



**Media Advisory: For Immediate Release**

## **December 12: Tawiakwaa CHPS Zone in Awutu Senya District, Central Region, Ghana, to be Declared Avoidable Blindness-Free by Operation Eyesight Universal and Ghana Health Service**

**Media are invited to attend the Avoidable Blindness-Free Declaration Ceremony on Thursday, December 12, at 10:00 am at Nyakokwaa District Assemble Basic School Park**

**Accra, Ghana, December 12, 2024:** Operation Eyesight Universal and Ghana Health Service (Awutu Senya District Health Directorate) are making an Avoidable Blindness-Free Declaration for the Tawiakwaa CHPS Zone in Awutu Senya District on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The declaration is part of an ongoing multi-year Hospital-based Community Eye Health Project between three partners – Operation Eyesight Universal, Watborg Eye Services and Ghana Health Service Awutu Senya District Health Directorate.

**What:** The Tawiakwaa CHPS Zone will be declared Avoidable Blindness-Free by Operation Eyesight Universal and Ghana Health Service (Awutu Senya District Health Directorate). An Avoidable Blindness-Free declaration means that all cases of avoidable blindness and vision loss in a specified area have been addressed and that the people in that area have access to local eye health care.

**When:** Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 10:00 am

**Where:** Nyakokwaa District Assemble Basic School Park

**Why:** To prevent blindness and restore sight for people in Awutu Senya District, a rural district in Ghana that has a higher than national average prevalence of blindness and vision loss. Ghana is severely affected by high prevalence of avoidable blindness and vision loss. In 2019, the population of Ghana was approximately 31 million, with 0.74 per cent (229,400 people) estimated to be blind from all causes. Severe visual impairment was 1.07% (331,700 people) according to the [2019 study, Assessing the Progress Towards Achieving “VISION 2020: The Right to Sight” Initiative in Ghana](#). The rural Awutu Senya District had a 1.0 per cent rate of blindness, with 1.31 per cent of the population living with severe vision loss and 1.36 per cent with moderate visual impairment, according to the [Ghana National Blindness and Visual Impairment Study conducted by Operation Eyesight Universal in 2015](#).

**Who:** Invited to attend are: The Head of the National Eye Health Secretariat of Ghana Health Service; Representatives from the Central Regional Health and Awutu Senya District Health Directorates; community leaders and members; the Operation Eyesight Universal Ghana team



including Emmanuel Kumah, Country Director and spokesperson; and members of the Watborg Eye Services team.

**About Operation Eyesight Universal** [operationeyesight.com](http://operationeyesight.com)

Operation Eyesight Universal is an international development organization that works to prevent blindness and restore sight. Its vision is the elimination of avoidable vision loss. Founded in Canada in 1963, Operation Eyesight is a global community spanning four continents – Africa, Europe, North America and South Asia. Its vision is global and the focus local, with teams on the ground in communities of work. Through activities like community outreach, water and sanitation projects, and health education, Operation Eyesight is addressing the root causes of avoidable vision loss which contribute to [six United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: no poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and partnerships for the goals.](#)

**About Operation Eyesight Universal's work in Ghana** [operationeyesight.com/ghana](http://operationeyesight.com/ghana)

Operation Eyesight Universal has been working in Ghana since 2006, partnering with communities in 40 districts. Work includes hospital strengthening, community eye health, integrated eye health and disease control. Our programs are designed to provide a full range of eye health care services, allowing us to address common eye conditions such as [cataract](#) and [uncorrected refractive error](#), as well as more complex cases such as [diabetic retinopathy](#) and [glaucoma](#). Watborg Eye Services was established in 2006 with support from Operation Eyesight Universal and is operated by Dr. Boateng Wiafe, Operation Eyesight's technical advisor.

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