



FOCUSING PHILANTHROPY WORLD SIGHT DAY 2020 REPORT



Prepared by
SEVA FOUNDATION
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CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

According to the World Health Organization, globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or blindness, nearly one-third of the world's population. Of these, 1 billion live with a vision impairment that could have been prevented or has not been addressed. The vast majority, 90% of people with vision loss, are in low- and middle-income countries. Almost 60% of people who are blind are women and girls. A life without clear vision often becomes a life devoid of freedom, independence, and dignity. For a person in the developing world, it can be catastrophic.

Through Seva's and Focusing Philanthropy's collaboration, and your support, we're changing the landscape.

For the 2020 campaign, we committed to reaching 9,600 people with surgeries (including 700 children). We also made critical investments in equipment, increasing partner hospitals' ability to provide quality eye care safely. The challenges of COVID-19 haven't stopped us.

CAMPAIGN IMPACT

2020 marked the ninth year of a joint campaign between Seva Foundation and Focusing Philanthropy. For World Sight Day 2020, Seva Foundation and Focusing Philanthropy raised \$823,237 to provide 9,600 adults and children with free surgeries to restore and preserve their vision, plus much more as you will read in this report.

In a year of much uncertainty brought on by the global pandemic, we had set the modest original goal of raising \$585,000. Your generous support helped us far exceed this number and restore the sight of an additional 1,800 people.

For a historic look at all that has been accomplished through the collective generosity of Seva Foundation and Focusing Philanthropy donors, a year-over-year campaign summary for the previous eight World Sight Day campaigns is included at the end of this report.

Cover Photo: *Marium Eye Hospital, in Northern Bangladesh, organized a small outdoor celebration in honor of World Sight Day 2020. The celebration included a parade through town and balloons to raise awareness and bring some fun around increasing understanding about the importance of eye care.*

2020 CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

17 Countries across more than 80 hospitals



SIGHT-SAVING SURGERIES PERFORMED

Thanks to the World Sight Day 2020 campaign, people in **17 countries** around the world had critical eye surgery and clinics received vital equipment to make diagnosis and treatment possible. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, partners completed more than 95% of their annual surgery targets before June 30, 2020. Seva prioritized the safety of partner staff and patients. Hospitals followed established protocols and government guidance on performing surgeries, depending on the infection rates in their community. To assist, Seva provided personal protective equipment and worked with partners to adopt standard operating procedures as the virus evolved. In many countries, Seva partner hospitals have witnessed an increase in eye care patients when COVID infection rates decrease. To date, partners have performed a total of 8,692 adult surgeries and 700 pediatric surgeries and plan to complete the remaining adult surgeries by the end of 2021 (COVID-19 permitting).

The table below highlights the progress made toward achieving our surgical targets.

Country	Surgical Target		Additional Surgery Need*		Overall Target	Surgeries Completed				
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child		AF	AM	CF	CM	Total
Bangladesh	722	0	200	0	922	498	424	-	-	922
Benin	40	0	0	0	40	7	9	-	-	16
Burundi	10	0	0	0	10	11	14	-	-	25
Cambodia	899	200	0	0	1099	520	379	169	191	1259
Dominican Republic	12	0	0	0	12	7	5	-	-	12
Guatemala	63	0	0	0	63	38	25	-	-	63
Haiti	25	0	0	0	25	14	11	-	-	25
India	3119	160	1500	0	4779	2467	2152	0	0	4619
Malawi	10	0	0	0	10	9	8	-	-	17
Mexico	37	50	0	0	87	19	18	15	35	87
Nepal	1443	120	0	0	1563	748	695	37	83	1563
Nicaragua	25	0	0	0	25	14	11	-	-	25
Pakistan	246	0	100	0	346	184	162	-	-	346
Paraguay	38	0	0	0	38	26	19	-	-	45
Peru	200	0	0	0	200	20	18	-	-	38
Tanzania	160	20	0	0	180	66	65	8	12	151
Uganda	51	150	0	0	201	16	13	61	89	179
TOTAL	7100	700	1800	0	9600	4665	4027	290	410	9,392

*Note that the Adjusted Target is the revised goal reflective of the additional funding raised

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

**On track to achieve targeted surgeries. The impact of COVID caused delays in performing surgeries.

Final reports may reflect a shift in numbers between African countries. That said, all 9,600 surgeries will be completed and reported on by 12/31/21.

As COVID-19 continues at varying degrees of magnitude around the world, partner hospitals are at different stages of achieving their original targets.

