

2025

Report of Activities



cbm.lu
info@cbm.lu

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Governance

A word from our President

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



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Dear Donors,

By the time you read these lines, Fondation CBM Luxembourg will have celebrated its fifth anniversary. Five years is not a long time, yet these years have been rich in milestones and have enabled us to achieve meaningful progress in the prevention of avoidable blindness.

It is true that eye health challenges — often overlooked and relegated to a secondary priority in less developed countries — must be addressed without delay. The consequences of inaction are severe, notably lost years of education, higher rates of unemployment, social isolation, and an increased risk of injuries or illnesses.

According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), six key levers can significantly strengthen efforts to combat avoidable vision loss in low- and middle-income countries: (1) expanding community-based screening, (2) providing reading glasses on-site, (3) increasing the number of eye care professionals, (4) boosting surgical productivity, (5) removing barriers to access to care, and (6) improving the quality of cataract surgery.

As you will see in this 2025 Report of Activities, it is precisely these areas of intervention that we have implemented in Angola (pages 4 and 5), in Laos and in Madagascar (page 3). They also guide our new collaborations, such as the partnership established with a health centre in Benguela, Angola (page 6).

None of these achievements would have been possible without our generous and loyal donors — individuals, companies, and non-profit organisations alike. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the CBM Luxembourg team for their often voluntary, and always deeply committed, work.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Diane Wolter
President CBM Luxembourg

Projects in Madagascar and Laos

Madagascar

The provision of medical care is insufficiently developed in Madagascar. Undernutrition, injury or eye disease can lead to early blindness in children. Our project in Madagascar focuses on improving eye health care for children, where there are insufficient trained medical professions.

2025 was the 3rd year of a 3-year project, during which time 4,704 children were examined (versus a target of 6,000).

The project supported 1,416 (versus a target of 1,080) young patients from very low-income families by providing them with inexpensive eyeglasses and medication at significantly reduced prices. This ensured that families could afford treatment for their children.

We set a goal to train 2 paediatric ophthalmologists but faced delays and so we anticipate to achieve the goal next year. Additionally, despite best efforts, we didn't reach our target of 550 eye operations on children (only 250 were completed). This was due to the delay in paediatric trainings of ophthalmologists, as well as fewer children being screened.

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



Laos

Even in 2025, access to eye care remained a major challenge in Laos. Particularly in rural and remote areas, cataracts and refractive errors continue to be widespread. The CBM program in Laos includes two projects: a national level capital city component, and a project to strengthen eye health care in the four southern provinces. We focus on training eye health professionals, conducting eye operations, and improving accessibility for those with disabilities.

In 2025, the capacity building of ophthalmic personnel improved with advanced trainings, including paediatric ophthalmology, thus contributing to the enhancement of eye care. Across all regions, 5,338 operations were conducted (versus a target of 3,800). This was due to improved services and increased promotion through social media. A total of 54,748 patients received eye treatment, exceeding the target of 50,000.

The quality of cataract surgeries varied. In the capital, 80% of patients achieved a visual acuity of 6/18 or higher, while in the southern provinces, visual acuity was much lower. A significant challenge was the evaluation of surgical outcomes, as the facilities, especially the rural ones, lacked the resources for long-term follow-up.

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

CBM Luxembourg donated €40,022 to the Laos project and €50,000 to the Madagascar project in 2025.

Angola project in the capital, Luanda

Although slowly improving, eye health care continues to be unavailable, inaccessible and unaffordable for most people in Angola. Through 2025, CBM continued working closely with our long-standing local partner, IONA, in the capital of Luanda across four key areas to improve the eye health care situation.

Goal 1: provision of training equipment and other needed equipment

As part of our ongoing commitment to reinforce the capabilities of IONA, CBM supplied a new Forus machine (a retinal imaging system for paediatric ocular diseases). This system compliments to other equipment shipped over the past 5 years, including a refurbished OCT, a Phacoemulsifier, a YAG laser, a slit lamp and two microscopes for the "Wet Lab". CBM also provided IONA with 80 Arclight direct ophthalmoscopes and 5 indirect Arclight HOLO Bio kits (see page 5).

