

Rotary  
CLUB D'ABIDJAN BIETRY



**MANDATE 2015-2016**

**« BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD »**



**Faire don de soi au monde**



**Cataract Project**

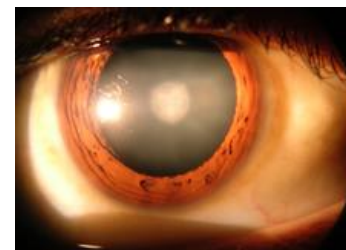


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# Introduction

**C**ataract is the partial or total opacification of the Lens, convergent lens located inside the eye. This opacification is responsible for a progressive loss of sight, at the beginning accompanied by glare (photophobia). This loss of sight may be quick (some weeks) due to traumatism.



Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in developing countries: it explains 40% of the 37 million blind people in the world. It is therefore a major public health problem in these countries, especially as the treatment is known and its application is limited by the problem of cost. Contributory factors are under nutrition dehydration, sun exposure. Then it occurs in relatively young people.

Lack of tested and proven prevention methods, all people suffering from this pathology must resort to surgery, only effective treatment. Cataract surgery, should be one of the most accessible health interventions and disseminated, as well as vaccinations. Unfortunately, the costs applied for this surgery are still too high for middle class populations.

In Ivory Coast on an estimated population of 23 million inhabitants, it is estimated that the prevalence of blindness (visual acuity is less than 1/20 in the best eye. See WHO definition) is of the order of 0.7%. Approximately 161,000 cases of total blindness or visual impairment. This inability is affected directly socio-economic level within populations. The Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry is part of the dynamic of "Vision 2020 the Right to Sight", an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to eliminate avoidable blindness worldwide by 2020.

Indeed, 90% of visually impaired people are in developing countries, and 8 out of 10 times, blindness and visual impairment can be avoided or are still curable.

We can now understand the need to accelerate and intensify current efforts for prevention and treatment of cataract initiated by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry in partnership with the NGO First Light.

## 1. Why Cataract Project ?



**C**ataract has serious social and economic consequences. The loss of autonomy it entails, involves physical and financial dependence of the person to his family and society.

- Financial Impact: Loss of income (at the level of the patient); health care costs; surgery costs; pharmaceutical and optical products; rehabilitation and residential redevelopment fees (at the level of the family); care and tax benefits (at the company).
- Social impact: loss of employment, loss of self-esteem, disorientation, depression (at the level of the patient); responsibility and supervision may be permanent (at the family and society).

What resources do we have in the Ivory Coast to deal with this pathology?

- Specialists :

*120 ophthalmologists, only twenty practice cataract surgery and 2/3 of them work in facilities in Abidjan.*

- Care centres with ophthalmology services :

*Around 44. Not enough for national coverage.*

- Material resources (very few in medical institutions) :

- 1- *automatic refractometer,*
- 2- *ophthalmoscope,*
- 3- *Visual field,*
- 4- *Angiograph,*
- 5- *Surgical Equipment.*

Such an environment is not conducive to optimal management of eye disease. And shows the rest of his small consideration in comparison with the health policy conditions such as malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis.

The Rotary Club of Abidjan Bietry as part of a long-acting as recommended by the PLC (Club Leadership Plan) has chosen to make its hobbyhorse the fight against this disease over the next 3 years. The project against this crippling disease has five components:

- Informing members about the disease (Inviting a specialist for a lecture)
- Detecting operation Organisation and free consultation

- Strengthening surgical operation capacities of a team of ophthalmologists practitioners (ophthalmologists, surgeons)
- Public Health structures Equipment
- Care and treatment of patients.

Thus installation of large-scale projects in the long term allows the club to impact the environment more sustainable and develop its own personality while respecting the strategic priorities of Rotary.