- **Latin America:** The Peru program has continued to experience a high rate of COVID-19 cases and deaths. They completed their commitment carried over from the 2019 campaign but have some remaining surgeries to perform for the 2020 campaign at the clinic in Iquitos.
- **Africa:** Some partners achieved their target but others have remaining surgeries to complete. Despite COVID cases increasing across the continent, teams were able to conduct outdoor outreach screenings to identify candidates for surgery. They will continue this effort over the coming months to complete the balance of 70 surgeries by the end of the year.
- **Asia:** Partners have achieved 99% of their targets. The April 2021 increase in delta variant cases has caused continued delays, but Seva’s India partners are on track to complete the remaining 160 surgeries by the end of September.

EQUIPMENT

The equipment supported through this campaign is vital for working towards universal access to care, allowing partner hospitals to reach more patients with comprehensive eye health screenings and provide a higher volume of needed treatments. Partners across four countries benefited from investments in critical equipment. The following table displays the estimated human impact.

COUNTRY	CAMBODIA		GUATEMALA	INDIA	NEPAL	
Equipment	Autoclave	Cataract Set	Yag Laser	A Scan	Autoclave	Cataract set
Lifetime Years	7	2	7	7	7	2
Total Funded	4	12	1	1	7	170
Unit Cost	\$5,929	\$660	\$29,000	\$3,000	\$7,030	\$201
Total cost	\$23,716	\$7,920	\$29,000	\$3,000	\$49,210	\$34,214
Total Est. People Served	35,280	11,520	16,800	34,860	214,620	163,200
Price per Person Served	\$0.67	\$0.69	\$1.73	\$0.09	\$0.23	\$0.21

REACHING INFANTS & CHILDREN WITH EYE CARE

As a child grows, 80% of what they 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 vision, or by eyes that appear different from others, often results in children skipping or dropping out of school. Attending school consistently is crucial for a child's future economic and educational prospects. This makes pediatric sight-restoring surgeries an extraordinarily meaningful intervention, and our ability to restore children's sight is critical for the 2020 World Sight Day Campaign and far into the future. Despite the long-lasting impact of COVID-19, Seva and its partners were able to provide 700 of the 700 committed pediatric surgeries. To achieve our target, we reallocated some of the planned surgeries in India to Cambodia, which, until recently, had relatively low COVID-19 cases and therefore little service disruption due to the virus. As part of our collective efforts to help children (and their families) feel more comfortable about having their eyes examined, our partner in Mexico created a series of videos designed to put children (and their families) at ease. We're excited to share a [sample video](#) with you.

Seva and Focusing Philanthropy also continued the pilot initiative with Eye Samaritan International to screen newborn babies for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). An estimated 15 million babies around the world are born preterm (before 37 completed weeks of gestation), and the number is rising. Globally, it is estimated that 20,000 of these babies will become blind from ROP, with an additional 12,300 experiencing permanent visual impairment.

By augmenting Eye Samaritan International, an established institution, with additional equipment, training, financial support and access to specialized expertise, we are creating a Center of Excellence in Odessa, Ukraine to ultimately serve as a model for hospitals worldwide. This clinic interacts with several other institutions in the same broad catchment area through a hub-and-spoke model. Together, they provide the diagnosis, treatment, and specialized resources needed to address the currently underserved population.

As part of the 2020 campaign, Eye Samaritan International procured and delivered the remaining equipment for the ROP pilot, including a transport incubator to safely transport infants in need of specialized care. To date, the team has screened 445 newborns and diagnosed 65 with ROP, 18 of which were treated with a campaign-funded laser. In addition, 455 laser treatments were provided to adults with the same laser. Despite the impact of COVID-19, these critical services have continued.



Seva Foundation and Focusing Philanthropy

A Historic Look Back

In 2012, Focusing Philanthropy and Seva raised \$181,000 to fund a special World Sight Day cataract surgery campaign implemented by Seva that resulted in 4,208 operations in six countries.

In 2013, we raised \$200,000 to fund the construction, equipping, and launch of a Secondary Eye Care Center/hospital (SECC) and a Primary Eye Care Center (PECC) in eastern Nepal.

For 2014, a matching campaign of \$339,489 supported 7,322 cataract surgeries.

In 2015, \$511,557 in donations resulted in 8,088 surgeries and essential equipment and surgical supplies.

In 2016, \$500,454 supported 8,215 surgeries and purchased vital equipment.

In 2017, \$519,172 supported 8,345 surgeries and \$75,000 of ophthalmic equipment and surgical supplies.

