

Final Report for Focusing Philanthropy For surgeries completed in celebration of World Sight Day 2014



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*Patients after cataract surgery, Battambang Eye Unit, Cambodia
Partner: Seva Cambodia*

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Grant Summary

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, an annual day of awareness that brings international attention to the issues of blindness and visual impairment.



To raise awareness, many of Seva's partners hold an annual day of free cataract surgery, campaigning across their service regions. They are not only able to bring in hundreds of individuals needing comprehensive eye care, but also advocate for the prevention of blindness to a larger audience through parades, banners, announcements and media.

In celebration of World Sight Day (WSD), Focusing Philanthropy and Seva engaged in matching fundraising campaigns in 2012, 2013 and 2014. In 2012, \$181,000 was donated to Focusing Philanthropy that

funded a special WSD cataract surgery campaign implemented by Seva that resulted in 4,208 operations in 6 countries. In 2013, \$200,000 was raised that was deployed to fund the construction, equipping and bringing into operation of a Secondary Eye Care Center/hospital (SECC) and a Primary Eye Care Center (PECF) in eastern Nepal. For 2014, Focusing Philanthropy helped Seva Foundation support 7,322 cataract surgeries in 11 countries across 16 partners:

1. Bangladesh:

- a. Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital (Islamia)
- b. Grameen Healthcare Trust
- c. Quasem Foundation

2. Cambodia: Seva Cambodia

3. Egypt: Magrabi Foundation

4. Guatemala: Visualiza

5. India:

- a. Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan (VMANNN)
- b. Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya (SNC)
- c. Aravind Eye Care System (AECS)
- d. LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)

6. Nepal: Seva Nepal
7. Pakistan: Comprehensive Health and Education Forum, Intl. (CHEF)
8. Paraguay: Fundación Visión
9. Peru: Divino Niño Jesús (DNJ)
10. Tanzania: Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO)
11. Tibet: Seva Tibet

The initial goal for the Seva/Focusing Philanthropy World Sight Day 2014 initiative was to raise the money for, and to support, 4,400 surgeries with the help of a \$110,000 challenge grant from Focusing Philanthropy. As additional donors continued to express a desire to support the appeal, Focusing Philanthropy increased its challenge grant by \$55,000 (to a total of \$165,000) and this incremental amount was also matched, bringing the total raised to \$330,000, enough to fund 6,600 cataract surgeries at an average cost of \$50 per procedure. Due to the program's ability to cost-share, especially as the volume of procedures grew, our partners exceeded this revised target and completed 7,322 cataract surgeries with this grant.

Seva allocated the funding to each partner based on three criteria: who was familiar with a per capita grant, who had the capacity to provide the surgeries and to complete the reporting, and who indicated they would like to participate in celebration of WSD. Seva then notified partners how many surgeries and how much funding they were to receive which was the basis of a simple agreement between Seva and the partner. Funding was sent to partners only after the agreements were in place.

After World Sight Day 2014, Seva collected data reports, patient stories, and photos to be compiled for the Focusing Philanthropy final report. Most of the surgeries were completed on or within days of World Sight Day, October 9, 2014, while the rest of the surgeries were completed during the last quarter of 2014 through February 2015. This gave the partners ample time to finish any surgeries that they were not able to do on World Sight Day itself and that were scheduled around other important programmatic activities such as eye camps and outreach visits. As a result, all partners completed their targeted surgeries. Partners also indicated that they appreciated the funds and were happy to support patients through these generous grants.

The matching grant from Focusing Philanthropy enabled Seva partners to have a strong World Sight Day 2014. As highlighted in the programmatic activities and patient stories shared below, Seva partners educated their communities about global blindness and visual impairment, created awareness of the available eye care services within the community, and provided cataract and other surgeries to patients in need. Most importantly, this grant helped patients to regain the independence and dignity that they had lost due to poor vision.

Thank you for your generous support in making World Sight Day 2014 such a success!



