



20 24

ANNUAL REPORT

 OPERATION[™]
EYESIGHT
UNIVERSAL

OUR MISSION

To prevent blindness and restore sight.

OUR VISION

The elimination of avoidable vision loss.

OUR VALUES

Equity Innovation Citizenship Compassion Excellence



Kash speaks with Narayan at Srinivasapura Vision Centre (Globe Eye Foundation) in India. Narayan was there for his cataract surgery follow-up appointment. He said he was grateful that he had not needed an attendant to guide him to the clinic, and that he'd been able to return to work as a restaurant waiter. He and Kash are both fathers of two sons, and – as proud dads do – they traded stories about their kids.

On the cover: Gulbahar, a 60-year-old woman from Bangladesh, lives alone and supports herself as a maid. When cataracts darkened her world, she sought surgery, but the cost was too high. Fortunately, she heard of our nearby outreach camp. *(Read Gulbahar's story on page 29.)*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

Going beyond the restoration of eyesight



In my 15 years at Operation Eyesight, I have seen many things. The sight I value most is the moment a person's eyesight is restored – when a woman, a girl, a man or a boy slips on eyeglasses, removes eye surgery bandages or blinks in eye drops that relieve pain. Their eyes widen and their jaw drops. Some laugh. Some cry. Some do both at the same time.

However, it is what happens next that I most cherish. Immediately, people move beyond the restoration of their eyesight to speak of what they'll do, who they'll see and where they'll go. They share plans for a life transformed – of connection and education, of employment and independence.

Transforming lives is our work. Globally, 1.1 billion people live with vision loss, and 90 per cent is avoidable. Without investment in eye health care, it will be 1.8 billion by 2050.

That is why we are invested, and investing in, eye health care. In 2024, we brought our sight-saving work to more people than ever through year one of our **Global Strategy 2024-2028**. Building on our 60+ years of experience, we are scaling our sustainable, local eye health care models to address not only vision loss but also its root causes, including poverty, lack of clean water and gender inequality.

We launched our *Global Strategy* to achieve three goals: expand our reach, build the capacity of our people and raise awareness of eye health-care needs.

The moment we launched, I saw impact.

I felt alignment, energy and enthusiasm in our 65 staff, 4,600 frontline workers and scores of partners. Some say it's 'start-up' energy. I say it's energy from transforming our organization to improve quality of life for as many more people as possible.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for being part of our growing global community. Together, we will eliminate avoidable vision loss and its causes, to transform many more lives, now and in the future – **For All The World To See!**

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kashinath'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kashinath "Kash" Bhoosnurmath
President & CEO
Operation Eyesight Universal

WHERE WE WORK 2024

Why the world needs more eye health care

Globally, **1.1 billion people in the world live with vision loss**. By 2050, it will be 1.8 billion unless there is significant investment in eye health care¹.

Vision loss is increasing as the global population ages and lifestyle changes – such as more screen time, less outdoor time, and shifts in diet and health – impact people’s eye health. Data shows²:

- 90 per cent of people with avoidable vision loss live in low- and middle-income countries
- 450 million children need treatment for eye conditions, and 90 million live with vision loss
- 55 per cent of people with vision loss are women and girls
- 73 per cent of those with vision loss are over the age of 50

The life-long consequences of vision loss can be devastating. Vision loss leads to:

- 30 per cent reduction in employment³
- children in low- to middle-income countries attending school two to five times less⁴
- students with poor vision learning half as much as peers with good and corrected vision⁵

Vision loss costs us all. The global economic burden of vision loss is \$411 billion USD per year⁶.

Fortunately, 90 per cent of all vision loss is preventable or treatable. That’s where we come in.

¹ IAPB Vision Atlas

² IAPB Vision Atlas

³ Global economic productivity losses from vision impairment and blindness - eClinicalMedicine

⁴ IAPB Vision Atlas – child eye health

⁵ New Research Shows Children Who Don’t Get the Glasses They Need Learn Half as Much as Classmates - The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

⁶ WHO 2023 Fact sheet blindness and vision impairment



* Our head office is in Calgary. We are currently piloting projects for medically-underserved communities in Canada. Operation Eyesight Universal (USA) and Operation Eyesight Universal UK Limited also have active Boards of Directors.
 ** Programs in Sri Lanka are in early stages.

For All The World To See

We believe that clear vision and healthy eyes are a right for all, regardless of where people live, their gender, age or ability to pay.

That's why our teams are on the ground partnering with communities, ministries of health and education, and like-minded organizations to build sustainable eye health care systems that provide eye health care now and in the future. **We do this through our five programming areas:**

COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH

We train local community health workers who conduct door-to-door eye health screenings, refer patients to a vision centre or hospital for treatment, and provide health education.

HOSPITAL STRENGTHENING

We invest in hospital equipment and infrastructure, provide training for healthcare professionals and establish vision centres at the community level. The vision centres provide eye exams and eyeglasses and refer patients to the base hospital for surgery or other treatment.

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 vision loss.

DISEASE CONTROL

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

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Driven by a wealth of community-based data, we are contributing to a global body of health research and informing national eye health policies.



Cataracts had robbed 14-year-old Isaac and his five-year-old sister Grace, from Ghana, of their ability to learn at school, help their mom at home and play outside with friends. Through our school eye health program, they were referred for sight-restoring surgery, which they received free of charge.

OUR GLOBAL STRATEGY

Why we are investing in eye health care

We provide quality eye health care in 10 countries. As needs already exceed our capacity, we are investing in our organization, people and partners to scale our work.

In 2024, we launched our ***Global Strategy 2024-2028: Going Beyond the Restoration of Eyesight.*** We are addressing both avoidable vision loss and the complex development issues that impact it. As a result, we contribute to six of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: no poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and partnerships for the goals.

Our Global Strategy has three goals:

1. **To expand our service reach** to include **more communities** and **more determinants of health** related to eye health, so that we can improve quality of life for more individuals.
2. **To strengthen the capacity of our partners and staff** to ensure organizational excellence, efficiency and accountability.
3. **To increase awareness** of our organization, our programs and our impact to generate more support, disseminate eye health knowledge, influence key state and non-state actors, and ultimately increase the size of our global community.

We will achieve these goals through our five programming areas: community eye health, hospital strengthening, integrated eye health, disease control, and research and advocacy. (See page 5.)

Read our full
Global Strategy
2024-2028





Arthur, from Kenya, wears his new eyeglasses that he received through a school eye health program we ran with partners Haruma Eye Care Unit and the County of Uasin Gishu.

Global Strategy metrics show our progress towards our 2028 goals and our 2024 results. Below we share three years of data for context.

GLOBAL STRATEGY METRICS	2022	2023	2024	TARGET 2028
Countries of intervention	8	9	10	15
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	1.64M+	2,453,654	2,360,895	2.1M/year
Avoidable Blindness-Free villages (cumulative)	1,254	1,349	1,582	2,900
Established vision centres (cumulative)	174	196	216	255
Active partner hospitals (cumulative)	56	60	65	90
Eye surgeries performed	161,814	232,767	280,982	225,000/year
Pairs of eyeglasses distributed	279,848	275,800	272,911	315,000/year
Water boreholes drilled/ rehabilitated (cumulative)	260	382	511	705
Countries actively fundraising	2	3	4	7
Annual global revenue (CAD)*	\$7.20M	\$5.51M	\$9.46M	\$16.8M

*Raised through Operation Eyesight Canada and other charitable entities such as the Operation Eyesight India Trust. The financial information on page 35 is for Operation Eyesight Canada only.



Sriramappa, from India, lost his vision and his livelihood to cataracts. Read his story below to learn how both were restored.

Your impact in community eye health

We train local community health workers to conduct door-to-door surveys, refer patients to a vision centre or hospital for treatment and provide health education.

