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Orbis

When Young Eyes See the World Clearly for the First Time

Intensely bright summer sunlight and dazzling winter snowscapes severely damage the eyes of the nomadic communities who roam Mongolia's vast grasslands. Children born with congenital visual impairments here are especially at risk and may lose out on educational opportunities because their remoteness means it is almost impossible to access quality eye care.

Aged just 42 days, congenital cataract sufferer, Marla, became Mongolia's youngest ever recipient of cataract surgery in 2018. Due to her young age, she was unable to have an artificial lens implanted at that time. After the surgery, she had to wear a pair of heavy glasses to correct her nearly 1,000-degree farsightedness, which caused her eyes to feel strained and fatigued easily when looking at things.

It was only earlier this year that she was finally able to stop wearing her thick corrective-lensed glasses and see her family clearly for the first time.

As Marla has grown, we have closely monitored her progress. This April, her condition was finally stable enough for her to receive that life-changing artificial lens. Calm and composed, Marla had reassured her younger siblings that her 'new eyes' would soon open up on a brighter future.



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With the brave little girl about to start primary school in September, her surgery couldn't have come at a better time. Wearing her favourite pink dress, she now celebrates every minute of every day with her friends, family and classmates.



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A simple surgery lasting just 15- to 20-minutes is all that's needed to transform the lives of babies born with congenital cataracts. While such operations are incredibly swift, changing people's mindset is far from easy. In Mongolia, low salaries and lack of resources and training mean recruiting and retaining healthcare workers is hugely challenging. For the dedicated few, being able to help bring about miraculous transformations such as Marla's makes it all worthwhile.

Scan here to
read more
Marla stories



Sustainable Actions to Transform Lives with Healthy Sight



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Early intervention is vital to treat and cure congenital visual conditions like refractive errors, as the critical period of a child's visual development is in his/her first seven years. Hence, as part of our programs, free screenings are planned and carried out at schools including those in remote areas to identify those needing care. Our Teams will then refer them to Orbis partner hospitals for timely treatment and help.



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Orbis and our Volunteer Faculty direct focused programs and sustainable training to empower eye care professionals with cutting-edge eye care techniques, skills and knowledge, as well as provide them with helpful resources and support through Cybersight to build strong and sustainable eye care system to safeguard the long-term eye health of their people. While efforts are also made to actively promote eye health and care and raise awareness on its importance and impact.



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Our medical professionals' duty of care to their patients extends way beyond the operating theatre. To ensure patients receive the post-operative support they need to make full and speedy recoveries, our teams implement systematic rehabilitation care programs which regularly assess newly sighted patients' long-term progress.



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Cybersight AI, Enhancing Screening and Follow-up Care

Orbis has always taken an innovative approach to fight avoidable vision impairment and blindness. With early detection being undoubtedly the most effective way of preventing permanent blindness, one of Orbis' pioneering tools, the Cybersight Artificial Intelligence ("AI") of which is capable of quickly screening for different conditions by way of capturing fundus images to ensure early warning signs can be identified for treatment. While its ease of use allows for non-medical staff to be easily trained for screening – a major benefit when eye care is often scarce in under-resourced communities.

By enhancing diagnosis speed and minimizing human error, Cybersight AI is playing a pivotal role to measurably upgrade treatment times and standards at healthcare centers across the developing world.

Globally, the number of people with diabetes has doubled over the past three decades, and more than 95% have type 2 diabetes - brought on by changes in diet, lifestyle and level of physical activity - making this one of the fastest growing health concerns worldwide. While an estimated one-third of diabetics are affected by diabetic retinopathy (DR), which can cause vision loss and blindness if left undiagnosed and untreated.

In Vietnam alone, studies show that the number of people with diabetes is set to increase fivefold by 2030 and nearly two million people are at risk for developing DR at some point in their lives. Our recently launched "AI Screening for Diabetic Retinopathy" initiative in Vietnam aims to screen 72,000 diabetic patients over the next three years, as well as to train up healthcare team to screen for

DR with AI, and at the same time improving community awareness on DR to improve timely referral and follow-up care to prevent vision loss.

While like most low- and middle-income countries, Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from a crippling shortage of eye-care professionals and has just 3.7 eye doctors per 1,000,000 people. By training local healthcare workers to use AI when screening for Diabetic Retinopathy and other conditions, Cybersight is making huge strides in eliminating this imbalance.

Integrating AI into blindness prevention efforts is also eliminating geographical barriers. This is especially true with our award-winning telemedicine platform, Cybersight, which through its functions and technologies ensures people living in remote areas can access the same timely medical care as their city-dwelling counterparts. Allowing patients to interact with doctors via video, AI significantly extends the reach of our blindness prevention efforts while reducing resource demands. The result is a 'Win-Win' for all concerned.



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35 Years of Saving Sight in Mongolia

This August saw the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital return to Mongolia for its ninth trip since 1989. During the three-week sight restoration project, some 250 frontline medical staff and 50 patients benefited from training and case treatment updates on advanced paediatric cataracts, strabismus, ocular surgery, glaucoma, and retinal surgical techniques.