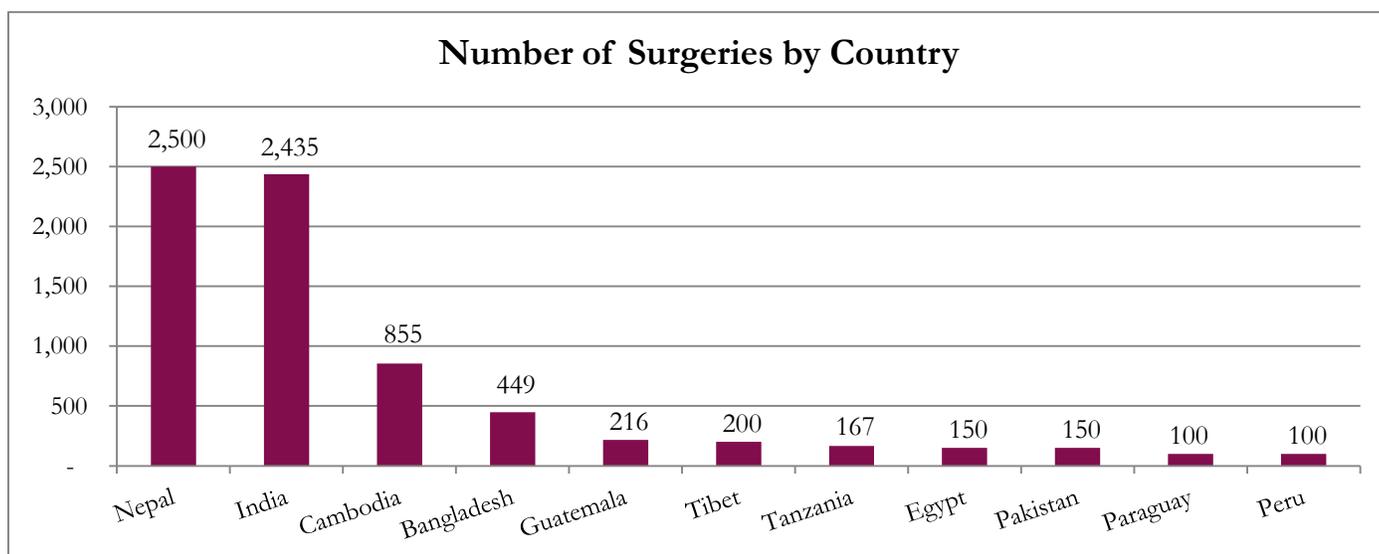
Data Summary

Sight-Restoring Surgeries Performed by Country:

Country	Program	Target	Achieved
Bangladesh	Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital, Grameen Healthcare Trust, Quasem Foundation	450	449
Cambodia	Seva Cambodia	800	855
Egypt	Magrabi Foundation	150	150
Guatemala	Visualiza	200	216
India	Vivekananda Mission Ashram Netra Niramay Niketan, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Aravind Eye Care System	2,400	2,435
Nepal	Seva Nepal	1,885	2,500*
Pakistan	Comprehensive Health and Education Forum, Intl.	150	150
Paraguay	Fundación Visión	100	100
Peru	Divino Niño Jesús	100	100
Tanzania	Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology	165	167
Tibet	Seva Tibet	200	200
Total	11 countries/16 programs and partners	6,600	7,322

*Nepal Eye Camp numbers are still coming in, they have performed at least 2,380 surgeries with an estimate of 2,500 total

Graphically:



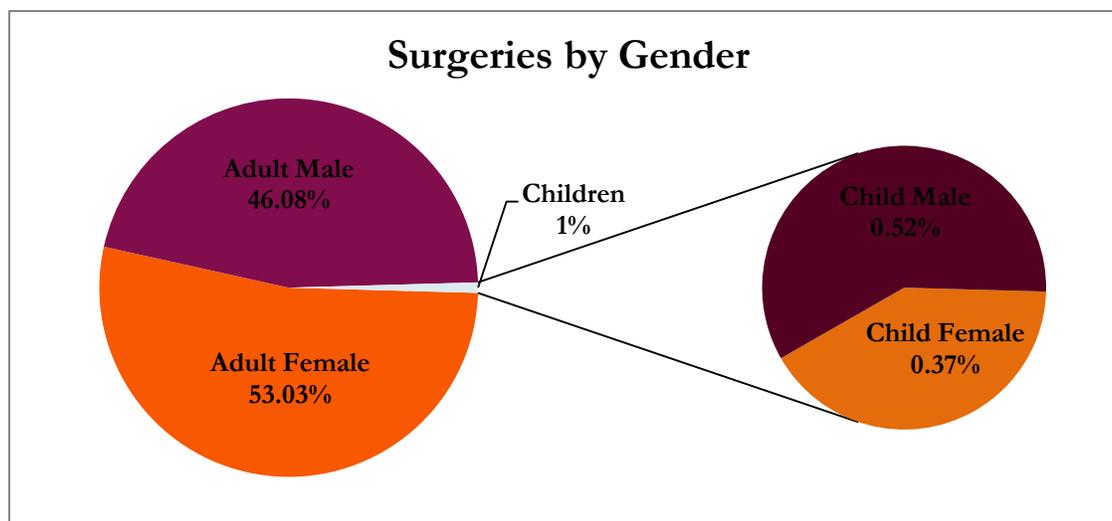
Sight-Restoring Surgeries Performed by Gender:

Country	Program	AF	AM	CF	CM	Total
Bangladesh	Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital, Grameen Health Care Services, Quasem Foundation	196	203	20	30	449
Cambodia	Seva Cambodia	561	291	1	2	855
Egypt	Magrabi Foundation	108	41	-	1	150
Guatemala	Visualiza	109	106	1	-	216
India	Vivekananda Mission Ashram Netra Niramay Niketan, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Aravind Eye Care System	1,229	1,200	3	3	2,435
Nepal	Seva Nepal*	1,262	1,115	-	1	2,378
Pakistan	Comprehensive Health and Education Forum Intl	69	81	-	-	150
Paraguay	Fundación Visión	61	39	-	-	100
Peru	Divino Niño Jesús	57	43	-	-	100
Tanzania	Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology	75	92	-	-	167
Tibet	Seva Tibet	110	89	1	-	200
Total		3,837*	3,300*	26*	37*	7,200

* Does not include Seva Nepal eye camp breakdown, as those numbers are still coming in.

AF: Adult Female; AM: Adult Male; CF: Child Female; CM: Child Male

Graphically:



Program Activity Report

Bangladesh: Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital (Islamia)

Established in 1960 in Dhaka City, the Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital is the largest and oldest referral eye hospital in Bangladesh. Islamia, as it has been known for over 50 years, emphasizes quality eye care for all members of society. The treatment for every patient is of the same quality, though the facilities vary according to the choice the patient makes. There are general facilities at very low cost, as well as private facilities, which are more comfortable and upscale. In 2013, over 35,500 surgeries were performed and nearly 544,000 outpatients were seen.



A full service hospital, Islamia offers services across the entire breadth of eye care including low vision and pediatric care. Islamia has been a Seva partner since 2004 where we have supported training of key personnel and direct eye care services.

Due to the need and high cost of pediatric cataract surgeries, Seva awarded Islamia with a grant for pediatric and adult surgeries. They completed a goal of 50 pediatric surgeries and 100 adult surgeries through the Focusing Philanthropy WSD 2014 grant.

Islamia provided the following patient story

to highlight the work accomplished with this grant:

Patient's Name: Al-Amin

Age: 10 years

Sex: Male

Diagnosis: Bilateral Developmental Cataracts

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Hospital

Country: Bangladesh

Al-Amin is the elder amongst two brothers who came to Savar, Dhaka from a remote village of rivers-based district of Bhola, 5 years ago. His father Abu Kalam started work as a day labourer in the garment factory-based industrial area of Ashulia, Savar. He is now working as a mason and maintains his livelihood in poor condition. Al-Amin was sent to a maddrasa (Islamic religion-based free education) school 3 years prior. He is charming and clever.

Six months ago Al-Amin made complaints that his eye vision had decreased and that he could not read and write attentively. His school results were very poor in the last semester. Al-Amin stopped going to school as he could not read books and write due to a sharp decrease of vision in both eyes over three months.

Al-Amin's mother has been working as a house-maid for a neighbor. Upon learning of Al-Amin's condition, Al-Amin's employer gave her some money and suggested they to go to Islamia in Dhaka for proper treatment and alerted her that if she failed to do immediate treatment, her son might become blind.

Al-Amin was brought to Ispahani Eye Institute and Hospital along with his parents within two days. Al-Amin was checked by a pediatric doctor who advised that Al-Amin needed immediate cataract surgery otherwise both his eyes would face total blindness. The doctor, after considering their financial condition, approved of financial assistance fortunately available from Seva and Focusing Philanthropy to support expenses of his operation of one eye and along with the cost of a lens. The parents were very happy and acknowledged this as the blessings from Almighty God.

He got admitted in the Hospital on the 7 December 2014, and underwent a successful operation on the following day. Al-Amin was released from the hospital on the 9th December 2014 in a joyous mood looking at the beauty of nature and the city around him.

After a week, he went to school in a renewed spirit and cheerful fashion. His class teacher and all of his fellow colleagues welcomed him exchanging smiles. He said, "I could not take proper treatment earlier because we had no money, and it was IIEI&H and Seva/Focusing Philanthropy who has so kindly provided us financial support for my operation and lens. I am most grateful to them for helping me by restoring my vision. I can now see you all together and you all look so beautiful! I can now read and write clearly and I hope I will be able to do much better in next term in school".

Al-Amin before and after surgery:



Cambodia: Seva Cambodia

Cambodia's medical infrastructure was destroyed by the country's painful years of genocide and civil war. Today, there are only 39 fully-trained ophthalmologists in a country of 14 million, and Seva has trained four of them. More than 80% of the blindness in Cambodia is either preventable or could be cured, but the vast majority of Cambodians do not have access to quality, affordable eye care. Seva works in 5 provinces to bring essential eye care services to Cambodia's most vulnerable populations, including women and children living in rural communities.