In 2018, the campaign raised \$625,634 to provide 10,482 sight-saving surgeries across 16 countries, including 700 pediatric surgeries, as well as vital equipment.

In 2019, the campaign raised \$865,391 that resulted in 11,688 eye surgeries including 700 surgeries for children, the procurement of essential equipment for eye clinics, and introduced a new initiative dedicated to addressing the growing incidence of pediatric blindness developing in infants born prematurely, due to retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

With the 2020 campaign, the combined total raised over these nine campaigns is more than \$4.5M providing 68,000 free surgeries to adults and children as well as critical equipment to support our partner hospitals to provide services for more people each year. We are very grateful as well for the support of the new ROP program targeting preterm babies that will help reduce the risk of permanent blindness as they enter the world.

PATIENT STORIES- World Sight Day 2020

The impact of the World Sight Day campaign via Seva and Focusing Philanthropy's partnership is best seen through patient stories. Restoring a person's sight has a profound impact on the patient as well as his or her family and community for decades to come.

Mrs. Shreemoti - Saidpur, Nilphamari, Bangladesh (Quasem)

Mrs. Shreemoti suffered from a cataract in her right eye for three years. She is a housewife and had to do household work, but with her vision problems, everything became difficult. People used to call her blind, which embarrassed her. Her son-in-law asked her to see an eye doctor and called someone he knew who worked at Marium Eye Hospital. A doctor operated on Mrs. Shreemoti free of cost through their eye camp. The operation changed her life. She now spends her time with neighbors and family. She completes her daily housework without anyone's help. Her family can relax knowing she is independent. She gives thanks to the staff of Marium Eye Hospital, Seva, and Focusing Philanthropy, for their charitable support in helping her get her eyesight back.



Sharifa – Mbale, Uganda (KCCO)

Sharifa Rukia is six years old. She lives with her family in Mbale, Uganda. Her grandmother is responsible for the family and stays at home to take care of Sharifa and Sharifa's mother, who cannot walk. As a result of the care required, funds are extremely limited for the family.

In February 2020, Sharifa's grandmother noticed that her grandchild could not differentiate between objects. However, she did not realize the severity of Sharifa's poor vision until Sharifa's teachers informed her that she had trouble following along in school and recommended she visit the hospital. At Benedictine Eye Hospital, Sharifa was diagnosed with cataract. She received free surgery in the fall of 2020 as COVID-19 cases in Uganda increased, causing school closures for a number of months. However, that hasn't slowed down Sharifa. Now that she can see, Sharifa has started asking her grandmother to take her to school and is eager to resume lessons as soon as classrooms reopen.



Mr. Jaipal – Chajjlet, Moradabad, India (LVPEI)

Mr. Jaipal has three sons and one daughter. His daughter is married and lives with her husband in a nearby district. One of his sons is also married and works in the nearby fields. Jaipal used to be a day laborer at a local brick kiln, but his vision worsened in both eyes. He could not continue working and his financial condition suffered.

One day, Mrs. Geeta, a community health worker, went to his home to conduct a primary vision screening. “I have had difficulties with my vision in my right eye for the past year,” Mr. Jaipal explained. Mrs. Geeta identified a cataract in his right eye. She referred him to a nearby vision center for a comprehensive eye examination. Initially, Jaipal was reluctant due to his fear of surgery, but Mrs. Geeta counseled him and his family about cataracts and their treatment. Afterward, he agreed to further examination by the vision technician, who confirmed the cataract in his right eye and referred him to CL Gupta Eye Institute (CLGEI) in Moradabad for surgery. Mr. Jaipal discussed his inability to pay for cataract surgery. The team told him not to worry as the institution had funding to help people just like him. CLGEI performed Mr. Jaipal’s surgery free of charge. He is incredibly happy now and satisfied with the services he received. He and his family are thankful to CLGEI, Seva, and Focusing Philanthropy for supporting his surgery. His life is back to normal and he was able to resume work at the brick kiln.



