

Dear Lions,

As Chairperson of your Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), I have the privilege of traveling the globe to see the amazing work Lions are doing. Every day, you provide disaster relief, empower our young people and serve our communities. You also remain committed to saving sight. Whether you are conducting vision screenings, providing eyeglasses or medicine, you are giving the gift of sight.

Together with LCIF and partners like The Carter Center, Lions have helped to restore sight to 7.7 million people through cataract surgeries; prevented serious vision loss for more than 30 million; provided over 271 million treatments for river blindness; built or expanded 660 eye care hospitals and clinics; and trained 681,000 eye care specialists and eye health workers. Congratulations, Lions!

As we celebrate these achievements, know that there is still much work to be done. With your [contribution](#), LCIF will be able to support Lions all over the world who continue making a positive impact in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Thank you for commitment to saving and restoring sight.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Palmer
Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

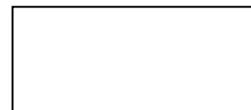
Providing Treatment for River Blindness

[River blindness](#) is a parasitic infection that occurs through the bite of a black fly, and may lead to low vision or irreversible blindness, as well as disfiguring skin diseases. River blindness is endemic to Central, East and West Africa, parts of Latin America and the Middle Eastern country of Yemen.

A SightFirst grant of US\$384,298 was recently awarded to Cameroon's National Onchocerciasis Control Program. The grant will be used for continued river blindness treatment activities in the North, Far North and Adamaoua regions. More than 1.5 million Mectizan[®] treatments will be provided to impacted populations.

Expanding Trachoma Services

[Trachoma](#) is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. The disease slowly and painfully robs people of their sight, as repeated infection turns eyelashes inwards, scraping the cornea and eventually causes irreversible blindness. LCIF has teamed up with the [Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust](#) to fight blinding trachoma in Africa.



A recent SightFirst grant of US\$1 million was awarded to Lions of Kenya and Uganda to support trichiasis surgeries through LCIF's partnership with the Trust. This grant is expected to provide more than 55,000 surgeries over the next two years.