye Aïcha des Gazelles team and their associated sponsors
- Donation from the wedding anniversary of Drs. Sabine and Pierre Kurt-Lung
- Donations in memory of the late Mr. Louis Diederich and the late Mr. Ernest Mergen.

## Save the date 2024

**27th April** Erliednismobil in Luxembourg city, Place Guillaume II

**6th May** Erliednismobil at Hôpitaux Robert Schuman  
*Come and experience being blind for three minutes*

**October** 2024 CBM Luxembourg Conference  
*Join us for our annual event to hear about our development cooperation projects.*

**Please continue to support us on our mission to prevent avoidable blindness and visual impairments. Any donation is appreciated, is wisely spent and can make a difference:**

**€35** covers the cost of one medical kit for a cataract operation

**€85** provides two days of tuition fees for cataract surgery training for an Angolan doctor

**€150** covers the cost of a child's cataract surgery

### Tax deductible donations

IBAN LU30 0080 4070 1480 2001



*More info: [cbm.lu/en/donate](https://cbm.lu/en/donate)*

✉ [info@cbm.lu](mailto:info@cbm.lu)

🌐 [cbm.lu](https://cbm.lu)



Fondation CBM Luxembourg  
9, Nidderpallenerstrooss  
L-8551 Noerdange