



ORBIS Project in Ethiopia

ORBIS delivers a special gift to thousands of people across the developing world, their sight.

In too many countries children who are blind or visually impaired struggle in school, are unable to reach their full potential and are seen as a burden on families and society. The fact is that up to half of children in developing countries who become blind will die within two years.

ORBIS is an international charity dedicated to the treatment and prevention of blindness in the developing world and since it was founded in 1982 it has worked tirelessly to achieve its goal. With a focus on teaching and training, ORBIS has carried out more than 1,000 sight-saving programs and treated more than 10 million people worldwide.

ORBIS has established long term projects in Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, India and since 2007 ORBIS has been working to eliminate a highly prevalent and life destroying, blinding disease – trachoma - in some of the poorest regions of southern Ethiopia.

Trachoma is a highly infectious eye disease that has been wiped out in the western world, but in countries like Ethiopia it continues to bring misery, pain, blindness and poverty. Yet this disease is both easy to treat and prevent. With effective treatment someone's suffering could be over in a matter of days, perhaps even hours. Their sight could be saved and their life transformed.

ORBIS adopted the World Health Organisation's **SAFE** strategy which involves conducting corrective **S**urgery, to reverse the effects of trachoma; distributing **A**ntibiotics to treat the initial blinding infection; raising awareness of **F**acial cleanliness to prevent the bacteria which causes infection; and improving the surrounding **E**nvironment through improving access to clean water and sanitation.

ORBIS' vision is ambitious, but one that is vital for the growth of the developing world. Together we can put a stop to this painful and preventable condition.

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