



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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# Preface Summary

## "After two eye operations, Big C can see again."

These are the thankful words of the mother of three year old Big C, who lives in a remote area of Laos. Coming from an underprivileged background, the parents were heartbroken to learn that their three-year-old son had cataracts in both eyes. They felt helpless and worried about his future. Fortunately, Dr. Johnny was able to treat his eyes just in time during one of our Eye Camps. Now, Big C can attend school, play outside without any concerns, and look forward to a bright future.

The ECF 2023 annual report reflects on the implementation of our multi-year strategy, which is now halfway complete and will run until 2025. This year, we continued our new way of working by integrating processes and seizing opportunities to learn and grow, while making our efforts more accountable through key performance and general indicators. We further professionalised our organisation, fulfilled our mission, and engaged our donors. We faced many challenges throughout the year, including the effects of the war in Ukraine, inflation, and natural disasters. The circumstances and measures taken by the government varied in each (programme) country. As a result, our planned activities could not always be carried out optimally and fully.

Despite all the challenges, we have been constantly impressed by the passion and resilience of our colleagues and partners, and their commitment to providing eye care services, often in the most difficult circumstances. We have had many achievements to celebrate this year. ECF, together with local partners, provided over 333,220 screenings, 790 eye camps and school screenings, and performed 7,607 (cataract) operations.

We would like to express our warm gratitude to our donors for taking a constructive approach with us, sharing their stories, and making our activities possible through their donations. On their behalf, we give special thanks to those who last year provided insight into their lives and were willing to share their stories in addition to Big C.: Dr. Margreet Hogeweg, Dr. Indra, Dr. Johnny, Dr. Hedwig Kemme, Dr. Khadka, Dr. Jonny, Dr. Simon Luvanda, Dr. Makupa, Dr. Mtolera, Dr. Muna, Dr. Nassiana, Dr. Anil Parajuli, Dr. Horm Piseth, Dr. Cees van der Windt, Dr. Stephen, Dr. Subash, Dr. Kak Kakada, Dr. Alberta Thiadens, H.E. Gahendra, Peter de Boer, Chauda Rokaya, Lauren But, Chauda, Leny (on behalf of late Aad) Hemelaar, Janma Kanya, Muy Kear, Lia Marmelstein-de Koning, Leendert Parlevliet, Dr. Ruud van der Pol, Arnold Roelofs, Michael Samuel, Junu Shrestha, Shubhecha Shrestha, Anita Simons, Violet Simon, Michael Sultan, and three year old Big C from Laos.

We strive to create a world in which good quality eye care is available and accessible to everyone, with a focus on those most in need. A world where each person has an equal opportunity to build a future with clear vision, and a world where people are independent rather than relying on others due to poor eyesight.

ECF promotes good eyesight so individuals have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

We always maintain a strict financial policy. The result for 2023 is calculated at €28,350.  
The difference in the total budget is mainly due to receiving much higher legacies than budgeted.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our colleagues for their extraordinary work over the past year. We wish Big C and his parents all the best.

In light of the aforementioned, we proudly present our annual report for 2023.

Next year, ECF will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Let us hope our activities in 2023 are a good prelude to this memorable milestone.

On behalf of the entire ECF team, thank you for reading our report and taking notice of the work we have been doing, as well as the enormous work that still lies ahead.

**Björn Stenvers,**  
CEO



Big C with his mother, Laos 2023



# Activities of the Board in 2023

During the year, the Board held several discussions with the CEO and an external consultant about its position in light of board responsibilities and accountabilities. Since the Board has traditionally limited its role to overseeing and controlling the CEO's work, it has become challenging to maintain responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the organisation. Moreover, as public scrutiny and government regulations rightfully require ECF to fulfill its activities to the highest standards, a body solely focused on oversight would be preferable. Therefore, the Board has amended the foundation's statutes to become the controlling body of the executive, with the CEO being 'promoted' to become the sole Board member. On January 1, 2024, the new structure was inaugurated after the new statutes were signed into law by the notary on December 5, 2023. From that day onwards, our Board has become the ECF Supervisory Board, and the CEO has become Chairman of the Board/Director.

## Report by the Supervisory Board

The year 2023 was a year of transition for the Supervisory Board. Formally, it held all the responsibilities and accountabilities of a board, but discussions were held on several occasions to transform the board into a supervisory body. This change was necessary for two reasons:

- a new law by the Government of the Netherlands required ECF to create an independent supervisory body.
- being responsible for day-to-day activities made it impossible to function as both the board and the supervisory body at the same time.

During several sessions, new statutes were drafted and discussed, and these statutes were made into by-laws by a notary on December 5, 2023. One of the first activities of the Supervisory Board is to fill the current vacancy for an eye care specialist and address board membership by confirming the appointment schedule.

The present annual report has been prepared under the responsibility of the Chairman of the Board (the director). In the past year, controlling activities have been carried out during five board meetings (March, 3, May, 16, June, 20, October, 10, November, 21). Quarterly reports by the organisation, including financial information, were discussed. The annual (financial) report and the management report by the auditor were discussed by the Board and the Supervisory Board. No irregularities were found, and execution was carried out in acceptable alignment with the yearly plan and budget.

**A.M. van Praag**

Chair Supervisory Board



## **Goal Realisation: 2023 Results in Projects**

## Goal Realisation: 2023 Results in Projects

We envision a world where avoidable blindness no longer limits people's capacity, there is equal access to quality eye care, and where everyone has the opportunity to build their future with good eyesight. ECF is an international non-governmental organisation that aims to prevent and cure avoidable blindness and vision impairment for those in need in low-income countries.

**Our dream** is to end avoidable blindness and vision impairment in low- and middle-income countries and thus improve the position of people already living under harsh conditions. ECF strives to ensure a world where effective cataract treatment, refractive error management, and eye disease prevention and treatment are accessible. In recent years, significant progress has been made but, at the same time, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people experiencing uncorrected refractive error (especially myopia) and cataract. The global COVID pandemic has also played a role in the increased demand for eyecare services.

**Our vision:** We envision a world where people are enabled by good eyesight to attain their full potential in life.

**Our mission:** To eliminate avoidable blindness and vision impairment in order to empower people to become productive citizens and contribute to the socio-economic growth of their societies.

To achieve ECF's objectives in each project country, we work via six intervention strategies depending on the contextual situation within each country.<sup>1</sup> The six WHO Building Blocks are the following: Service Delivery, Capacity Strengthening, Leadership and Governance, Health Financing, Medicine and Technology, and Health Management Information Systems.<sup>2</sup> To ensure that the work effectively aligns with the situation in each country, ECF develops plans that are relevant to the stage of development of eye care within those countries. An appropriate combination of intervention strategies is selected for supporting the most relevant eye care solutions with a focus on the most underprivileged population groups. The basic principle is that the intervention strategy must contribute towards the direct and indirect embedding of eye care in the national healthcare policy to reach the most disadvantaged people and, in particular, women and children, people with disabilities, and minority ethnic groups.

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved on 30 June 2024. WHO. <https://extranet.who.int/nhptool/BuildingBlock.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> The Service Delivery intervention strategy has been divided in three components: Service Delivery, Service Delivery – Infrastructure & Service Delivery – Awareness. See Table 1.1. See page 8.

## Results Project Countries

### CAMBODIA



#### Service Delivery



**5,764**  
eye  
screenings  
(children)



**17,180**  
eye  
screenings  
(adults)



**1,060**  
cataract  
operations



**266**  
other  
surgical  
operations



**226**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(adults)

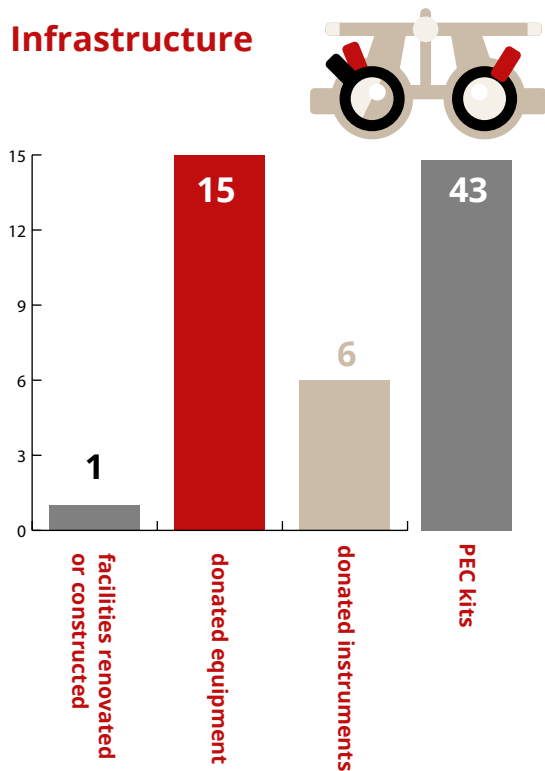


**262**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(children)



**50**  
Eye camps  
school  
screenings

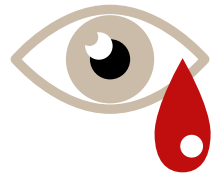
#### Infrastructure



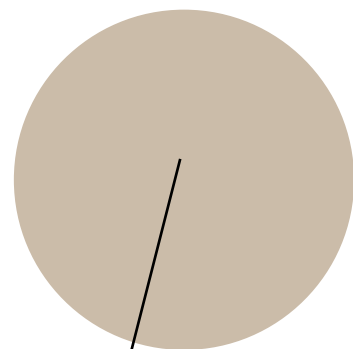
#### Awareness raising

**190,181**

Reached policy and decision-makers



#### Capacity Strengthening



**17**  
ophthalmologists  
received continuing  
education

#### Leadership & Governance

**72**

meetings and agreements  
with policy  
and decision makers





# Results Project Countries

## LAOS



### Service Delivery



**5,573**  
eye  
screenings  
(children)



**13,516**  
eye  
screenings  
(adults)



**448**  
cataract  
operations



**119**  
other  
surgical  
operations



**471**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(adults)

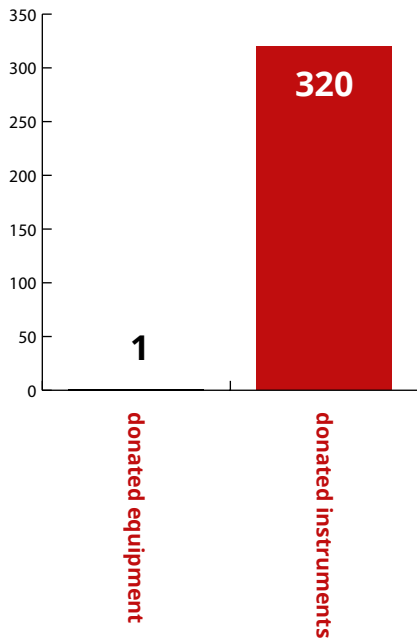
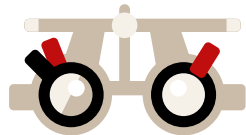


