



## Focusing Philanthropy Interim Report

World Sight Day 2013 Matching Campaign

“Expanding Access to and Quality of Eye Care in the Eastern Hilly Region of Nepal”

Prepared by Seva Foundation



## Project Progress Summary

**Introduction:** According to the World Health Organization, there are 285 million visually impaired and 39 million blind individuals around the world. To advocate for the prevention of global blindness and the Vision 2020 goals, the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness created World Sight Day (WSD), an annual day of awareness that brings international attention to the issues of blindness and visual impairment. In conjunction with WSD, Focusing Philanthropy and Seva have implemented fund raising campaigns and projects in 2012 and 2013. In 2012 a matching campaign raised \$181,000 and funded a WSD cataract surgery campaign that resulted in 4208 operations in 6 countries. In 2013 the WSD matching campaign raised \$200,000 and is currently funding the construction, equipping and bringing into operation of a secondary eye care center/hospital (SECC) and a primary eye care center (PECC) in eastern Nepal. The following report covers progress to date on these two community-based eye care facilities.

**Background:** In Nepal, widespread poverty and remote villages have made eye care, especially cataract surgery, unavailable for many people. Seva has been working with the government of Nepal and other non-profits since 1980 to construct, equip, and staff a national eye care network to provide access to eye care and reduce needless blindness. The goal is to establish primary eye care clinics (PECCs) in each of the country's 75 districts to handle routine eye exams, prescribe and provide glasses, and make referrals where more serious needs are diagnosed. The clinics are or will be supported by one or more secondary eye care centers (SECCs) (hospitals with permanent surgical capacity) in each of the five regions that overlay the districts. These SECCs are the hubs where cataract surgeries are performed and from which surgical teams are deployed monthly to perform surgeries in the satellite clinics the hospitals support. The SECCs and their staffs also coordinate and facilitate remote seasonal eye camps which augment permanent capacity until the backlog of need is substantially reduced.

Despite remarkable progress in Nepal towards the goal of national coverage, the Eastern Region, a mountainous area with many dispersed people is still underserved. The northeastern portion of this region has a population of about 550,000 and covers an area of over 3,300 square miles. Three permanent primary eye clinics are in this area as is a temporary clinic operating in rented space but there is no eye hospital.



Nepal's 75 districts



Sankhuwasava District

**The WSD 2013 Project:** The \$200,000 raised from our 2013 campaign is enabling the construction and equipping of a permanent primary eye care center (PECC) in Khandbari to replace the temporary one currently in operation in rented space. The fund is also substantially upgrading another clinic in Dhankuta to become a SECC with permanent surgical facilities. In 2012 seed funding was obtained to start both projects but the costs to complete, equip and operationalize the facilities approached \$200,000 including project monitoring and training/placement of key personnel. As with other such facilities, after a 3-5 year ramp up, paying customers will provide the cash flow sufficient to cover a substantial fraction of the costs of those unable to pay and operations will approach self-sufficiency. Until then, other resources have been identified to cover the costs of the discounted or free procedures. Seva-facilitated in-country training of medical personnel will assure that these facilities and the rest of those in the target area will be well staffed. The initial key members of the 7 person hospital staff and 3 person clinic staff have all been hired.

**Projected Total Patients Served in 4 districts of the Eastern Region (hospital & 3 clinics)**

	1st year	2nd Year	3rd Year
Total patients	17,720	20,582	22,800
Refraction (glasses prescriptions)	5,316	6,174	6,840
Cataract surgery at Dhankuta hospital	400	500	520
Cataract surgery at 3 clinics via Dhankuta surgical teams	350	440	480
Cataract surgery in eye camps facilitated by Dhankuta	840	840	840
Total surgeries	1,590	1,780	1,840
Patients referred for tertiary eye care	885	1029	1125

**Progress towards objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Construct, equip and bring into operation a secondary eye care center (SECC) in the busy trading center of Dhankuta in northeastern Nepal. This eye hospital, with fulltime surgical capability for cataract and other basic surgical procedures, will serve as a referral center for four PECCs, providing a broad range of services, including surgery not heretofore available.

**Progress to date:** The first floor of the hospital was completed and opened in December 2013 to outpatients. This included installing a full array of equipment for both the exam rooms as well as the operating room. The optical dispensary and lab was opened as was the pharmacy at that time. Per day they are examining an average of 35 patients (they were seeing about 25-30 patients per day in the old building). In mid-March the young surgeon trained by Seva, Dr. Vijay, joined the hospital after two months of hands on training in Bharatpur. He hopes to begin surgery soon.

