



Our COVID-19 response

As a global community, we are facing unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've had to pivot our focus to address the urgent threat to health and well-being in the communities where we work. We focused our efforts on three areas, including Clean Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Community Empowerment and Capacity Building of our partner hospitals to provide critical aid to some of the most vulnerable communities. For years we have built on our expertise and developed strong relationships with local partners to effectively respond to the changing needs of the communities we serve, and the current global crisis is no exception.

But we're also thinking ahead and are keenly aware of the impact COVID-19 is having on the delivery of quality eye health services. We're continuing to focus on community health education

and capacity building to help get health systems where they need to be. We are committed to doing our part to ensure eye health doesn't fall as a priority.

We can't do any of this without you by our side. We are so grateful to have you with us to empower families and save lives.

Our COVID-19 response has included the following activities:

1,660	community health workers trained
20,556	hygiene kits distributed
828,550	individuals received health education
145	boreholes rehabilitated



Providing soap to stop the spread

Jackson is a Zambian man who suffers from blindness. When he first heard about COVID-19, he was terrified. The closest clinic is 13 kilometres away, an enormous distance when you don't have access to transportation. Even the news that he could help protect his family by washing his hands regularly with soap didn't help, as buying soap was an unaffordable luxury.

When Operation Eyesight came to the village, Jackson was given hope. His family was provided with liquid soap, an assurance that they could protect themselves by improving their hygiene practices without causing additional financial

stress. Operation Eyesight-trained community health workers conducted health education sessions to teach the community the proper way to wash hands, and the importance of social distancing. Thanks to the support of our donors, Operation Eyesight distributed liquid hand-washing soap to 130 families in the Sinazongwe district – just one of the many initiatives we have taken on to help our beneficiary communities cope with the threat of COVID-19.

To learn how you can help more people like Jackson and his family, please contact Kira DeVries at devriesk@operationeyesight.com or 1-587-327-5681.

Your impact in 2019



Our 2019 annual report is now available online!

Thanks to your support, 159 villages were declared avoidable blindness-free in India and Nepal, for a total of 1,150 villages since 2014. Because of our long-term

donors and funding from grants, we established 28 new vision centres in 2019, for a total of 143. Our vision centres are widely recognized as a

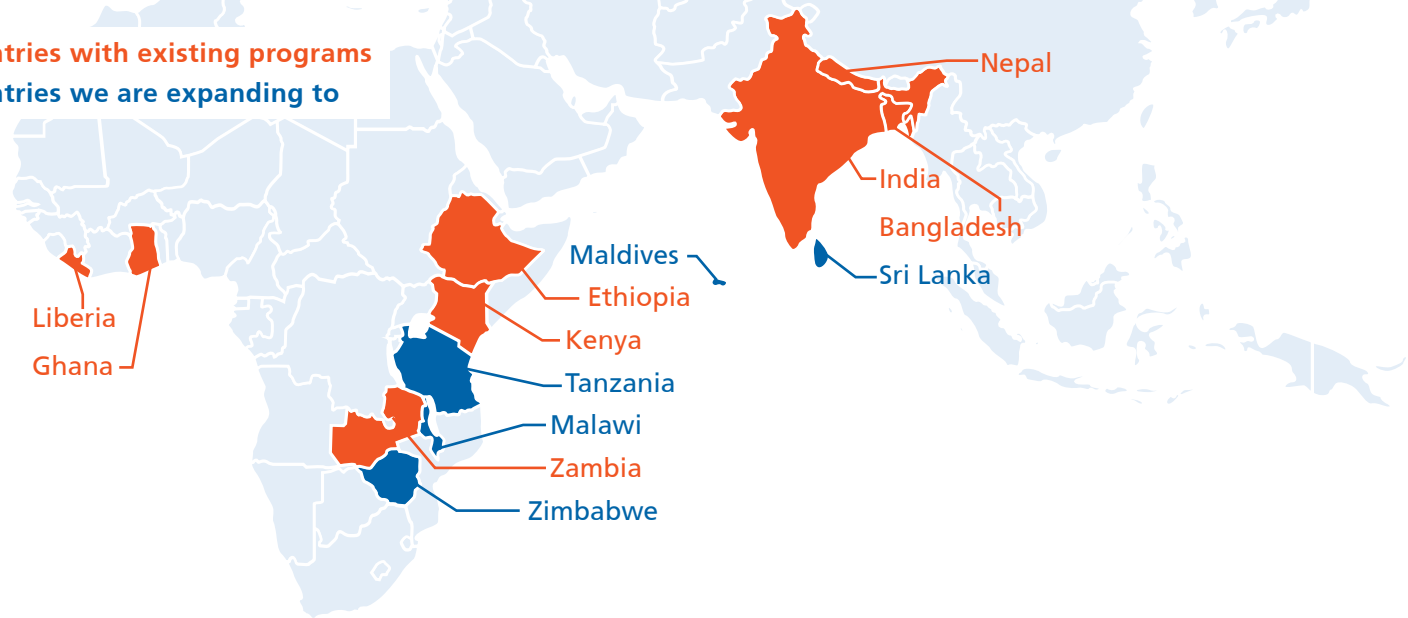
reliable means to providing quality eye care services at the community level.

With your help, in Africa, we've adopted all aspects of the WHO-recommended SAFE strategy (Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental management) to virtually eliminate trachoma in entire districts in Zambia, and sub-counties in Kenya.