**33**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(children)

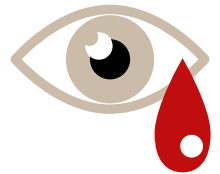


**41**  
Eye camps  
school  
screenings

### Infrastructure



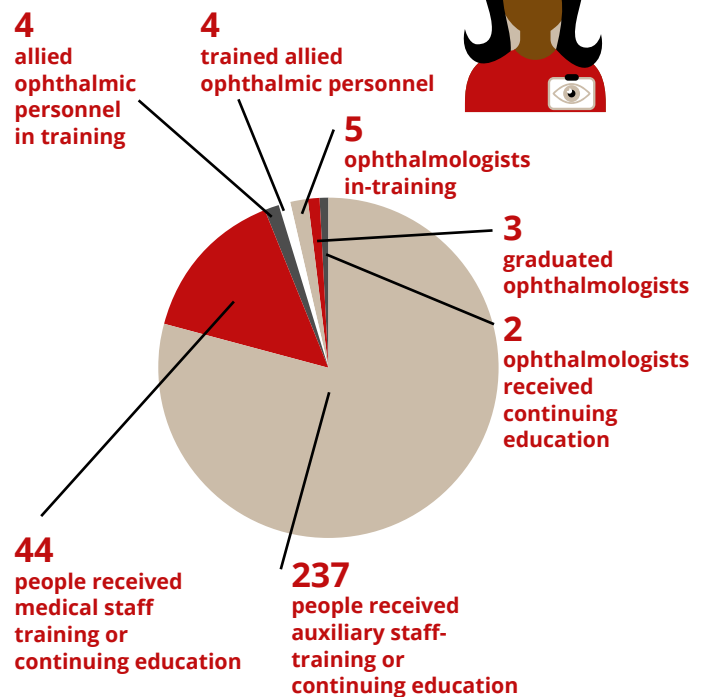
### Awareness raising



**1,565**

Reached policy and decision-makers

### Capacity Strengthening



### Leadership & Governance

**21**

meetings with policy  
and decision makers



## Results Project Countries

### NEPAL



#### Service Delivery



**39,870**  
eye  
screenings  
(children)



**149,051**  
eye  
screenings  
(adults)



**2,428**  
cataract  
operations

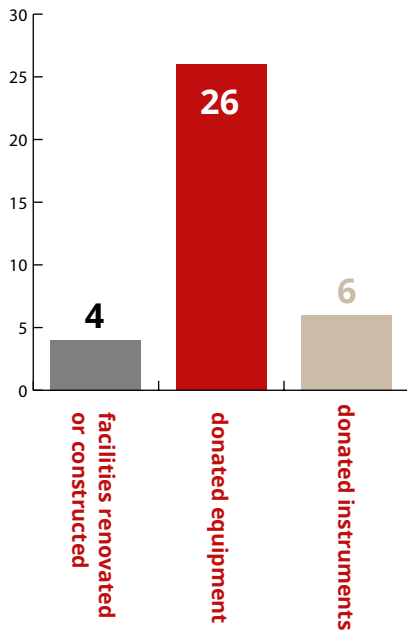
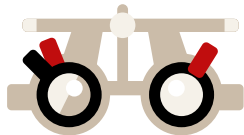


**1,204**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(children)

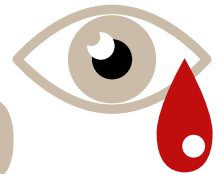


**444**  
Eye camps  
school  
screenings

#### Infrastructure



#### Awareness raising



**527,000**

Reached policy and decision-makers

#### Capacity Strengthening



**4**  
allied  
ophthalmic  
personnel  
in training

**17**  
allied ophthalmic  
personnel in training

**1**  
ophthalmologists  
in-training

**4**  
ophthalmologists  
received continuing  
education

**576**  
people received  
auxiliary staff-  
training or  
continuing education

#### Leadership & Governance

**13**

meetings with policy  
and decision makers



## Results Project Countries

### TANZANIA



#### Service Delivery



**2,930**  
eye  
screenings  
(children)



**15,943**  
eye  
screenings  
(adults)



**1,884**  
cataract  
operations



**44**  
other  
surgical  
operations



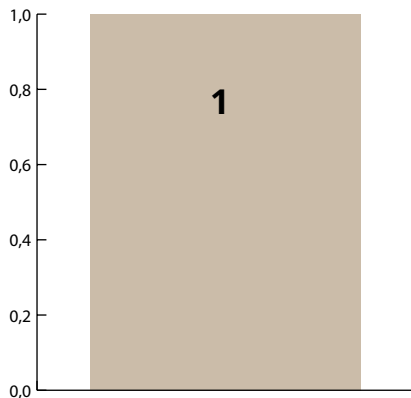
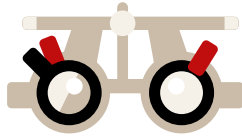
**1,788**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(adults)



**263**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(children)

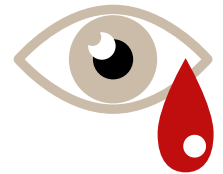
**0**  
Eye camps  
school  
screenings

#### Infrastructure



facilities renovated  
or constructed

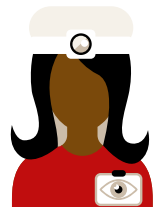
#### Awareness raising



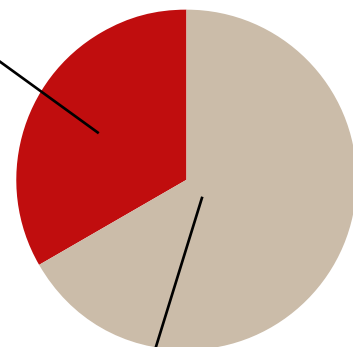
**18,873**

Reached policy and decision-makers

#### Capacity Strengthening



**1**  
ophthalmologists  
in-training



**2**  
optometrists  
in training

#### Leadership & Governance

**2**

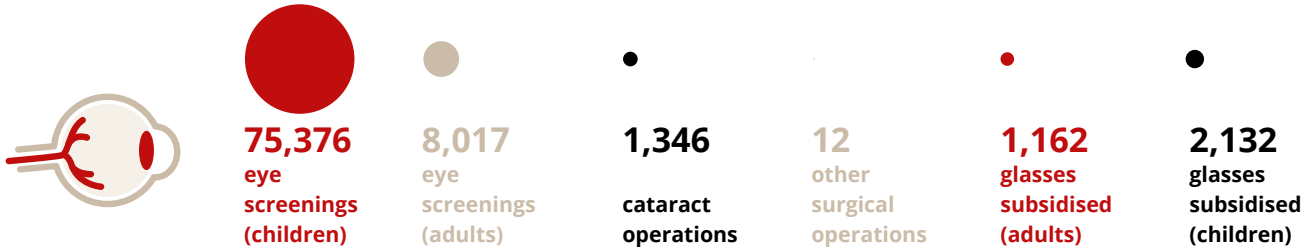
meetings with policy  
and decision makers



