



FOCUSING PHILANTHROPY WORLD SIGHT DAY 2019 REPORT

Prepared by
SEVA FOUNDATION
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CAMPAIGN SUMMARY



There are 253 million people around the world who are moderately or severely visually impaired. Of those, 36 million are blind and 217 million have moderate to severe vision impairment. These numbers are projected to triple by 2050. An estimated 19 million children under the age of 16 are visually impaired, and almost 60 percent of people who are blind are women and girls. Furthermore, 90 percent of the world's visually impaired live in developing countries and low-income communities.

The good news is that eighty percent of all visual impairment can be avoided or cured through sight-restoring surgeries, glasses, and preventive care. To raise awareness about the number of people who cannot see but who could, 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.

In 2019, countries celebrated World Sight Day on October 10th, with a focus on *Vision First*. Many of Seva's partners held celebrations, parades, and community rallies. Partner hospitals marked the

occasion by providing free eye exams and surgery to patients on World Sight Day. They also organize additional outreach efforts to communities that do not have regular access to eye care services.

Seva's partners highlight eye care needs and services in the weeks leading up to World Sight Day and continue to provide exams and surgeries to community members who need them. Since 2012, Seva and Focusing Philanthropy have partnered on annual World Sight Day campaigns. This year, we extended the 2019 campaign timeline for service delivery until the end of 2020, given the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities worldwide. This report provides an overview of the campaign reach and impact to date.

Seva's partner in Guatemala, Visualiza, performed 270 surgeries in the days around World Sight Day. These patients pictured on the cover and above received surgery thanks to the support of Seva and Focusing Philanthropy.

CAMPAIGN IMPACT

In 2019, we marked the eighth successful year of a joint World Sight Day campaign between Seva Foundation and Focusing Philanthropy. Together, we raised \$865,391 – our largest initiative to date! These funds were committed to 10,988 eye surgeries for adults (10,244 completed to date), 700 eye surgeries for children (688 completed to date), critical equipment for eye clinics, and a new project dedicated to addressing retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) for premature infants in Ukraine.

In all, Seva and Focusing Philanthropy donors have invested more than \$3.7 million through the World Sight Day campaigns. Your contributions have supported nearly 60,000 free sight-saving surgeries for adults and children, supplied essential equipment to partner hospitals and clinics, funded a secondary and primary eye clinic in two remote communities in Nepal, and launched an ROP pilot initiative that will serve as a global model for future programs.



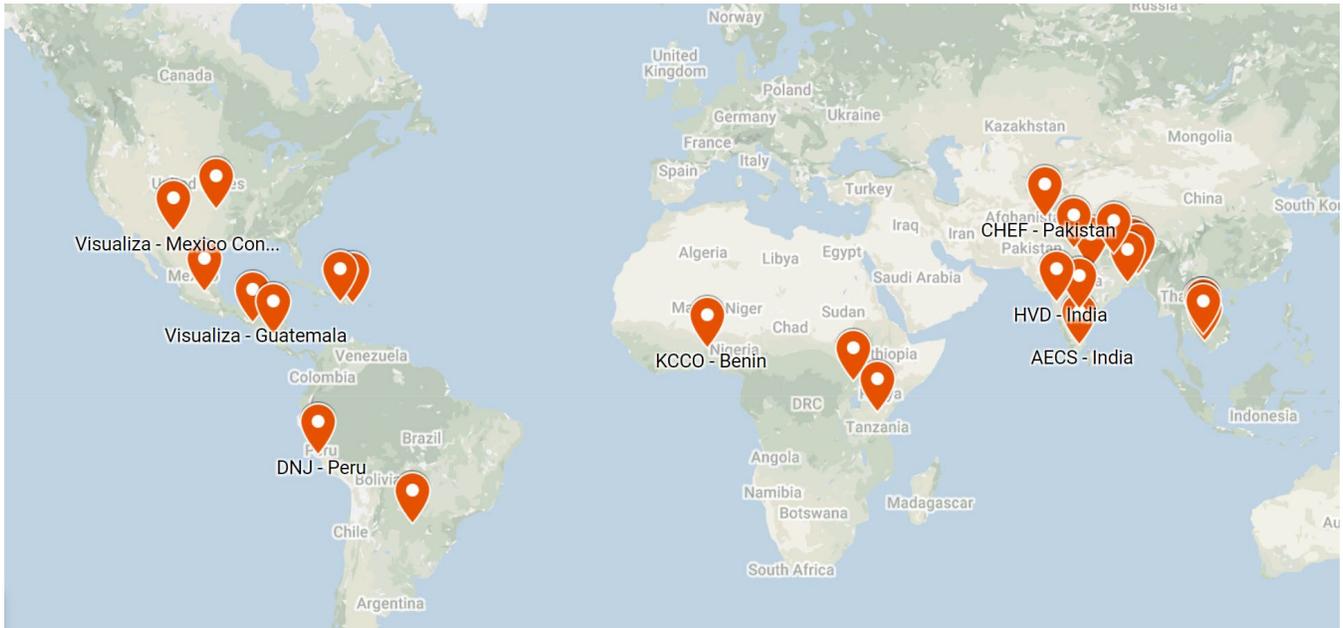
Seva Partner Grameen Healthcare Trust marches through Barisal to raise awareness about eye health and World Sight Day