Mrs. Begum Haowa - Malipara, Sarishabari, Jamalpur, India (Islamia Surgical Support)

Mrs. Begum Haowa is 50 years old and lost her husband fifteen years ago. She has three sons and two daughters. All of her children are married. Her sons could not bear any of her financial costs, so Begum has been staying with her daughter who also lost her husband. Her daughter maintains all their financial expenses by working in others’ homes. Begum helped her daughter by doing housework, but as her vision worsened, she could not walk alone or perform any work. She was dependent on her daughter for everything. As a result, they both suffered financially and mentally. Begum saw many village doctors, but there was no improvement to her vision. As she could no longer work, she thought that she would never get her vision back and accepted this as her misfortune. One day, she learned of an eye camp scheduled through

Secondary Eye Hospital Jamalpur. Begum went for a screening where they identified a cataract in her right eye. The vision counselor informed her that she would receive free surgery with the help of the World Sight Day campaign. On December 13, 2020, the surgeon operated on her right eye to remove the cataract. After the surgery, Begum was happy. “I am speechless,” she said. *“This is unbelievable that they could restore my eyesight.”* Now, she can return to work. *“I am blessed. I am thankful to Seva Foundation for supporting me.”*



Mrs. Hazera - Chorkaowa, Barishal, Bangladesh (Islamia Surgical Support)

Hazera is a 75-year-old housewife who lives with her husband who is a farmer. She has three sons who are all married. Two of her sons are service holders while the other son is a businessman. They earn a decent living, but they don't look after their parents. Hazera is responsible for all the household work while her husband supports them with his small income. They face many hardships maintaining their family. Hazera's eyesight had been worsening for three years, and she was having problems seeing distant objects and faces. She tried many kinds of treatment, but there was no improvement to her vision. Her neighbor suggested she go to the Refraction Camp organized by Secondary Eye Hospital, Barishal (SEHB).

There, the optometrist identified cataract in both eyes. He counseled her about surgery and she agreed to the operation.

With the help of Seva Foundation, she received free surgery on November 24, 2020. After the surgery, Hazera was very happy. "It's wonderful being able to see properly again," she said. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Seva Foundation, Focusing Philanthropy and SEHB for the successful outcome of restoring my vision."



Iquitos Clinic, Clínica Oftalmológica Divino Niño Jesús (DNJ)

Clínica Oftalmológica Divino Niño Jesús (DNJ) is based in Peru and has two eye clinics: one located in the capital city of Lima and the other in the Loreto region of Iquitos. As noted earlier in the report, COVID-19 has had a major impact on Peru. The country has 606 deaths for every 100,000 people, the highest rate per capita in the region. (For context, the next highest is in Brazil at 268 deaths per 100,000 people.) In response to COVID-19, the government issued a strict lockdown, including closing both clinics. Peru remained on lockdown through July 2020, though DNJ was able to resume some services at its Lima clinic toward the end of June. By implementing increased safety measures and PPE, provided in part by Seva, DNJ was able to provide eye care services to its patients. However, given the high incidence of COVID-19 in Loreto, the Iquitos clinic remained closed. Not until October was DNJ able to begin slowly reopening this clinic. As part of the World Sight Day celebration, Seva and DNJ partnered to provide free surgeries to patients in need. Thanks in part to this campaign, the Iquitos clinic was able to reopen and provide quality surgeries to patients who had been waiting for services to resume. Satisfied patients play a critical role in increasing awareness amongst the community that the clinic's services have resumed.



Mr. Hassan – Buner, Pakistan (CHEF)

Mr. Hassan is a 65-year old farmer. He has had diabetes for 10 years and began having vision problems four years ago. As his vision worsened, it impacted his daily activities and he was unable to participate in social gatherings or attend the mosque, especially at night. His five daughters, all in school, were impacted in their lives because of his total dependence on them. When he finally had his eyes examined at a public hospital, they found two cataracts. Due to his poor income, he didn't have the means to cover the cost of surgery. Support from Seva Foundation and Focusing Philanthropy made this operation possible.

He now sees clearly and performs his daily routines without assistance. He recognizes faces from a distance and meets people with confidence. "I can carry out my farming independently; I can see and read the Holy Quran." He is very grateful to the hospital staff and all those who have helped him regain his vision.



Mrs. Shyamali – West Bengal, India (VMANNN)

Shyamali Banerjee, 61-years old, is a private tutor living in the village of Deulpara. As her vision declined, she worried about her ability to work and teach. She has overcome several battles in her past but never felt as worried as she did about losing her vision, which impacted her ability to maintain her only source of income. Her neighbor told her about a camp program organized by Lions Seva Eye Hospital at Deulpara. She went for a check-up and was diagnosed with bilateral cataract. She was nervous when she learned that her treatment required surgery. However, after getting more information from the doctor and staff, she wanted to have the operation immediately. As a widow with no one in her family to support her, she could not afford the cost of surgery. In March, through the support of the World Sight Day Campaign, Shyamali was operated on at no cost and her vision was restored. After surgery, she was so happy to see her books properly and be able to return to her profession. She thanks the hospital, Seva Foundation, and Focusing Philanthropy, and gives her good wishes.