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

In 2025, a total of 1,250 kits were sent to IONA for operations, totalling 6,000 kits donated since 2021. Many of these were used in outreach campaigns in surrounding rural regions, such as the campaign in conjunction with the Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted in the Uíje region in April.

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

CBM Luxembourg financed the visit to Angola of four experts from Luxembourg in October (detail on page 5) and paid for two deserving doctors to attend an international ophthalmic congress in Portugal, from which they return to IONA with new ideas and new contacts.

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

Two female ophthalmologists completed their training in The Gambia in February 2025. Due to various issues, no further doctors from IONA were able to attend cataract surgery training in 2025, but trainings will continue in 2026. Since 2021, 14 professionals (12 doctors, 2 nurses) have conducted trainings abroad, funded by CBM.

Cataract surgeries at IONA totalled 3,595 in 2025, slightly up on 2024 and an increase of 180% compared to 2021 when CBM began supporting IONA. In 2025, 895 cataract operations were carried out in outreach programs outside of the capital city.

CBM Luxembourg allocated €133,804 to all the IONA projects during 2025.

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



Arclight Training, ophthalmology Congress, CBM sends a team to Angola

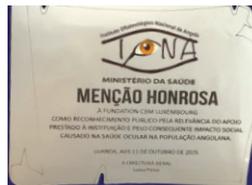
In October 2025, CBM sent a team of four experts to Angola for a week. The team comprised of two CBM Board members, Dr. Michelle Berna-Thill, ophthalmologist at *Hôpitaux Robert Schuman* (HRS), and Isabelle Schwall, lawyer, as well as two Portuguese speaking nurses, Tanya Almeida, and Lucie Fernandes da Silva. En route to Angola, the team took materials including surgical knives and single-use surgical instruments, generously donated by HRS, as well as over 200 pairs of glasses donated by Ursapharm.

The CBM team spent three days in Luanda. In this time, they trained most ophthalmologists and nurses at IONA in using Arclight direct and indirect ophthalmoscopes. Dr. Berna-Thill was also invited as a lead speaker for the 1st Congress of Ophthalmology in Luanda, presenting on the fundamentals of OCT application to the hundreds of attendees. During the Congress, CBM was presented with a honorary plaque from the Angolan Ministry of Health for our long-term commitment to public eye health in Angola.

The CBM experts spent two days in Benguela, a coastal town in western Angola. There was one day at the SOLE Boa Vista *Casa da Saúde* (Boa Vista, see page 6 for details) and one day with the *Centro Oftalmológico Internacional de Benguela* (COIB). At COIB, the team met with hospital director and visited the hospital to discuss how CBM Luxembourg can collaborate with COIB in the future. CBM agreed to fund some medical books in Portuguese to bolster the training library at COIB and will work further to support its medical mission in 2026.

CBM Luxembourg was delighted to partner with St Andrews Medical Innovations in 2025 to bring the Arclight technology to new places in Africa. The Arclight was developed at St Andrews University, Scotland, by Dr. Andrew Blaikie. The Arclight device is a reduced cost direct ophthalmoscope while being solar powered, portable and very easy to use. It allows users to quickly detect a range of conditions including cataract. In addition to bringing 100

Arclight ophthalmoscopes to Angola, CBM experts trained staff at both IONA, Luanda, and Boa Vista, Benguela on using the devices. CBM Luxembourg also translated and printed copies of the Arclight user guide in Portuguese. After the success of the 2025 trainings and warm reception of the technology by the medical staff who will use them, CBM have agreed to collaborate further with Dr. Blaikie in 2026.



CBM's new collaboration with SOLE Boa Vista

CBM Luxembourg began to expand its outreach beyond the capital of Luanda in 2025, starting a new relationship with SOLE Boa Vista, located in Benguela, approximately 500km from the capital Luanda. Boa Vista carries out over 3,000 cataract surgeries per year, with around 25% coming from its outreach program, where the medical staff visit rural provinces to conduct eye screenings and carry out operations.