During the 35 years we have worked in the country, we have not only enhanced ophthalmic resources by upskilling medical personnel, but also forged close links to local governments, medical institutions, and NGOs. Our current

goal involves providing better standards of care for the young and elderly by establishing a comprehensive and advanced eye care center in the country's capital, Ulaanbaatar.



Orbis is grateful to our donors for their invaluable support! No matter the amount, each one off and monthly donation adds up to transform the lives of visually impaired patients in need. The regular support from our *Orbis Friends* and *Orbis Kid Sight Friends* further ensures steady resources are available to sustain the dedicated series of sight saving work and sustainable training. Become an *Orbis Friend* or *Orbis Kid Sight Friend* today to help expand our collective efforts to prevent avoidable visual impairment and blindness, so that more people living in under-resourced communities can thrive with healthy sight!



Orbis Friends and Orbis Kid Sight Friends Latest News

As we step into the new year, it is time to plan our annual health regimen. Thanks to the continued support from *Ying An Medical Center* and *Hong Kong's PolyVision Eyecare Centers*, *Orbis Friends* and *Orbis Kid Sight Friends* will be able to book a Comprehensive Eye Examination at the respective special Orbis Price of MOP500 and HK\$400.

From now until December 31, make sure to take advantage of this special offer and book a Comprehensive Eye Examination of which includes refraction test, binocular coordination, color vision, intra-ocular pressure, ocular health assessment and fundus photography at either *Ying An Medical Center* or one of the six *PolyVision Eyecare Centers*.

Advanced booking is required, and on the day of the appointment, please remember to bring your *2025 Orbis Friends* or *Orbis Kid Sight Friends* Membership Card for verification. For more information and to schedule an appointment, please directly contact the respective center:

Ying An Medical Center +853 2833 8836

PolyVision Eyecare Centres +852 2866 9660

Action for Sight An Annual Major Advocacy and Fundraising Campaign

On World Sight Day, which falls on every second Thursday in October, the world's eye care community comes together to promote eye health and care, as well as to raise awareness on global visual impairments and blindness issues, and annually, Orbis Macau will launch the *Action for Sight (AFS)* campaign to advocate the importance of eye health and care to the people of Macau together with the *AFS Ambassadors* and partners. While at the same time raising vital funds to sustain Orbis' sight-saving programs and sustainable training.

This year, together with the AFS Official partners, two *AFS Ambassadors*, BOC Macau and Sands China Limited, along with the *AFS Supporting Organizations*: CTM, Macau STEAM Lab, Ying An Ophthalmic Medical Centre, and *AFS Media Partners*: Macau Cable TV, Macau Hotone Media, Ltd., The Macau Post Daily and Va Kio Daily, the two-month long campaign was successfully carried out, with a series of fundraising and promotional activities organized in the community of which were also kindly supported by a number of schools, Government departments, local organizations and entities.

Very much thanks to keen participation and benevolent support from the *AFS Ambassadors*, *Supporting Organizations*, *Media Partners*, the long list of supplementary supporters and volunteers, and the generous donors, the 2024 Action for Sight campaign was able to raise over MOP700,000 towards strengthening Orbis' mission to ensure quality and equitable eye care is accessible to more visually impaired patients to combat avoidable visual impairment and blindness. Once again, Orbis would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the life-transforming support. Each donation, regardless of the amount, will add up to present more people in need with the life-changing gift of sight – a precious gift that impacts not only the individual but also their family and community.

Orbis Macau would like to especially extend our heartfelt appreciation to our 2024 Action for Sight Partners:

AFS Ambassadors:



Supporting Organizations:

CTM
Macau STEAM Lab
Ying An Ophthalmic Medical Centre

Media Partners:

Macau Cable TV
Macau Hotone Media, Ltd.
The Macau Post Daily
Va Kio Daily

Top Five Organization Fundraisers :

- 1st : Sands China Ltd
- 2nd : BOC Macau
- 3rd : Min Da Construction & Engineering Co. Ltd.
- 4th : CTM
- 5th : Grand Hyatt Macau

Top Three School Fundraisers :

- 1st : Santa Rosa de Lima English Secondary School
- 2nd : Colégio do Perpétuo Socorro Chan Sui Ki (suc.)
- 3rd : Our Lady of Fatima Girl's School



Orbis is honored to team up with Kee Wah Bakery Ltd. and the acclaimed illustrator "Ding Dong" once again to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival with the community of Macau. The 2024 Charity Sale received tremendous support from the community, raising nearly MOP 780,000; all nett proceeds will go to sustaining Orbis' sight saving programs and sustainable training.

We are very grateful to our partners and donors for the ongoing generous support, as we come together to spread festive cheers with family. We are very grateful to our partners and donors for the ongoing generous support, as we come together to spread festive cheers with family and friends, while giving hope to visually impaired individuals with the gift of sight!