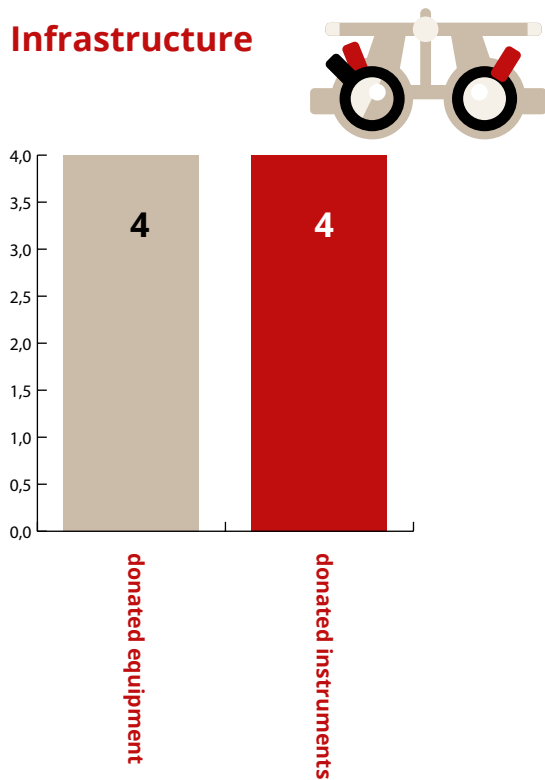
## Results Project Countries

### VIETNAM

#### Service Delivery



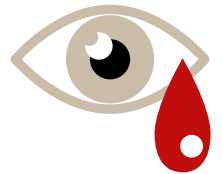
#### Infrastructure



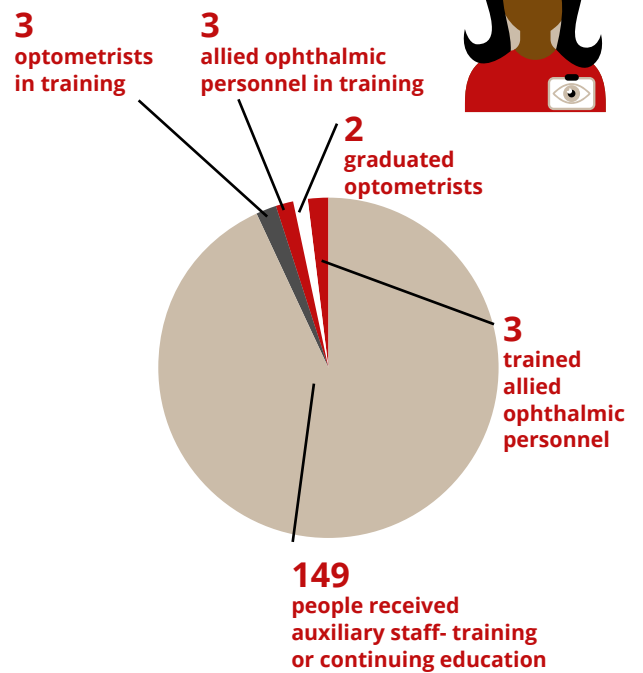
#### Awareness raising

**20,958**

meetings with policy and decision makers



#### Capacity Strengthening



#### Leadership & Governance

**6**

meetings with policy and decision makers





## Results Project Countries

### TOTAL



#### Service Delivery



**129,513**  
eye  
screenings  
(children)



**203,707**  
eye  
screenings  
(adults)



**7,166**  
cataract  
operations



**441**  
other  
surgical  
operations



**3,647**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(adults)

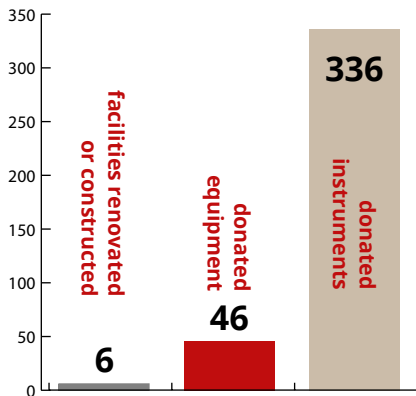


**3,894**  
glasses  
subsidised  
(children)



**790**  
Eye camps  
school  
screenings

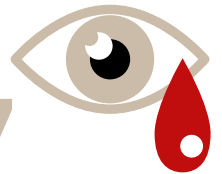
#### Infrastructure



#### Awareness raising

**758,577**

Reached policy and decision-makers



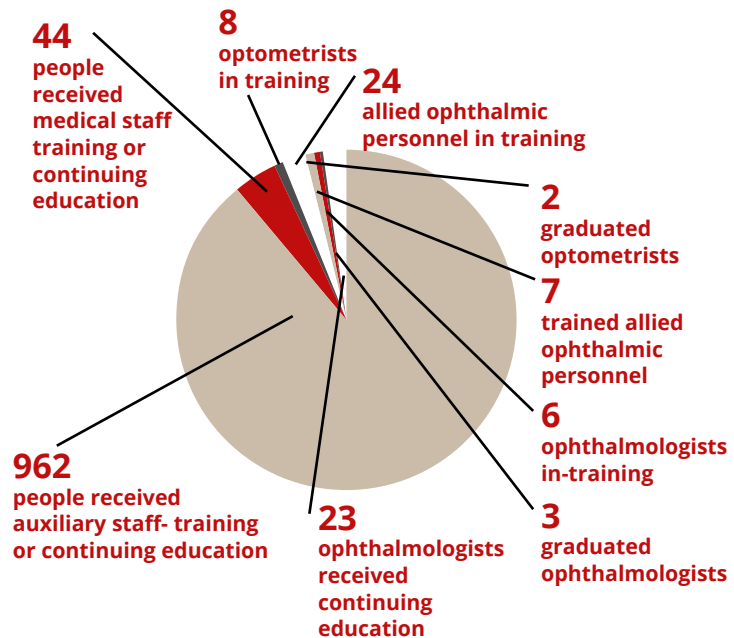
#### Leadership & Governance

**112**

meetings with policy  
and decision makers



#### Capacity Strengthening



#### Realized



**333,220**  
People  
screened

**7,166**  
Cataracts

**7,541**  
Spectacles

**336**  
Instruments

**758,577**  
People  
Aware

**1,006**  
Non eye  
care profs

**6**  
Ophthalmologists  
in training



**Our projects: a short  
overview per building block**

## Our projects: a short overview per building block

Our project results are monitored through our digital project system, ProjectConnect (table 1.1). After the lifting of the lockdowns, we made efforts to carry out as many project activities as possible. ECF works with the six building blocks outlined by the WHO. Since our focus is primarily on the first three blocks (immediate acute eye care, training, and leadership & governance in mainly disadvantaged areas), we assess our results in these areas.

### Direct Service Delivery

Most of the resources were spent on our focus on Service Delivery in remote areas. This includes (school) screenings, surgical camps, outreach activities, provision of glasses, and (surgical) eye treatments. In 2023, ECF provided over 333,220 (2022: 356,240) screenings (114% above target) and over 7,607 (2022: 8,332) operations (146% above target). On capacity strengthening, ECF supported the education of many ophthalmologists, optometrists and over 1,079 (2022: 1,769) auxiliary staff and other medical personnel. This support was provided through various training programmes, workshops, and educational grants. In terms of Direct Service Delivery, we have exceeded our planned activities by a significant margin (between 99% and 126%). This applies to both eye screenings for children (99%) and for adults (126%). Our numbers for screening children in Laos and Tanzania greatly surpassed the goals, while other countries were close to the target. Vietnam had a lower result compared to other countries due to a shift in focus on young children in the early detection program. The number of (cataract) operations performed was better than expected (146%), thanks to Nepal, Tanzania, and Vietnam. In all countries, we distributed more glasses than anticipated.

### Infrastructure

Equipment and delivered instruments both exceeded their targets, largely due to Laos. Additionally, several the construction and / or renovation of several eye care facilities was supported, such as the eye care facility in Mondulkiri, Cambodia and the facilities in Mugu and Humla, in the Karnali Province, Nepal.

### Awareness

Additionally, in the Service Delivery building block, the awareness-raising component reached 348% in 2023, extending through the last part of the year, thanks to our full-time Vietnamese social media and website colleague.

### Capacity strengthening

Within the building block Capacity strengthening we completed 1,079 trainings for Eye Care Staff (2022: 1,769).

### Leadership & Governance

With the leadership meetings, we participated in more strategic meetings and workshops than planned (132%). In 2023, we began focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in collaboration with Eevery. ECF played a leading role in the development of the Strategic Plan for Blindness Prevention in Cambodia and the National Eye Health Strategy in Nepal.





**Our projects:  
a short overview per country**



# Our projects: a short overview per country

Here are all project results per country.

## Cambodia

In Cambodia an estimated 2,3 million people live with vision loss. Of these 110,000 people are blind.<sup>4</sup> Cambodia aims to decrease the prevalence of blindness to 0,35% by 2030. Cataract remains the leading cause of blindness accounting for 80,4% of blindness (92,2% is avoidable).<sup>5</sup> Compared to the WHO target, the current eye care staff to population ratio is 51% (ophthalmologists), 71% and 57% (refractionist- and ophthalmic nurses). ECF is active in 9 provinces: Kratie, Tbong Khmum, Svay Rieng, Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Steung Treng, Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey, Pailin and in Phnom Penh with 13 projects and 50 screening (camp)s, with a budget of (2023) of 229,019 (€).

### Highlights

ECF's commitment to eye health for over forty years globally and particularly in Cambodia, was recognised at the highest level when ECF received the Royal Order of Cambodia.

### Service Delivery

ECF conducted 50 community outreach screenings. We achieved 132,5% of our target for eye screenings (adults: 153% and children: 112%), and completed 110% of the planned (cataract) operations. Additionally, we distributed 488 needed glasses and provided support for the renovation of the ophthalmic ward and provision of equipment in Mondulkiri province to establish a new eye unit.<sup>6</sup>

### Capacity Strengthening

We achieved 109% of our goal on (46) staff trainings (incl. training of 17 Ophthalmologists).

### Leadership and Governance

ECF provided significant support in developing a roadmap by 2030 at the sub-national level for the nine provinces targeted by the projects.

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from IAPB Atlas (WHO) 27.03.2024. <https://www.iapb.org/>

<sup>5</sup> National Strategic Plan for Blindness Prevention and Control 2021-2030

<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from ECF 01.02.2024. ProjectConnect

# Nepal

In Nepal an estimated 6,8 million people have vision loss. Of these 100,000 people are blind. In Nepal ECF continued the Integrated People centered eye care project together with two construction projects. The government is finalising our General Agreement which expired on 18 November 2023. The agreement will be renewed for the next five years. ECF is active in four provinces: Gandaki, Koshi, Karnali and Bagmati with 5 projects and 444 camps with a project budget (2023) of € 345,475.

## Highlights

Our intern continued to support us in social media, stories and communication. After signing a secondment agreement with the IAPB, for the second year ECF continued to host an IAPB colleague on Advocacy and Policy in the Nepal office. We visited the Nepal project activities and undertook a situation analysis of the blind children boarding school Disable Service Association (DSA) in order to potentially take over this project from Jylog with their financial support.

## Service Delivery

ECF conducted 444 community outreach screenings. We achieved 108,5% of our target for eye screenings (adults: 125% and children: 92%). We completed 171% of the planned (cataract) operations and distributed 123% of the planned provision of glasses.<sup>8</sup>

## Infrastructure

ECF supported the establishment of three new Primary Eye Care Centres (PECCs) each with a complete set of equipment. The renovation works of the PECC in Gorkha have been completed, and the one in Baglung is in its final stages. PECC Baglung has been upgraded to a secondary level eye hospital where cataract surgeries can be performed regularly. Through outreach efforts, we aim to upgrade the eye centre in Udayapur to a secondary level eye hospital as well. In Karnali, the ground floor construction work of PECC Mugu has been completed, and PECC Humla is nearing completion.

## Capacity Strengthening & Leadership and Governance

We achieved 98% (goal: 607) of medical staff and auxiliary staffs trainings (including one ophthalmologist and twenty allied health personnel trainings). The Karnali province eye health strategy for 2023-2028 was launched by the Ministry of Health of Karnali Province. ECF was involved in the drafting process and also provided financial support.

# The Netherlands

In 2023, the Dutch headquarters office continued its facilitating role in fundraising (including donor involvement) and capacity building for projects, management, finance and control. We also strive to further strengthen relationships with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), aligned eyecare International Non-governmental Organisations (INGO's), and other international partners.

<sup>8</sup> Retrieved from ECF 01.02.2024. ProjectConnect

# Laos

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, there are an estimated 750,000 people with vision loss, with 15,000 people being blind.<sup>9</sup> ECF is active in 2 provinces: Xieng Khuang and Huaphan, as well as in Vientiane with 3 projects and 41 screening (camp)s, with a budget of € 109,132 in 2023.

## Service Delivery

ECF conducted 41 community outreach screenings and 35 school screenings. We achieved 158,5% of our target for eye screenings (adults: 148% and children: 169%). We completed 73% of the planned (cataract) operations. Furthermore, we distributed 219% of the planned provision of glasses.

## Capacity Strengthening

We achieved 254% of our goal for medical staff trainings (289), excluding the training of 10 Ophthalmologists.

## Leadership and Governance

The project Implementation Management Committee (IMC) in each province has shown its ownership by evaluating the annual result through a good collaboration with ECF, NOC, PHD/PRH of Xiengkhuang and Huaphan province. IMC also organised the annual partnership review meeting for ECF's eye care project in Huaphan province.

## Capacity Strengthening

We achieved 93% (goal: 607) of medical staff trainings (including one Ophthalmologists and twenty allied health personal trainings). The Karnali province eye health strategy for 2023-2028 was launched by the Ministry of Health of Karnali Province. ECF was involved in the drafting process and also provided financial support.

# Suriname

Thanks to the Lions Club Host-1 Amsterdam and our donor TP Vision, ECF provided large screens for educational purposes to all seven hospitals where eye care is being offered as a service (2022: 3). We also provided locally printed Snellen Charts.

# Rwanda

In 2023, ECF continued its support for the construction of the Rwanda Charity Eye Hospital in, which will be fully functioning in 2024. ECF has supported the construction of an operating theatre, recovery room, waiting room, anaesthesia, sterilisation room, changing room for staff and an examination room.

<sup>9</sup> Retrieved from IAPB Atlas (WHO) 27.03.2024. <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>

# Tanzania

Tanzania faces an estimated 8,2 million people living with vision loss. Of these 290,000 people are blind.<sup>10</sup> The Tanzanian situation differs in several ways from our Asian projects. Currently, we are only active in the province Morogoro and in the city of Dar es Salam with 2 projects and a budget of € 82,551 in 2023. In the Morogoro province, we are active in the districts Mlimba and Ulanga, as well as in Ifakara town and district Malinyi.

## Highlights

The opening of our eye unit within Malinyi district hospital, along with the graduation of a second optometrist in the Morogoro region under ECF support, were notable achievements last year. This marked a significant moment for service delivery in Malinyi. A group of Dutch donors also visited our projects in Tanzania.

## Service Delivery

We achieved 140% of our target for eye screenings (adults: 133% and children: 147%). We completed 161% of planned (cataract) operations. Additionally, we contributed to the distribution 114% of the planned provision of glasses.

## Capacity Strengthening

In 2023, one optometrist graduated, contributing to the pool of professional eye care in Morogoro. Another optometrist continued to receive financial support from ECF. Dr. Nassania and Dr. Aza underwent their second training on oculoplastic procedures at St. Francis Referral Hospital in Ifakara for two weeks, led by Dr. Maarten Mourits from the Netherlands. Additionally, a total of 139 traditional healers received orientation on early detection of eye problems and referral. The training was divided into two parts; 63 traditional healers were trained in Mlimba council, and 76 traditional healers were trained in Ulanga councils. As a result, the traditional healers referred more patients in 2023.

## Leadership & Governance

During this year 2023 there were no meetings with government leaders, but rather a project planning meeting at project level in the Ifakara town council was conducted at the end of the year to review and replan for 2024. More funds were allocated for screening patients at different areas of the project on World AIDS day and on World Sight Day.