Our community eye health model ensures no one is left behind and we reach more than 90 per cent of the community. We say we 'go the last mile'. By working alongside the community, we listen, learn and work together to apply local solutions to local challenges.

Raising awareness and empowering people and communities about eye health is one of five recommendations of the World Health Organization's *2019 World Report on Vision*⁷.

Community outreach leads to restored sight

Sriramappa, from Karnataka, India, had vision loss from cataracts. He was dependent on his family for his daily needs, and he could no longer support them by grazing his cows and goats. His wife had passed away from an illness, and he was plunged into darkness, mentally and physically, for three years.

Hope returned when a community health worker visited his home. Sriramappa was diagnosed with cataracts and referred to our partner, Netradeep Eye Hospital (Globe Eye Foundation), where he was able to access sight-restoring surgery free of charge.

Sriramappa expressed his gratitude to our donors. He is now enjoying life's simple pleasures, especially roaming the forest with his animals.

Did you know? Globally, 100 million people have cataracts, the leading cause of blindness.

Cataract surgery is one of the most cost-effective treatments⁸.

⁷ 2019 World Report on Vision

⁸ IAPB Vision Atlas – global data

2,010

FRONTLINE STAFF TRAINED

Jhuma Rani Das is a community health worker. She is one of 2,010 frontline staff (including community health workers and volunteers, community health nurses, government health workers and other primary health care staff) trained in primary eye care in 2024. In addition, 665 frontline workers were trained in eye screenings through our school eye health programs. (See page 39.)

COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH	F	Female	Total 2024	2023	2022
	M	Male			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	725,059	1,362,269	1,088,179	932,801
	M	637,210			
Community health workers/ volunteers trained in primary eye care	F	221	383	253	136
	M	162			
Other frontline staff (community health nurses, government health workers and other primary health care staff) trained in primary eye care	F	1,009	1,627	663	1,760
	M	618			
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	1,260,139	2,360,895	2,453,654	1.64M+
	M	1,100,756			
People reached through public awareness programs	F	679,775	1,220,864	726,960	1.13M+
	M	541,089			
Villages/communities declared Avoidable Blindness-Free		–	233	95	51

*This table includes combined data from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal and Zambia. Detailed student eye health data is found on page 39.



Training is an important part of expanding our reach and building capacity to be effective and efficient. After training, Dumisani Jere (right) now maintains eye clinic tools. Read his story below to see how.

Your impact in hospital strengthening

We collaborate with government, private and non-governmental organization partners to ensure that hospitals are equipped to provide quality eye health care. We identify partner hospitals based on the eye health needs of the areas they serve. We then go through a vetting process to ensure suitability and sustainability.

While we work with hospitals to confirm that adequate facilities, equipment and supplies are available, the largest aspect of our hospital strengthening is training. We train primary health-care workers in eye care, and ophthalmologists and eye health technicians in regions where these roles are needed.

We also ensure that communities surrounding the hospital are aware of the importance of eye health and the eye health-care services they can access. We connect the dots between the community and the levels of care, from the vision centres to the base hospital to a tertiary facility for specialized treatment.

Maintenance and repairs are critical to keeping vision centres and hospitals running efficiently

Dumisani Jere is a biomedical engineer from Mzuzu Central Hospital in Malawi. He completed an Ophthalmic Instruments Maintenance course at India's Aravind Institute. Here, he accepts a bag of tools from Dr. Srinivasan (left) and Professor N. Manickam. The training was made possible through a donation from the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise in Ontario, Canada. Dumisani now supports our eye clinics in the Northern Region of Malawi.

Did you know? Low- and middle-income countries and rural areas are underserved.

The World Health Organization recommends four ophthalmologists for every million people. In Malawi, there is less than one; in India, 11; and in Canada, 32. Ophthalmologists cluster in high-income countries and urban areas. Low- and middle-income countries and rural areas are underserved⁹.

⁹ IAPB Vision Atlas – global data

216

VISION CENTRES

Overall to date, Operation Eyesight has established 216 vision centres:

Africa – Ethiopia: 4, Ghana: 1, Kenya: 9, Malawi: 3, Zambia: 7

South Asia – Bangladesh: 3, India: 182, Nepal: 7

Rural areas are often underserved. A woman from West Bengal, India, stands in the rice paddy where our rural Namkhana Vision Centre lies. Photo by Tapobrat Bhuyan, Program Manager, Operation Eyesight.

Vision centre in a rice paddy meets rural needs

While vision centres are often set up in high-traffic areas, like marketplaces, our Namkhana Vision Centre in West Bengal, India lies in the heart of a rice paddy field. It serves a rural population and is easily accessible by bus. Every month, the centre receives approximately 250 visitors, dispenses 55 pairs of eyeglasses and performs 35 eye surgeries.

HOSPITAL STRENGTHENING

	2024	2023	2022
Out-patient departments or operation theatres upgraded/strengthened	7	12	4
Hospitals constructed	1	2	0
Vision centres established/strengthened	10	22	25
Ophthalmic staff trained (nurses, optometrists, vision technicians, ophthalmologists, etc.)	99	55	181

*This table includes combined data from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal and Zambia.



Learn more about our Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program model including how we define and declare villages Avoidable Blindness-Free.

4,600

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS/VOLUNTEERS

As of December 2024, across our countries of work, we have 4,600 community health workers and volunteers on the ground, conducting door-to-door surveys that link communities to both eye health care and primary health care.

Your impact in integrated eye health

Eye health is an important part of whole-body health, which is why we advocate for universal health care that incorporates eye health care. Our community-based programs strengthen overlap between primary eye care and primary health care.

Through our door-to-door surveys and community outreach, we connect people with primary health-care resources such as immunization clinics, prenatal care and other services. Community health workers educate families on general health topics such as nutrition and sanitation.

INTEGRATED EYE HEALTH	F Female		Total 2024	2023	2022
	M Male				
Primary health care staff trained in primary eye care for vision points	F	93	180	–	–
	M	87			
0-5 yr children linked with primary eye care for immunization - Vitamin A	F	28,766	50,665	7,601	–
	M	21,899			
Expectant mothers linked with primary health care for prenatal check-ups	F	16,549	16,549	10,207	–
Nursing mothers linked with primary health care for check-ups	F	11,767	11,767	6,738	–
Water boreholes drilled/rehabilitated to bring clean water (by year)		–	129	25	122

*This table includes combined data from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal and Zambia. Detailed data was not available for all countries for 2022.



In some regions, we also drill or rehabilitate water boreholes to bring clean water and hygiene to communities, which helps stop the spread of trachoma, a blinding eye disease. In 2024, we rehabilitated 129 boreholes like this one in Zambia, bringing fresh water to more than 129,000 people in Zambia.



Boreholes bring water and hope

In 2024, we brought clean water to Kabwale Village in Zambia's Kapiri Mposhi District by contracting Enock, a trained local area pump minder. Enock rehabilitated 10 dysfunctional boreholes that had been drilled by another organization in 2019, restoring clean water to 11,849 people at a time when Zambia was experiencing a severe drought.

As a small-scale farmer, Enock himself had been impacted by the lack of water. His small garden had suffered and he was unable to pay education and medical bills for his wife and six children.

The rehabilitation work brought Enock hope. "The money from rehabilitating boreholes will be a turning point for me as I am now able to send my children to school and will start a small business," he says. "I will also be able to buy supplies as the farming season is approaching."

Did you know? Eye health care is part of whole-body health.

Integrating people-centred eye health care in health systems is one of the five recommendations in the World Health Organization's *2019 World Report on Vision*.



Learn more about the link between clean water and clear vision



2.36M

PEOPLE SCREENED FOR VARIOUS EYE CONDITIONS

A cataract patient recovers after surgery at our partner hospital MM Joshi Eye Institute in Hubli, Karnataka, India. This treatment costs approximately \$75 for both surgery and related expenses, such as travel, in our countries of work.

