



Operation Eyesight Universal At a Glance

We are an international development organization working to eliminate avoidable vision loss and bring quality eye health care to communities where it's needed most.

Founded in Calgary, Canada in 1963, over the past six decades we have grown to become a global community that spans four continents and includes health workers and volunteers, physicians and ophthalmic personnel, donors, partners, staff and board members.

Whether it's a simple pair of eyeglasses or a more complex eye surgery, we believe everyone has the right to affordable, quality eye health care services. Together, our mission is to prevent blindness and restore sight – *For All The World To See*.

Where we work

We currently have programs in the following countries:

- Bangladesh
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Zambia

By 2028, we hope to expand to five more countries. We also have charitable status and Boards of Directors in Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, the UK, the US and Zambia.

2024 by the numbers...



2,360,895

people screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps



288,198

students screened through school eye health programs



280,982

eye surgeries performed



129

water boreholes rehabilitated



Operation Eyesight is a leader in global eye health

Our team's presence on the ground allows us to act quickly and leverage the unique strengths of our communities of work. Here's how we do it:

Local partnerships

By training local health workers and establishing vision centres in partnership with local hospitals, we create lasting and sustainable change within communities and connect patients with eye health care as well as their larger health system.

Strengthening health systems

By training staff and investing in equipment and infrastructure, we work with existing health systems to improve access to and quality of eye health care. Through our referral network of 60+ partner hospitals, we help patients access eye surgery and advanced care that is affordable, or in many cases, free of charge.

Beyond eye care

Through activities like community outreach, water and sanitation projects, and health education, we are addressing the root causes of avoidable vision loss, such as poverty, poor sanitation and gender inequality.



Read our Global Strategy to learn how we'll grow.

For All The World To See



1,362,269
people screened through door-to-door surveys



10
new vision centres, eye clinics or hospitals established or upgraded



272,911
pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed



383
community health workers/volunteers trained in primary eye care



233
villages declared Avoidable Blindness-Free

Programming Areas

We work with local partners to ensure eye health care is available, accessible and affordable. While all of our programs are interconnected, we have five main areas of focus:



Hospital Strengthening

We work with local hospitals to deliver quality eye health care services that meet community needs. The hospitals receive referrals and provide advanced treatment including eye surgery. We invest in equipment and infrastructure – from procuring slit lamps, to renovating operation theatres and everything in between. We also provide training for hospital staff – from administrative clerks and health workers, to ophthalmic nurses and cataract surgeons.

Together with the hospital, we establish vision centres at the community level. We are strengthening entire health systems and making eye health a standard part of the care provided.



Community Eye Health

We train local community health workers who conduct door-to-door eye health screenings, refer patients for treatment and provide general health education. They're able to reach families in remote and underserved areas.

By establishing vision centres in communities, we ensure patients have local access to comprehensive eye exams, prescription eyeglasses and referrals to hospital if needed.

Our goal is to declare all of our partner communities as avoidable blindness-free!



Integrated Eye Health

Eye health is linked with a range of other development areas. We're working to strengthen areas of overlap between primary eye care and primary health care in our countries of operation. In doing so, we're able to address the root causes of avoidable blindness.

For example, our community health workers link families with primary health centres for immunizations, pre- and post-natal care, and other critical services. We also bring fresh water and hygiene education to communities, to help prevent the spread of trachoma, a blinding eye disease.



Disease Control

We work with our partners to address the major causes of vision loss: cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, trachoma, uncorrected refractive error and other conditions. From eye screenings and prevention education, to treatment and follow-up care, our partners provide comprehensive eye health services.

In collaboration with ministries of health and education, we provide eye screenings at schools and ensure children get the prescription eyeglasses or other treatment they need to succeed.

In Kenya, we recently conducted a mass drug administration in Narok County, distributing antibiotics to more than 215,000 people, to prevent trachoma, a blinding eye disease.



Research and Advocacy

We are focused on harnessing the power of data to support the effectiveness of our model and contribute to a growing body of peer-reviewed research in the global eye health sector. This makes us a key collaborator in informing national eye health policies and strengthening local health systems.

In Ghana, where little to no data previously existed regarding visual impairment, we led the country's first-ever blindness and visual impairment survey in partnership with the Ghana Health Service and others. The data has become a go-to source for information for the government and NGOs, and it informed Ghana's eye health policy and health program planning.



Visit our website to
learn more

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 Operation Eyesight Universal

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