<sup>10</sup> Retrieved from IAPB Atlas (WHO) 27.03.2024. <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>



# Vietnam

In Vietnam, there are an estimated 14 million people with vision loss. Of these 520,000 people are blind.<sup>11</sup> ECF is active in four provinces: Ca Mau, Dong Thap, Soc Trang, Vinh Long as well as in Ho Chi Minh City Region and Hanoi with six projects, 255 school screening (camp)s with a budget of € 261,097 in 2023.

## Highlights

The school eye health protocols have been reinforced and implemented in all schools in the project areas. This has been achieved through effective coordination between the health and education sectors, as they now have a much better understanding of child eye health and are more responsive to the eye health needs.

## Service Delivery

We achieved 89,5% of our target for eye screenings (adults: 81% and children: 98%). We completed 231% of the planned (cataract) operations, and distributed 132% of the planned provision of glasses.

## Infrastructure

We were able to establish 3 Vision Centres (VC) with full equipment and instruments at district level in Dong Thap and Soc Trang provinces. The VC is integrated into the referral pathway and contributes to the accessibility and affordability of the service.

## Awareness Raising

We designed and developed over 1,000 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to distribute to all schools. Additionally, five eye care festivals were conducted for 1,500 school children, teachers, and caregivers to emphasize the importance of good eyesight.

## Capacity Strengthening

In preparation for the school screenings, we provided 11 primary eye care trainings to 149 school nurses and teachers from primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, 73 doctors from the provinces received support to attend workshops and conferences for knowledge sharing and experience exchange.

## Leadership and Governance

We established provincial eye care working groups in provinces, ensuring frequent meetings, active participation, ownership, and accountability by local authorities.

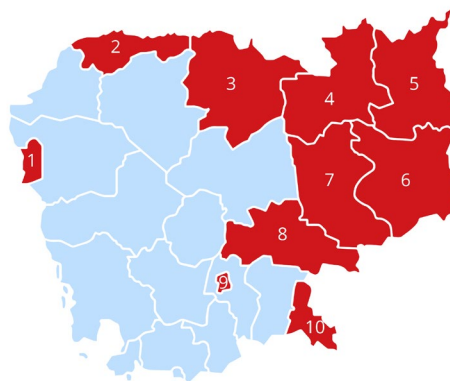
<sup>11</sup> Retrieved from IAPB Atlas (WHO) 01.05.2023. <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>

## Vietnam

1. Ca Mau
2. Soc Trang
3. Dong Thap
4. Vinh Long
5. Ho Chi Minh City

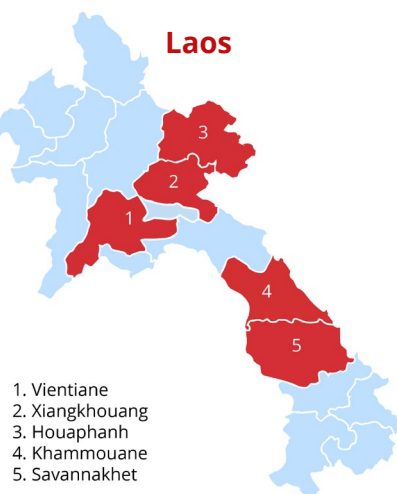


## Cambodia



- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Pallin         | 6. Mondulakiri     |
| 2. Oddar Meanchey | 7. Kratie          |
| 3. Preah Vihear   | 8. Tbong Khum      |
| 4. Stung Reng     | 9. Phnom Penh city |
| 5. Ratanakiri     | 10. Svay Rieng     |

## Laos



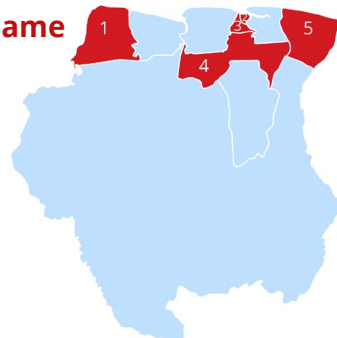
1. Vientiane
2. Xiangkhouang
3. Houaphanh
4. Khammouane
5. Savannakhet

## Rwanda



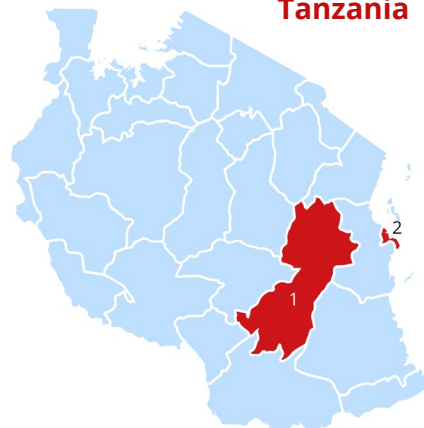
1. Southern Province

## Suriname



1. Nickerie
2. Paramaribo
3. Wanica
4. Para
5. Marowijne

## Tanzania



1. Morogoro region
2. Dar es Salaam

## Nepal



1. Karnali
2. Gandaki
3. Koshi
4. Bagmati
5. Kathmandu



**Medical Advisors,  
IAPB, and WHO**



## Medical Advisors, IAPB, and WHO

Since 1984, our medical advisors have supported and advised our partners and colleagues. Although the role of a medical advisor has evolved over the last 40 years, its importance cannot be overstated. Today, being a medical advisor entails multitasking: acting as an advisor, auditor, ambassador, and educator. ECF worked closely with the medical advisors to maintain good relations with our partners and ministries of health through numerous digital meetings.

We welcomed three new medical advisors: Dr. Marilette Teske-Stehouwer (Ophthalmologist), Mandy Nordmann (Orthoptist), and Dr Paul Ernest (Ophthalmologist). After many years Dr. The Anh MAI and Dr. Hedwig Kemme left us after their Governance terms. We thank them dearly for the many years of service to ECF

To stay updated and actively contribute to the eye care community, ECF has participated in numerous health and eyecare events. We attended annual medical advisor symposiums in all countries where we are active, the Conference of the NOG (The Dutch Ophthalmic Society), IAPB working group Europe Region, Symposium International Ophthalmology Working Group, and we are an active member of the IAPB Gender Equity Work Group.



Dr. Alberta Thiadens, Dr. Margot Dellaert, Dr. Cees van der Windt, Dr. Marilette Teske-Stehouwer, and Dr. Peter Jaap de Lint (2023).



**Connecting with our Donors**



# Connecting with our Donors

## Corporate awareness raising

The number of visitors to our online channels increased in 2023 to 50,978 (13%) visitors on our website (compared to 45,149 (1%) in 2022). Other channels also experienced increases: we gained a total of 31,475 Facebook (5,4%) followers (compared to 31,284 in 2022), 3,9 million views on TikTok (8%) (compared to 3,7 million in 2022), 3,031 followers on all our Instagram (36%) accounts combined (compared to 2,808 in 2022), 4,017 on LinkedIn (48%) (compared to 2,710 in 2022), 206 on YouTube (36%) (compared to 151 in 2022), and 959 followers on Twitter (3%) (compared to 931 in 2022).

We actively participated in various online campaigns organised by the IAPB and WHO, with highlights including International Women's Day, World Carrot Day, World Sight Day #loveyoureyes, Stories of Hope: 7 million patients, and Giving Tuesday. To continue sharing quality news and stories with our donors, in 2023 we initiated a few feedback moments, where we learned how to improve the process of collecting information from the project countries. While the number of gathered stories has subsequently decreased, their quality has significantly improved. We continued sending out our digital newsletter, which reached a total of 6,800 readers.

In 2023, we published a new book from the Winsky series titled "A little history of eye care by Winsky: the art edition." The purpose of the book is to trace key moments from the history of eye care through works of art. The book is intended for fundraising purposes, targeting major donors, and corporate partners.

## Private Donors

Our private donors donated a total of €2,177,555, exceeding the budgeted amount of €1,781,000 in 2023. The total donation can be broken down as follows: Legacies (€1,199,385), Campaigns/Mailings (€524,117), General gifts (€387,949), Events (€36,104), and Labeled gifts for specific projects (€30,000).

In 2023, we conducted various campaigns aimed at informing our supporters about our work, keeping them engaged, and soliciting donations for our projects. We utilised channels such as fundraising mailings, our new digital informative newsletter "Ogenblik," our monthly email newsletter, and social media. Additionally, we organised a donor trip to Tanzania to allow supporters to visit our African projects. The Dutch Dam-to-Damloop event also proved successful in 2023. Collaboration with Mindwize, a full-service fundraising office, was strengthened through various knowledge exchange sessions and refinements in target and approach. Regarding fundraising costs, expenditures on mailpacks exceeded estimates due to increased paper prices and our decision to increase mailing volumes. Six mailings were conducted in 2023, supported by our social media, call team, thank-you card promotion, reminder mailing, and the newsletter "Ogenblik."

## Legacies

The income from legacies is € 1,199,385 (budget 2023: € 646,700). In 2023, 30 files were processed and 17 files were completed. The legacy portfolio has been jointly managed by the CEO and head of finance.

## Companies

The realised income of this portfolio amounts to €91,165, which is higher than budgeted. The main explanation is the exercise of options in depositary receipts for shares in Luxexcel Holding BV, resulting in a final payment of approximately €32,000.

## Non-profit organisational donors

Within this portfolio results for 2023 amount up to € 497,241, representing approximately 58% of the budgeted amount (€ 860,000). This was achieved with 36 applications for funding, of which 31 were awarded and 5 rejected in 2023.

Through the collaboration with our partner Van Dooren Advies (VDA), we got to know new ECF funding opportunities and started to build new relationships with these donors.

From October 2023 onwards our ECF institutional fundraising team started the fundraising for 2024 projects. This new way of working allows ECF to look into new funding and collaboration opportunities. Raising funds in advance and focusing on multiyear collaborations continued to be an important focus point. This important change in the process leads to financial stability and secures the future of our projects. By working in this manner and focusing on multiyear partnerships we can keep expanding our programmes.

We were able to expand our programmes by raising funds for the construction of additional operating theatres in Rwanda for instance. We also found three donors willing to support an additional project in Nepal in 2023. In Mugu, Humla, and Karikot (Karnali, Nepal) we started implementing a combination of activities throughout 2024: construction, outreach, equipment (including a motorbike), and capacity building. The first phase of the project started in the last months of 2023. During 2023, we also started fundraising for an additional project in Cambodia, Mondulkiri. In anticipation of funding, the project has been officially approved.



## **Financial Review**

# Financial Review

## Accountability

The annual accounts for the financial year ending on December, 31, 2023 can be found from page 33 of this report. ECF's annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Dutch Accounting Standard for Fundraising Institutions (RJ 650). The annual accounts include the balance sheet and income and expenses for 2023.

## Appropriation of Result

2023 marked the third year of our multiyear strategy (2021-2025). We incorporated a new way of working, integrating processes, and fostering opportunities for learning and growth. ECF made necessary investments to generate funds and incurred management and administration costs to ensure its continuity and proper operation. ECF's result for the 2023 financial year is €28,350. The variance from the budgeted result can mainly be attributed to the significantly higher legacies received than budgeted.

## Financial position, reserve and funds

The reserves and funds of ECF comprised a continuity reserve, appropriate reserves for projects and others, and earmarked funds. The continuity reserve provided a sufficiently healthy buffer to cover financial risks in the short term in the event of a significant shortfall in key sources of funding. It included funding necessary for actions to enable ECF to recover from such a shortfall while still meeting legal and moral obligations. This continuity reserve can be viewed as a financial buffer for the organisation's operations. The appropriate reserve for projects serves as a buffer to complete or terminate current projects and/or programmes in the event of a shortage of financing. Additionally, an appropriate other reserve was established in 2023. This reserve was intended to support the repair of eye care centers, renovation, and upgrading in Gorkha and Baglung, Nepal, due to underspending in previous years related to emergency funds. This reserve was fully utilised in 2023.