Your impact in disease control

From eye screenings and prevention to treatment and follow-up care, our partners provide comprehensive eye health services to address a range of eye health conditions.

In 2024, eye surgeries were one of our areas of success. We performed more than 280,000 surgeries, which exceeded our target of 245,000. Of all of the surgery referrals made, 78 per cent were performed. Most of the surgeries were for cataracts.

Since 2021, we have been working with the C L Gupta Eye Institute in India to screen and treat Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a serious disease that affects premature and low-birthweight infants and is the primary cause of childhood blindness in infants less than eight months old. To date, we have screened 1,800 infants and provided treatment for 230.

Two eye diseases are the leading causes of vision loss. Cataracts impact 100 million people and refractive error impacts 161 million¹⁰.

¹⁰ IAPB Vision Atlas – causes of sight loss

¹¹ WHO 2024 Fact sheet trachoma

Decades of eye disease pain relieved

Napolo, a 78-year-old grandmother of the Maa community, herds animals along the border of Kenya and Tanzania. Like many in her community, she had eye pain for decades and plucked her eyelashes for relief.

Then she met a community health promoter during a door-to-door survey for the Kenya Trachoma Elimination Program, funded by Sightsavers International. Napolo had trachoma and underwent surgery.

Afterwards, she vowed to tell her community that help was available. She said, "I longed for this comfort for decades. I thank Operation Eyesight and the doctors who assisted me."

Did you know? Trachoma is the leading cause of infectious blindness.

Currently, 103 million people live in trachoma endemic areas while 1.9 million are vision impaired or blind. It is found in 38 countries¹¹. Caused by bacteria, it is spread by flies and personal contact in areas without clean water.



DISEASE CONTROL	F Female		Total 2024	2023	2022
	M Male				
People screened for various conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	1,260,139	2,360,895	2,453,654	1.64M
	M	1,100,756			
People identified with cataract and advised surgery/ies	F	176,471	340,227	380,269	–
	M	163,756			
People underwent cataract surgery/ies	F	119,957	233,736	185,328	135,765
	M	113,779			
People identified with non-cataract cases and advised surgery/ies	F	10,992	21,177	7,908	–
	M	10,185			
People underwent non-cataract surgery/ies	F	24,226	47,168	47,439	26,049
	M	22,942			
Eyeglasses prescribed by vision centre, hospital or outreach	F	297,759	557,673	511,635	–
	M	259,914			
Eyeglasses dispensed through vision centre, hospital or outreach	F	145,424	270,042	272,560	279,848
	M	124,618			

*This table includes combined data from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal and Zambia. Data was not available for all countries for 2022. Detailed student eye health data is found on page 39.

Your impact in research and advocacy

Raising awareness and providing high-quality research are two of the five recommendations in the World Health Organization's *2019 World Report on Vision*. Driven by a wealth of community-based data, we are contributing to a global body of health research and informing national eye health policies. Our staff around the world advocate for universal health care that incorporates eye health care for all.

Joining conversations at a global event in Mexico

In June 2024, President & CEO Kashinath Bhoosnurmath and Marketing and Communications Director Elizabeth Roden attended 2030 IN SIGHT LIVE in Mexico City. The annual event is organized by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to bring together global medical professionals and eye health organizations. Here, Kash poses beside our poster presentation, which shared the findings of our Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study conducted in Kenya.



Supporting Canada's National Strategy for Eye Care Act

In November 2024, when the Government of Canada passed Bill C-284, the National Strategy for Eye Care Act, we shared our statement, applauding the passage of the Bill. Our Calgary team had been participating in conversations regarding the Bill since 2022. We plan to have a seat at the table during the upcoming consultation period. Here, Elizabeth Roden, Marketing and Communications Director, poses with Member of Parliament Judy Sgro, who introduced the Bill.



Read our response to the passing of the Bill





| Our Kenya Team took part in a walk to help raise awareness of eye health on World Sight Day, October 10, 2024.

Leveraging World Sight Day to advocate and educate

World Sight Day, an annual awareness day in October spearheaded by the IAPB, is a chance to focus the world's attention on the importance of eye health and inspire people to take care of their eyes. In addition to providing eye health screenings and education, we used World Sight Day 2024 to advocate for universal health care that incorporates eye health care. We attended 15 meetings with partners, policy makers, and local and national governments. Here, Emmanuel Kumah, Country Director – Ghana, speaks at a media event.



Find 2024 World Sight Day highlights.

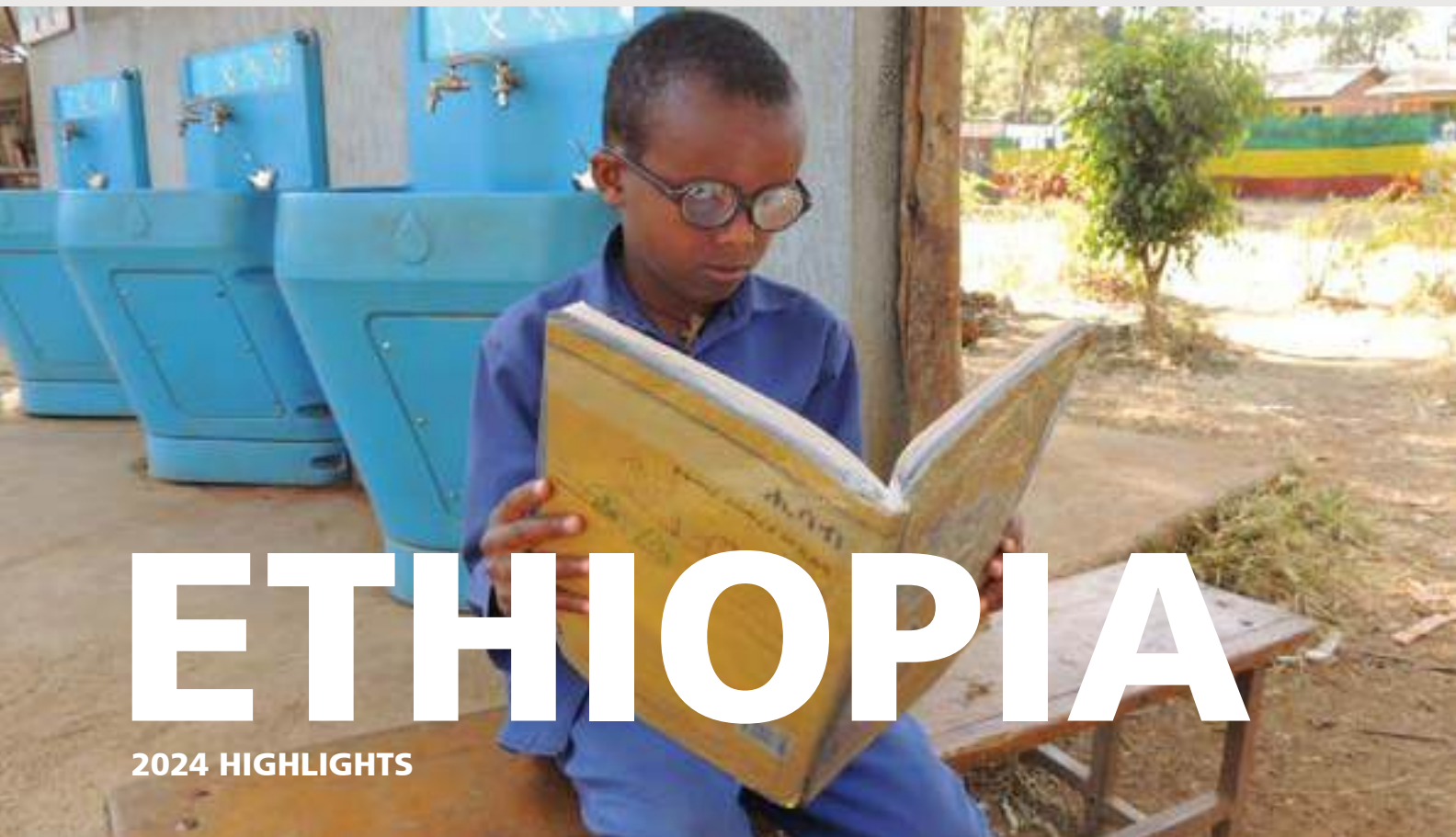


Sharing our research with peers in India

Our team contributed four presentations to the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India conference, which brought together organizations, hospitals, research institutes and others to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the eye health field. Here, project coordinator Aditya Sharma (third from left) accepts an award for best paper for oral presentation. His paper focused on improving women's and girls' participation in eye health and the impact of gender-sensitive information, education and communication materials.



