



Cure Blindness Foundation India

Annual Report: April 2023 – March 2024

Executive Summary

The past year at Cure Blindness Foundation India (CBFI) has been marked by resilience, progress, and strategic growth. We continued to pursue our mission to eliminate corneal blindness through expanded surgical capacity, robust eye banking systems, advanced training and community-centered prevention.

Despite environmental, operational, and resource-related challenges, CBFI sustained programmatic momentum and exceeded key performance targets. Our Eye Bank Development and Cornea Distribution System (CDS) programs consistently supported transplant growth. Our community-based prevention efforts reached thousands of underserved patients.

The organization also prioritized internal strengthening—recruiting new talent, investing in training, maintaining compliance, and completing statutory audits with no major findings. Through thoughtful leadership and deep collaboration with our partners, we continued to create impact from the operating room to the last mile of service delivery.

1. Eye Bank Development

Overview:

This year, CBFI sustained strong performance in eye banking, even amid seasonal slowdowns, data fluctuations, and temporary epidemics. With contributions from leading institutions like GNEC, LVPEI, Aravind, and LIEB, we supported significant transplant volumes across India.

Highlights:

- Our partner network delivered consistently strong transplant numbers across all three quarters.
- In Q1 2024, GNEC achieved its highest-ever transplant numbers, signaling improved capacity and commitment.
- Partner eye banks collectively performed 1,484 transplants in Q1 2024 alone—outperforming the same quarter in the previous year.

Virtual Learning:

CBFI delivered a successful year of technical training through virtual platforms:

- Topics included fundraising, medical leadership, CBFI lamp use, eye donation counseling, and tissue recovery.
- Over **95 trainees** attended virtual sessions.
- Feedback remained overwhelmingly positive (average NPS: 81–100).

This combination of high-touch support and capacity building continues to deepen technical competence across our partner network.

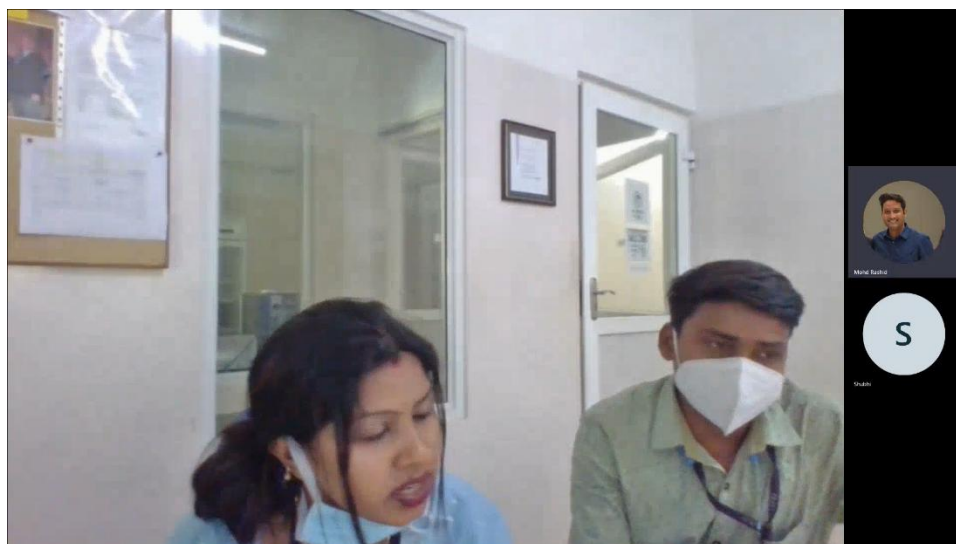
2. Quality and MEAL Program

Overview:

CBFI's quality team advanced audit readiness and certification despite earlier staffing constraints. By the end of the year, the program returned to full capacity and was preparing for re-certification of several partner eye banks.