The continuity reserve amounted to € 1,8 million (2022: € 1,4 million), the appropriated reserve for projects amounted to € 850,000 (2022: € 1,171,000), and the Other Reserve € 27,000 (2022: € 63,000). Every year a risk analysis is carried out for the standardisation of the continuity reserve. This risk analysis includes an estimate of the potential financial consequences of the risk identified. The analysis led to a required amount for the continuity reserve of € 1,3 million. The continuity reserve amounted to € 1,8 million at the end of 2023 and met this criterion.

The earmarked funds represented all received earmarked income from donors intended for a specific project purpose for which the underlying objective and related expenses had not yet been realised. This included donations from businesses, associations, and (capital) funds given to ECF. The earmarked funds at the end of 2023 amounted to € 110,000 (2022: € 212,000).

At the end of 2023, the total of reserves and funds amounted to € 2,8 million, which was 91% (2022: 89%) of the total balance amount.

Liquidity and solvency were important considerations when assessing ECF's financial position. In terms of liquidity, ECF is currently in a healthy position, with cash balances of €2,87 million at the end of 2023 (2022: €2,80 million), representing 93% of the total balance (2022: 91%).

The liquidity ratio (current ratio: short-term assets/short-term liabilities) was 12,3% (2022: 11,1%). Based on the relationship between ECF's reserves and funds and the total balance, the solvency ratio (reserves and funds/total liabilities) at the end of 2023 was stable compared to last year's outcome and was therefore still adequate.

### **Spending percentage**

The ratio of the total expenses on objectives as a percentage of total income in 2023 was 72,4% (2022: 69,7%). In relation to the total expenses, this amounted to 72,4% (2022: 69,7%). The ratio of the fundraising costs to total income was 19,2% in 2023 (2022: 21,7%), which is reasonably lower than the CBF maximum norm of 25%.

The ratio of costs for management and administration compared to total expenses amounted to 8,4% in 2023 (2022: 9,5%). This was caused, for example, by a different allocation of non-directly attributable costs: the percentage in the current year.

### **Risks and uncertainties**

In all of its activities in 2023, ECF aimed to assess, analyse, and mitigate potential risks as effectively as possible. Organisational risks included data security, the availability of qualified staff, and correctly functioning information systems. To work together efficiently, ECF managed external and internal opportunities and risks, contributing to the optimal efficiency of the organisation. ECF worked methodically and regularly evaluated processes, systems, and employee knowledge. By working in this manner, ECF ensured the identification of opportunities to improve performance and encouraged staff to take an active role in this process. ECF reviewed its risk analyses in 2023.

### **Reputation**

Our reputation and the trust of our beneficiaries are also crucial for our donors. It is fundamental to continuing our work. We handle complaints with care and, to this end, we have established a general complaints regulation. We are always aware of our social responsibility and strive to maintain good relationships with all our stakeholders. To achieve full transparency, we endeavour to communicate with them frequently, openly and positively. We focus on constructive, transparent, and positive messaging. We maintain our own integrity policy and code of conduct, as well as a zero-tolerance policy for fraud and violations of human rights. Furthermore, the quality of the work of the ophthalmologists and all ophthalmic professionals in our projects sets the standard for all our activities. As in 2022, we did not receive any complaints in 2023.

### **Financial and operational**

The priority of our organisation was to spend as much as possible of the received donations on achieving our objectives. To fulfill financial obligations over the long term, financial reserves were maintained. In general, ECF negotiated contracts with local partners in local currencies. The annual accounts were prepared in euros, ECF's functional and reporting currency. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies conducted during the reporting period were recognised in the annual accounts at the average rate of exchange. Any resulting exchange differences were recognised in the statement of income and expenses. This meant that currency fluctuations in relation to the euro had both positive or negative consequences.



To minimise currency risk, cash and cash equivalents in local office bank accounts (in local currency) were limited to the budgeted amount needed for the coming quarter to cover staff, office, and project costs. Funds were spread over several banks to minimise exposure to credit risk. Surplus funds were placed in a savings account. ECF has not invested in shares.

ECF used a customer relationship management system that also facilitated fundraising, project management, and bookkeeping. Data security, both from cybercrime and privacy perspectives, was critical to our operations. We continuously emphasized the importance of data security to staff, as their alertness and caution were critical. As the organisation has become more digital, we maintain continuous attention to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and cybersecurity in planning and programming.

To understand what was relevant for our donors, we needed to get to know each other. The first step was having reliable, up-to-date, and accessible information in our database. We took our responsibility concerning the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) seriously and did not keep more information than needed or allowed. Additionally, our donors always had the right to know what information we kept about them. The GDPR applies to all NGOs in the Netherlands. We continued to develop our database with our donors in mind to ensure their requirements could be met. We informed our partners and donors through mailings, emails, donor meetings, website posts, phone calls, social media, or in person during events.

ECF understood that a sustained effort over several years was required to realise a structural increase of income from donors. There was an ongoing focus on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We have no data security incidents to report.

ECF continued to focus on further increasing professionalism in its business operations. Improvements to the financial function, administrative organisation, and internal management processes will be further expanded. This also applies to the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which facilitates fundraising and grant management processes. The backup and recovery plan for the outsourced IT system was regularly monitored in 2023.



**Management, organisation  
and governance**

# Management, organisation and governance

The year 2023 marks the third year of ECF's strategic plan 2021 - 2025. As we implemented our annual plan, our organisation became more resilient and agile, and ECF's impact increased. The need to help more people was significant and timely. The IAPB and WHO indicated that the number of cataract patients and visually impaired individuals continues to grow, with contributing factors including the lack of early detection and increased screen use by school children for online classes.

## ECF developed

Throughout 2023, ECF worked on several strategic developments. The ECF database comprised financial accounting, project administration, and donor administration, containing data of donors, creditors, and other contacts. Wherever possible, improvements were implemented. This was also necessary from a legislative and regulatory standpoint. It remained important to continue investing in optimising work processes and increasing the demand for donations tailored to our donors through better selections from the donor database.

Thanks to another professionalisation effort in our project data system (ProjectConnect), we monitored our project results each quarter. We also developed multiyear plans, yearly plans, budgets, project descriptions, project proposals, etc., by working closely together on a global scale.

## Sustainable development goals

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a universal call to action to build a healthier world for the global population and the environment by 2030. ECF contributed to the following SDGs: Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Quality education (SDG 4), Gender equality (SDG 5), Economic growth (SDG 8), Reduced inequality (SDG 10), and achieve Partnerships (SDG 17).

- (SDG 3) Poor eye health is associated with higher mortality rates, lower levels of well-being, and increased rates of depression. Therefore, by providing eye health services, we contribute to improved health and well-being.
- (SDG 4) Children with vision impairment experience poorer educational outcomes and are more likely to face exclusion from schools. By ensuring accessible eye care services for children, we aim to improve educational outcomes. We have enhanced our educational goals for children through our newly developed online services. Through numerous school screenings, we have provided assistance to children with vision impairment by offering free glasses, enabling them to improve their performance. Early detection is a priority for Vietnam.
- (SDG 5) Women have poorer access to eye health services and are 12% more likely to experience sight loss than men.<sup>12</sup> In response, we developed a Gender Policy. In addition to the Uncorrected Refractive Error committees, we also joined the Gender Equity Survey Committee of the IAPB. Our country directors in Vietnam and Cambodia are active members of these committees and also attended a WHO workshop in Singapore.

<sup>12</sup> Retrieved 27.03.2023. IAPB. [https://www.iapb.org/news\\_tags/2021-in-review/](https://www.iapb.org/news_tags/2021-in-review/)

- (SDG 8) Vision loss diminishes employment opportunities and is responsible for an annual productivity loss of 410,7 billion. Addressing vision loss can increase household expenditure by 36 to 88%.<sup>13</sup>
- (SDG 10) In our mission and ambition, we strive for a world where every person has equal opportunities to build a future with clear vision; a world in which people are independent rather than relying on others to care for them due to poor eyesight. ECF promotes good eyesight so individuals have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.
- (SDG 17) We closely collaborated with our umbrella organisation, IAPB (WHO), and even applied for an IAPB board position in 2023. Although we came in second, our campaign provided a valuable opportunity to meet all international NGO colleagues. We had the chance to introduce ECF and learn about the sector. Additionally, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Light for the World Belgium Foundation to collaborate on our projects in Tanzania.<sup>14</sup>

In 2023, ECF established a partnership with Eevery. Through this collaboration, ECF aims to objectively map its sustainability efforts and ambitions in accordance with the legal framework of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). By striving to become a sustainable and impactful organisation, we contribute to a more sustainable world.

## Staff

One of the topics for professionalising the organisation concerned the further defining and upgrading more of our international work processes, particularly assessing productive output with our newly introduced guideline for productive progress discussions.

We continue to work together in a supportive manner, with all our teams in various countries cooperating as one global team. The Nepal office supported activities in Tanzania, the Cambodia office supported Laos, and our Vietnam office supported our temporary or other projects (Suriname).

The sickness absence rate was high due to several unfortunate several long-term incapacitations.

In Amsterdam, staff continued hybrid working, In the field of integrity in Amsterdam, we implemented an overall integrity policy, a complaint and whistleblower policy, and a policy on preventing and addressing inappropriate behaviour.

## Composition of the Board of Directors

In 2023, the Board (which transitioned into a Supervisory Board as of January 1, 2024) served in a supervisory and advisory capacity and functioned as the employer of all staff. The Board approved the general policy, outlined in the (country) policy plans, annual plans, and budgets for the organisation, as prepared by the CEO. Additionally, it monitored the implementation of the budget and plans based on quarterly reports.

<sup>13</sup> Source: IAPB

<sup>14</sup> BHVI: Brien Holden Vision Institute (<https://bhvi.org>)

No changes occurred in the constitution of the Board during 2023. The Board (Supervisory Board as of January 1, 2024) consists of the following individuals as of December 31, 2023:

Mr A.M. (Arthur) van Praag, Chairman (director and major shareholder at A.M. van Praag Beheer B.V.);

Ms L.A. (Linda) Hummel, Vice-Chairwoman (fundraising and communication; CEO at NLR (until No Leprosy Remains); other ancillary position: member of Stichting Support Metropole Orkest;

Ms J.B.B. (Sascha) Bogerd, Treasurer (finance, accountancy; Finance Director EMEA at LabConnect Europe B.V.);

Ms I.B. (Indira) Rombley, Board Member (HR; Senior HRM Advisor Servicepoint71);

Board members are appointed for a period of four years with a maximum of two four-year terms.

## **Board activities in 2023**

Similar to the ECF staff, several board members also participated in self-evaluation trainings offered by IFRC and Future learn to stay updated on the latest trends on development work and eye care services.<sup>15</sup>

The CEO provided leadership to the organisation and conducted his work based on a director's code. In 2023, the CEO reported on progress, activities, and finances. The 2022 annual report, the 2022 annual accounts, the audit report from the auditors, and the implementation of the ECF 2021-2025 multiyear strategy were approved by the Board. Additionally, the Board finished discussing the transition to a supervisory board model to be implemented in 2024.