Our work in Africa



ETHIOPIA

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Vision loss in Ethiopia¹²:

- Population: 128.7 million
- People living with vision loss: 8.8 million

We have been working in Ethiopia since 2018. In 2024, we launched a **community eye health** project in Debre Work, where we surveyed 14,030 people in a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) framework through door-to-door surveys.

Our public health programs reached 33,424 people, and we trained 17 frontline workers in primary eye care. Through our school eye health program, we covered eight schools, trained 22 teachers, screened 4,442 students and dispensed 15 pairs of eyeglasses.

Our **hospitals** and four vision centres all continue to provide quality eye health care. This means that after a surgery, vision is measured to be of a particular acuity (quality of vision). In 2024, based on acuity after treatment data, we confirmed that all of our hospital partners and vision centres were providing quality eye health care.

Our community health programs incorporate **integrated eye health**. We trained 15 primary health-care workers in primary eye care, linked 56 children under five years old to primary health centres for regular immunization, and linked 96 women with services for pre- and post-natal care. With the support of **Partners in Education Ethiopia**, we implemented a WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) project to bring water to five locations, serving 50,000 people.

¹² IAPB Vision Atlas – Ethiopia

Eyeglasses bring hope and better grades

In grade one, eight-year-old Fassikaw struggled to read. He had watering eyes, headaches and poor grades. His parents heard Partners in Education Ethiopia was partnering with Operation Eyesight on a school eye health program and took part. Fassikaw had an eye exam and received free eyeglasses. Now, his grades are up!

ETHIOPIA	F	Female	Total 2024	2023	2022
	M	Male			
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	6,115	14,038	15,161	12,418
	M	7,923			
Students screened through school eye health programs	F	2,378	4,442	3,677	4,919
	M	2,064			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	6,705	14,030	12,052	50,418
	M	7,325			
Eye surgeries performed	F	674	1,375	2,218	879
	M	701			
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	146	400	2,219	435
	M	254			

* Includes student data for 2024.

Our **disease control** programs saw us screen 14,038 people for various eye conditions, provide 544 cataract surgeries and 831 non-cataract surgeries, and dispense 400 pairs of eyeglasses.

Responding to local challenges

Ethiopia was in a state of emergency for more than 18 months from internal conflict in parts of the Amhara region where we had programs. We suspended some activities, leading to underperformance in parts of the projects as people underutilized eye health-care services.

To mitigate the situation, we moved our work from the Bahir Dar area to the Debre Brihan area. While this is in the Amhara region, it is away from the conflict. The new site is close to the capital Addis Ababa, and after the move there were no further issues due to the conflict.

Our key partners in Ethiopia are **Addis Alem Hospital, Debre Markos Hospital, Debre Work Hospital, Durbeti Hospital, Injibara Hospital** and **Tibebe Ghion Hospital**.



Learn more about our work in Ethiopia



GHANA

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

| Ewurabena says her glasses make her feel independent. (Read her story on page 21.)

Vision loss in Ghana¹³:

- Population: 33.8 million
- People living with vision loss: 3.2 million

We have worked in Ghana since 2006. In 2024, we launched two new **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Projects** in partnership with **Winneba Municipal Health Directorate** and **Winneba Municipal Hospital**, and with **Ajumako Enyan Essiam District Health Directorate** and **Ajumako District Hospital**. We trained the hospitals' ophthalmic personnel, physician assistants, midwives and community health nurses in primary eye care, as part of our work to **integrate eye care** into primary health care.

Our **disease control** programs saw us disperse 3,081 pairs of eyeglasses, including 1,244 pairs for students. After a shipment delay in 2023, we worked tirelessly to address the backlog while

also fulfilling 2024 orders. This attributed to a 17 per cent increase in dispensed eyeglasses compared to 2023.

Meanwhile, we conducted a **research** study on refractive errors in students using data from our school eye health program, supported by **Latter-day Saint Charities** and implemented in partnership with **Ghana Education Service**.

The shortage of trained eye health personnel is a challenge in all of our countries of work. We saw this in Ghana in 2024. The lead surgeon was not always available, so some patients went to other facilities for surgery, leading to a 26 per cent decrease in cataract surgeries in 2024 (1,179 cataract surgeries in 2024 vs. 1,604 in 2023). As a member of the Eye Health National Advocacy Network, Country Director Emmanuel Kumah took part in a critical meeting to address human resources in eye health training among other priorities.

¹³ IAPB Vision Atlas – Ghana

¹⁴ IAPB Vision Atlas – child eye health

GHANA	F	Female	Total 2024	2023	2022
	M	Male			
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	11,390	19,342	15,161	12,418
	M	7,952			
Students screened through school eye health programs	F	21,981	42,735	3,677	4,919
	M	20,754			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	12,494	21,512	14,821	22,424
	M	9,018			
Eye surgeries performed	F	911	1,602	2,153	1,935
	M	691			
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	1,906	3,081	2,643	2,213
	M	1,175			

* Includes student data for 2024.

In December 2024, in partnership with **Ghana Health Service**, we declared Tawiakwa Community-Based Health and Planning Service Zone in Awutu Senya District as Avoidable Blindness-Free (ABF). An ABF declaration means that all avoidable vision loss cases have been addressed for people living in the villages within the project area. More communities are on their way to receiving the declaration, as we expanded our **community eye health** programs in Ghana from one in 2023 to four in 2024. We also embraced technology, replacing our manual data collection with the more efficient KoboCollect app.

In late December, we established the Accra Vision Centre with our long-term partner, **Watborg Eye Services**. Initial funding was provided by **Optometry Giving Sight**. The centre is projected to screen 1,000 people in 2025.

Eyeglasses bring clarity and relief

In grade four, Ewurabena's vision blurred, and she struggled to see the board, even after her teacher moved her to the front of the class. Through our school eye health program, run in partnership with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ewurabena was screened, diagnosed with refractive error and given a pair of prescription eyeglasses. Now in her first year of junior high, she says she is relieved knowing that she will not go blind. Her glasses make her feel independent.

Did you know? Eyeglasses can address vision loss for 671 million people worldwide.

Globally, 17.8 million children live with uncorrected refractive error. Students with poor vision learn 50 per cent less than peers with good vision¹⁴.



Learn more about our work in Ghana



KENYA

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In January, 2024, we organized a mass drug administration in Narok County, Kenya, administering antibiotics to more than 215,000 people. This was done through the Trachoma Elimination Project, which aims to eradicate the blinding eye disease trachoma in Kenya by 2028.

Vision loss in Kenya¹⁵:

- Population: 55.3 million
- People living with vision loss: 3.9 million

We have been implementing **community eye health** programs in Kenya since 2007. In 2024, through the Vision Impact Project (VIP), supported by **CBM Christian Blind Mission**, we equipped the Loitoktok and Ngong Sub-county Hospital eye clinics and improved accessibility by building wheelchair ramps, renovating water and sanitation facilities, and designating parking.

Through the VIP in Kajiado County, we learned that, of those screened and referred to the Kajiado East and Kajiado Central vision centres, only 28 per cent were going to the facilities. We worked with county leadership on tracking patients with identifiers and referral forms, and adherence rose to 38 per cent by the end of 2024.