Simultaneous to the inauguration ceremony on December 14, 2013, a screening session followed by an eye camp was run in the community with patients referred to the hospital for surgery. A total of 150 outpatients were seen, 46 surgeries performed, and 45 glasses dispensed.

As of December 2013 the second floor was well under construction with plans to add a third floor. By January 2014 the third floor was begun. The operating room will eventually be moved to the second floor, which will also house training and meeting rooms. The third floor will serve to house clinic staff in two apartments (instead of building a detached house for staff quarters). Guest rooms will also be constructed for visiting surgical teams. Eventually, a hangar-like structure will occupy the 4<sup>th</sup> floor to house patients and family overnight. See photo sequence from May 2012 to March 2014 below.

A new 4x4 double cabin pick-up truck was procured to enable outreach, supervision and remote surgical teams to work throughout the catchment area.



Dhankuta Clinic 1<sup>st</sup> floor construction May 2012



Clinic Visit by NNJS September 2013



December 14, 2013 Inauguration Day\_2nd floor started



Patient beds are ready December 2013



Optical Shop is open December 2013



Eye Camp at new Clinic December 2013



The truck purchased by Focusing Philanthropy and Seva Foundation

**Objective 2:** Construct, equip and bring into operation a primary eye care center (PECC) in the town of Khandbari that will serve as one of four satellite clinics in the Dhankuta (SECC) network which serves one of Nepal's most underserved regions.

**Progress to date:** Though still under construction at the time, an inaugural ceremony was held in December 2013 to recognize Focusing Philanthropy's and Seva's major contribution to the new clinic. Simultaneous to the inauguration, an eye camp was held at the temporary clinic (a rented space in town), which will be replaced by the permanent clinic in March of this year. Over the course of two days, a total of 728 outpatients were seen, 104 surgeries performed and 348 glasses dispensed. Of the patients who had surgery, five were bilaterally blind with cataract in both eyes. On March 17, 2014 the Khandbari eye clinic was far enough along to shift from the rented space in town to the main floor (middle level) of the permanent location. Exterior work (mainly painting and window installation) was ongoing on floors 1 and 3 and the interior finishing work was still underway on all floors. An eye camp is scheduled the first week of May 2014, to celebrate the completion of the building. Surgical teams from Dhankuta SECC and Bharatpur Eye Hospital will participate.



May 2012 Khandbari Laying the corner stone



Pouring the foundation July 2012



Clinic construction starts September 2013



Inauguration Day December 2013



Inauguration Ceremony Khandbari



Third Floor construction March 2014

**Objective 3:** Create the permanent capacity to perform 1,000 sight-restoring surgeries each year and materially upgrade the capacity to address 22,000 other eye care needs annually

**Progress to date:** The Dhankhuta and Khandbari facilities are already operational but not at full capacity, pending completion of construction. Most all of the equipment has been procured with the exception of some instruments and supplies. In November 2014 an annual report on the number of outpatients and surgeries will be forthcoming for both facilities.

**Objective 4:** Provide the venues and coordination for temporary eye camps where over 800 additional sight restoring surgeries can be performed annually by Nepali ophthalmologists, to reduce the backlog of treatable blind people

**Progress to date:** Eye camps held in December 2013 at the two facilities examined 878 patients, dispensed 393 glasses and performed 150 surgeries. Eye camps are scheduled at both facilities for the first week of May 2014. Once fully operational, outreach teams will regularly perform both screening and remote eye camps in the catchment area.

**Next steps:** We will complete construction on the Dhankhuta Clinic, continue equipping and staffing both clinics and provide a final report in November 2014.

**Expense Report:**

**WSD 2013 Focusing Philanthropy/Seva Foundation  
"Expanding Access to Eye Care in the Eastern Hilly Region of Nepal"**

S.No	Activity/Description	Expenditures
1	General operational costs Khandbari/Dhankuta	2,312
2	Training of 5 field workers (Eastern Nepal)	749
3	Equipment and supplies Khandbari	6,742
5	Equipment/instruments/computer/software for Dhankuta	3,902
6	4x4 vehicle for Dhankuta	32,142
7	Monitoring/reporting/site visits/admin costs	8,865
8	Construction costs Dhankuta	43,372
9	Construction costs PECC Khandbari	16,181
	Expesnes to date:	114,265
10	Remaining funds not yet paid on construction at Khandbari, future construction costs for Dhankuta and project reserve funds	85,735
11	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>



**Grateful patients at Khandbari Clinic**