Seva employs field workers who travel door to door to bridge the gap between remote villages and eye care providers. This outreach has increased the demand for services, which means more patients being treated.

Equipping our partners with the tools they need to provide quality, efficient care, Seva builds locally-run eye care programs that are self-sustaining. Seva promotes public-private partnerships by collaborating with the government. Together, we are responsible for a ten-fold increase in the total number of eye surgeries performed since 2003. Since 1999, the Seva Cambodia program has restored sight to over 55,000 blind Cambodians.

Seva Cambodia's WSD target was 800 surgeries, of which they completed 773 surgeries that were cataract, and 82 that were other types of surgeries based on the needs of the patients who were identified. In total, their efforts supported 855 patients. Seva Cambodia provided the following patient story to highlight the work accomplished with this grant:

Patient's Name: Mr. Sy Tak and Ms. Sek Nheum

Age: Mr. Sy Tak 81 years and Ms. Nheum 72 years

Sex: Male and Female

Diagnosis: Bilateral Cataract

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Kampot Eye unit

Country: Cambodia

Mr. Sy Tak is 81 years old and his wife Mrs. Sek Nheum is 72 years old. They live at Kampong Trach Khang Keut village, Kampong Trach Commune, Kampong Trach district, Kampot province which is about 35km from Kampot Referral Hospital. They have three sons and two daughters. They are living with their youngest daughter and son-in-law. Mr. Sy Tak and his wife Mrs. Sek Nheum are very old. Their youngest daughter and son-in-law continue providing them necessary support for their livelihood.

Mr. Tak and Mrs. Nheum started losing their eyesight continuously. They couldn't do anything. They needed help from their daughter and other members of the family for daily basic tasks. Sometimes when their daughter wasn't home, they had difficulty eating and traveling, especially to use the restroom.

Mr. Tak and Mrs. Nheum started losing their vision due to cataract. They didn't know if their eyesight could be restored after surgery. They wanted to go to see a doctor at the hospital for treatment but they had heard from someone that eye surgery can help people to see only for a short period and eventually they will become blind again. This misinformation made Mr. Tak and his wife decide not to go to the hospital for treatment. So Mr. Tak was blind for almost 3 years and his wife blind for 2 years.

Seva had announced that they were conducting a surgical eye camp at Kampot Eye Unit, Kampot province for five days from 19-23 January 2015 and the aim of the surgical eye camp was to offer special

opportunities to poor patients to get eye care services for free of charge. This surgical eye camp conducted in collaboration with National Program for Eye Health of Ministry of Health, Kampot Provincial Health Department and Kampot Eye Unit was supported by Seva Foundation and donations from Focusing Philanthropy.

During that time both of them heard from the elder brother of their son-in-law who is a general nurse and is working at Kampot Referral Hospital. He told them about Seva's free surgical eye camp at Kampot eye unit and advised them to go to have their eyes examined.

On January 19, 2015, early in the morning, Mr. Sy Tak and his wife went to Kampot Eye Unit with their daughter. At Kampot Eye Unit they were examined by an ophthalmologist who explained that they both had bilateral cataract and they would be able to see after surgery. The same day in the afternoon the surgical team sent them to the operating theatre for cataract surgery. The ophthalmologist had planned to do surgery for Mr. Sy Tak on his left eye and for Mrs. Sek Nheum on her right eye as their first operations.

The next day when their eye patches were removed, they gave a big smile and said that they could now see everything around them. They were very happy with success of their first eye operation.

When the doctor examined their eyes post- operation, the visual outcome was very good. The ophthalmologist decided to do surgery on their other eye and the surgical team sent them to the operating theatre and their second eye operations were successfully performed.

The next day, when the nurse at the eye unit opened the eye patch on their second eyes, they were very happy with their restored vision. They said, "We would like to express our sincere thanks to Seva, donors and the surgical team for helping to restore our sight". They said that they were fully confident they can walk by themselves and can visit the local pagoda. They could take care of their granddaughter and son. More importantly, they could continue learning and reading their religious Buddha book. They went back home with their daughter in happiness.

Mr. Tak and Mrs. Nheum after both their eyes were operated:



Guatemala: Visualiza

Guatemala is one of the poorest nations in Latin America. Nearly 37% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day and roughly 15% lack access to health care. Because communities lack accessible eye care services, 75% of the people who are blind in Guatemala suffer from conditions that can be prevented or cured. An estimated 48,200 of Guatemala's 14.6 million residents are blind from cataract, which can be cured with a 15-minute surgery. Thanks to an innovative funding model, Visualiza is able to offer surgery to anyone who needs it-regardless of his or her ability to pay.

