





On the cover: Two years ago, Amandah, from Uasin Gishu County, Kenya, received her first pair of eyeglasses through our school eye health program. Now in the sixth grade, she is thriving in school and working toward her dream of becoming a designer when she grows up.

Message from our President & CEO

It's difficult to put into words the look in the eyes of a child, woman or man when they receive the Gift of Sight. We see hope restored in a better future for themselves, their family and entire community. With access to quality and affordable eye health care, closed doors become opportunities, isolation turns into belonging and sadness becomes joy.

I consider myself fortunate because I get to meet with such individuals whenever I travel to one of our program countries. Besides hope, I see in their eyes a deep sense of gratitude for our donors and supporters.

Together in 2023, we impacted the lives of more individuals, families and communities than ever before. It was a year of growth for Operation Eyesight and the communities we work alongside, as we launched new community projects, expanded infrastructure and facilities, trained more teams on the ground, and declared entire communities free of avoidable vision loss.

It was also a milestone year, as we celebrated our 60th anniversary. I invite you to watch our video which showcases the impact we have had together over the past six decades.

As we reflected on our past and the impact we have had together, it was also a time to chart the path ahead. With the development

and approval of our 2024-28 Global Strategy, we are evolving, growing and continuing to lead the global eye health sector.

2024 promises to be a year of continued growth for Operation Eyesight, as we scale up our interventions while adopting innovative eye health solutions. We will create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. Our global community will also drive awareness and support for our mission across our countries of operation worldwide.

It's the generosity, commitment and passion of our donors and partners that makes all this possible. For this, I offer my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of our global community. ***Together, we are transforming lives – For All The World To See!***

With gratitude,

Kashinath "Kash" Bhoosnurmath
President & CEO
Operation Eyesight Universal

Preventing blindness and restoring sight

We believe that everyone, everywhere has a right to clear vision and healthy eyes.

That's why we have teams on the ground, working alongside local hospitals and communities to bring eye health care to those who need it most. We do this through our five programming areas:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Integrated Eye Health** – We strengthen areas of overlap between primary eye care and primary health care, making eye care a standard part of whole person health. Community health workers link families with immunization clinics, prenatal care and other critical services. We also bring fresh water and hygiene education to communities to help prevent the spread of blinding trachoma.
4. **Disease Control** – We are addressing the major causes of avoidable vision loss: cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, trachoma, uncorrected refractive error and other conditions. From eye screenings and prevention to treatment and follow-up care, our partners provide comprehensive eye health services.
5. **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.

Ultimately, our goal is to declare all of our partner communities as avoidable blindness-free. To date, we have declared **1,372 villages as avoidable blindness-free**, across our programs in Ghana, Kenya, India and Nepal.



Your impact in 2023

	ADULTS		CHILDREN	2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F 1,112,643	M 1,068,255	F 127,652 M 145,104	2,453,654	1.64M+
Students screened through school eye health programs			F 120,855 M 119,716	240,571	183,803
Eye surgeries performed	F 120,886 M 109,658	F 1,144 M 1,079		232,767	161,814
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F 126,620 M 116,482	F 17,324 M 15,374		275,800	279,848
New vision centres, primary eye clinics or hospitals established or upgraded				22	25
Water boreholes drilled or rehabilitated				25	122
Community health workers/volunteers trained in primary eye care	F 145 M 108			253	136
Healthcare staff trained or provided refresher training in primary eye care	F 607 M 111			718	1,760
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F 454,314 M 379,008	F 127,208 M 127,649		1,088,179	932,801
People reached through public awareness programs	F 304,111 M 216,984	F 112,694 M 93,171		726,960	1.13M+
Villages/communities declared avoidable blindness-free				95	51

