



I hope to challenge my own biases and gain the skills to facilitate positive change working in solidarity with communities and local movements to address expressed needs.

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The “eye-dea” is to reduce preventable blindness in the ‘land of a thousand hills’ through the development of community-designed educational tools, the expansion of rural screening, and by partnering with L’Association Rwandaise des Diabetiques.

The persistent rural-urban inequities and the rapid escalation of diabetes put more people at risk of avoidable vision loss in Rwanda than ever before. I hope to shift the narrative from a purely curative approach by focusing on preventative eye health initiatives and by removing barriers and increasing accessibility for folks with visual impairments.

It often happens after you mistake an “E” for a “B” or an “F” for a “P”. You lean forward until a robotic structure lands on your nose. You focus and try again. Lenses slide until you can read the itty-bitty font that you’d mistaken for ellipses moments ago. You can see.

My connection to this community began with an eye exam. At 14, I found myself gripping Snellen charts while shadowing one of the first female ophthalmologists in East Africa.

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