We rolled out a **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program** with the **Nandi County Government**, establishing the Kaptumo Eye Unit to bring eye health care closer to home for those in the project area.

As a partner in the Kenya Trachoma Elimination Project, led by **Sightsavers International**, we trained 1,235 community health promoters as case finders; they reached 236,895 people in Narok County through door-to-door screenings (*including Napolo, on page 15*).

We collaborated with **Restoring Vision** to disperse 15,000 pairs of eyeglasses, donated through the **Livelihood Impact Fund**, to community members who were diagnosed with presbyopia, an age-related **eye disease**. For this project, we leveraged **research** findings from 2023. Our past research showed that frontline workers, such as community health promoters and community health assistants, could be trained to detect and manage near vision impairment. So, in 2024

¹⁵ IAPB Vision Atlas – Kenya

KENYA	F	Female	Total 2024	2023	2022
	M	Male			
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	113,042	169,648	78,839	90,747
	M	56,606			
Students screened through school eye health programs	F	78,979	153,865	69,891	40,923
	M	74,886			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	153,418	267,314	274,306	75,110
	M	113,896			
Eye surgeries performed	F	4,095	8,181	7,468	5,750
	M	4,086			
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	4,340	7,711	8,794	4,295
	M	3,371			

* Includes student data for 2024.

we trained 80 community health promoters in Nandi County to help us to identify people with presbyopia and reach seniors at home. In 2024, they distributed 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses and will continue to distribute the rest in 2025.

We also ran a **research** project in collaboration with **Peek Vision** and **Kisii Eye Hospital**, to determine the factors that influence people in seeking eye health care and wearing eyeglasses in Ogembo, Kisii County. Barriers included distance, cost and lack of prioritization for eye check-ups. We found that outreach greatly influenced people to seek treatment for refractive error.

Two students from the Southern Alberta School of Technology (SAIT) School of Business in Calgary, Canada traveled to Kenya to support our team in identifying barriers to access of

eye health-care services at our partner, Kisii Eye Hospital's Innovative Eye Centre. We appreciated their research insights!

Finally, we spearheaded the development of a primary eye care training manual for primary health-care workers in collaboration with the **Ministry of Health**. The manual will be used to **integrate** primary eye care into primary health care, for which we have been **advocating** for years.

We also partner with the **OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation** in Kenya.



Learn more about our work in Kenya

LIBERIA AND MALAWI

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Simeon, a retired teacher from Chitipa District, Malawi, was blind for six years and was unable to read or walk without help from his wife. He attended an Operation Eyesight screening camp and had eye surgery. Now, he is able to read his Bible and walk on his own.

Vision loss in Liberia¹⁶:

- Population: 5.5 million
- People living with vision loss: 0.48 million

We have worked in Liberia since 2016. The Liberia Eye Centre, located within the John F. Kennedy Medical Centre in the capital city, Monrovia, is managed by our partner hospital, the **L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)**.

In 2024, we continued strengthening ophthalmic capacity through a residency program and on-the-job training. Six ophthalmologists and allied ophthalmic personnel, including occupational therapy technicians and optometrists, received specialized training. Four ophthalmologists from LVPEI's campuses in India came to the centre to provide specialty eye care and mentor ophthalmologists.

To provide eye health care to all, the eye centre uses a cost-recovery model. Those who can pay help subsidize services for those who cannot. In 2024, the centre screened 22,761 people, performed 1,674 eye surgeries and dispensed 1,206 pairs of eyeglasses.



The Liberia Eye Centre is run by our partner, the L V Prasad Eye Institute.

¹⁶ IAPB Vision Atlas – Liberia

¹⁷ IAPB Vision Atlas – Malawi

MALAWI	F Female M Male		Total 2024	2023
	People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	37,298	65,384
	M	28,086		
Students screened through school eye health programs	F	10,973	18,439	–
	M	7,466		
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	47,097	80,287	1,058
	M	33,190		
Eye surgeries performed	F	2,257	3,659	425
	M	1,442		
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	2,746	4,256	301
	M	1,510		

* This table does not include Liberia, as the program there is operated by our partner, the L V Prasad Eye Institute.
* Includes student data from Malawi in 2024.

Vision loss in Malawi¹⁷:

- Population: 21.1 Million
- People living with vision loss: 1.68 million

We started working in Malawi in 2022.

In 2024, our key focus was **hospital strengthening**. In partnership with the relevant **District Health Directorates**, we upgraded four outpatient departments and operation theatres in four district hospitals: Chitipa, Karonga, Mzimba North and Mzimba South. We also established our second vision centre in Chitipa, where we had launched a community eye health project in 2023.

By training cataract surgeons and ensuring our partner facilities had the required equipment as well as the means to repair the equipment (*read*

Dumisani's story on page 10), we enabled all four districts to perform cataract surgeries, achieving positive post-operative outcomes.

Through **integrated eye health**, we trained 15 primary health-care workers in primary eye care, linked 56 children under five years old with primary health centres for regular immunization, and linked 96 women with pre- and post-natal services at primary health centres.

Through **disease control** programs, we worked with our partner, the **OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation**, to set up two eyeglass dispensing units at Mzimba North and Mzimba South.

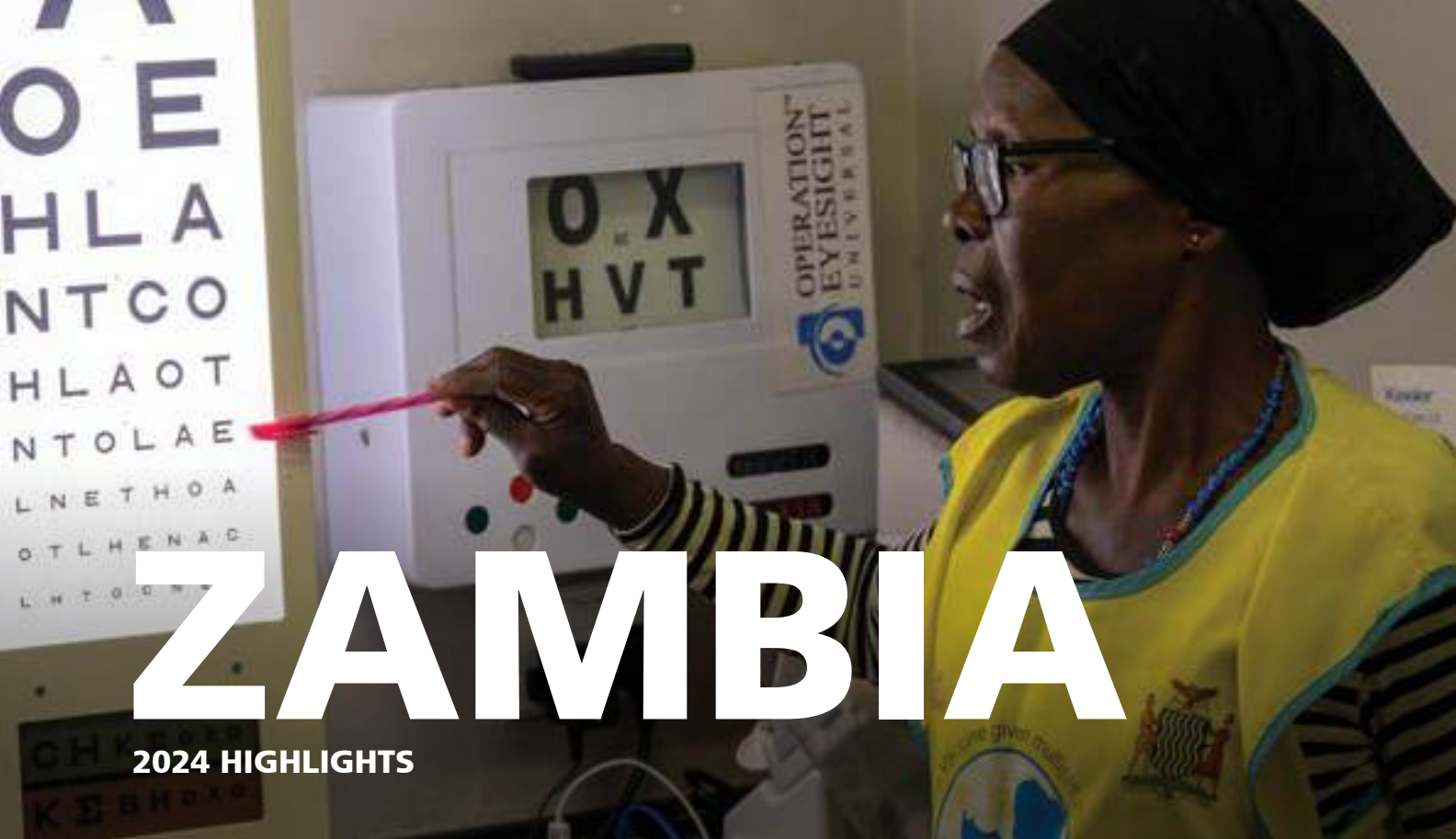
We also partner with the **Islamic Health Mission, Mzuzu Central Hospital** and **Mzuzu University**.



