

2024

Report of Activities



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Governance

A word from our President

Board of Directors

Volunteers

More info: cbm.lu/en/who-we-are/



Diane Wolter
President



Hansjörg Baltensperger
Member



Dr. Michelle Berna-Thill
Member



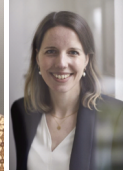
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Mark Schmid
Member (to 18/01/2025)



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, dear friends,

In a world facing many challenges, I am happy to share some good news from Fondation CBM Luxembourg with you.

In 2024, CBM focused on eye health training: five Angolan doctors learned cataract surgery techniques, a Malagasy doctor specialized in paediatric ophthalmology, and ten Laotian nurses acquired ophthalmology skills. We firmly believe that by training local doctors and nurses, the actions of our foundation will have the greatest impact, especially in the long term.

We aim to reach low-income patients for whom eye care is neither available, accessible, nor affordable, so that they can receive the care they so desperately need. To this end, we send surgical kits and

encourage our local partners to organize awareness campaigns in the periphery of Luanda, in rural areas of southern provinces in Laos and in Madagascar.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have been able to restore sight to more than 1,250 people in these three developing countries, allowing them to live independently.

I would like to thank the CBM Luxembourg team for their often voluntary work and all our donors—individuals, companies, and non-profit organisations—for their trust. Thank you!

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Diane Wolter
President CBM Luxembourg

Projects in Madagascar and Laos

Madagascar

Our project in Madagascar focuses on improving eye health care for children, where there are insufficient trained medical professions to perform operations. In the second year of the 3-year project, we have made significant progress on some of the core goals.

The number of eye operations increased by 16% compared to 2023, to 328 operations in 2024. However this is still below our annual target of 500 operations. Our goal was not reached as only two of the four hospitals in the four regions are fully

operational, mainly due to the ongoing child-specific training of eye health personnel, which takes several years.

These paediatric eye health trainings continued in 2024. This is a crucial long-term initiative to get more trained professionals to perform the necessary operations on children with visual impairments. In addition to one ophthalmologist, one anaesthetist and one technician completed their training. This will provide more capacity to carry out operations in the future.

More info: cbm.lu/en/project/Madagascar



Laos

In Laos, access to eye care, especially in rural areas, remains a major challenge. Eye diseases such as cataracts and visual impairments are widespread, yet many affected individuals have no access to life-changing treatments.

In 2024, a total of 2,101 surgeries were conducted across the capital of Vientiane and the southern regions, an increase of 19% compared to 2023. Meanwhile, visual acuity of $\geq 6/18$ was achieved in 55% of cases in the capital, and up to 65% in the southern provinces. A challenge was the competition from foreign government programs which led some patients to use these alternative treatment options.

The quality of ophthalmic services was strengthened through targeted training measures for specialist staff. Ten nurses and two ophthalmologists successfully completed their training. One of the ophthalmologists has specialized in paediatrics and supports the children's eye care project.

More intensive education in rural areas and improved aftercare programs for cataract surgery, as well as further training of specialist staff, will be important priorities for 2025.

More info: cbm.lu/en/project/Laos

Project in Angola

In 2024, CBM signed a new 3-year memorandum of understanding with our local partner, IONA in which, we set out our combined goals for the future. These fall into four key areas of focus to improve the eye health situation for people in Angola:

Goal 1: provision of training equipment and other needed equipment

A new phaco-emulsifier was sent to IONA in March and approximately 20% of 2024 cataract operations used this device. By the end of the year, donated equipment including a YAG Laser were also sent to Angola (see next page).

Goal 2: provision of cataract kits (enough for 1,000 operations/year)

In 2024, a total of 1,250 kits were sent to IONA for operations, totalling 4,750 kits donated since 2021.

Goal 3: financing the stay of external trainers at IONA, top IONA residents to attend congresses

Three deserving doctors were able to attend a congress in Portugal covering all recent aspects of eye diseases.

Goal 4: payment of tuition fees for training IONA doctors in cataract surgery specialisation

During 2024, five doctors were trained. Since 2021, 14 professionals (12 doctors, 2 nurses) have conducted trainings abroad, funded by CBM.

These achievements in 2024 and to date have allowed IONA to drastically build up its capabilities. For example, there were over 3,500 cataract operations at IONA in 2024, compared to 1,300 in 2021. Meanwhile, the Angolan Ministry of Health has reported an 80% reduction in operations performed abroad, so IONA's increased capabilities means fewer people need to travel outside of Angola to get treatment.

CBM Luxembourg donated €148,318 to the project in Angola during 2024.

More info: cbm.lu/en/project/angola/



CBM Directors visit Angola Medical Equipment shipped

During January 2024, two CBM Luxembourg Board Directors spent a week visiting IONA. The visit was made by Dr. Michelle Berna-Thill, ophthalmologist and Isabelle Schwall, a lawyer. They were also joined by Lucie Fernandes da Silva, a nurse at HRS.

The visiting team brought a new technology for training in a “dry lab” (Kitaro). Dr. Berna-Thill was able to provide coaching and guidance on the recently installed OCT machine. A teaching session was also held for nurses at IONA, led by Lucie Fernandes da Silva.

While onsite, the visiting team met with patients who were preparing for treatment. Dr. Berna-Thill was able to provide guidance on patient management and operational efficiencies to help the centre run more effectively and make optimum use of its resources.

