CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

You’ll be amazed how little it takes to make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need of eye care.

As this report highlights, together we have saved the vision of thousands of people. On behalf of the Al-Mustafa team I would like to relay a heartfelt thank you for all your support.

Wasalamu’Alaikum,

Abdul Razzaq Sajid
Chairman

As of December 2017, 74,000 surgeries completed, help us reach our target of 100,000
Every 5 seconds someone in the world goes blind and a child goes blind every minute. Approximately 285 million people worldwide live with low vision and blindness. 90% of the world's visually impaired live in developing countries. 39 million people are blind and 246 million have moderate or severe visual impairment.

80% of the world’s blindness is preventable. The largest single cause of impaired vision is refractive error and can be corrected with a pair of glasses.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 52% of the blind suffer from cataract, which can be cured by a simple operation.
- 52% of the population is estimated to suffer from diabetes which can cause irreversible blindness.
- 14% suffer from corneal problems which require a corneal transplant with donated tissue.
- 10% of our population is blind.
- 5% suffer from Glaucoma, another irreversible blinding disease.
- 6.1% of the population is estimated to suffer from macular degeneration.
- 8.5% suffer from diabetic retinopathy.
- 5% suffer from glaucoma.

IMPACT OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Looking Through Their Eyes

Our eyes are responsible for four-fifths of all the information our brain receives. Now imagine you had an eye condition like cataract or glaucoma, what would you see?

DID YOU KNOW?

AMWT works to improve the vision of people in developing countries. AMWT optometrists in many cases, simply diagnose patients with refractive errors and prescribe them with a corrective pair of lenses. It’s estimated that 153 million people above the age of five could improve their vision with a simple pair of glasses, but are unable to do so due to lack of optometry provisions.

www.almustafatrust.org
Tel: 020 8509 6444
Loss of Sight Effects
The Most Vulnerable

Studies indicate that two-thirds of people suffering from eye conditions are women and girls.

There are various reasons for this, including access to treatment. Even when health services are accessible, in many developing world community’s, men control the family finances and their medical needs are prioritised. The unethical question this poses is - should a family invest in a woman’s eye health? In many cases the answer is no.

Additionally when services are not easily accessible, it can also be harder for women to travel for treatment because of domestic responsibilities. In some cultures there is a sense of shame surrounding any type of disability, including visual impairments. In Pakistan, for example women are often afraid to be seen as a burden on the family and ashamed about being blind and may not seek medical help and support for this reason.

AMWT has a team of trained councillors who conduct community outreach projects aiming to educate people on eye treatments and family healthcare.

DID YOU KNOW?
www.almustafatrust.org
Tel: 020 8569 6444
OUR SUCCESSES TO DATE

74,639 CATARACT SURGERIES

511,577 OPD (SCREENING)

432 SCHOOL BASE EYE CAMPS

221,000 HEPATITIS SCREENING

803 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORTED IN BUSINESS

400,000 EYE GLASSES DISTRIBUTED

7,241 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL

Learning Through Innovation

Your generous support has provided us the opportunity to take a leap forward in exploring potentially innovative approaches to addressing the challenges faced in the delivery of effective eye care.

With ring-fenced funding for AMWT’s Innovation Fund, we can now explore new approaches and projects that hold the promise of effective large-scale educational and social change. We hope this will have a long-term impact on eye health reporting, assessment and treatment in hard to reach regions, whilst also establishing standards of good practice.

EYE CAMPS 2017

PAKISTAN 317
BANGladesh 91
GAZA, PALESTINE 18
GAMBIA 31
BANMA 9
SRI LANKA 14
KENYA 7

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Muhammad Akram, Chiniot, Pakistan

Muhammad Akram is known for his skills in building houses using traditional materials like mud and straw. At the ripe age of 60 he is still known across many villages in Chiniot, Pakistan and beyond for his craftsmanship. Over the last few years, due to deteriorating eye sight he could not work comfortably. At times he found he had made incorrect measurements or mixed the wrong materials, this led to poor workmanship and financial losses, resulting in a period of depression. When AMWT set up an eye camp in Malakal, Muhammad attended and was referred to a specialist who explained that a simple surgical procedure could help him regain his vision and that the surgery cost would be supported.