## **Board expenses and remuneration**

Board members are not remunerated. In 2023, the Board expenses were € 3,237 (2022 € 4,188) and mainly consisted of general meeting costs.

The Board has established the remuneration policy and salary for the CEO in accordance with the Dutch Charities Association (Goede Doelen Nederland) regulation regarding remuneration for Executive Directors (see [www.goededoelennederland.nl](http://www.goededoelennederland.nl)).

The regulation determines a maximum for annual income based on a number of criteria. The Board applied the criteria to ECF, which resulted in what is referred to in Dutch as a BSD<sup>16</sup> (Executive Job Basic Score) of 385 points. In 2023, the remuneration amounted to € 100,486 (gross salary plus holiday allowance), which is below the maximum amount of €112,124 within the scale of 385 points. ECF did not pay bonuses to its CEO. See pages 54 for details.

Ancillary positions CEO: 'ICOMOS NL – chairman of the board, Light Art Collection (LAC) – member of the board, Netherlands Federation Nepal (NFN) – chairman of the board, and Amsterdamsche Fonds – treasurer.

All ancillary positions are unpaid and not by virtue of his position as CEO of the Eye Care Foundation.

## **Guidelines**

ECF is ANBI and CBF-registered and operates in accordance with the guidelines of Goede Doelen Nederland (Dutch branch organisation for charity).

<sup>15</sup> <https://ifrc.csod.com> and <https://www.futurelearn.com>

<sup>16</sup> Basisscore directiefunctie (BSD) [NL] according to the regulations for director remuneration [NL: Regeling Beloning Directeuren Goededoelenorganisaties]





**Expected progress**

## Expected progress

ECF continued the implementation of its 2021-2025 multiyear strategy. In 2023, we made significant progress in realising the goals of the strategy. The strategic plan was developed with a participatory approach, involving all ECF colleagues. The multiyear strategy included initiatives such as raising funds in advance by accessing new markets, creating joint grant proposals and multiyear projects, as well as strengthening story development to emphasise the importance of case studies. We will continue to further professionalise our organisation and involve our donors while fulfilling our mission. We continue to carry out our projects, where possible, aligned with fundraising efforts for our causes.

Below is the 2024 budget. In 2023, ECF focused on strengthening the organisation's work, and its financial position. Our reserves and funding are sufficient at year-end to ensure the continuation in the coming years of the multi-year programmes that started in 2023.

We anticipated spending €2,0 million euro on our objectives (projects, structural assistance, and awareness raising), which is 69% of the total income of €2,9 million. Taking the impact of the pandemic into account, we have budgeted for lower spending on our objectives compared to previous years. In the ECF multiyear strategy set up before the pandemic, higher spending on the objectives was budgeted for the coming years. For this to happen, revenue must increase.

In 2024 and the coming years, ECF needs to sustain the existing sources of income, while also acquiring and expanding new sources of funding. This includes targeting both new and existing institutional and private donors both in the Netherlands and abroad. It remains crucial to invest in our donor database and donor services, as well as to continue the organisation's transition in order to accelerate the achievement of ECF's strategic objectives.

## Eye Care Foundation (All amounts are in euros)

	2024 budget	2023 actuals	2023 budget
<b>Income</b>			
Income raised	2,884,000	2,770,148	2,701,700
<b>Total of Income</b>	<b>2,884,000</b>	<b>2,770,148</b>	<b>2,701,700</b>
<b>Spent on Objectives</b>			
Projects, structural assistance	1,823,400	1,717,447	1,436,700
Awareness raising	276,400	286,814	342,400
	<b>2,099,800</b>	<b>2,004,261</b>	<b>1,779,100</b>
Fundraising costs	527,200	531,510	650,400
Management and administration costs	257,000	232,271	272,300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,884,000</b>	<b>2,768,042</b>	<b>2,701,800</b>
Total financial income and expenses	0	26,244	100
<b>Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,350</b>	<b>0</b>





## **Annual Accounts for 2023**

# Balance Sheet of 31 December 2023

(After Appropriation of Results) (All amounts are in euros)

		31 - 12 - 2023	31 - 12 - 2022
<b>Assets</b>			
Intangible assets	A.1.	17,980	38,007
Tangible assets	A.2.	11,638	16,194
Receivables and accruals	B.	176,799	214,147
Cash	C.	2,871,557	2,805,962
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>3,077,974</b>	<b>3,074,310</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Reserves and funds	D.		
- Continuity reserve	D.1.	1,843,922	1,356,767
- Appropriate reserves	D.2.	876,913	1,233,961
- Earmarked fund(s)	D.3.	110,175	211,932
		2,831,110	2,802,660
Short-term liabilities	E.	246,964	271,650
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>3,077,974</b>	<b>3,074,310</b>



# Statement of Income and Expenses for 2023

(All amounts are in euros)

	Notes	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>INCOME</b>				
Income raised	F.			
Income from individual donors		2,177,555	1,781,700	1,608,762
Income from companies		91,165	60,000	208,292
Income from other non-profit organisations		497,241	860,000	603,608
Total income raised		2,765,961	2,701,700	2,420,662
Other income	G.	4,187	0	4,008
		<b>2,770,148</b>	<b>2,701,700</b>	<b>2,424,670</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Spent on objectives</b>	H.			
Projects, structural assistance		1,717,447	1,436,700	1,472,308
Awareness raising		286,814	342,400	217,369
		<b>2,004,261</b>	<b>1,779,100</b>	<b>1,689,676</b>
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>	I.			
Fundraising costs		531,510	650,400	527,009
<b>Management and administration costs</b>	J.			
Management and administration costs		232,271	272,300	231,968
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>2,768,042</b>	<b>2,701,800</b>	<b>2,448,653</b>
<b>Result before financial income and expenses</b>		<b>2,106</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-23,983</b>
Total financial income and expenses	K.	26,244	100	615
<b>RESULT</b>		<b>28,350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-23,368</b>

# Statement of Income and Expenses for 2023

(All amounts are in euros)

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>RESULT ALLOCATION</b>			
Addition / withdrawal to:			
Continuity reserve	487,155	0	-272,725
Appropriation reserves:			
Reserve for projects	-321,213	0	396,800
Other reserves	-35,835	0	-65,508
Earmarked fund(s)	-101,757	0	-81,935
	<b>28,350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-23,368</b>

# Determination of results

## Income from private individuals, companies and funds

Income from private individuals, companies and other funds is recognised in the year to which it pertains unless income is subject to conditions still to be met.

Legacies and bequests are valued and accounted for as income in the year of receipt or in which a notarial instrument of division or the presentation of the accounts has been received.

## Expenses

Amounts spent on ECF projects and programmes are accounted for as expenses in the financial year in which the contribution has been unconditionally committed. The expenses recognised in the statement of income and expenses include the related direct and indirect costs.

Fundraising, awareness-raising, and management & administration costs are charged to the statement of income and expense in the year to which they pertain and as soon as they became apparent. The costs for management & administration encompass the costs incurred by the organisation in the context of (internal) management and administration and are not allocated to a goal or the acquisition of funds. This includes accountancy costs, administration costs (as long as these are not for project administration), and costs of the Board.

Salaries, wages, social security contributions, and premiums are recognised in the statement of income and expenses based on the pay and benefit package to the extent that they are payable to employees. Dutch employees participate in a pension from Pensioenfonds Zorg en Welzijn. The contributions from employees amounted to one-third of the pension premium owed. The contribution to be paid as a result of a pension scheme comprises the regular annual contribution premium to be paid to the pension provider.

## Allocation of expense

All direct and indirect costs are allocated to 1) the objectives of ECF (projects, structural assistance, and awareness-raising, 2) the costs of generating funds and 3) management & administration costs. All indirect costs such as personnel expenses, accommodation, office and general expenses, and depreciation are allocated based on an estimate of the time and corresponding personnel costs for each employee arising as a result of the various activities. The direct costs spent on ECF projects, structural assistance, and costs for awareness raising are attributed directly.

The allocation of expenses is described in the paragraph Indirectly attributable costs; see page 46.

## Financial income

The financial income is recognised in the statement of income and expenses.

# Notes to the balance sheet

(All amounts are in euros)

## Assets

### A. Fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets consisted of externally acquired software. Tangible fixed assets were comprised of office machines, equipment, and computers. During the year, the following changes were made:

	2023	2022
<b>A.1. Intangible fixed assets</b>		
Acquisition value as of 1 January	175,829	174,616
Cumulative depreciation	137,822	112,085
	38,007	62,531
Investments	0	1,213
Investments in development	0	0
Depreciations	20,026	25,737
Divestments	0	0
Depreciations of divestments	0	0
Acquisition value as of 31 December	175,828	175,829
Cumulative depreciation	157,848	137,822
<b>Bookvalue as of 31 December</b>	<b>17,980</b>	<b>38,007</b>

The investments in development in the previous year were related to an adjustment in the software that improves the link with the website and the administration system.

	2023	2022
<b>A.2. Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Acquisition value as of 1 January	86,497	80,010
Cumulative depreciation	70,303	64,868
	16,194	15,142
Investments	499	6,487
Depreciations	5,054	5,435
Divestments	0	0
Depreciations of divestments	0	0
Acquisition value as of 31 December	86,995	86,497
Cumulative depreciation	75,357	70,303
<b>Bookvalue as of 31 December</b>	<b>11,638</b>	<b>16,194</b>



The tangible fixed assets were required for operations. The depreciation percentage is 20% for office interior and 8% for office improvement. Some items have also been written off at an accelerated pace as a result of the relocation in this section.

	2023	2022
<b>B. Receivables and accruals</b>		
Gifts to be received	2,135	145
Prepaid project costs	1,349	0
Legacies to be received	60,562	161,762
Pension costs	649	351
Benefits with regards to sickness	33,928	29,985
Service Level Agreement and other IT costs	2,140	3,433
Office rental in The Netherlands	5,190	4,892
Insurances	35,566	0
Receivable interest	9,279	522
Deposits	5,999	5,999
Other receivables	20,002	7,058
	<b>176,799</b>	<b>214,147</b>

All amounts were to be settled within one year after the balance sheet date. In 2023, bequests were made and final accounts were received and are listed as Legacies to be received for a total amount of € 60,562.

	2023	2022
<b>C. Cash</b>		
Savings accounts	2,270,930	1,603,760
Current accounts	598,160	1,200,146
Cash	2,467	2,056
	<b>2,871,557</b>	<b>2,805,962</b>

Placed at banking institutions in Nepal, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Tanzania is a total amount of € 91,351 for 2023 (2022: € 103,671).

## LIABILITIES

### D. Reserves and funds

	2023	2022
<b>D.1. Continuity reserve</b>		
Balance as of 1 January	1,356,767	1,629,492
Movements due to distribution of results	487,155	-272,725
<b>Balance as of 31 December</b>	<b>1,843,922</b>	<b>1,356,767</b>

The continuity reserve was designed to create a sufficient buffer to cover financial risks in the short term in case of a significant shortfall of key sources of funding. It also included funding necessary for actions to enable ECF to rebuild such a shortfall while still meeting legal and moral obligations.

In 2023, a risk analysis was carried out, and the board discussed the risk analyses of 2023 and 2022 with a forecast to 2024. This is annually on the agenda for the Board.

This risk analysis included an estimate of the potential financial consequences of the risk identified. The analysis led to a required amount for the continuity reserve of € 842,915. The continuity reserve met this criterion; it amounted to € 1.8 million at the end of 2023.

