



## Cure Blindness Foundation India

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*Annual Report: April 2024 – March 2025*

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### Executive Summary

The past year marked a pivotal period of growth and transformation for Cure Blindness Foundation India (CBFI). As we continued our mission to eliminate avoidable blindness, we advanced the quality, reach, and sustainability of our programs through strategic partnerships, innovation, and a commitment to equity.

From surpassing surgical and transplant targets to influencing national policy frameworks, our work in 2024–2025 has strengthened India’s eye health ecosystem. Guided by community needs, we expanded outreach programs, enhanced quality standards, empowered frontline health workers, and supported global knowledge exchange through fellowships. Notably, the organization completed a successful rebranding and leadership transition while embedding operational systems to support our evolving strategy.

## 1. Eye Bank Development

### Overview:

A cornerstone of our strategy, the Eye Bank Development program ensures equitable access to quality corneal tissues across India. Through targeted support to partners and data-driven quality assurance, CBFI is building a robust eye banking network.

## Highlights:

- **Guru Nanak Eye Center (GNEC)** exceeded annual transplant targets, achieving **616 transplants**—a testament to operational excellence and consistent demand.
- While national data sharing from other eye banks declined this year, our efforts to maintain engagement and conduct quality audits helped preserve continuity.
- Three audits were completed across the year (RAIEB, EBSR, and DDEB), enabling continued certification and compliance.

Our approach emphasizes not just numbers but systems — ensuring that tissue recovery, processing, and distribution are conducted with the highest safety and ethical standards.

## 2. Quality and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL)

### Overview:

Quality assurance and data-driven decision-making are foundational to our impact. Our MEAL team supports this by auditing partners, guiding corrective actions, and standardizing service quality across the network.

### Highlights:

- RAIEB was certified for 3 years, and audits at DDEB and EBSR led to new certifications and quality improvements.
- We finalized and began piloting **updated cataract surgery guidelines** tailored for outreach settings—an essential move to ensure safety and efficacy where surgical infrastructure may be limited.
- Ongoing monitoring of program data ensured accountability and allowed real-time adjustments across sites.



*Auditor's assessment of Technicians during Recovery demonstration*



*Auditor's assessment of Technicians during Recovery demonstration & interview of technical personnel*

Through MEAL, we aren't just measuring success—we're creating systems that institutionalize it.

### 3. Cornea Distribution System (CDS)

#### Overview:

The CDS is a centralized distribution platform ensuring timely delivery of high-quality corneal tissue to surgeons across the country. In a landscape where access often determines outcomes, CDS bridges geographic gaps in service delivery.

## Highlights:

- **3,404 tissues** distributed to over **70 surgeons** in **20+ cities**.
- Despite a slight dip in Q3, CDS rebounded to finish the year strong, exceeding its annual targets.

This consistent performance demonstrates the strength of our logistics model and the growing trust from surgical partners nationwide.

## 4. Outreach: Project Reach & Cataract Surgery

### Overview:

Our outreach program provides life-changing cataract surgeries to underserved populations through trusted partnerships with hospitals across India. Special focus is given to improving gender equity in access.

### Highlights:

- **55,736 cataract surgeries** completed in collaboration with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Riti Eye Care, Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust, and Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital.
- **53% of surgeries were performed on women**, reflecting our commitment to equity in access and outcomes.

Each restored vision means a life transformed—regaining independence, dignity, and economic potential.

## 5. Primary Eye Care: Community Health Workers (CHWs)

### Overview:

Our CHW-led Primary Care Program ensures that vision care starts in the community—where the first signs of eye disease often appear. CHWs are trained to screen, refer, and educate on eye health.

### Highlights:

- CHWs reached **~28,000 people**, detecting **~16,800 abrasions** and making **213 referrals** to higher care.
- Held **refresher training sessions** for 637 CHWs across Sitapur district, covering new topics such as refractive errors and cataract screening.
- Received government approval to **expand to three new blocks**, increasing geographic reach in 2025.





*Community of Leherpur block with program pamphlets during one of the awareness sessions*



*Project supervisor resolving queries of CHWs during a meeting in Tambaur*



*Refresher training session in progress in Leherpur*



*Field Supervisor reviewing the CHW's logbook during a field visit at her residence in Biswan*



*CHW practicing vision assessment technique during the Refresher Training in Laharpur*

By investing in local capacity, we are creating a sustainable model of prevention and early detection at the grassroots level.

## 6. Tertiary Care and Fellowships

Through fellowship placements and in-country mentorships, CBFi is cultivating the next generation of eye care leaders in India. These programs not only build skills but deepen regional expertise, ensuring long-term surgical capacity in under-resourced areas.

## 7. Learning & Development (L&D)

### Overview:

L&D is a vital part of our internal growth strategy. We aim to ensure our staff, partners, and fellows have access to the best learning platforms and training opportunities.

### Highlights:

- Rolled out **Cybersight Learning Management System** with Orbis International.
- Developed and launched **Virtual and Hybrid Fellowship Courses**.



- Introduced **LinkedIn Learning** and transitioned performance reviews to **Leapsome**, modernizing HR processes.

## 8. Human Resources and Organizational Culture

### Overview:

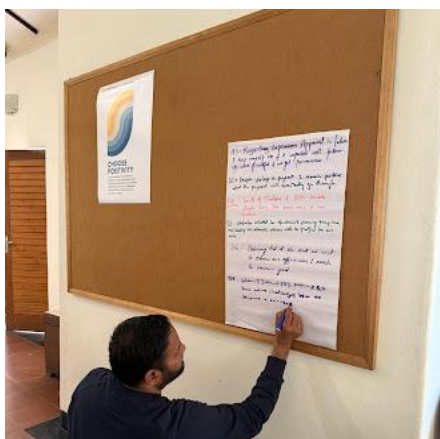
This year saw both growth and renewal within our team. Our HR and leadership development efforts reflect a broader strategy of organizational excellence.

### Highlights:

- Appointed **Shaifali Sharma** as Country Director in October 2024 after a rigorous internal selection.
- Welcomed new talent including **Divya Baliyan**, Communications Manager, bringing rich experience in public health storytelling.
- Conducted a values-based leadership workshop and deepened team engagement through on-site gatherings and cultural celebrations.



*CBFI team gathering for Diwali in 2024*





*CBFI team participating in organizational values workshop*

## 9. Finance and Operations

### Overview:

Financial health and operational discipline are key enablers of our impact. This year, we strengthened internal systems and began real-time accounting practices.

### Highlights:

- Completed **transition to INTACCT** for improved financial transparency.
- Conducted interim and statutory audits.
- Received key donations including ₹25,00,000 from Tegral Foundation and ₹83,000 from Sheetal Babbar.

## Looking Ahead

As we enter the next year, CBFI is focused on deepening impact, scaling what works, and navigating toward long-term sustainability. Our priorities include:

- Expanding the primary care model into new geographies.
- Increasing the financial self-reliance of eye banks.
- Enhancing data systems for better decision-making.
- Fostering a learning organization that grows with purpose and integrity.