Founded in 2002 by a pair of ophthalmologist brothers, Visualiza operates clinics in Guatemala City and the Peten that provide private care alongside free vision services for underserved communities. With only 2% of Guatemala's ophthalmologists, Visualiza performs over 22% of all sight-restoring cataract surgeries in the entire country.

Seva provides direct support for Visualiza's outreach screenings that help reduce avoidable blindness across Guatemala and restore sight to some of the country's most vulnerable populations, including women and children in rural communities. Through Seva's Global Sight Initiative, Visualiza staff mentor 5 hospitals in different countries in Latin America to improve surgical and management techniques and increase the number of patients seen.



With support from Seva and Focusing Philanthropy, Visualiza held a large World Sight Day event at their clinics in both Guatemala City and in San Benito, Petén. They advertised for free surgeries offered on World Sight Day through a full month of outreach screening activities and a press meeting with important radio stations, TV stations and newspapers. Their efforts were a success and they had a strong turnout for this event. Their goal this year was to provide 200 free surgeries to patients.

Visualiza staff with their 100th free patient

On World Sight Day, they were able to provide 216 free cataract surgeries, all supported by Focusing Philanthropy. The Visualiza staff was particularly moved by the following patient's story:

Patients Name: Andrea Alicia Lopez Martinez

Age: 51 years

Sex: Female

Diagnosis: Right Eye Cataract

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Guatemala City clinic

Country: Guatemala

Andrea came on World Sight Day very early in the morning. She spoke with us while she waited in line, noting, “I’m so anxious to be chosen. I’ve been blind for almost 4 years now and it has been very difficult for me. While I walked on the streets I’ve even fallen several times and broke one of my legs due to my incapacity. This gave me a lot of frustration.”

She has 4 sons and 2 grandsons. The youngest one is two years old, little Justin, and she hasn’t known him well due to her blindness. She said, “All of my life I’ve worked as a domestic cook. Because of my blindness I lost my job because I couldn’t see well and I burned several of the meals.”

“Lucky me there are institutions like Visualiza!” she said. Andrea was one of our chosen patients with all the requirements. WSD changed her life! The day after surgery, Andrea said, “What amazed me more is that I can see and it’s just been one day!”

Andrea after surgery:



India: LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)

LVPEI is one of India's foremost centers for service, research, and training. Its influence is felt globally through its training programs and extensive collaborative research. In addition to its hospital setting in Hyderabad, LVPEI has a nearby campus for its School of Optometry and International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care. The LVPEI network includes a Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, 3 tertiary centres in Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, 13 secondary and 115 primary care centres that cover the remotest rural areas in the four states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka.

A World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness, the Institute offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement and rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting edge research and offers training in human resources for all levels of ophthalmic personnel.

Seva and LVPEI work together to strengthen the Global Sight Initiative. LVPEI is currently mentoring eight eye hospitals in India focusing on surgical skills, HR development, resource center and staff education expansion and effective outreach techniques.

With support from Focusing Philanthropy and Seva Foundation, LVPEI offered 600 free cataract surgeries across six of their mentee hospitals through the World Sight Day 2014 Campaign. Several activities were held across the LVPEI network in commemoration of this day and LVPEI's participation since 1999.

Of the many patients served on World Sight Day, LVPEI's mentee Global Hospital and Research Centre, Mount Abu was especially excited to share the story of their patient Jawali Garasia:

Patient's Name: Jawali Bai Garasia

Age: 70 years

Sex: Female

Diagnosis: Right Eye Hyper Mature Cataract and Left Eye Mature Cataract

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Eye camp

Country: India



Since the last five years as her age increased, Jawali bai got gradual dimmness in vision in both her eyes but they worsened in the last two years. Due to poverty and lack of services nearby, she never checked her eyes. When a free eye camp was organized in her village on 20.11.14, she attended and was diagnosed as Right Eye Hyper Mature Cataract and Left Eye Mature Cataract.

Jawali Bai along with three members in her family reside in an interior tribal village of district Udaipur. She belongs to Garasia community which is in the Schedule Tribes category of very poor financial condition. Her husband died a while ago so she is fully dependent on her daughter. Previously she was taking care of her granddaughter, but due to marked visual decline she is too helpless.

Her daughter is taking care of Jawali bai. Her daughter has no steady income, and worked as and when with support from a government scheme, and many times left her job due to the poor physical condition of her mother. Jawali bai's daughter feels very tense while working, as she has to leave her child under the care of her blind mother.

Before surgery Jawali bai was fully dependent on others, and now she can see this world clearly. Her post operative vision is RE 6/18 and LE 6/9. Now her daughter can go to her job on a routine basis without any tension of her home or her daughter.

After surgery Jawali Bai and her family felt very happy and gave thanks to all who gave her sight back. In the absence of her daughter, now she is taking care of her granddaughter and also doing other routine family work and moving around the village without any assistance.