Key Activities:

- Audits conducted or finalized at Drushti Daan Eye Bank (DDEB), MGRC–Sahiyara Eye Bank, and Hong Kong Eye Bank (HKEB).
- CBFI's certification panel approved a 3-year certification for MGRC–Sahiyara Eye Bank.
- Developed criteria to extend certifications for mature eye banks and planned all audits to be conducted in-person going forward.



Remote audit for Drushti Daan EYE Bank in LVPEI, Bhubaneswar in April 2023



Technician assessed while performing Eye recovery during audit at MGRC -Sahiyara Eye Bank

Monitoring & Evaluation (MEAL) activities continued uninterrupted, with regular project data collection, analysis, and reporting to guide program decisions.

3. Cornea Distribution System (CDS)

Overview:

The Cornea Distribution System had an exceptional year—providing equitable access to corneal tissue across more than 20 cities and over 70 surgeons. CDS recovered quickly from any dips in performance, closing the year ahead of targets.

Performance Summary:

CDS performed 642 transplants—slightly below target but with a quick recovery—followed by a strong performance in Q3 with 950 transplants (55% above target), and culminating in Q4 (Q1 2024) with 932 transplants, marking the highest monthly numbers in CDS history, particularly in February.

Impact:

CDS partners such as EBSR and DDEB helped meet growing demand even as local needs fluctuated, demonstrating CDS's responsiveness and logistical strength.

4. Clinical Training and Fellowship Programs

Overview:

CBFI invested in hands-on and hybrid training models to build a future-ready cadre of corneal surgeons. Fellowships combined online theory with in-person surgical mentorship.

Key Accomplishments:

- Cataract-to-Cornea Hybrid Fellowship (Q2): 2 fellows trained (50% female).
- Self-paced PKP Course: Delivered in partnership with Shroff Charity Eye Hospital, received 100% satisfaction.

Our training efforts continue to grow the community of skilled professionals capable of delivering quality corneal care across India.

5. Prevention Program

Overview:

Our CHW-led prevention program continues to be one of the most direct and community-centric components of our work. CHWs deliver early detection, education, and referrals across rural districts.

Annual Reach:

- Patients screened: Over 18,500
- Corneal abrasions detected: 10,885
- Referrals made: 244
- Refresher Training: 637 CHWs trained in April 2023.
- Curriculum Expansion: Added cataract, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy modules in the CHWs training curriculum

- Temporary challenges - Program experienced some CHW protest against the government officials and supply delays. It had a minor impact on the program and issues were swiftly resolved.



Refresher training in progress under the program



CHW screening a patient's eye in Biswan



CHWs in regular meeting with project supervisor

This year's success underscores the effectiveness of training, empowerment, and responsive management of our CHW network.

6. HR and Organizational Culture

Overview:

CBFI continued investing in its team through recruitment, retreats, and improved planning practices.

Notable Developments:

- Anshu Singh joined as Prevention Program Manager in July 2023.
- Team Retreats held in August 2023 and early 2024, focusing on planning, values, and collaboration.
- Leadership transitions were well-managed, and a strong focus on team cohesion was evident throughout the year.

7. Finance and Compliance

Overview:

CBFI maintained strong financial compliance, timely audits, and donor accountability across the year. Both FCRA and Non-FCRA accounts were actively managed, and reporting was transparent.

Key Highlights:

- Q2 Bank Balance: ₹4,74,465
- Q3 Bank Balance: ₹5,49,418
- Q4 (Q1 2024) Donation: ₹20,00,000 from OPPL for Sitapur prevention work.

- Statutory Audit: Successfully completed for FY 2022–23; 2023–24 audit scheduled for June 2024.
- FCRA license extended until March 2029.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our focus is clear:

- Deepen impact in existing regions and expand prevention efforts into underserved areas.
- Strengthen eye bank certification systems and build consistent quality standards.
- Advance the CDS platform to become India's most reliable cornea distribution model.

Expand training and fellowship pipelines to meet future demand. CBFI remains committed to excellence, equity, and sustainability. Together with our partners, donors, and team—we are driving toward a future where no one suffers from preventable corneal blindness.