The following chart provides a breakdown of World Sight Day campaign impact throughout Seva and Focusing Philanthropy’s eight years of partnership:

Year	Raised	Impact
2012	\$181,000	4,208 eye surgeries in six countries
2013	\$200,000	Construction, equipping, and launch of a Secondary Eye Care Center/ hospital (SECC) and a Primary Eye Care Center (PECC) in eastern Nepal
2014	\$339,489	7,322 cataract surgeries
2015	\$511,557	8,088 operations, essential equipment, and surgical supplies
2016	\$500,454	8,215 surgeries and vital equipment
2017	\$519,172	8,345 surgeries and \$75K of ophthalmic equipment and surgical supplies
2018	\$625,634	10,482 sight-saving surgeries across six countries, including 700 pediatric surgeries, and vital equipment
2019	\$865,391	10,988 eye surgeries for adults (10,244 completed to date), 700 eye surgeries for children (688 completed to date), critical equipment for clinics, and a Retinopathy of Prematurity pilot program in Ukraine

2019 CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

14 Countries across more than 70 hospitals



This year's campaign had a broad geographic distribution. Seva's partners worked with their network of hospitals to reach dozens of communities. The map above highlights the breadth of the program, spanning three continents.

SIGHT-SAVING SURGERIES PERFORMED

Thanks to the World Sight Day 2019 campaign, people from 14 countries worldwide received free, critical eye surgery, and clinics received vital equipment. With the impact of COVID-19, many partners were not able to fully complete their targeted surgeries before the original deadline of June 30, 2020. Seva prioritized the safety of hospital and clinic staff and their patients. As safety protocols were developed, hospitals began to provide more eye care services, depending on the COVID-19 infection rate and guidance by the Ministry of Health in each country.

To assist, Seva worked with partners to develop standard operating procedures in light of COVID-19, provided protective equipment, and helped offset short-term funding gaps of partner hospitals. The spread of COVID-19 forced many hospitals to reduce their eye care services to focus on emergency cases only. Hospitals have since restarted cataract surgeries using enhanced safety measures. In many countries, Seva partner hospitals are now seeing an increase in patients coming for eye care. To date, partners have completed a total of 10,244 adult surgeries and plan to complete the remaining 744 before the end of 2020, safety measures permitting. Of the 700 committed pediatric surgeries, 688 were completed. In India, HV Desai will complete the remaining 12 pediatric surgeries once it is safe to do so, which they expect will be possible by the end of 2020.

The table below highlights the progress partners have made toward their surgical targets. Partners listed in bold font are still completing their surgeries.