Muhammad says he feels that all his prayers have been answered. He is now back to work and delighted that he is able to provide a quality service to his clients once more.

Aleya Begum, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Aleya Begum is 52 and hails from Bangladesh, she was blessed with a beautiful family of two sons and a husband Shahabuddin. Though living below the poverty line, Shahabuddin was a hard-working labourer, working 12 hours daily to earn a small income to feed his family. He managed to send his sons to a good school, providing a good education, once they were married they chose to leave their parents. Shahabuddin continued to work as he was receiving no support, his health deteriorated and sadly he passed away in 2014. After 30 years of marriage Aleya Begum was now left alone, completely destitute and helpless, abandoned by her sons. With the passage of time, Aleya suffered from back problems due to heavy lifting and was diagnosed with a vertebrae dislocation. Unable to move properly and with deteriorating vision, all she had left was memories of happier times.

In 2017 she was taken to the local Eye Hospital, near Dhaka. AMWT was able to sponsor her free eye treatment, with the support of our respected donor Ms Tahrina Chowdhury. A cataract surgery was successfully performed and Aleya Begum was overjoyed when the eye pads were removed. She expressed her gratitude to the team with tears of happiness in her healing eyes, “I have no words that can express my happiness, I will forever remember this great deed of kindness”
MEET OUR 70,000TH CATARACT PATIENT

Azmat Ali 46, who lives with his wife and two children in Bahawalpur, Punjab, went blind gradually.

“1 used to work on a metal lathe machine in Bahawalpur. There was a slight problem in one of my eyes. On having it checked, I was told to wear spectacles, but my eyesight continued to deteriorate. At one stage I was completely dependent on others. When I went to the doctor again, I was informed it was a cataract and that the operation would cost Rs 20,000 (Approx. £145).”

How your donation made a difference

Azmat Ali’s life today is very different today, with his sight restored, he can live independently and no longer depends on his family to help perform simple daily routines such as washing and feeding himself. And best of all, he can once again provide for his family.

DID YOU KNOW?

Amwt is the only charity working in Pakistan which screens blood for Hepatitis B&C from all patients in its eye camps before their surgeries. We then treat all Hepatitis B&C positive patients under strict prescribed medical procedures.

SUPPORTING WORLD SIGHT DAY

Once a year, on the second Thursday of October, World Sight Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the 36 million people who are blind and the 217 million people that are visually impaired worldwide.

We know that 80% of blindness and vision loss is curable or preventable. This means four out of five of the visually impaired lose their sight needlessly. That’s why AMWT in committed to raising funds to treat 100,000 visually impaired people by 2020 through a global initiative, run in partnership with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). To help fund leading eye health organisations to deliver projects that train doctors and health workers, develop eye care infrastructure and support services to the poor.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Campaign
Add your voice and speak up for those who can’t be heard.

Donate
Make a regular monthly donation and spread the impact of your gift.

Fundraise
Whether it's a sponsored run or a coffee & cake morning, your support changes lives.

Leave a gift
A gift in your Will, however small or large, can help ensure we can always be here for those in need.

£35 CAN PROVIDE 1 CATARACT SURGERY
£105 CAN PROVIDE 3 CATARACT SURGERIES
£350 CAN PROVIDE 10 CATARACT SURGERIES
£1000 WILL PROVIDE 28 CATARACT SURGERIES IN ONE EYE CAMP

Volunteer Abroad
Join us for a truly life changing volunteer experience abroad. Working with our local team in an Al Mustafa Eye Camp, you will also have the opportunity to visit our other projects. Simply set up an Eye Camp by raising £2000 and see first hand how a 15 minute operation can change someone’s life forever.

Call us on 0208 5696 444 or complete the online form, we need your support!

As of 2017
74,000 SURGERIES COMPLETED
help us reach our target of 100,000