This year, Orbis has partnered with City Pharma Gift Shop to bring out a series of aromatherapy gifts, including two custom-blend essential oil roll-ons and two natural aroma hand creams. Designed by Ms. Anna Ling, a professional Aromatherapist qualified by IFA, the four handmade products are made from their own individually crafted essential oil blends, with their own aromatic attributes and therapeutic goodness.



Orbis Macau expresses gratitude to the local illustrator for introducing the original design - "Little Lime Baby 2025 Desk Calendar." The first 50 calendars sold during an event in October generated a total of MOP 2,000, all of which has been donated to Orbis for sight-saving projects and sustainable training initiatives.



These delightful products, together with Orbis' list of attractive merchandising items, make for ideal gift options for your family and friends! Support Orbis Merchandising Charity Sale and expand your gift-giving thoughtfulness to also include visually impaired patients in need! For more details, please scan the below or place your order directly at the Office of Orbis Macau.

UV Rays and the Aging of the Eyes

Promoting eye health and care to the local community is an important component of Orbis Macau's mission, working closely with partners to provide useful information and tips relating to eye health and care, in addition to drawing attention to avoidable visual blindness and global vision impairment issues, as well as to spread the global message of #LoveYourEyes to the people of Macau.

Since 2019, as part of AFS' advocacy initiative, Orbis added an online quiz with each edition of AFS to direct the community's attention towards a particular eye condition or disease. This year's topic, "UV Rays and the Aging of the Eyes" was selected to create awareness on the ever-present UV rays and its effect on eye health. The public was encouraged to take part in the Quiz, whereby a total of 582 valid responses were collected during the first six and half weeks for analysis by the ophthalmology team from *Ying An Medical Centre*, one of *AFS Supporting Organizations* and the results were presented by renowned ophthalmologist, Dr. Lo Peng lok at the *Eye Health Talk* and "UV Rays and the Aging of the Eyes" Information Sharing Session on December 6.

In addition to sharing the Quiz's findings, the informative Health Talk provided participants with Information relating to UV rays, and its harm effect on the eyes, while sharing some helpful tips to protect against UV rays, including how to effectively choose the right pair of sunglasses, while advising for the public to take on a proactive preventive approach to include an annual eye examination to safeguard the long-term wellbeing of their eyes.

Learn more about
'UV Rays and the Aging of the Eyes'



Take Note When Selecting Sunglasses:



Although natural aesthetics is often a consideration, however, first and foremost, make sure to choose ones with lenses that can protect your eyes from harmful UV rays.

The results showed that almost 16% of respondents face high UV exposure of more than five hours on a daily basis – Dr. Lo explained such prolonged UV exposure can severely impact eye health, leading to premature aging of the eyes, as well as causing conditions such as pterygium, UV keratitis, and conjunctival maculopathy, and heighten the risk of developing cataracts, dry eye syndrome, and macular degeneration. She stressed that it is worth noting indirect UV rays and their reflections, can also harm the eyes, with snow reflecting up to 80% of UV rays and sand reflecting 15%, hence, Dr Lo underlined the importance of eye care and proper use of protective gear when carrying out work tasks or leisurely activities.

Dr. Lo stated, "Just like our skin, our eyes need to be protected against harmful UV rays. Overexposure to UV rays can damage the lens and retina, accelerating the aging of the eyes. I urge everyone to always use suitable protective eyewear...and best to select UV 400-protected sunglasses, which can block almost 100% of harmful UV rays."



Harnessing Corporate Creativity to Combat Blindness

Darkness to Go, A Charity Initiative

Orbis Macau invites businesses to join our special year-round charity initiative, “Darkness to Go” event. Select product/s or service/s for charity sale to allow customers to join you in contributing towards saving sight as they shop or enjoy your services! Not only are you actively aiding in bringing hope and healthy sight to visually impaired patients in need, but you are also helping to promote the impact of the life-changing and sight-saving programs of Orbis to the community, as well as to encourage the people of Macau to become more mindful of the importance of eye health and care.

Join forces with Orbis to transform the lives of visually impaired patients in need, so that they will not have to needlessly live in darkness. And together let's encourage more locals to “Eye” Care as they convert spending into the gift of sight! Contact Orbis Macau for more information.

Instill Charity Elements into your Campaigns and Team Building Events

Want to make your campaigns or team building events extra special and memorable? Contact Orbis to help plan and add some charity elements, interesting blind-fold experience activities and useful eye health and care informational presentation to your events. Make your events more meaningful through unique customized interactive ways that will also promote eye health and care, as well as the significance of healthy vision!



Support made easy: Explore convenient donation options across multiple platforms

Donation thru



- BNU online banking and mobile app
- Tai Fung online banking and Tai Fung Pay mobile app
- Bank of China online banking and mobile app
- OCBC Bank online banking
- Mpay - Donation

Bonus Point Donation



- OCBC Bank Credit Card Bonus Points
- CTM Bonus Points