Learn more about our work in Liberia



Learn more about our work in Malawi



ZAMBIA

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

At the Matero Vision Centre, people can receive comprehensive eye exams and access prescription eyeglasses.

Vision loss in Zambia¹⁸:

- Population: 20.7 million
- People living with vision loss: 1.4 million

We have been working in Zambia since 2001.

Through our **community eye health** projects, we launched the Sinanzongwe Comprehensive Eye Care Project in partnership with **Maamba Energy Limited**. We conducted door-to-door surveys for Mkushi District in the Central Province, and completed a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study for Kapiri Mposhi District.

In our **hospital strengthening** work, we established the Kafue Gorge Eye Clinic, to make eye care more accessible for people in Chikankata District.

Our **disease control** programs saw us screen 40 per cent more people through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps than in 2023. We also dispensed more eyeglasses than in 2023, due to school eye health programs in Lusaka, Mkushi and Kapiri Mposhi. We provided access to clean water to 59,406 people in Kapiri Mposhi and 70,420 in Mkushi by rehabilitating 129 boreholes at schools, health centres and community water points.

In July, we presented a **research** paper on our KAP study results for Kapiri Mposhi at the International Society for Professional Innovation Management Conference.

In 2024, we collaborated with our hospital partners to address a human resource shortage in Maamba General Hospital, where there was no surgeon available to conduct surgeries in the newly-constructed operating theatre. We successfully recruited Mr. Limwanya. *(Read his story on page 27.)*

¹⁸ IAPB Vision Atlas – Zambia

ZAMBIA	F	Female	Total	2023	2022
	M	Male	2024		
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	31,620	56,554	40,481	20,378
	M	24,934			
Students screened through school eye health programs	F	14,294	25,603	3,555	14,489
	M	11,309			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	30,771	54,986	10,829	16,004
	M	24,215			
Eye surgeries performed	F	456	1,033	913	646
	M	577			
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	3,366	5,564	2,429	1,758
	M	2,198			
Boreholes rehabilitated		–	129	25	120

* Includes student data for 2024.

This year, we revised our approach to borehole rehabilitation by engaging area pump minders (APMs) who were already trained, rather than continually training new ones. This not only provided APMs with a source of income but also helped increase their commitment to the work. By strategically partnering with 11 experienced APMs, we were able to reduce both training and repair costs. As a result, we saw a substantial increase in the number of boreholes rehabilitated—129 in 2024 compared to just 25 in 2023. (Read about Enock, our APM contractor, on page 13.)

Additional partners in Zambia include **Lions Aid Zambia, Mwami Adventist Hospital** and the **OneSight Essilorluxottica Foundation**.

Boosting eye health care capacity

Mukiti Limwanyana became a cataract surgeon in 2000 thanks to our scholarship for his training. He was the second cataract surgeon in Zambia. In 2024, he became the cataract surgeon at our partner hospital to support our project with Maamba Energy Limited. He says he is pleased to work with the organization that advanced his career.



Learn more about our work in Zambia

Our work in South Asia



BANGLADESH

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Faizunnahar, a community health volunteer from Rupnai Village, screens a man's eyes. She is proud to serve her community in rural Bangladesh.

Vision loss in Bangladesh¹⁹:

- Population: 171.5 million
- People living with vision loss: 26.6 million

We have worked in Bangladesh since 2018. Our current partners are **Symbiosis Bangladesh**, which works to alleviate poverty and empower the development of community-based organizations, and the **Dr. K. Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital**, which provides eye health care for people from all walks of life.

In 2024, our highlights included **hospital strengthening** that led to successful surgeries resulting in vision recovery (measured through visual acuity metrics). We confirmed quality eye health-care service in our three vision centres, conducted door-to-door surveys of 27,207 people, and implemented public health education and awareness raising activities that reached 17,080 people.

Through **integrated eye health**, we linked 1,879 children under five years of age to primary health centres for immunization and 61 expectant women and nursing mothers to primary health centres.

Pivoting two of our projects

Two of our vision centre projects are being implemented in partnership with another non-governmental organization. The vision centres are in their field offices, which are remote. While this arrangement minimizes the cost of rent, the remoteness of these facilities has made it difficult to reach our targets for dispersing eyeglasses and performing cataract surgeries. We have now shifted to becoming a non-financial technical partner in this project, and we will assess the project after one year. A non-financial technical partnership is an agreement where we provide technical expertise without funding.

¹⁹ IAPB Vision Atlas – Bangladesh

BANGLADESH	F Female	M Male	Total	2023
			2024	
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F 104,880	M 94,978	199,858	219,744
Students screened through school eye health programs	F 3,200	M 2,643	5,843	16,067
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F 13,419	M 13,788	27,207	24,778
Eye surgeries performed	F 11,869	M 10,923	22,792	19,726
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F 11,402	M 10,251	21,653	17,728

Detailed data for 2022 was not available at time of publication.
* Includes student data for 2024.



Cataract surgery brings second chance

Sixty-year-old Gulbahar lives alone in Bangladesh, where she works as a maid. For years, cataracts left her nearly blind. Though vision loss made it difficult to move around safely and select the right spices for her employer, Gulbahar continued to work and press on.

Ever resilient, she sought eye health care, but surgery was too expensive. When she heard about an Operation Eyesight outreach camp, she took the opportunity to get cataract surgery.

It transformed her life. "I can see my world again," Gulbahar says. "I don't need to stumble in the dark anymore. I've been given a second chance."



Learn more about
our work in Bangladesh



Yashwant Sinha, Regional Director – South Asia, holds a green flag during a celebration with our partner C L Gupta Eye Institute for the Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) program in Moradabad, India. The program screens premature and underweight infants for ROP, which when detected and treated early, can prevent a lifetime of blindness. Read about this program’s expansion in the story on page 31.

Vision loss in India²⁰:

- Population: 1.4 billion
- People living with vision loss: 275 million

We have worked in India since the beginning, 1963. We currently work in communities in 90 districts across 17 states, alongside our more than 30 partners including hospitals, state governments and like-minded organizations.

In 2024, our **community eye health** work included relaunching 11 community eye health projects that were suspended due to COVID-19, declaring 197 villages Avoidable Blindness-Free, training 759 frontline workers including community health volunteers in primary eye care, and reaching 457,577 people through health education and awareness activities.

Our **hospital strengthening** work included upgrading one operation theatre and providing

refresher training to 79 ophthalmic personnel in the state of Madhya Pradesh, strengthening one Retinopathy of Prematurity sub-specialty department in Uttar Pradesh, beginning the construction of a secondary eye hospital in Karnataka and establishing seven vision centres.