Jawali Bai before and after surgery:



India: Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya (SNC)

Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya (SNC) was founded in 1968 with the vision of “Food for the hungry, clothes to the destitute and sight to the blind”. Based in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh, SNC is a model of quality rural health, education, and agricultural services. Its 200 acre campus includes a high volume, multi specialty eye hospital. With consultation and training from Seva and several other partners, SNC has grown to become a model of comprehensive rural eye care performed on a sustainable basis. Beyond eye care, the SNC campus also includes a maternity hospital, general hospital, several schools (including for IT) and an animal husbandry program.

The Center of Community Ophthalmology, within SNC, began in 2008 with support from Seva Foundation. The purpose is to increase community awareness and to restore sight throughout the region. Today the community programs include Vision Centers to serve remote communities, as well as growing investigation into community service effectiveness. The Centre for Public Health focuses on Advocacy, Project Management, Research, Training and networking with Public Health programs. This center at SNC is instrumental in offering training and consultation to other institutions in this vast underserved region. Already we have seen a radically increased number of sustainable, community-oriented eye hospitals serving North-Central India.

SNC coordinated 600 cataract surgeries for the World Sight Day 2014 grant. Four locations were chosen to complete 150 surgeries each, of which all four met their targets. As a representation of the patients served through this grant, SNC shared a patient story from their main hospital in Chitrakoot:

Patient Name: Bansh Gopal

Age: 80 years

Sex: Male

Diagnosis: Bilateral Cataract

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Eye camp

Country: India

Bansh Gopal is an 80 year old man with crutches to support him. Living in village Purba, he was a healthy man and started life on his own with no support from anyone. A self-made man, Bansh Gopal graduated from being a menial laborer to a much skilled and in-demand carpenter. This journey of self-reliance has been at many odds. But he defied them all. And then the sudden turn of destiny struck him in the form of an unsuspecting accident where a vehicle hit him, fracturing his hip bones. This was almost two years ago. With his deteriorating health, he realized that slowly and steadily he is also losing his eye-sight in both the eyes. This agonized him greatly as he lost his self-sufficiency and independence as a person.

With his children all settled elsewhere, there was only his wife to help him. And then his son-in-law gave him good news. He told Bansh Gopal about the camp that Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya was about to organize in their village itself. Encouraged by his only son-in-law's words, coupled with his desire for having back his autonomy, he came to the camp. His wife was also having eye-problems and they both got registered in Purba camp on October 12th, 2014.

The camp-vehicle of the hospital brought all registered patients to Chitrakoot at Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, the base hospital. Bansh Gopal got all of his initial investigations done. But there it was found out that he

was a high blood pressure patient. With admission on 13th October 2014, he was kept on treatment in the in-patient ward for some time.

Before arriving at Chitrakoot, he was apprehensive about the condition that he may face in the base hospital as it was his first time not just in the eye hospital but also in Chitrakoot. But after coming to the base, he realized that there was nothing to fear. With the supporting staff that kept his qualms at bay, he was at rest. On 16th October 2014, the doctor declared him fit for surgery.

As he got the surgery done, he said that he didn't even realize how little time it took. Post-surgery, he asked Dr. Amit Yadav, the doctor who implanted the IOL (Intra Ocular Lens), "Is it that simple?" And then he happily mentioned that he would ask his grandson to be a doctor too! Post-surgery of the selected right eye, Bansh Gopal has a visual acuity of 6/18, as compared to his Bilateral Pre-op Vision: Right Eye-6/60 & of Left Eye-5/60.

Bansh Gopal is very much positive about the future. He says that now though he still has problem in his hips and back, now with restored vision, he will be able deal with life in a better way for sure. He plans to be a consulting-mentor-carpenter for the young boys in his village. He thanks the institute, SEVA, and Focusing Philanthropy for the great service of giving light in the darkened lives.



Bansh Gopal struggling to see during screening and examination, and then post-surgery:



Paraguay: Fundación Visión

Fundación Visión is one of the only institutions in Paraguay that drives into the very inland section of Paraguay with the purpose of searching for blind and visually impaired through concerted outreach efforts. In 1992, Dr. Duerksen started Programa Visión with a regular outreach activity in a leprosy hospital 81 kilometers from the capital. Since its beginnings, the organization has grown substantially.

Twenty years later, Fundación Visión completed more than 90,000 consultations and 5,000 surgeries. Fundación Visión does about 45% of all the cataract surgeries that are done in the country and has helped reduced the prevalence of blindness to 1.0%.

Programa Visión recognizes the need to serve the rural population of the country who are mostly poor and live far from the service delivery centers. This leads the outreach department (Salud Comunitaria) to make 15 or more regular monthly trips to the interior of the country to identify people in need of eye care, provide glasses, do surgeries, etc. in collaboration with the local community.