To learn more about what we accomplished together in 2019, you can find our full Annual Report at operationeyesight.com/annualreport. If you'd prefer a hard copy, please call 1-800-585-8265.

■ Countries with existing programs

■ Countries we are expanding to



Your support transforms lives in many ways



Gender Inequity

Vision loss in women and girls can intensify existing gender inequalities, such as limited education and employment opportunities. When women are employed as community health workers by our partner hospitals, they have an opportunity to become trusted leaders in their communities, advocate for equity, and act as catalysts for positive health outcomes.



Children and Eye Health

In the countries where we work there is often a shortage of trained eye health personnel. Our school screening programs train teachers to screen students and then appropriately refer those who need further care. This model reduces the burden on the health care system and helps to ensure that no child is left behind.



Access to Clean Water

Access to clean water helps build resilient communities, reduces the burden on women and girls, and is critical to overall health and well-being. With access to fresh water, people can wash their hands and faces and prevent the spread of bacterial infections such as blinding trachoma, diarrheal disease and upper-respiratory infections.



Empowering her community

Rupoda is a community health worker from the Indian state of Assam. Over the last four years, she has been educating her community about eye health and referring those who need follow-up care to the vision centre. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered eye health activities in Assam, Rupoda continues to actively support her community.

Rupoda used her knowledge of her community to identify the families who would benefit the most from hygiene kits, including soap, hand sanitizer, masks and other essential safety items.

To date, Rupoda has personally distributed 300 hygiene kits in 13 villages, while providing

protection through better hygiene practices to over 1,500 people.

Due to a lack of transportation services during India's lockdown, Rupoda travels approximately 10 kilometres a day on foot to distribute these hygiene kits. She also conducts socially-distanced health awareness sessions to teach people how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Rupoda says that she feels grateful to Operation Eyesight's donors, who make it possible for her to continue to serve her community despite the temporary constraints on eye health services.

Free will writing resources

Haven't gotten around to writing your will? You're not alone! According to LawPRO, 56 per cent of Canadian adults don't have a signed will. Wills are important to ensure that your wishes are carried out and makes the process easier for your loved ones. Leaving a charitable gift in your will can also significantly reduce your estate taxes, allowing you to continue to provide for your loved ones and ensuring that the good work of an organization you trust will live on to help future generations.

We know that writing a will can be daunting, so as a thank you to our donors, we have created a free, no-commitment will preparation guide to help you get started. This has great information whether you are writing your first will, updating an existing one or adding a codicil. To get your copy, or for more information, call Brittany at 403-670-2629 or 1-800-585-8265 or visit operationeyesight.com and click on "[Bequest/Planned Gifts](#)" under Give.

CRISIS NEXT

Get your access code now.



CRISIS NEXT global video panel

In June, we hosted a global live-streamed event, featuring a panel of experts from around the world to discuss the lessons we need to learn and the actions we need to take for a more equitable post-pandemic world.

Participants heard insightful perspectives from Dr. Bo Wiafe, our technical advisor in Ghana, Alice Mwangi, our country manager in Kenya and Dr. G.N. Rao, from our long-standing partner in India, the LV Prasad Eye Institute. We also played a video recording from Jayanth Bhuvanaraghan from Essilor International.


We had a lively and informative discussion where we covered:

- The critical role of partnerships and the importance of collaboration;
- Improving and strengthening health systems beyond COVID-19, including how we can leverage technology to do this;
- The effect of COVID-19 on women and girls in Africa; and

- The importance of addressing avoidable blindness in achieving universal health coverage.

If you would like a copy of the recording, please visit <https://vimeo.com/430494262>.


Connect with us!

 1-800-585-8265

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Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more unless otherwise requested.

We do not sell, trade or otherwise share our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of Operation Eyesight, including our programs, special events, funding needs and more. If you have questions about our organization or wish to be removed from any of these contacts, phone us at 1-800-585-8265 or email admin@operationeyesight.com.

I understand that my monthly donation will be automatically withdrawn from my bank account or charged to my credit card. I can change or cancel my monthly contribution at any time. To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information about my right to cancel a PAD Agreement, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement.

To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

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admin@operationeyesight.com

Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.
#11906 8955 RR0001
Operation Eyesight USA is a registered charitable organization.
#20-2682468

Yes, I want to provide critical aid to families in need.

By mail: **Operation Eyesight Canada**
Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 3T8

Operation Eyesight USA
14900 Interurban Ave. S. Suite 271 PMB 35
Seattle, WA, United States, 98168-4654

By telephone: 1-800-585-8265 (Toll-free in Canada & the USA)
By emailing this form to: admin@operationeyesight.com
By scan or fax: 403-270-1899
Online: operationeyesight.com/donate

Yes! I will support Operation Eyesight's sight-saving projects by making a regular monthly gift of:

\$75 \$50 \$30 Other \$ _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I prefer to make a one-time gift of:

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$30 Other \$ _____

Payment Options:

I have enclosed my cheque payable to Operation Eyesight (or a blank cheque marked VOID to pre-authorize a monthly gift).

Charge my: Visa MasterCard American Express

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____

This donation is made on behalf of:

Individual Business

My details:

Title: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City / Town: _____

Province / State: _____

Postal / ZIP code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please send me:

- Information about how to leave a gift in my will
- 2019 Annual Report

We want to hear from you!

What do you think of the new look of SightLines? _____