Back in 2021, we launched our first **Integrated People-centred Eye Care (IPEC)** project in India, in partnership with the state government of Arunachal Pradesh. The objective was to make eye health-care services available to underserved populations by integrating primary eye care into pre-existing primary health-care facilities. Based on the success of this model, we scaled this project to include additional states.

In 2024, we implemented four IPEC projects: two in Arunachal Pradesh, one in Madhya Pradesh and one in Meghalaya. In total, we upgraded 199 government health centres to include vision care facilities. We also handed

²⁰ IAPB Vision Atlas – India

INDIA	F Female		Total	2023	2022
	M Male		2024		
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	758,388	1,458,722	1,710,882	1,056,076
	M	700,334			
Students screened through school eye health programs	F	33,434	52,893	17,115	33,571
	M	19,459			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	427,192	831,534	715,787	746,676
	M	404,342			
Eye surgeries performed	F	114,529	223,986	182,395	119,979
	M	109,457			
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	108,539	202,410	200,850	208,633
	M	93,871			

* Includes student data for 2024.

over two mobile eye vans, enabling us to increase the number of people screened through outreach camps in Meghalaya and to double the number of cataract surgeries in Singrauli, Arunachal Pradesh.

Through our **disease control** programs, we launched a district-wide school eye screening program for 330 schools. Through school eye health programs, we screened 52,893 students from 116 schools and dispensed 895 pairs of eyeglasses.

We launched two **research** studies in partnership with the **Pragyaan Sustainable Health Outcomes Foundation**: one to evaluate our survey tools, and the other to evaluate our approach to declaring villages as Avoidable Blindness-Free on a sustainable basis. We look forward to sharing our findings with you!

Program expansion helps prevent blindness in more babies

In 2024, in partnership with C L Gupta Eye Institute, we expanded our Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) program in Moradabad to include five additional districts, thanks to Rotary International, Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, Canada and Rotary Club of Moradabad East, India. ROP often occurs in pre-term babies and requires early screening and treatment to prevent irreversible blindness. The expansion allowed us to screen an additional 1,500 premature infants and provide treatment for 400.



Learn more about our work in India



NEPAL

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Anisha Gurung, Project Coordinator, Nepal Eye Hospital (standing), with seniors from the remote village of Gagalphedi await transportation home after cataract surgery. Read their story below.
Photos and story provided by Anisha Gurung.

Vision loss in Nepal²¹:

- Population: 29.7 million
- People living with vision loss: 6.8 million

We have two hospital partners in Nepal, and since 2016, we have established seven vision centres. In 2024 we revived four **community eye health** activities that had been delayed by the pandemic with **Fateh Bal Eye Hospital**. We trained 53 frontline workers and volunteers in primary eye care, and reached 49,000 people through health education and awareness activities.

Our **integrated eye health** work linked 4,157 children under five to primary health centres for regular immunization and connected 934 women to primary health centres for pre- and post-natal care.

Our partner, the **Nepal Eye Hospital**, conducted a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) **research** study to understand community needs and barriers to eye health care.

Overcoming obstacles

Community members in the remote village of Gagalphedi faced significant barriers to healthcare services. Transportation was limited, and community health workers had to trek uphill for hours to conduct screenings. While many people needed treatment, few made it to the hospital due to transportation difficulties, financial constraints and lack of support. Understanding the needs of the community, our partner, Nepal Eye Hospital, designed an eye screening camp and arranged special transport to the hospital. With many barriers now removed, 21 people were able to access cataract surgery.

Did you know?

In remote areas, dedication and proper planning can ensure that eye health-care services reach those who need them most, transforming lives one patient at a time.

²¹ IAPB Vision Atlas – Nepal

NEPAL	F Female M Male		Total 2024	2023
	People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F 197,407 M 179,942		377,349
Students screened through school eye health programs	F 3,424 M 3,732		7,156	15,906
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F 33,963 M 31,436		65,399	34,279
Eye surgeries performed	F 8,709 M 7,971		16,680	17,760
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F 15,260 M 13,367		28,627	40,518

Detailed data for 2022 was not available at time of publication.
* Includes student data for 2024.



Nepal Eye Hospital staff coordinated community outreach, transportation and vision screening in the remote village of Gagalphedi, bringing the underserved community, and their seniors (in the photo on page 32), much needed eye health care.



Learn more about our work in Nepal



In December 2024, our Zambia team opened the Kafue Gorge Eye Clinic in partnership with the Zambia Ministry of Health. Located next to the Kafue Gorge Hospital, the clinic links primary health care to eye health care in the rural region of Chikankata District.

Financials: Operation Eyesight Canada

In 2024, we hit two notable milestones: we raised a record \$9.2M in revenue in Canada and launched our **Global Strategy 2024-2028**. Our organizational investment appears in our 2024 financials, as it did in 2023. This investment in our growth strategy will continue as we work to expand from 10 to 15 countries and triple our annual revenue from \$5.5M (in 2023) to \$16M (by 2028) through all fundraising entities including Operation Eyesight Canada.

An instrumental bequest gift

In 2024, funding for our strategic plan for growth came from a generous legacy gift, left to us in the will of an anonymous donor who cared deeply about the sustainability and impact of our organization. We received a first installment of \$2.5 million in 2024, which helped fund investments that are reflected in our 2024 expenditures and will continue to fund our investments in 2025 and beyond. We are incredibly grateful to our anonymous donor for their past and forward-thinking support!

Investing in our Global Strategy

We are investing in our future through infrastructure and technology, growing our team and expanding our capacity, and increasing awareness about our organization and mission. This investment is both a necessity and part of our strategy to expand our reach to many more underserved regions and communities.

In 2024, we complemented this by leveraging digital ad grant money and no-cost public

service announcements, to generate more support for our cause. By raising awareness and introducing a new, user-friendly donation tool on our website, we increased online giving by 25 per cent. This was extremely useful during the Canadian postal strike that spanned November and December, when year-end giving typically brings in more than half of all annual revenue.

We grew our global fundraising team by four, to increase our efforts to replace our donor base across generations and geographies. We also laid the foundation for global revenue growth by investing in IT systems for global donations and staff training.

Multiplying our impact through partnerships

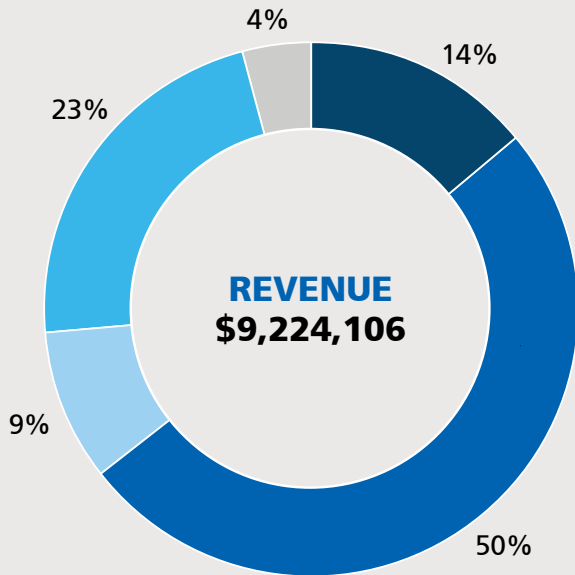
We continue to partner with governments, hospitals and organizations to multiply our impact. In Asia, we leveraged non-financial technical partnerships, whereby partners fund and implement projects while we provide technical support (non-financial assistance). This multiplies our impact at a reduced cost, providing a higher value than program expenditures show.

We also secured a grant of approximately \$700,000 CAD from a new funder, Johnson & Johnson, to expand our cataract surgery training program in Kenya in 2025.

