

Focusing Philanthropy Diligence Trip Report  
Seva Foundation – December 9 – 15, 2013  
Khandbari and Dhankuta, Nepal



In the course of a seven day diligence visit to Seva Foundation programs in eastern Nepal, two Focusing Philanthropy team members saw the construction progress at the eye hospital and satellite clinic our donors have funded. We participated in the dedication ceremonies of both facilities. We also observed two eye camps, met with Nepalese medical personnel as well as local and national leaders. During our trip we traveled with and assessed the programs you supported, in concert with Seva senior staff. This was our second trip during the year to visit Seva's program sites, following an April visit to Guatemala to observe both a temporary eye camp and the core operations of an in-country Seva partner.

The Nepal trip was to the remote eastern region of the country where a population of about 500,000 people lives with very little access to eye care. In Khandbari, the satellite eye clinic is under construction and will provide the area with permanent eye care. We observed the complete cycle of an eye camp, including patient registration, eye exam, determination of prescriptive action, provision of eye glasses and/or medicine as appropriate, pre-operative interaction for those requiring surgery, conduct of the surgery, and post-operative treatment.

A very impressive seven person Nepalese medical team, lead by Dr. Kamal Khadka, conducted the eye camp, supported by personnel who will permanently staff the new satellite clinic. Over the course of the two day clinic, 728 people were examined, 348 received glasses, and 104 sight-restoring surgeries were performed. The professionalism of the care and the level of obvious personal commitment to the work by Dr. Khadka and his team were very impressive, indeed inspirational.

From Khandbari we followed the road south to Dhankuta, where the secondary eye hospital is under construction and an additional, smaller eye camp was conducted. Again, Dr. Khadka and his team provided the medical services. Supporting Dr. Khadka was the newly trained Nepalese ophthalmologist who will be the primary doctor staffing the newly constructed hospital. At this clinic, 150 people were examined, 45 received glasses, and 46 sight-restoring surgeries were performed.

We came away from this diligence visit with reinforced confidence in the profound, life-changing, cost-effective impact of the contributions of our donors, the highly efficient deployment of resources, and the in-country capacity building program that are creating the opportunity for long-term impacts.

The following images from the Khandbari eye camp illustrate the sequence of care that occurs at both the camp and permanent facilities.

Patients lined up for their eye exams. Some walked for two days over mountainous trails to get to the eye camp. Even those who were completely blind made the trek by foot, but were accompanied by family members.



All except the bilaterally blind received eye exams to determine what intervention was needed.





Khandbari woman takes an eye exam.



Nepalese team members conduct pre-operative interviews after surgery has been determined appropriate. In this case, three totally blind patients are seated on a bench with their relatives behind.



The morning following surgery, patients return to the clinic to have their bandages removed. Following re-examination of the eye that was operated on, patients received instructions, medicine and dark glasses for short-term post-operative care.

Waiting for bandage removal.



Dr. Khadka examining a patient after bandage removal.





Six patients whose sight was restored; notice one is reading again!



Five other patients whose sight was restored and their family members and caregivers.



Here is the sequence of care for one of the three totally blind patients pictured above in the pre-operative picture. He arrived at the clinic following a two day trek through the mountains, supported by two family members. He had been blind for many months, following a progressive loss of sight over several years. When asked what he had done since he fully lost his sight, he said he had “sat and done nothing, though previously he had been a farmer, who had always supported his family.”



Totally blind, awaiting surgery



Being helped by relatives to post-operative recovery area following surgery.



Awaiting bandage removal with other surgical patients.



First reaction upon being able to see again; Dr. Khadka looking on.