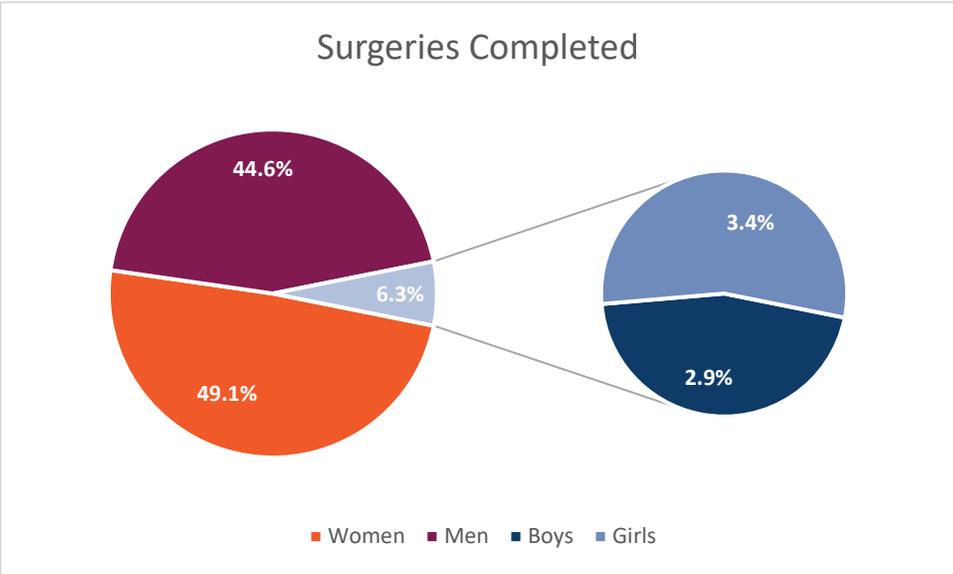
Country	Seva Partner	Target		Adjusted Adult Target*	AF	AM	CF	CM	Total
		Adult	Child						
Bangladesh	Grameen Healthcare System	654	100	654	226	178	13	11	428
	Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute	300		300	169	131			300
	Quasem Foundation	250		250	146	104			250
Benin	Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology	126		126	53	73			126
Cambodia	Seva Cambodia	637	305	182	105	77	198	252	632
Dominican Republic	Visualiza	50							0
Guatemala	Visualiza	203	80	300	174	126			300
Haiti	Visualiza	40							0
India	Aravind Eye Care System	425		856	425	428			853
	Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	221	140	444	223	221	65	54	563
	LV Prasad Eye Institute	746		1300	677	623			1300
	PBMA H. V. Desai Eye Hospital	1298	75	1900	1003	897	18	24	1942
	Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya	452		891	463	428			891
	Vivekananda Mission Ashram Netra Niramay Niketan	846		1500	777	723			1500
Mexico	Visualiza	100		93	53	40			93
Nepal	Seva Nepal	1150		1116	305	331	19	34	689
Nicaragua	Visualiza	50		50	32	18			50
Pakistan	CHEF	250		250	123	127			250
Paraguay	Visualiza	100		100	50	50			100
Peru	Divino Niño Jesus	60		60	26	23			49
Tanzania	Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology	422		496	263	233			496
Uganda	Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology	120		120	64	56			120
Adult Subtotal		8,500		10,988	5,357	4,887			10,244
Pediatric Subtotal			700				313	375	688
GRAND TOTAL									10,932

*Note that the Adjusted Adult Target reflects the revised goal reflective of additional funding raised
AF: Adult Female; AM: Adult Male; CF: Child Female; CM: Child Male

With the effect of COVID-19 continuing to impact different countries to varying degrees of magnitude, partner hospitals are at various stages of achieving their original targets:

- **Latin America:** Some partners will finish up by September, others may need until December. For example, our partner in Peru was completely shut down in early March. In June, they received permission to open on a limited capacity, severely impacting their original plans.
- **Africa:** Partners achieved their target because the number of COVID-19 cases only recently began to increase across the continent the way we have seen in other regions. They were able to perform their services for much of the year.
- **Asia:** Partner hospitals are reopening but will need additional time, as highlighted above. Most will complete their surgeries by September, but some not until December. Those who reached their allocations were able to do so because of the limited spread of COVID-19 in their area.

Why are pediatric sight-saving surgeries such a critical and meaningful intervention? Eighty percent of what children learn is processed visually. Good vision is critical to a child’s ability to participate in and benefit from educational, social, and professional activities. Stigma caused by poor eyesight, or eyes that appear different from others, often results in children skipping or dropping out of school. We know that attending school is crucial for a child’s future economic and educational prospects.



EQUIPMENT

The equipment supported through this grant is vital for working towards universal access to care. The allocations allow partners to reach more patients with comprehensive eye health screenings and provide a higher volume of needed treatments. Four partners in three countries received equipment through this year’s campaign.

