Who we are

Light for the World is an international disability and development organisation. Our vision is an inclusive society for all where no one is left behind. We enable eye health services and empower people with disabilities in some of the poorest regions of the world.

Our structure

Our association Light for the World International is made up of Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America as core members and Belgium and The Netherlands as associate members. Each core and associate member is a non-profit organisation under the respective national law. Light for the World International is registered at the national register of associations in Austria.

The Articles of Association and the partnership agreements govern the collaboration and relationships between Light for the World International and its members.

We have country offices in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda as well as an EU liaison office in Brussels. All our offices are part of Light for the World International or one of its associate members.
Our Governance

Assembly of Members

The Assembly of Members is the highest body of the organisation. It is the interface between the national members and the international organisation. The Assembly of Members decides on the vision, mission, strategic framework and policies that are binding for all members. The Assembly of Members consists of delegated national board members representing each core and associate member. They elect the Board of Trustees and appoint the auditor.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the association. Its members, called trustees, are appointed by the Assembly of Members for a three-year term and serve the interest of the association and safeguard its mission. The Board of Trustees appoints the CEO and decides on strategy and annual workplans.

National Boards

The National Boards are the governing body of our national members. National Boards ensure national accountability, including compliance with national laws and standards.

Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) leads the international team. She/he is appointed by and accountable to the Board of Trustees for a period of three years. The CEO is responsible for the overall management of the organisation as well as the implementation of the strategy and annual workplans.
Our Policies and Guidelines

With our policy portfolio we demonstrate that our organisation is operated in an efficient manner. Our policies ensure compliance with laws and regulations, give guidance for decision-making, and streamline internal processes. Our policies are subject to the approval and review of the Assembly of Members. The CEO oversees their coherent and consistent implementation.

Programmes and Advocacy

We create lasting change through collaboration with local partners such as eye clinics, schools, government actors, and organisations of persons with disabilities.

Thereby, we are striving for the highest possible quality and impact for the most marginalized people in developing countries.

Safeguarding

We believe that everyone we come in contact with, regardless of age, gender, identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Therefore, we address all areas of safeguarding through prevention, reporting and response.

Accountability and Transparency

We hold responsibility for the ethical, efficient and sustainable raising of funds on the one hand, and for the efficient and thrifty usage of the donations entrusted to us on the other hand.

The international organisation and its members have their accounts reviewed by independent external auditors and have been granted quality seals in their respective countries.

As part of our commitment to tackle corruption and to be as transparent as possible, we produce and publish an Anti-Corruption report on our organisation every two years.

List of members to the Board of Trustees

- Karin Krobath (Chair)
- Martin Filipec (Vice Chair)
- Tom Shakespeare (Vice Chair)
- Woldesnebet Brhanemesquel
- Hanna Jovanovic
- George Briford
- Deborah Oyuu Iyute
- Ludwig Büll
- Stefan Stolte
Light for the World

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All information as of November 2019