## 2. Who will be the recipients?

### **a- direct recipients**

- 160,000 cases of cataracts are waiting to be operated.
- The target number of 150 people suffering from cataract and deemed indigent will be taking care annually (for three years) by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry. This support may be renewed annually and extended also to patients who will go to have surgery in the Structures equipped by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry in the project. Furthermore, costs will be reduced in these centres.
- Fifteen specialists will be trained in the medical and surgical management of cataract patients.
- The General Hospital of Ayame has already equipment to support cataract. It was therefore chosen as the centre for the training phase of selected physicians. During the deployment phase of the project, a technical platform will be strengthened.
- Two other health centres will be identified and equipped as well.
- First Light, The NGO that is engaged by the side of Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry for this action, and leads to full-time advocacy and support for visually impaired and blind people, and their families.  
This action contributes to its promotion and its positioning as a relay of the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry within communities, for the fight against cataracts

### **b- Indirect recipients**

Indirect recipients of the project are the families of patients with cataract. The financial coverage of the treatment by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry will be a relief for families.

## 3. What's our target ?

### **a-General Objective**

Promote eye health and improve access to eye care.

### **b- Specific Objectives**

- Having a complete eye care unit and cataract surgery in three health centres.
- Having relevant local specialists for the medical care of cataract patients and reinforcement of the capacities.
- Raising awareness on population behaviours favourable to the promotion of eye health and involve them in the process of prevention of cataracts

## 4. Midium term-results

**S**ignificant increase in the prevalence of eye disease, disparities in the availability of eye care services are an obstacle to the fight against cataracts in parts of the most populous and most disadvantaged people.

Filling a little bit in these inadequacies of the Ivorian health system, the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry understood in terms of its strategic plan against cataracts lead to the following results:

- Training of fifteen ophthalmologists practitioners ready to operate cataract and support patients

- Equipping three Public Sanitary facilities in advanced materials for surgery and cataracts care.
- Financial coverage each year (for three years) 150 indigent patients for surgery and treatments.
- Adoption of a lower price policy to allow the management more accessible in long-term to patients.

## 5. Implementation of strategies

**T**hus, the following strategies will be implemented in this project.

### **a- Awareness raising and information campaigns.**

Awareness campaigns targeted local populations will be in collaboration with community leaders, neighbourhood leaders, religious leaders, community associations.

This is a local operation undertaken by the community health workers who will cross the town and camp to inform people on eye diseases in general and particularly cataract and invite them to free screenings that will follow.

Daily costs of these agents (transport, food services, accommodation, wages will be supported by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry).

Proximity radios in those areas and even drums Speakers and “griots” (traditional journalists) in the villages will be solicited for further expansion of information

### **b- free screening**

The phase of awareness and successful information will allow screening of large numbers of people from all the places targeted areas. Screening sessions will aim to identify cases of cataract for medical and financial support.

A During the screenings, healthy populations will be sensitized on the precautions and promoting behaviours eye health, as well as saving reflex to go to a health centre for spot-checks.



**c- Patients care**

The only effective treatment is surgery, patients identified during screening, in collaboration with the NGO First Light will undergo this surgical procedure in competent institutions. Costs relating to consumables and pharmaceuticals used during interventions will be borne by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry.

**d- Strengthening health workforce capacity**

In terms of capacity strengthening, the selection criteria for doctors who will be trained in cataract surgery are:

- Completing ophthalmology specialist training, that is to say, having completed the education and submitted their final thesis
- Be at least in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the certificate of special studies in ophthalmology
- Be a native Ivorian

Cost of training of the 15 experts will be borne in part by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry.

**e- The equipment of three eye care centres**

In our country more than 150 000 people are awaiting cataract surgery. With such demand, the cataract surgical coverage was around 4500 cases performed annually. Availability of care facilities and ophthalmic surgery is based on the size of the institution to its geographical position. Ophthalmology equipment is very expensive. A progressive acquisition over three years will be favored during the project.

## 6. Technical implementation plan

**a- Activities and duration**

Phases of the project will be as follows:



Table: Forward planning

ACTIVITES	ANNEES		
	1	2	3
Sensibilisation			
Dépistage			
Formation			
Prise en charge			
Equipement de trois centres de santé			

ACTIVITIES	YEARS		
	1	2	3
Awareness			
screening			
training			
care			
Equipment of three health centres			

### **First activity: Awareness**

Awareness campaign will be preceded by a phase of training provided to community health workers. It will be done by a doctor and will last two (02) days. Awareness will last three days. Among other things, it allows to:

- Raise public awareness of harmful traditional practices, the importance of washing the face, in the places where eye care services are, etc.
- Empower community workers to carry tools Information-Education-Communication (IEC) on preventing cataract.
- Organize talks on cataract with opinion leaders in each visited locality

### **Second activity: screening**

Screening will span over two (02) days. It will be done by the ophthalmologist. It will consist of :

- Observation of the lens with a biomicroscope
- Measuring the exact impact of the cataract on vision (visual acuity) and the absence of another ocular disease.
- It will also take accurate measurements of the dimensions of the eye and perform an ultrasound (biometrics) to calculate the power of the implant will be placed after cataract surgery to replace the lens.