Country	Partner	Equipment purchased
Cambodia	Seva Cambodia	<u>Yag laser in Pursat</u> : Previously, patients needing treatment with the Yag laser had to go to Phnom Penh or Battambang for treatment. This proved a challenge for a number of patients who couldn't afford to pay for the transportation, food, accommodation, and related expenses for travel. With the new Yag Laser, the Pursat eye unit is able to directly provide services to patients, saving them time and expenses.
Nepal	Seva Nepal	<u>Operating microscope in Pyuthan and slit lamp in Dhankuta</u> : The Pyuthan eye center is located in Pyuthan District in mid-west Nepal, about four hours from Lumbini Eye Institute. Previously, the team had to carry an operating microscope with them to the center, risking damage to the microscope. With its own operating microscope, Pyuthan eye center can now ensure safe cataract surgeries and is now in a position to evolve into a secondary hospital with a permanent ophthalmologist. Dhankuta, in far eastern Nepal, sees more than 9,000 patients annually. Slit lamps are critical for providing comprehensive eye exams. Their new slit lamp allows the Dhankuta team to readily meet the needs of their patients.
United States	Oklahoma City Indian Clinic (OKCIC)	<u>OKCIC purchased both a Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener and Digital refractor</u> : Equipment training was scheduled for the end of March but postponed with the impact of COVID-19. It will be rescheduled when safe. The new equipment enables the pediatric department to screen at least 80% of six-month old's and 80% of toddlers for possible vision problems during their regular health checkups at the clinic. Seva and OKCIC expect this critical equipment to continue to improve care delivery at OKCIC for years to come.

REACHING PREMATURE INFANTS WITH EYE CARE

This year, Seva and Focusing Philanthropy invested in a new initiative dedicated to helping children see more clearly in Ukraine. An estimated 15 million babies around the world are born preterm (before 37 completed weeks of gestation), and this number is rising. An estimated 20,000 babies born early will become blind from Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), with an additional 12,300 experiencing permanent visual impairment. We are working to keep babies from experiencing permanent visual loss.

Seva previously worked in Ukraine through our AIDS Eye Initiative. Partnering with Eye Samaritan International (ESI) made possible a new way to bring critical eye care to Ukraine, in order to reach babies needing immediate treatment. This partnership creates a center of excellence by augmenting an established institution with additional equipment, training, financial support, and access to specialized expertise. This center will interact with several other institutions in the same broad catchment area in a "hub and spoke" model to provide the diagnosis, treatment, specialized resources, professional training, and support needed to address the currently underserved population.

This year, Eye Samaritan International organized hands-on training with three experts at both the main hospital and the screening sites, including the training of 35 neonatal nurses. ESI is currently exploring virtual training options to provide continuing education opportunities for the team in Odessa.

The delivery of essential equipment to ESI allowed the team to screen and treat babies identified with ROP. Through this investment, the team saw 84 babies, of which 25 received critical laser treatment to prevent blindness. Despite the impact of COVID-19 across the world, including in Ukraine, these vital services continued. As one doctor who received training noted, "It is known that examination of the fundus of a premature baby is fully possible only due to indirect binocular ophthalmoscopy. Unfortunately, we are experiencing material difficulties. We thank you for such a necessary diagnostic device. The quality of the visible image allows you to assess the picture of the fundus. We regularly use the device to examine premature babies."

CONCLUDING NOTE

Our partner in Guatemala, Visualiza Clínica Médica Oftalmológica, created a beautiful video in honor of their World Sight Day efforts. Thanks to Focusing Philanthropy and Seva donors, Visualiza, and our other partners are able to provide sight-giving surgeries for patients in need.

<https://youtu.be/yFmRSJqB25E>



PATIENT STORIES

The impact of the World Sight Day grants via Seva and Focusing Philanthropy's partnership can best be seen in the patient stories highlighted below. Restoring a person's sight has a profound impact for the patient, his or her family, and the community for decades to come.

Mr. Sarun – Battambang, Cambodia (Seva Cambodia)

Mr. Lork Sarun is 78 years old. He and his wife are rice farmers. Mr. Sarun's vision began to blur about five years ago. Two and half years later, a Seva field worker visited his village and gave him a screening. The field worker identified a cataract in his right eye and sent him to Battambang hospital for surgery. They removed Mr. Sarun's cataract and he returned to farming.