In celebration of World Sight Day, Fundación Visión held awareness events at their 5 clinics around Paraguay. And with support from Focusing Philanthropy and Seva, staff was able to provide 100 free cataract surgeries to patients in need. They shared this sweet story of Domingo Sosa Resquin to commemorate the occasion:

Patient Name: Domingo Sosa Requin

Age: 64 years

Sex: Male

Diagnosis: Left Eye Cataract

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Main clinic

Country: Paraguay



Mr. Domingo lives in the city of San Lorenzo, which is one hour away from Fundación Visión. He completed five years of primary school and has worked in auto body repair and vehicle painting. Two years ago he realized that his vision was declining. He could not see the numbers on the buses to go to work. It also affected him in his work and he could not see the details. Mr. Domingo could no longer drive nor move freely about and he was not willing to continue to “borrow time” from his relatives or neighbors to assist him.

Mr. Domingo said, “I inquired at Fundación Visión and the doctor gave the order for cataract surgery. Because I

did not have enough money to pay for the surgery, the social worker told me that there are donors to help others to have the surgery needed. I accepted to have the surgery and it went very well.” He further said, “I had the surgery and I can see again. I returned to my work and I noticed that I can see details. I enjoy my family and I feel useful and safe!” “Fundación Visión, thank you for helping to recover my sight which I wanted so much. I also thank the donors who contributed to my surgery. I am very happy. MANY THANKS!”

Tanzania: Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO)

Tanzania, located in East Africa, has seen sustained economic growth and progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, much work remains to be done, particularly around eye care. There is less than one ophthalmologist per 1 million people living in Tanzania. As with many countries in the Africa region, Tanzanians are faced with avoidable blindness caused by cataract, trachoma, glaucoma, corneal scarring, childhood blindness, and refractive error. The main cause of bilateral blindness is cataract.

In 2001, Seva helped establish the Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) in Tanzania. KCCO is the only community ophthalmology training institution dedicated to reducing blindness in Africa. With the help of Seva Foundation, KCCO is radically expanding its training programs, developing community service projects, and providing consulting and mentoring to local eye care programs throughout Africa.

Seva Foundation supports KCCO in offering team training to strengthen community services in countries throughout Africa and in building the service capacity of five local eye hospitals in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda. We help these organizations provide affordable and accessible eye care services as well as multi-disciplinary training for clinical and management personnel.



As part of World Sight Day celebrations, KCCO and their partner in Mara, Tanzania conducted a five-day outreach in the Serengeti. Along with banners and involvement with the Ministry of Health, KCCO worked to create awareness through their campaign. Many government officials, eye care workers, business people, and NGOs were involved during the week. Through Focusing Philanthropy's generous grant, Mara District Hospital was able to provide 167 cataract surgeries. With only one ophthalmologist for the region, this grant provided access to care for so many patients who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

They shared this touching story of Mkami Chacha, whose livelihood like many others, was deeply affected by cataract:

Patient Name: Mkami Kisonko Chacha

Age: 70 years

Sex: Female

Diagnosis: Cataract

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Outreach

The outreach site is called Itununu Village. The village is in Serengeti districts of Mara region. Serengeti district is a hard to reach district from the regional hospital. It takes about 4 hours drive on unpaved road in dry season. In wet season it can take longer than that. As a result, without outreach, programme patients from this district cannot access cataract surgical services. Itununu village (the surgical outreach) is located about 30 km south west of Serengeti district. The site serves a population of about 50,000 people. The people in this catchment area are farmers (mostly crop and few livestock keeping). The village has a dispensary and that is where outreach took place.

Country: Tanzania

Mkami recognized the vision problem four years ago. When we asked the patient why she did not seek eye care services she said she was not aware that the problem can be cured at a hospital. “My children and I thought this is due to old age and nothing can be done about it”, she said.

Mkami used to farm and take care of her animals (goats and chicken). Overtime she noticed her sight got worse and worse until she could not see anything at a distance. She stopped working in the farm, as she could not feed her chickens and therefore lost her income. She became dependent as she could not cook, find her way to the toilet, or wash her clothes. Her life was affected socially because she was not able to walk by herself and meet with fellow livestock keepers so that they can exchange views and get new ideas of how to take care of her cattle and goats. This stressed her so much because she felt that she was being a burden to her daughter.

As a result her daughter also could not fully use her time working and earning income. Mkami was hoping that after surgery she would go back to the field for farming, she would be able to take care of her animals, sell eggs, earn income again and be independent.

The patient took one and a half hours to travel to the outreach site. Her neighbor offered to give her a ride on his bicycle for some distance then her daughter walked with her to the outreach site. When she got to the outreach and was seen by the eye care workers, she accepted surgery. She was taken to Mara regional hospital the same day for operation.