F

 Female

M

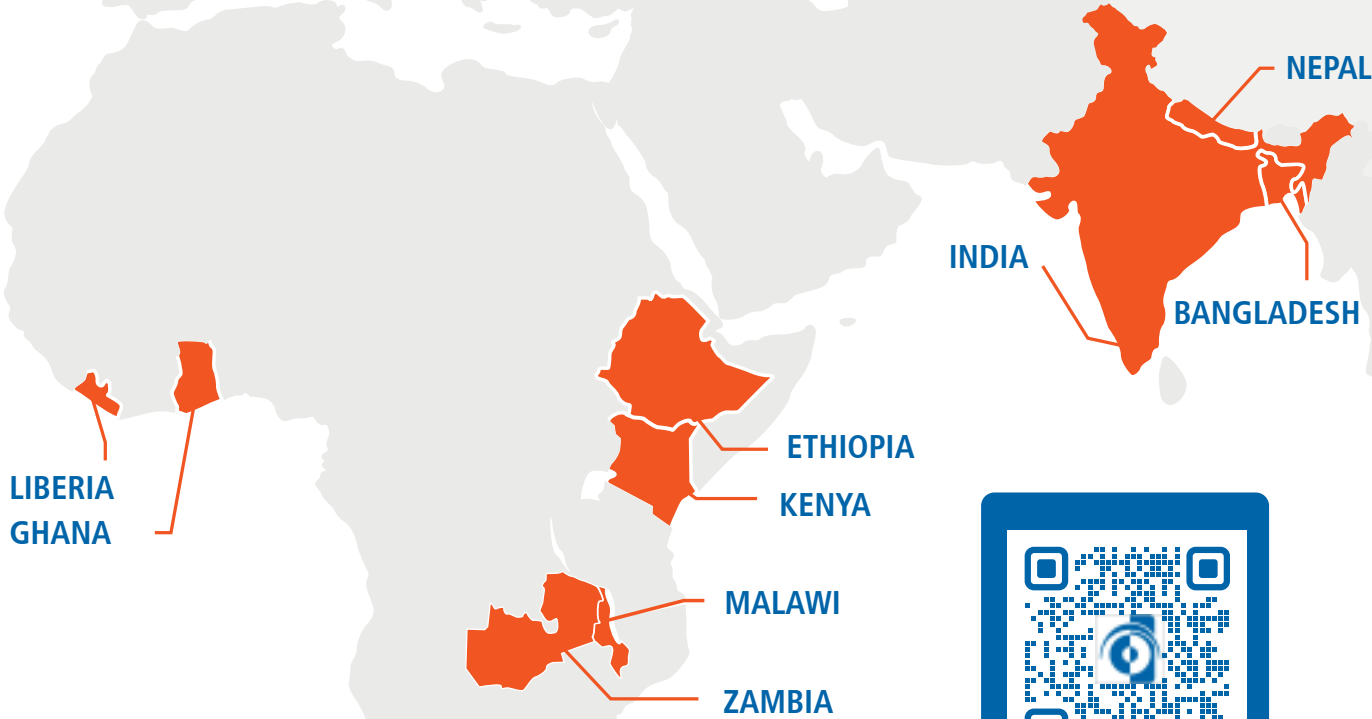
 Male

*At time of publication, the disaggregated data by age was not available for Malawi. For ease of consolidated reporting, the data for Malawi is captured under the 'Adults' column.

This table does not include Liberia, as the program there is operated by the L V Prasad Eye Institute.

Where we work

In 2023, we implemented programs in nine countries. We also continued the exploration of programs for medically underserved communities in Canada. With ongoing support from donors like you, we will scale our efforts to reach more people in our current countries of work and in new countries as well.



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

Welcoming Dr. Ritu Ghosh

In 2023, we welcomed Dr. Ritu Ghosh as our **Global Director – International Programmes**. Based in Hyderabad, India, she leads our program initiatives across all of our countries of work. She brings a visionary and resourceful approach to her role, coupled with a proven track record of implementing multi-million dollar, large-scale health programs.

Her appointment has been instrumental in shaping the direction of our global operations, encompassing policy advocacy, business development, program execution and innovative growth strategies. Dr. Ghosh is dedicated to establishing examples of program excellence in collaboration with both public and private sector partners, demonstrating a commitment to delivering measurable results through exceptional team leadership.

With a PhD in social work specializing in health and nutrition, Dr. Ghosh brings a wealth of knowledge from her impressive 25-year career. Her expertise and contributions are poised to leave a lasting impact on our organization's pursuit of excellence in the years to come.

“Operation Eyesight has a unique ability to connect with communities and give them a voice when it comes to not just eye health but a range of development issues,” Dr. Ghosh says.

"This means we play a unique role in the international eye health sphere and can continue to bring new approaches to sustainability."

On the opposite page: Dr. Ritu Ghosh (far right) was overwhelmed to see the response of the community members at a vision centre in Kapiri Mposhi District, Zambia.



Ethiopia

Since our work began in Ethiopia in 2018, we have built partnerships with ophthalmic departments at five hospitals, which have become key access points for those seeking eye health care across the country.

Despite the ongoing state of emergency in the Amhara Region where much of our work is focused, we have made notable progress in the expansion of eye care services, thanks to collaboration with the **OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation**, **Splash International** and local partners such as **Tibebe Ghion Hospital (Bahir Dar University College of Medicine and Health)** and the **Felege Hiwot Comprehensive Specialized Hospital**. These partnerships laid the groundwork for impactful community projects that support eye health as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

In collaboration with Tibebe Ghion Hospital and our newest partner, **Debre Markos University Hospital**, we established two new vision centres at the primary hospitals in West Gojjam and East Gojjam zones, and work began to strengthen infrastructure at Debre Markos University Hospital.