A few months ago, his left eye began to blur. He remembered the wonderful service he had gotten earlier. With his wife, he planned to return to the same hospital hoping for help once again.

Their trip was postponed for four months due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. Although he did not have the money to pay for surgery, he knew that Seva and its donors support people without the means to pay restore their eyesight. At the hospital, the technician found a mature cataract in his left eye. He was admitted for eye surgery. Once complete, he was able to see again.

"I do not have enough word to express my happiness after getting sight restored to both my eyes," said Mr. Sarun. I am more confident that I can work in the field and earn money for living, doing routine work at home and helping my wife with household work. Thank you very much Seva for your great support to restore my eyesight."

Mr. Bharose – Chitrakoot, India (SNC)

Mr. Bharose struggled with vision problems for the past year. As time passed, it became more and more difficult to carry out his day-to-day activities. He was no longer able to tend to his farm and suffered both emotionally and financially. He was afraid of having surgery and, fear aside, had no money for to pay for the operation.

One day he heard about the Seva outreach camp organized in Chitrakoot. He asked a friend to take him there for an exam. The technician found



a cataract in his eye and recommended surgery. After additional counseling to assuage Mr. Bharose's fears, he agreed to undergo the procedure and was then taken to SNC hospital for surgery. Two days later, his bandage was removed and his sight was restored.

Now he can see much better. He confidently walks around his community, interacting with family, friends, and community members the way he used to before losing his sight. He returned to farming and can once again provide for his family. This is particularly important as his wife is also physically unwell. Mr. Bharose is grateful to SNC, Seva, and Focusing Philanthropy donors because he can now properly care for her until the end of his life.



Mrs. Mehernegar – Gaibandha, Bangladesh (Quasem)

Mrs. Mehernegar is a 35-year-old housewife. She was unable to see clearly and had pain in her eye. She suffered from excessive mucus and water retention in her eye, which was very irritating. Even with the discomfort, she was able to work and care for herself. Though, sometimes, she had to ask for help.

Thankfully, one of her relatives told her about Marium Eye Hospital. There she was informed that she had a cataract and that surgery would allow her to see clearly. Mrs. Mehernegar agreed to the operation and regained her vision! Today, she has no problem working and is better able to care for her family. She is excited to see everything and very happy that her vision problems are solved. She gives thanks to everyone involved with regaining her sight.



Pratigya, Delhi

Pratigya was born in 2010 to an economically disadvantaged family. The first daughter following two boys, she was a precious but premature little girl. She was born with various developmental challenges, including her eyes. It was only after six months of age that Pratigya could open them. The much-delayed milestone left her parents very worried, but they didn't know what – if anything – could be done. Pratigya continued to grow up and was forced to come to terms with her poor vision. Going to a mainstream school was fun but also challenging for her since she had difficulty reading and doing daily activities.



For nine years, her parents did not have her eyes checked. They did not think anything could be done. One day, one of her friends pointed out that Pratigya had squint in her right eye, which could be fixed. Her parents worried even more because treatment would cost them money, and they hardly had any resources to bear the expense. They started looking for a trusted charitable hospital for her, but they had little luck.

In August 2019, the outreach team of Dr. Shroff's Eye Hospital (SCEH) organized a screening camp at Pratigya's school. All of the children were excited about the eye checkup (and chance to avoid classes!). Pratigya was screened and diagnosed with a problem in her eyes. The hospital medical team contacted Pratigya's father and advised him to bring her in for further examination and treatment at no cost. This news was a god-sent miracle for the family. The counselor explained the procedure, helped them complete the pre-surgery requisites, and promised that Pratigya would be fine.

Finally, after nine years, Pratigya received her operation, and a ray of hope entered her eyes. After her success, her brother also came to SCEH for a vision checkup. He was diagnosed with a problem in his retina and is currently undergoing treatment. Pratigya is recovering from surgery and feels much better. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up. She is back playing outdoors with her friends. Her parents are happy to see their daughter smile and bloom. They are relieved that she will now be able to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. They are thankful to God and Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital for treating her and giving her the gift of a bright future. She now has many aspirations and dreams, and a pair of healthy eyes to fulfill them.