DO YOU KNOW OPC?
OPC is an international NGO and a gathering of recognized experts in public health ophthalmology.

It is the first French charitable organization specialized in Sight Diseases in Francophone countries.

The OPC offers all guarantees of seriousness
- recognized as a public utility organization by the French government
- approved by the French Committee of the Charter
- in an official working relationship with WHO
- active member of the Vision 2020 - the Right to Sight.

Is it enough to sustain in a changing world?

Strong values
- Humanism
- Solidarity
- Respect
- Professionalism
- Transparency
HISTORY

• Established 1978
• Founding fathers

Mr Monnier

Prof Dubois-Poulsen, Mr Aubé, Prof Langlois

• Godfathers and leaders

Dr Chovet
Prof. Poulquen
Dr Negrel
First Comprehensive Eye care and Eye Health System development

- Countrywide
- In close collaboration with MoH
- Strong training component (ophthalmic teams)
- Based on Primary Eye Care
- Referral system through provincial hospitals
- Led by Dr AD Negrel (ADN, French for DNA)

Lessons learned

- Issues related to resistance to integration
- Success in Bamako
- Sustainability issues
- Needs for adjustments & new strategy

1979 – 1986

YELEEN

Mali
HISTORY

OPC – LCIF & Local Lions Clubs

- OPC recognizes the leadership played by local Lions and signs conventions with Lions in Comoros, Mali, Niger, Guinea, Mauretania, Morocco, CAR, Chad, Senegal and the Gambia
- 1986, LCIF-SF support OPC’s project in Mali, Sénégal and the Gambia
- Ever since, all projects presented to LCIF-SF are awarded
- Last project, awarded in 2014, support the S of the SAFE strategy implementation in Chad
• **SSI – OPC relationship**
  - M. Chovet invited SSI to join OPC in West Africa in 1989
  - 1990: OPC’s office in Bamako – located at IOTA – hosts first SSI representative
  - SSI – OPC collaboration starts in Onchocerciasis control in Mali in 1991
  - In 2014, SSI – OPC collaboration covers Chad (trachoma) and Congo (onchocerciasis)
Main objective: help the greatest number at the lowest cost and then train, support and empower local eye health personnel.

"When a man is hungry, better to teach him to fish than to give him a fish."

OPC’s strategy is opposed to the logic of assistantship: training local ophthalmologists and ophthalmic personnel so as to establish a sustainable platform from which service delivery is performed by competent and autonomous eye health personnel working for the poorest. Families must be protected against all forms of avoidable blindness and obtain, without delay, quality appropriate medical eye care.

These intervention methods and the results obtained make OPC a unanimously known, recognized and valued NGO in the francophone countries where it intervenes.
OPC Strategic Direction

Where OPC should work:

– Francophone countries
– African countries
– Especially the “neglected” countries in terms of international support, e.g. Chad, CAR, Comoros
– Implications: phasing out from Asia and Europe, including France
OPC Strategic Direction

What OPC should do/support:

– Training of all categories of eye care personnel
– CEC and EHSD
– Onchocerciasis: “finish the job”
– Trachoma: support “neglected countries”
– Later develop
TODAY

OPC’s Representatives in Africa

BURKINA FASO
Pr N.D. Méda

BENIN
Dr. Oudoulami-Yehouessi

CONGO
Dr. Rizet

GUINEE
Dr. Touré

MALI
Mme B. Cissé

MAROC
Dr. M. Lamrani

CAR
Dr. G. Yaya

NIGER
Dr. A. Amza

CHAD
Dr. D.A. Djada

TOGO
Pr. P.K. Balo

COMOROS
Dr. M. Chanfi
OPC: an international NGO

Haiti

Comoros

Present

Past
CURRENT PROJECTS

- Training of all categories of eye care personnel
  - Support of Mid Level personnel training in Mali, Niger, Guinea, Chad, CAR
- Comprehensive Eye care and Eye Health System development
  - Mali (Kayes, Sikasso, Mopti)
  - Guinea (Kankan, Faranah, N’Zerékoré)
  - Niger (Tillabéry, Tahoua and Niamey)
- Trachoma program in Chad (Surgery)

- Outreach surgical campaigns (Cataract & TT) in Chad within MOH’s plan with local capacity

- Onchocerciasis: “finish the job” (Congo)
- Trachoma: support “neglected countries” – Chad and CAR (Pilots, GTMP & DFID SAFE)
PARTNERS

- Ministries of Health
- Regional partner: WAHO
- Local partners: Lions Clubs and local NGOs
CHALLENGES

• OPC has built a strong reputation, active networks in a number of countries
• OPC is recognized in MoHs and ophthalmic community as a reliable partner, with technical expertise
• OPC’s assistance is increasingly sought
• But… OPC is lacking critical mass
THANK YOU!