Working alongside **Partners in Education Ethiopia**, we trained 21 teachers who conducted eye screenings and provided WASH education for students across nine schools. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing security situation, we were unable to deliver prescription eyeglasses to 46 students. We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to relaunch many of our activities in 2024.

On the opposite page: Semachew, an optometrist, reviews patient records at the Addis Alem Vision Centre in Ethiopia.



2
vision centres
established or
upgraded



Ethiopia	ADULTS		CHILDREN		2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	5,307	F	676	15,161	12,418
	M	8,189	M	989		
Students screened through school eye health programs			F	1,912	3,677	4,919
			M	1,765		
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	6,651	F	1,329	12,052	50,418
	M	2,636	M	1,436		
Eye surgeries performed	F	1,191	F	24	2,218	879
	M	971	M	32		
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	998	F	1	2,219	435
	M	1,217	M	3		

F Female M Male

Ghana

To date, we have partnered with communities across 40 districts in Ghana. In 2023, our local team implemented several projects focused on hospital strengthening, community eye health, integrated eye health and disease control.

In partnership with the **United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Child Blindness Program**, we implemented school eye health projects in four districts in the Central Region, benefiting more than 19,000 students, teachers and health care professionals in 2023 alone. With additional support from **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** and **Latter-day Saint Charities**, we brought eye health screenings to 538 schools across another four districts in the region, reaching more than 86,000 students.

We strengthened the outpatient departments of five partner hospitals by providing essential ophthalmic equipment and training for healthcare staff.

Together with our partners, we declared nine communities as avoidable blindness-free in Mfantseman and Awutu Senya districts, bringing our total to 10. The National Eye Care Coordinator of **Ghana Health Service** commended our approach and urged other organizations to implement similar strategies.

Across our countries of work, our community-based approach enables us to link people to primary health care services in addition to primary eye care services. In 2023 in Ghana, 6,600 children were linked to services for immunizations and vitamin A supplementations, and nearly 16,000 women were connected with pre- or post-natal services.



A passion for care and community

A global team of more than 2,000 community health workers and nurses are our first point of contact with many communities. That’s why they need to have the right mix of training and passion.

Seeing how prescription eyeglasses made it possible for her own daughter to read helped fuel Felicia’s passion for delivering eye care to others.

“Due to my daughter’s story, I really love to screen schoolchildren, so I can help identify the eye conditions they may be having and assist them before it becomes too late,” she says. “I find satisfaction in detecting eye problems in people and assisting them to get the treatment they need.”

Felicia works as a community health nurse in Obrachire, in southern Ghana. Thanks to the additional training in primary eye care that she received through Operation Eyesight, she is taking the care she provides to the next level. The 37-year-old now provides eye health screenings, education and referrals for people in her own community.

We work with community health nurses like Felicia in communities across Ghana. They are often our first point of contact with a community and form a key component of our sustainable model.

“I love to see people in good health,” Felicia explains. “I can now give my community members an in-depth education on eye health when I go for home visits.”

On opposite page: Felicia examines a patient's eyes.



15,620 people screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps in Ghana



Ghana	ADULTS		CHILDREN		2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	6,225	F	3,353	15,620	13,711
	M	3,927	M	2,115		
Students screened through school eye health programs			F	58,300	114,360	64,691
			M	56,060		
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	5,409	F	2,913	14,821	22,424
	M	4,224	M	2,275		
Eye surgeries performed	F	835	F	449	2,153	1,935
	M	565	M	304		
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	702	F	904	2,643	2,213
	M	389	M	648		

F Female M Male

India

Our programs in India reached remarkable milestones in 2023. We screened more than 1.7 million people for eye health conditions through our partner hospitals – a 62 per cent increase from the previous year.

Similarly, our partner hospitals’ commitment to addressing the backlog of surgical cases resulted in a 52 per cent increase in the number of eye surgeries provided. These efforts combined with our community outreach and education activities led to the declaration of 86 villages as avoidable blindness-free, and another 150 villages are ready to receive the same designation in 2024.

Together with our partners, we established 12 more vision centres and two mobile vision centres (vans). Collectively, these centres serve a population of 900,000.