Three weeks after surgery there was an outreach about 30 km from Itununu village. Her vision had improved from 6/24 during day one post operation to 6/18. She was very happy to regain her sight and she wanted her second eye operated as well. She reported being able to sort stones from rice, feed her chickens, sell eggs, see and count her goats and cook for herself which she could not do before surgery. “Now I feel so happy that I am independent.”

Mkami is thankful for the doctors and all others who helped her access surgery. She is thankful that she can now return to her normal life, see the beauty of the world, see friends, children and grandchildren and most important be able to take care of herself economically and socially. With so much joy, Mkami beamed, “You have to be blind once to know how it feels, then get operated to see the difference. I have not enough words to explain it. I am very happy.”

Mkami waiting patiently before and during surgery:



Tibet: Seva Tibet

More than 75% of the blindness in Tibet is either preventable or curable, but the vast majority of Tibetans do not have access to quality, affordable eye care. There are many challenges to providing eye care in Tibet, including the huge land area, harsh winter climate, dispersed population, inaccessibility of much of the terrain, lack of public transportation, and the poverty of a majority of the population. It is estimated that in order to eliminate needless blindness due to cataract in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) alone, doctors must perform 13,375 cataract surgeries each year.

Seva currently works within and outside Tibet Autonomous Region of China to bring essential eye care services to the region's most vulnerable populations, including women and children living in rural communities, by conducting outreach eye camps to areas where services are not available, supporting capacity building, planning, implementation and monitoring of eye care activities Tibet/China, establishing the new Kham Eye Center (KEC) as a model for national eye care.

Seva has been working in Tibet since 1995 and is currently working in five areas of Tibet and Western China (Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan provinces) to bring essential eye care services to the region's most vulnerable populations. To date, Seva has trained over 900 Tibetan eye care personnel, from rural health workers to nurses to ophthalmologists. Seva is the leading eye care provider in Tibet, responsible for 50% of cataract surgeries in central Tibet and 90% in traditional Tibetan areas of Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan provinces.

With support from Focusing Philanthropy, Tibet was able to offer 200 free cataract surgeries to patients at the Menzikhang Eye Department. The patient story below shows examples of how pediatric eye care can improve so much more than a child's eye sight.

Patient's Name: Dolma

Age: 13 years

Sex: Female

Diagnosis: Cataract due to trauma

Description of where service offered (e.g. camp, hospital): Menzikhang Eye Department, Lhasa

Country: Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Dolma is a 13 year old Tibetan girl from a small village in Linzhi Province, 240 kilometres from Lhasa. At the age of two, Dolma fell down the stairs and wounded her forehead. Three years ago, her parents noticed there were vision problems with Dolma's complaining of blurred vision but due to a family financial issue they didn't consult doctors immediately but waited until she grew up. And now, she is in the last year of her primary school. The parents finally decided to take her to Lhasa for a check up, and there she was diagnosed with traumatic cataract. On the same day, her parents also made a decision to do the operation to restore her sight.

Dolma is a grade six primary school student. Because of an obvious scar above her right-eyebrow and sight loss for years, either in her school or village, classmates or other kids call her 'blind girl' and she is always a victim of bullying in school. But she is a hard working girl in school as well as at home. Despite all this she has good performance in school, she is very shy and speaks in a low voice with a bowed head.

With Dolma's sight restoration she became the healthier child among her other two siblings. Her older brother has mental issues and dropped out of school after middle school; and her 17 year old hearing impaired sister has never gone to school. So that leaves Dolma with the great expectations of the family.

Mr. Norbu Gyaltsan, the father, said Dolma was very excited about cataract surgery. The next morning, after removing of her eye patch and cleaning of Dolma's eye, her mother looked at Dolma's eye and tears rolled down her cheeks. Dolma finally smiled at her parents.

On 25th of December, ten days after cataract surgery, Dolma came back to the hospital for a reexamination of her eyes. Although after surgery her vision only reached to Counting Fingers, this is a new Dolma, only ten days since our last meeting, but she looked completely different. She looks so much happier and she keeps smiling and running around the hospital corridor with speculative eyes! For the day, the ophthalmologist at MZK suggested a month of eye exercises for amblyopia at home which will help Dolma's lazy eye and lead to better vision in the future.

Dolma and her mother after surgery:



Concluding Note

As a way to reflect the success of World Sight Day 2014 and the generous donation of Focusing Philanthropy and their supporters, Seva has put together a short video of photos and footage of the World Sight Day campaign 2014 from our partners around the world. This video is a thank you to Focusing Philanthropy for partnering with Seva Foundation to eliminate needless blindness. Once again, thank you for your support!