The maximum size for the continuity reserve according to the asset's guidelines set by the association for fundraising institutions (Goede Doelen Nederland) equals one and a half times the annual operational costs for the organisation and is, based on the budget for the following year, a maximum amount of € 2.5 million.

	2023	2022
<b>D.2. Appropriate reserves</b>		
D.2.1. Reserve for projects:	849,584	1,170,797
D.2.2. Other reserve:	27,329	63,164
<b>Balance as of 31 December</b>	<b>876,913</b>	<b>1,233,961</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
D.2.1. Reserve for projects:		
Balance as of 1 January	1,170,797	77,997
Movements due to distribution of results	-321,213	396,800
<b>Balance as of 31 December</b>	<b>849,584</b>	<b>1,170,797</b>

The reserve for projects will be used to realise and finance projects to which ECF has committed itself.

These obligations were contingent in the sense that interim reports were made on the basis of which it was determined whether or not to make further financial resources available for the project. The projects will be continued if there is sufficient progress and adequate reporting and if sufficient financing was available to realise and finance the projects. Below is a summary of the conditional project obligations as per year end is provided.

	2023	2022
	Contract amount	Contract amount
Nepal	406,211	669,636
Vietnam	361,196	317,461
Cambodia	48,148	61,265
Laos	33,906	0
Tanzania	123	5,435
Rwanda	0	117,000
	<b>849,584</b>	<b>1,170,797</b>

	2023	2022
D.2.2. Other reserve:		
Balance as of 1 January	63,164	128,672
Movements due to distribution of results	-35,835	-65,508
<b>Balance as of 31 December</b>	<b>27,329</b>	<b>63,164</b>
<b>Balance as of 31 December</b>	<b>876,913</b>	<b>1,233,961</b>

The Other reserve appropriation intends to cover a project in Nepal and will support, for example, the repair, renovation and upgrade of the Gorkha and Baglung eye care centres.

	2023	2022
<b>D.3. Earmarked funds</b>		
Balance as of 1 January	211,932	293,867
Addition	428,918	694,946
Withdrawal	530,675	776,881
<b>Balance as of 31 December</b>	<b>110,175</b>	<b>211,932</b>

The earmarked funds represented all received earmarked income that the donor intended for a specific purpose for which the underlying objective and related expenses have not yet been realised. This included donations that businesses, associations, and funds (capital or otherwise) have provided to ECF. The amounts were expected to be entirely spent in future years.

	2023	2022
<b>E. Short-term debts and accrued liabilities</b>		
Creditors	91,251	22,597
Provision longterm sickness	0	307
Pension expenses	7,103	9,733
Taxes and social contributions	30,366	42,040
Holiday-allowances	17,177	22,317
Holiday-days	32,655	45,104
Audit fee	19,340	26,550
Grants received in advance	19,053	63,510
Project costs paid in advanced	2,513	2,513
Beneficiaries	0	26,355
Other debts and accrued liabilities	27,506	10,624
	<b>246,964</b>	<b>271,650</b>

All other liabilities and accruals are due within one year.



# Off-balance sheet rights and obligations

## Long-term financial obligations (conditional or otherwise)

- A. There is a long-term, unconditional obligation with respect to rent. The contract for rent will end as of 31 August 2026 with a notice for a cancellation period of three calendar months. The total obligation amounts to € 158,900 from 1 January 2024 to 31 August 2026 of which € 59,600 was due in one year.
- B. ECF often works on the basis of long-term contracts. These obligations are contingent in the sense that interim reports were made on the basis of which it was determined whether or not to make further financial resources available for the project. The projects will be continued if there has been sufficient progress and adequate reporting and if sufficient financing was available to realise and finance the projects. A summary of the conditional project obligations for the coming years (in euros) is given below:

	2023
	Contract amount
Nepal	406,211
Vietnam	361,196
Cambodia	48,148
Laos	33,906
Tanzania	123
Rwanda	0
	<b>849,584</b>

## Rights not included in the balance sheet

- A. Thanks to a collaborative partner, ECF acquired the rights to share certificates in mid-June 2018. These rights were converted at the end of 2022 and included in the income.
- B. Together with three other charity organisations, ECF received an inheritance of which the share of ECF represents 70% of the inheritance. This estate includes apartment rights in Amsterdam with an annual rental income. The apartment rights must be maintained and owned in a foundation for at least fifteen years, i.e., until 1 January 2032. After fifteen years, one-tenth (1/10) of the assets may be distributed pro rata to the four organisations.
- C. As one of Project Connect's partners, we contributed to the further development of the ProjectConnect software. As part of this partnership agreement, the fee for this investment is determined annually. We can use it to finance new innovations, but it can also be used to purchase a module of the software.
- D. ECF received a grant for a project in Vietnam, titled "Make Children's Vision Count – To Leave No Child Behind", during the period of 19 July 2021 to 18 May 2023 and amounted to USD 250,000.

# Explanatory Notes for the Statement of Income and Expenses (All amounts are in euros)

## INCOME

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>F. Income raised</b>			
F.1. Income from individual donors	2,177,555	1,781,700	1,608,762
F.2. Income from companies	91,165	60,000	208,292
F.3. Income from other non-profit organisations	497,241	860,000	603,608
<b>Total income raised</b>	<b>2,765,961</b>	<b>2,701,700</b>	<b>2,420,662</b>

### F.1. Income from individual donors

This income comprised donations and gifts as well as legacies and bequests. The donations and gifts from private individual donors amounted to a total of € 2,177,55, a increase of 35% when compared to the total of the previous year (2022: € 1,608,762). The higher income in 2023 was due to unexpected received legacies. The lower case from legacies and bequests amounted to € 1,199,385 (budgeted € 646,700 and for 2022: € 575,267). ECF used the basic principle to allocate these amounts to sustain (new) projects and / or programmes and continue the work of ECF.

### F.2./F.3. Income from companies and non-profit organisations

We noticed that our donors who are responsible for the income from companies and non-profit organisations were increasingly asking for (1) projects that have not yet started and (2) project activities that will actually be implemented. By sending out proposals before the start of 2023, we managed to increase the income from companies and non-profit organisations. In addition, ECF has been working towards more multi-year agreements to safeguard and grow this income. All of this will allow more programmes to be implemented in the future, increase ECF's impact, and make it more resilient and flexible as an organisation. Not-for-profit organisations such as institutional donors, private associations, capital funds and service clubs donated a total of € 497,241 in 2023 (budgeted € 860,000). These benefits mainly relate to labelled gifts for specific (elements of) eye care projects. Although the amount raised is lower than budgeted, the increase in income should continue in the coming years.

The team responsible for fundraising from not-for-profit organisations also focuses on fundraising from companies. When merging these two elements we achieved lower results (€ 588,406) compared to last year (€ 811,899), staying under budget by 36%.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>G. Other income</b>			
Other income	4,187	0	4,008
	<b>4,187</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,008</b>

ECF has a partnership with IAPB that results, among other things, in the use of our office in Nepal. For this, IAPB contributes modestly to the costs.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>K. Balance of financial income and expenses</b>			
Interest	26,244	-100	615
	<b>26,244</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>615</b>

This concerned the banks' settlement of savings and the interest rate.

## EXPENSES

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>H. Spent on objectives</b>			
<b>H.1. Projects; structural assistance</b>			
Nepal	432,059	291,300	351,387
Vietnam	268,734	261,250	269,962
Cambodia	328,153	256,000	242,731
Laos	136,024	127,050	112,488
Tanzania	80,428	82,400	80,380
Other occasional projects- Rwanda	54,000	0	29,434
Other project costs	104,288	105,700	36,031
	1,403,686	1,123,700	1,122,412
Indirectly attributable costs	313,761	313,000	349,895
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,717,447</b>	<b>1,436,700</b>	<b>1,472,308</b>

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>H.2. Awareness raising</b>			
Website	16,096	20,500	24,798
Advertising costs	0	2,000	0
Information materials	2,246	5,000	7,335
Information materials newsletters	45,365	32,500	37,966
Information materials Prospects	90,515	120,000	0
Others	28,004	21,000	33,003
	182,227	201,000	103,102
Indirectly attributable costs	104,587	141,400	114,267
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>286,814</b>	<b>342,400</b>	<b>217,369</b>
<b>Total spent on objectives</b>	<b>2,004,261</b>	<b>1,779,100</b>	<b>1,689,676</b>



Last year, due to inflation and price adjustments, we experienced increased project costs. The project activities were spared as much as possible in this respect, so it caused less impact on our project results. The total actual expenses spent on objectives over 2023 were higher than budgeted. The main reasons for the higher actual expenses are higher employee costs, higher projects costs due to inflation, and the costs for Rwanda was not budgeted for 2023.

As for the costs of awareness raising as part of our objectives, the actual spending in 2023 was lower than budgeted (16%). This component consists of education and information on prevention, treatment and the need for eye care, and transport to our eye camps (or eye units) for eye screening and/or treatment. More emphasis has been placed on communication and education through online/social media and online marketing including campaigns through Facebook and other online campaigns.

For a more extensive explanation of the indirectly attributable costs, see page 5, paragraph Indirectly attributable costs.

**Spending percentage spent on objectives**

The ratio of the total expenses related to objectives as a percentage of the total income is presented in the following table.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
Total spent on objectives	2,004,261	1,779,100	1,689,676
Total income raised	2,770,148	2,701,700	2,424,670
Spending percentage	72,4%	65,9%	69,7%

In 2023, the percentage spent on objectives of the total income raised is higher than budgeted. For an explanation of the income raised, see note F and note G for information on the spending on objectives.

**Spending percentage spent on objectives**

The ratio of the total expenses on objectives as a percentage of the total expenses is presented in the following table.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
Total spent on objectives	2,004,261	1,779,100	1,689,676
Total expenses	2,768,042	2,701,800	2,448,65
Spending percentage	72,4%	65,8%	69,0%

The higher percentage of expenses on objectives of the total expenses when compared to the budget is because last year project spending was carried out as much as possible. For an explanation for spending on objectives, see note H.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>I. Fundraising costs</b>			
Mail packs	120,256	162,600	120,524
Fundraising online/through social media	363	10,000	12,349
Events	34,326	8,000	1,036
Costs for legacies	12,077	500	438
Communications and PR	0	7,000	0
Others	111,737	139,200	99,719
	278,758	327,300	234,066
Indirectly attributable costs	252,752	323,100	292,943
<b>Total of fundraising costs</b>	<b>531,510</b>	<b>650,400</b>	<b>527,009</b>

The costs of generating funds were related to the various funding activities. The most important were the costs in relation to private fundraising and the costs for fundraising grants at institutional funds.

### Spending percentage of the fundraising

The ratio of the total fundraising as a percentage of the total income is presented in the following table.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
Total of fundraising	531,510	650,400	527,009
Total income raised	2,770,148	2,701,700	2,424,670
Spending percentage	19,2%	24,1%	21,7%

The decrease in fundraising costs as a percentage of total income compared to budget is mainly due to decreased total fundraising.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>J. Costs for management &amp; administration</b>			
Board expenses	3,237	2,000	4,188
Strategy and policy development	0	5,000	2,545
Audit fees	26,600	30,000	24,140
Costs for administration	1,976	3,000	2,202
	31,813	40,000	33,075
Indirectly attributable costs	200,458	232,300	198,893
<b>Total costs for management &amp; administration</b>	<b>232,271</b>	<b>272,300</b>	<b>231,968</b>

The management & administration costs in 2023 (€ 232,271) were more than in 2022 (€ 231,968) but less than budgeted (€ 272,300). In 2023, further steps have been taken in the professional development of ECF as a team. The Board, medical advisors, other advisors, and various stakeholders participated in several sessions over the year.