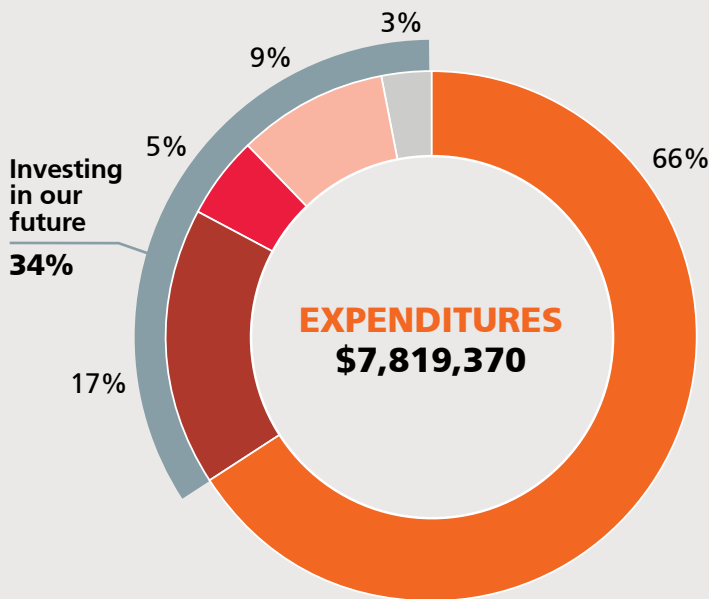
Our work would not be possible without the support of our global community. Thank you for your generosity!

OPERATION EYESIGHT CANADA

All amounts listed in CAD



Annual Gifts	\$1,334,451
Legacy Gifts	\$4,646,034
Major Gifts	\$805,256
Grants & Institutional Partnerships	\$2,072,551
<small>*All grants received came from non-government entities</small>	
Investment & Other Income	\$365,814



International Programs	\$5,180,833
Fund Development	\$1,342,577
Governance & Administration	\$376,965
Marketing & Communications	\$703,627
Information Technology	\$215,368

A note on international fundraising

As we grow globally, donations will be generated by our associated entities worldwide. Funds donated to Operation Eyesight Canada (a registered Canadian charity) appear in our Canadian financial statements, filed with the CRA and shown here. Funds donated to the charitable entities in the United States or India, for example, do not appear in Canadian financial statements. In 2024, our associated entities in South Asia and Africa raised an additional \$237,000 CAD in support of our programs to address avoidable vision loss, and those donations are not included in our 2024 Canadian financial statement.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Our work is made possible through the continued support and kindness of our global community. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who contribute to our mission – whether through annual donations, major gifts, institutional funding, legacy gifts or monthly giving. Due to limited space, we are highlighting donors whose giving totaled \$5,000 or more.

Individuals

Agnes E. Hohn
Chitra Ramaswami
Daniel Parlow
Doreen Richards
Elli Streu and in memory of Henry Streu
Emma Patel
Florence E. Robertson
Jim Dawson
Judy Farvolden
Kadambi and Vijaya Sitaram
Karen Booth and Jonathan Huyer
Margaret and Paul O'Connor
Marlene and Alexander Mackenzie
Marty Cutler and Marilyn Minden
Mrs. Suzannah Dobbie
Ray Mowling & Gerlinde Herrmann
Robert James Burns
Robert Ohlson
Sharon Margison
Susan and Severin Hoch

Foundations

Alice Elizabeth Brown Fund at Waterloo Region
Community Foundation
Calgary Foundation
Christine A. Sethi-Van Impe Foundation
Dorothy May Kelly Fund through the Victoria
Foundation
Dr. Charles and Margaret Brown Foundation
Ethan and Joan Compton Sub Fund (Designated) at
Calgary Foundation
Frank J. Flaman Foundation
Gulu Thadani Charitable Foundation
Helen Isaac Fund
Ingetraud McGarry Foundation
Jack Brown and Family Alzheimer Research Foundation
Margaret Clementi Fund
Peterborough K. M. Hunter Charitable Foundation
Pinch Family Trust Fund through the Victoria Fund
Ted and Enid Jansen Fund at Calgary Foundation



These twin girls were at risk of blindness from the eye disease Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). This was prevented with early screening and treatment through our ROP program, in partnership with C L Gupta Eye Institute, in Moradabad, India.

The Ansari-Cook Foundation

The Lawrason Foundation

The P & P Murray Foundation

The Peter Gilgan Foundation

Corporations

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Maamba Energy Ltd.

NorQuest College

Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

Sightsavers International

Estates

Estate of Barbara Eveline Burman

Estate of Cheryl Steinhauer

Estate of David Charles Procter

Estate of Dr. Henry Sawatzky

Estate of Helena Balczewska

Estate of Joanne Anderson

Estate of Jonathan Wyn Jones

Estate of Letitia Anne Gore

Estate of Lorena Grace Saxton

Estate of Lorraine Mary Aldridge

Estate of Robin Edward Dangerfield

Estate of Rosemary Elizabeth Bergin

Estate of Van Cam Nguyen

Estate of Violet M. Marsh

We're grateful to be members of the **Alberta Council for Global Cooperation**, the **Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases**, the **Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health**, **Cooperation Canada**, the **International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness**, and the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**. Together we are working toward a more fair, just and equitable world.



The high school student finance club presented a cheque to Robyn Wilson, Manager, Fund Development Operations & Annual Giving, Operation Eyesight (holding cheque, right side). Christian is on Robyn's left, wearing a baseball cap.

Student-led support

High school finance club students raise more than \$5,000 in peer-to-peer fundraiser

Airdrie, Alberta high school student Christian Labonte doesn't do things by half measures. So when he raised funds for Operation Eyesight, his goal was to raise thousands with his school finance club.

Christian ran his peer-to-peer fundraiser, called "Invest for Sight," from October to December 2024, engaging 55 students from finance clubs across North America. Participants learned stock market investing while raising money for Operation Eyesight and competing for prizes from corporate sponsors.

At the cheque presentation, Christian was joined by his finance club as he shared results and thanked donors, sponsors and participants. School Principal Scott Bloxham, Airdrie Mayor Peter Brown, City Councillor Tina Petrow and Christian's family were also on hand.

Christian says managing a fundraiser taught him skills for university and beyond. "Fundraising is a good opportunity for students to experience leadership at their young age, and it helps in giving initiative to their passion," he says. "You develop skills and develop time management."

Thank you, Christian and team, for your creative support!

Interested in organizing your own peer-to-peer fundraiser?
Learn more at





These students in Ghana received prescription eyeglasses through our school eye health program, that saw us screen 42,735 students and dispense 1,384 pairs of eyeglasses. In the fall of 2024, we ran a fundraiser to expand this program to the Shai Osu Doku District to include an additional 23,375 students and 857 teachers. Thanks to our generous donors, this expansion is funded for 2025.

Our school eye health programs

Bringing eye health care to students is an investment in education and prevention of future poverty. Globally, 450 million children have an eye condition that requires treatment; of these, 448 million have refractive errors that only require eye exams and eyeglasses²². The cost of eyeglasses in our countries of work is approximately \$20.

SCHOOL EYE HEALTH PROGRAMS	Total 2024	2023	2022
Schools covered	927	1,133	–
Frontline workers trained in screening	665	328	–
Teachers trained in screening	153	387	–
Students screened	288,198	240,571	183,803 (students and staff)
Students prescribed eyeglasses	10,863	5,660	–
Students dispensed with eyeglasses	2,869	3,240	–
Students underwent surgical treatment	78	266	–
Students received low vision devices	33	22	–

* Detailed data for 2022 was not available at time of publication.



Learn more about our school eye health program

Scan to see all footnotes and links



²² IAPB Vision Atlas – child eye health

We'd like to thank our entire global community for supporting our mission to prevent blindness and restore sight

– *For All The World To See!*

Operation Eyesight Canada

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Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization: 11906 8955 RR0001

*Our board of directors in Canada is led by Dan Parlow, Chair. There are also boards of directors and charitable registrations for Operation Eyesight Universal entities in Ghana, India, Kenya, the US, the UK and Zambia.