The CBM group met with the primary care representative from the Angola Ministry of Health (MINSa). The group and MINSa agreed to continue conversations on how CBM can help promote eye health care in Angola. The visiting team met all seven resident doctors and two nurses from IONA who attended training in The Gambia, funded by CBM.

Many thanks to Dr. Michelle Berna-Thill, Isabelle Schwall and Lucie Fernandes da Silva, for taking the time to visit IONA and to the team at IONA for making the visitors so welcome.

More info: cbm.lu/en/visit-angola

CBM was generously donated used equipment to be sent to Angola. HRS donated a YAG Laser and tables, while Dr Robert Reis (ophthalmologist in Luxembourg) donated a used slit lamp. This equipment still functioned perfectly, having several years of good use for the future. CBM arranged for the equipment to be fully checked, packed and shipped to IONA, arriving in January 2025.

Thank you to Hôpitaux Robert Schuman (HRS) for the kind donation of the YAG Laser and tables. Thank you to Doctor Robert Reis for the Slit Lamp. We hope this material will help many patients at IONA.

More info: cbm.lu/en/laser-lamp/



Achievements aren't possible without donors

In the name of CBM and all of our beneficiaries, our sincere thanks to:

- Our generous private and institutional donors
- Dr. Michael Ketema, Head of DESSO project, Guinea
- Dr. John Clements, Associate Professor, Portland, USA
- CDV Artists: Zineta Rashikj, Monique Welter Scheuren, Mauro Pianon, Marie-Jeanne Vernier, Ewoko Augustine Mopibo, Elisabeth Anderson Noteberg
- The ophthalmologist project training of Angolan doctors in cataract surgery at The Gambia is implemented with the support of the Fondation Armand & Nicky Delvaux, under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg
- The project promoting children's eye health in Madagascar is implemented with the support of Fondation Josée Wolter-Hirtt, under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg
- Solidarity Awards: Banque Raiffeisen, Solidarity Awards ING Luxembourg
- Non-profit organizations: Bazar International de Luxembourg, E Kannerlaachen, Fraentreff Réiserbann
- Service clubs: Inner Wheel Club Diekirch-Ettelbruck, Lions Club Luxembourg-Amitié, Rotary Schengen-Mondorf-les-Bains
- Donations from the anniversary of Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Sales
- Donations in memory of the late Mrs. Anne Lanners-De Rycker and the late Mr. Claude Dax

Success story from a beneficiary, Oscar in Madagascar

"I have long dreamed of being cured," said 13-year-old Oscar. Despite his visual impairment, he was one of the best students. But the increasing blindness caused by cataracts in both eyes made everyday school life difficult for him. Oscar's mother fought for years to help her son, but as a single mother of four children, she could not afford the expensive treatment.

Fortunately, Oscar's mother found out about the eye clinic. Thanks to the help of CBM, the operation is free for low-income families and the ophthalmologist restored Oscar's sight in just one day.

"I can see everything now!" Since his eyes have healed, Oscar can play football with his classmates. Without cataract surgery, Oscar would have been completely blind. Oscar and his mother are overjoyed. He has a bright future ahead of him - thanks to the generous support of donors.



Key events and financials 2024

Fondation CBM Luxembourg 2024 Conference

Over 80 donors and friends joined us at HRS on World Sight Day for our annual conference. We were honoured to have Terje Iversen, Director of the Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted, as a guest speaker sharing his experience of over 30 years in international development work, also in Angola. Additionally, attendees were able to admire works of art from artists at CDV (*Centre pour le développement des compétences relatives à la vue*). *More info: cbm.lu/en/2024-conference/*

Erliefnismobil

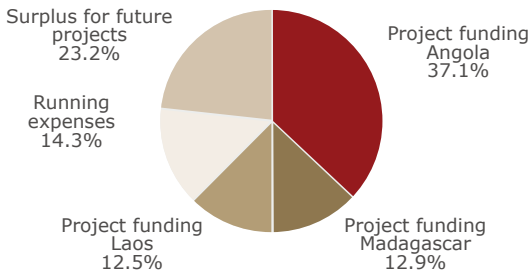
In partnership with CDV and CBM Switzerland, CBM Luxembourg hosted the Erliefnismobil public days in Luxembourg city and at HRS. Many people visited to learn more about the plight of blind people. Radio 100komma7 visited and posted *Wéi fillt et sech un, näischt méi ze gesinn?*

Summary of CBM Financial reports 2024

Donations from individuals, companies and non-profit organisations increased 5% from 2023 to €385K. To see the full audited accounts, please visit cbm.lu/en/who-we-are/

Receivables	2024	2023
Total donations (individuals, institutional, occasions)	€ 385,308	€ 367,962
Other income (interest earned)	€ 14,833	€ 9,448
Total receivables	€ 400,141	€ 377,410
Expenses		
Ophthalmological training & equipment – Angola	€ 148,318	€ 179,555
Children Eye care – Madagascar	€ 51,580	€ 71,465
Inclusive Eye Care - Laos	€ 50,000	€ 50,000
Other external charges	€ 57,114	€ 50,826
Total expenses	€ 307,012	€ 351,846
Surplus for future projects	€ 93,129	€ 25,564

Split of 2024 donations



In terms of projects, we were able to invest €250K in total, with €148K going to Angola. In addition to the cash, we also received donations in kind in the form of medical equipment (see pg. 5). CBM's running expenses remained below 15% at 14.3% of total receivables.

Thank you for your continued support



Save the date 2025

October 9th 2025 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
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More info: cbm.lu/en/donate

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