In addition, see page 51 for the cost allocation of the indirectly attributable costs.

### Spending percentage for management & administration

The ratio of the total costs for management & administration as a percentage of the total expenses is presented in the following table.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
Costs for management & administration	232,271	272,300	231,968
Total sum of expenses	2,768,042	2,701,800	2,448,653
Spending percentage	8,4%	10,1%	9,5%

# TOTAL EXPENSES

(All amounts are in euros)

Expenses	Objectives	Awareness raising	Fundraising	Management & Administration	2023 Total	2023 Budget	2022 Total
Projects and programmes	Projects						
	1,403,686				1,403,686	1,123,700	1,122,412
Awareness raising					182,227	201,000	103,102
Fundraising		182,227	278,758		278,758	327,300	234,066
Costs for outsourcing				31,813	31,813	40,000	33,075
Staff costs	242,818	80,939	195,603	155,133	674,493	795,300	690,510
Accommodation costs	20,630	6,877	16,619	13,180	57,305	54,500	53,276
Office and General expenses	41,285	13,762	33,257	26,376	114,680	128,000	181,040
Depreciation	9,029	3,010	7,273	5,768	25,080	32,000	31,173
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,717,448</b>	<b>286,814</b>	<b>531,510</b>	<b>232,270</b>	<b>2,768,042</b>	<b>2,701,800</b>	<b>2,448,653</b>



# Indirectly attributable costs (All amounts are in euros)

## Costs allocation

All direct and indirect costs are allocated to 1) the objectives of ECF (Projects, structural assistance, and awareness-raising); 2) the costs of generating funds; 3) management & administration costs. All indirectly attributable costs, such as personnel expenses, accommodation, office and general expenses, and depreciation are allocated based on an estimate of the time and corresponding personnel costs for each employee arising as a result of the various activities. The allocation of costs is attributed in percentages as follows:

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>Costs allocation</b>			
Projects, structural assistance	36%	31%	37%
Awareness raising	12%	14%	12%
Fundraising costs	29%	32%	31%
Management and administration costs	23%	23%	21%
<b>Costs for personnel</b>			
Salaries in the Netherlands	545,202	559,000	579,828
Social insurance premiums, insurance	75,809	85,500	85,415
Costs of pension facilities	66,676	77,800	77,038
Costs of volunteers	0	1,500	0
Benefits with regards to sickness	-125,379	-2,500	-105,357
Other personnel costs	112,184	74,000	53,585
	674,492	795,300	690,510
<b>Accommodation costs</b>			
Rent	57,305	54,000	53,343
Other accommodation costs	0	500	-67
	57,305	54,500	53,276
<b>Office and general expenses</b>			
Office and general expenses	114,680	128,000	181,040
	114,680	128,000	181,040
<b>Depreciation costs</b>			
Depreciation costs	25,080	32,000	31,173
Costs of assets disposed/divestments	0	0	0
	25,080	32,000	31,173
<b>Total of Indirectly attributable costs</b>	<b>871,557</b>	<b>1,009,800</b>	<b>955,999</b>

On balance, the total of the indirectly attributable costs amounted to € 871,559 in 2023, which is 12% lower than budgeted (€ 1,009,800). Some parts of the non-direct attributable costs exceeded the budget, other parts showed an underspending. The lower utilization of the staff costs was, among others, due to the amount received with regard to sickness and an adjustment in the job structure.

ECF's database included not only financial accounting but also project administration and gift administration with data on donors, creditors, and other relations. Other overspending of the office and general expenses consisted mainly of the costs for the database and ICT.

	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	2022 Actuals
<b>Average number of Persons employed</b>			
Cambodia office team	3	3	3
Netherlands office team	10	11	10,5
Laos office team	1	1	1
Nepal office team	3	3	3
Vietnam office team	3	3	3
Tanzania Office team	1	1	
<b>As the average number of FTEs</b>			
Cambodia Office Team	3,0	3,0	3,0
Netherlands Office Team	7,4	9,2	8,6
Laos Office Team	1,0	1,0	1,0
Nepal Office Team	3,0	3,0	3,0
Vietnam Office Team	3,0	3,0	3,0
Tanzania Office team	1,0	1,0	

## Management model and remuneration

By January 1, 2024 the new structure had been inaugurated after new statutes were signed into law by the notary on December 5, 2023. So from that day onwards our Board has become the ECF Supervisory Board and the CEO has become Chairman of the Board/Director.

In 2023, ECF had a Board for monitoring, supervising, and giving advice on ECF's overall operations, and a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the implementation of ECF's strategy and day-to-day management. The members of the Board receive no remuneration for their activities. Travel costs for trips relating to the organisation's objectives are reimbursed upon approval and in line with the guidelines, which also apply to employees. No loans, advances, or guarantees were provided to individual Board members in 2023. The salaries of the staff were based on a formalized salary structure (BBRA-scale).<sup>1</sup> The functions were grouped into categories based on the job characteristics.

<sup>1</sup> [From the Dutch: Bezoldigingsbesluit Burgerlijke Rijksambtenaren (Dutch Civil Servants' Pay Decree 1984 (BBRA))]

## Board members

Name	Position
Mr A.M. (Arthur) van Praag	Chairman of the Board
Ms L.A. (Linda) Hummel	Vice-chairman of the Board
Ms J.B.B. (Sascha) Bogerd	Treasurer of the Board
Ms I.B. (Indira) Rombley	Member of the Board

## Remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Board has established the remuneration policy and fee for the CEO in accordance with the Goede Doelen Nederland (Dutch Charities Association) regulation regarding the remuneration of Executive Directors (see [www.goededoelennederland.nl](http://www.goededoelennederland.nl)) and the policy is periodically updated.

The regulation determined a maximum annual income based on a number of criteria. The Board applied the criteria to ECF, which resulted in BSD<sup>2</sup> score of 385 points. The related maximum annual income for 2023 is an average of € 122,552.

The actual annual earnings relevant to the assessment, at the applicable ceilings of CEO, Mr. Björn Stenvers, are € 100,486. This was well within both remuneration guidelines of Goede Doelen Nederland. The CEO did not receive any bonuses, loans, advance payments, or guarantees. The employer's contribution to the pension scheme of the CEO amounted to € 14,563 (2022: € 14,210). Allowances for expenses were only granted based on actual costs incurred and contained no remuneration elements. ECF did not provide lease cars. The CEO did not receive an untaxable commuting allowance in 2023 nor in 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Management Job Basic Score (MJBS) in accordance with the Director Fee Scheme of charity organisations

## Remuneration in accordance with the Dutch association of charities (Goede Doelen Nederland)

**Name: Björn Stenvers**

**Position: Chief Executive Officer**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Contract type	Permanent	Permanent
Full-time hours	36	36
Contract hours	36	36
Part-time percentage	100%	100%
Period	01/01 - 31/12	01/01 - 31/12
<b>Remuneration (EUR)</b>		
<b>Yearly income</b>		
Gross salary	86,584	82,622
Holiday allowance	6,753	6,366
13th month	7,149	6,870
Remuneration	100,486	95,858
Pension scheme paid by employer	14,563	14,210
<b>Total of remuneration</b>	<b>115,049</b>	<b>110,068</b>

## Remuneration of ECF's goodwill ambassadors

Toine van Peperstraten, ECF's goodwill ambassador, carried out his activities without receiving any remuneration.

## Appropriation of result

The result for the 2023 financial year was € 28,350 (positive). The CEO proposed, with the approval of the Board, to appropriate the result for the year in accordance with the overview period in the Statement of Income and Expenses on page 35 and the explanation in note D.

## After balance sheet date information

There have been no material post-balance sheet events, which would require adjustment to the financial statement of ECF for 2023.

**Chief Executive Officer**

Björn Stenvers

**Supervisory board**

Arthur van Praag (Chairman)

Linda Hummel (Vice-chairman)

Sascha Bogerd (Treasurer)

Indira Rombly (Member)

**Other information****Appropriation of result**

The Board of ECF approved the annual accounts drawn up by the Chief Executive Officer. The annual accounts included a proposal for the appropriation of the result for 2023. The appropriation of results took the imposed restrictions on spending by third parties into account.

**Supervisory board**

- Ms Sascha BOGERD, Treasurer
- Ms Linda HUMMEL, Vice-chairman
- Mr Arthur VAN PRAAG, Chairman
- Ms Indira ROMBLEY, Board member

**Cambodia office team**

- Ms Marguerite GOULDING, Programme Development Mentor
- Mr Piseth HORM, Senior Programme Coordinator
- Ms Soumny OUK, Administration and Finance
- Mr Sambath POL, Country Representative Cambodia; Programme Manager Laos

**Laos office team**

- Ms Lattana SENGDALE, Project Officer

**Nepal office team**

- Ms Sujata GAUTAM, Administration and Finance
- Mr Anil GORKHALY, Country Representative
- Mr Mani RAM PRADHAN, Logistics Staff
- Ms Shubhecha SHRESTHA, Intern

**Netherlands office team**

- Mr Jop BRUIN, Project Information Manager
- Ms Margreet GEELS, Relations and Events Manager
- Mr Leander HANSEN, Private Donors Fundraising Manager
- Ms Andrea KALJSER, Quality Manager
- Ms Audrey MOESTADJA, Head of Finance
- Mr Björn STENVERS, Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Tessa WORTMAN, Institutional Fundraising Manager
- Ms Conny VAN ZIJP, Assistant Controller

**Tanzania office team**

- Mr Daniel Wilbard MASHELE, Project Coordinator

**Vietnam office team**

- Ms Lan LUONG THI QUYNH, Country Representative
- Ms Xuan NGUYEN THI TRUONG, Project Officer
- Ms An Ha KHANH, Social Media
- Ms Van Anh NGUYEN, Volunteer
- Ms Kim PHAM, Administration and Finance
- Ms Thu LE, Project Assistance

**Medical advisors**

- Dr Margot DELLAERT, Ophthalmologist
- Dr The Anh MAI, Ophthalmologist
- Dr Alberta THIADENS, Ophthalmologist
- Dr Cees VAN DER WINDT, Ophthalmologist
- Dr Peter Jaap DE LINT, Ophthalmologist
- Dr Hedwig KEMME, Ophthalmologist
- Dr Gerard SMITH, Ophthalmologist





## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To: the Board of Stichting Eye Care Foundation in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

### **A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2023 included in the annual report**

#### **Our opinion**

We have audited the financial statements 2023 of Stichting Eye Care Foundation based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Eye Care Foundation as at 31 December 2023 and of its result for 202 in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting 650 "Fundraising Organisations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023;
2. the statement of income and expenditures for 2023; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### **Basis for our opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Eye Care Foundation in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Report on the other information included in the annual report**

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of the Board's report;

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Board's report, in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting 650 "Fundraising Organisations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

## **Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements**

### **Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements**

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting 650 "Fundraising Organisations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. Furthermore, the Board is responsible for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the Board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

## **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included e.g.:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the foundation's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a foundation to cease to continue as a going concern; evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Leersum, 3 juli 2024

**Van Ree Accountants**

**J.K.J. (Carlo) van Egdom MSc**

Certified auditor