CBM funded an intense training course, for 6 months, covering all key aspects of nursing for detection of eye health problems. Once the training was completed and the candidates qualify as entry-level ophthalmic nurses, graduates are able to screen and detect eye problems across Angola, particularly in remote rural areas.

Ten candidates completed their training in October 2025 and graduated as entry-level ophthalmic nurses. As part of their graduation, CBM presented each of the nurses with an Arclight direct ophthalmoscope to detect eye diseases, particularly cataract, independently while performing their screening work.



CBM Luxembourg also supported Boa Vista with the formal training of an ophthalmologist and will continue to do so into 2026. While the doctor is on training, CBM is supporting the Boa Vista with financial support for replacement ophthalmologists to carry out surgeries.

CBM Luxembourg donated €27,463 to the Boa Vista during 2025 and we are looking forward to working more with them in 2026.

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



Key events, financials 2025

Fondation CBM Luxembourg 2025 Conference

CBM Luxembourg celebrated 5 years of achievements with 75 donors and friends at our annual conference. Held on World Sight Day, the event was hosted at POST Luxembourg's Helix building, as well as online. We were honoured to have Dr. Ute Dibb, experienced consultant ophthalmologist at Norton Eye Clinic, Zimbabwe Council for the Blind, as a guest speaker. She was interviewed in a captivating manner by Marc Glesener.

We would like to extend our thanks to POST Luxembourg for generously donating their beautiful conference facility. Thanks also to Dr. Dibb and Marc Glesener for the insightful interview, as well as the other volunteers who helped make the event a success. *More info: cbm.lu/en/2025-conference*

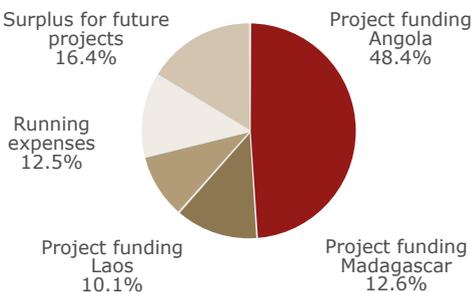
Summary of CBM Financial results 2025

In a challenging environment, CBM directors were happy to maintain our donations at €385,200, in line with 2024 levels. In addition to cash donations, we also received donations in kind including medical equipment and glasses.

To see the full audited financials accounts, please visit cbm.lu/en/who-we-are

Receivables	2025 EUR	2024 EUR
Total donations (individuals, institutional, occasions)	385,234	385,308
Other income (interest earned)	10,708	14,833
Total receivables	395,942	400,141
Expenses		
Ophthalmological training & equipment – Angola	191,605	148,318
Children Eye care – Madagascar	50,000	51,580
Inclusive Eye Care - Laos	40,022	50,000
Other external charges	49,402	57,114
Total expenses	331,029	307,012
Surplus for future projects	64,913	93,129

Split of 2025 donations



We invested €281,627 in our projects across our three developing countries of focus. Furthermore, we managed to spend €191,605 on our projects in Angola across all our partnerships, an increase of 29% versus 2024. We were able to keep running expenses under our goal of 15% at 12.5% of total receivables.



Thank you for your continued support

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

- Our generous private and institutional donors
- Dr. John Clements, Associate Professor, Portland, USA
- Dr. Michael Ketema, Head of DESSO project, Guinea
- The project in ophthalmic training in Angola is implemented with the support of the Fondation Armand & Nicky Delvaux, under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg
- The project for promotion of children's eye health care in Madagascar is implemented with the support of the Fondation Jean Think and of the Fondation Josée Wolter-Hirtt, under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg
- Service clubs: Lions Club Luxembourg Europe and Soroptimist International Club Moselle
- Donation from the birthdays of Mrs Anne-Marie Burg, Mrs Maryse Goedert and Mrs Amelie Hebelier-Backes
- Donations in memory of the late Mrs Gaby Theisen

Save the date 2026

October 2026 CBM Luxembourg Conference at *Hôpitaux Robert Schuman*, Kirchberg.

Join us for our event to hear about our development 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:

€45 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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Fondation CBM Luxembourg
9, Nidderpallenerstrooss
L-8551 Noerdange