IN 2018, Orbis incorporated the latest in eye health technology to reach more people and improve the quality of our training. With blindness expected to triple in the next 30 years, employing these technological advancements is one of the most impactful ways we can reverse this trend.

“You can only send people and equipment to so many places, but you can go everywhere, an unlimited number of times, with technology.”

DR. DANIEL NEELY, INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & ORBIS VOLUNTEER FACULTY

CYBERSIGHT, our online teledmedicine platform, allows eye health professionals in remote communities to improve their skills, seek assistance on diagnosis and treatment of their patients and learn from world-leading practitioners. Cybersight works alongside the Flying Eye Hospital, letting ophthalmologists around the world view all the surgeries and lectures that take place on board.

In 2018 alone, Orbis trained more than 5,800 eye health professionals in 165 countries through Cybersight. We also serviced 2,160 patient consultations by connecting doctors across the globe with our expert volunteers for advice on complex cases.
AROUND THE WORLD, women face gender-related barriers to accessing eye care. Lack of education, limited decision-making power, restricted access to household spending, and traditional gender roles all contribute to the unequal burden of blindness.

In 2018, Orbis made this issue a priority. Our sight-saving work will go even further to ensure equity in eye care for women and girls. Empowering women to access eye care will not only help address gender inequalities, but also have a positive impact on their future, family, community, and the economy as a whole.

**IN GHANA,** Orbis partnered with the Queen Mothers – a group of respected and influential women who use their stature to help improve public awareness about eye care.

The Queen Mothers speak during community events on the importance of early diagnosis and treatment for eye issues. With help from Orbis, they provide eye care education, refer people to trained local professionals and debunk harmful traditional practices related to the eye.

ORBIS TOOK PART in a landmark study that revealed how a simple pair of $2.35 reading glasses can boost workers’ productivity and reduce poverty.

The study of 750 predominantly female tea pickers in India found that wearing glasses improved their productivity by 22% over a three-month period. In those over the age of 50, the impact was even greater, with productivity increasing by 32%.

This translated into higher incomes, which reduced poverty and improved health and well-being for women and their families. In fact, over 95% of those taking part in the trial said they would recommend using glasses to others.

**PROVIDING THE TOOLS TO BUILD ECONOMIES**

**BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

**25 million**
more women and girls live with vision impairment compared to men and boys

**70%**
of people suffering from trachoma are female

**2 out of 3**
blind children are girls

**395,611**
pairs of eyeglasses were prescribed
THE SINGRA VISION CENTER in Bangladesh is run by three dedicated eye health professionals who are all women in their 20s. Minufa, Rumpa and Kalpona – an optometrist, refractionist and an optical dispenser – ensure patients at their family-friendly center are properly screened, treated, counseled and, if necessary, referred to the nearest hospital for further treatment.

Within the local community, the staff raise awareness about eye health and encourage women to seek treatment at the center with the aim of removing some of the traditional and gender-related barriers that keep women from accessing eye care.

To help ensure the next generation of eye care providers will be gender-balanced, Orbis’s partner hospitals across Bangladesh actively recruit and support the education of female eye care professionals at their training institutes.

In 2018
4,458,266 people were screened by Orbis and our partners
SHARE OUR VISION?
For more information or to join our mailing list, visit ORBIS.ORG and CYBERSIGHT.ORG.
To help us save sight and transform lives, visit DONATE.ORBIS.ORG.

Orbis is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Our federal tax ID number is 23-7297651 and our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 10663. Orbis.org | 1-800-672-4787
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