### **Third activity: training**

During the previous term of office, the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry visited the General Hospital of AYAME led by Father Francis NIACOURI which annually involves for one to two weeks, Italian Specialists to care patients from all over the territory.

The training component of the project aims to involve Ivorian doctors to participate in operations alongside the Italian specialist for the duration of their mission in AYAME, that for two consecutive years. These doctors will be chosen on specific bases namely:

- Their participation in volunteer because no contributions to the training fee will be required. Training is free.
- Committing to continue and sustain the operation in health facilities equipped by Rotary as part of this project, at deeply discounted for the benefit of indigent patients costs.
- They can also be Rotarians or members of other organizations involved in the service.
- Be Young doctors and practitioners recognized in their profession.

The Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry will cover the costs generated by some training (travel, accommodation, and subsistence).

### **Fourth activity: health care**

The Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry will support operation fees of 150 indigent patients that have been screened and identified for three years. It may if necessary continue after.

### **Fifth activity: equipment of three health centres**

**What is a good training if specialists do not have the equipment and structures where they can exercise their knowledge for the benefit of the population?**

That is why we included the equipment component of public health facilities that will receive patients and specialists trained to conduct operations at a lower cost for the benefit of the population. These structures will be identified in advance. Ophthalmology equipment is very expensive. A progressive acquisition over three years will be favored during the project.

**b- The division of labor between the relevant actors**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Actors involved</b>
<i>Awareness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Training community agents</li> <li>- Traveling through villages and hamlets to announce the holding of cataract screenings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ophtalmologist</li> <li>- Agents community</li> <li>-Populations</li> </ul>
<i>Screening</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Diagnostics</li> <li>- Dispensation Care</li> <li>- Receiving consultants</li> <li>- distribution of medicines to indigents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Doctors</li> <li>-Nursing officers</li> <li>-Coordinator</li> <li>-Secretary</li> <li>-Receptionnists</li> <li>-Technician</li> </ul>
<i>Surgery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Removal of cataract</li> <li>- Pre and / or post-operative care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Doctors</li> <li>-Surgeons</li> <li>-nursing officers</li> <li>-Anesthesists</li> <li>- Nurses</li> </ul>
<i>Strengthening the capacity of the health workforce</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building on cataract surgery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Doctors</li> <li>-nursing officers</li> <li>-Anesthesists</li> <li>Nurses</li> </ul>

awareness		(XOF) 70 000
screenings		1 036 250
Treatment – Surgery		19 962 000
Training		9 505 093
Equipment		79 426 657
<b>OVERALL TOTAL FOR CATARACT PROJECT (XOF)</b>		<b>XOF</b>
		<b>110 000 000</b>
		<b>(220 000 USD)</b>
<i>The equipment of three health centers</i>	--GIFTS Of advanced materials for the treatment of cataracts in three health centres.	-Rotary Club of Biétry -NGO Light First

## 7. Estimated Budget



## Conclusion

**I**n view of the magnitude of the socio-economic consequences of cataracts, this project led by the Rotary Club of Abidjan Biétry in partnership with the NGO First Light is very beneficial in more than one way. First of all, this project is in line with the guidance contained in the Plan of the Rotary Club Leadership Club of Abidjan Biétry. It also adheres to the theme of the mandate 2015-16, Rotary invites to be a gift to the world. It offers an opportunity to Action in an approach that addresses the concerns of the poor. It allows the strengthening of the health system by raising the technical platform, the health facilities to target populations and skill building. This Project implemented over three years. After three years, the management phase may be prosecuted by the club. It will lead to long-term adoption of behaviors conducive to maintain good eye health and eye care popularization.