We continue to collaborate with state governments to integrate eye health care into the primary health care system in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh. In 2023, we launched our fourth “Integrated People-centred Eye Care Project” in an additional four districts of Madhya Pradesh, with support from the **National Health Mission** and the **National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment**. Together we are establishing vision care facilities within already existing government health centres, improving access to eye health care services in underserved communities.

Our teams are in many cases the first point of contact with our communities of work, which provides us with a rich source of data for research purposes. In fall 2023, we organized a national workshop to disseminate the findings of a project focused on addressing the barriers to eye health faced by women and girls. As a result, the educational materials that were developed for this project were adopted by other states/programs. We are grateful to **Norquest College** and the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences** for their partnership in hosting the workshop, which was supported by the **Fund for Innovation and Transformation**, made possible through **Global Affairs Canada** and the **Inter-Council Network**.

On the opposite page: With her eyesight and independence restored, Gadami can once again walk around her village in Assam, visit friends and fully enjoy her time with her grandchildren.



149,887

people underwent
cataract surgery



India	ADULTS		CHILDREN	2023	2022	
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	764,590	F	76,717	1,710,882	1,056,076
	M	779,742	M	89,833		
Students screened through school eye health programs			F	7,969	17,115	33,571
			M	9,146		
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	300,201	F	71,579	715,787	746,676
	M	264,841	M	79,166		
Eye surgeries performed	F	95,593	F	146	182,395	119,979
	M	86,546	M	110		
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	93,966	F	9,065	200,850	208,633
	M	89,243	M	8,576		
F Female M Male						



Help for the whole family

Preeti, from Jammu and Kashmir, is more than a daughter and sister; she helps her single father run their household and care for her three younger brothers.

She also has big dreams for her family. "I am passionate about my studies and dream of elevating my family out of poverty," the 14-year-old says.

One day while fetching water from a nearby pond, she slipped and fell in a thorn bush, injuring her eye. Within a few days, her eye became red and swollen. A month later, her vision in her wounded eye had decreased dramatically, making routine chores, school work and even play difficult.

Two community health volunteers were conducting a door-to-door survey in Preeti's village. When they visited Preeti's home, they quickly referred her to our nearby partner, the **Rotary Eye and ENT Hospital** in Udhampur, where doctors diagnosed her with a traumatic cataract.

"I was worried about the cost of the treatment and was almost in tears," Preeti's father explains. "But I was relieved when the hospital told me that Preeti would undergo free surgery."

Preeti's sight-restoring operation has been life-changing for her entire family. "Our family has found a new life," explains her father. "The villagers have told her she is a very cheerful child and very active."

Today, Preeti's future is full of hope.



150,745

children screened
through door-to-door
surveys in India



288

infants screened
for Retinopathy of
Prematurity



Early detection and treatment saves sight

Baby Aarsh (seven months old at time of photograph) is from a small village outside Moradabad city, India. He was born premature and was in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) when his parents learned that he needed to have his eyes screened for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP).

ROP is one of the leading causes of vision loss in children, and preterm infants are at high risk. To save a child's sight, early detection and treatment are critical. That is why we are working with partners like the **C.L. Gupta Eye Institute (CLGEI)** to provide remote diagnosis and referral services for at-risk infants. Optometrists from CLGEI regularly visit 40 NICUs and maternity centres across the Moradabad District to screen preterm infants for ROP.

When Aarsh's parents first learned their baby could have ROP, they were fearful of the treatment process and refused to have him screened in the NICU.

After continuous follow-up phone calls and messages from CLGEI, they agreed to bring him in for screening.

Aarsh was diagnosed with ROP in both eyes and required urgent treatment – injections followed by laser surgery – to prevent blindness. His parents are grateful that his treatment was provided free of charge, and they have been diligent about bringing Aarsh for follow-up visits.

Today, Aarsh's vision is good, and he is doing great. His mother says he even watches cartoons on the television like his big brother and sister.

"Aarsh's bright eyes now reflect a world of possibilities, and his story motivates us to continue our mission of bringing vision and hope to every child in need," says Lokesh Chauhan, Deputy General Manager, CLGEI.

Kenya

In Kenya, our 2023 programs had a strong focus on infrastructure improvements. We are working collaboratively with the departments of health across eight counties, to find solutions that meet the needs of the target communities.

Our county partners are dedicated to providing resources to accomplish the project goals – whether it be providing financial resources and adequate space for new eye health facilities, or redistributing staff among government facilities to meet the growing demand for eye health services.

Together with the **Kajiado County Department of Health**, we established the Kajiado Eye Unit, constructed in partnership with **CBM Christian Blind Mission** under the Vision Impact Project (VIP). The Eye Unit has seen more than a 30 per cent increase in service utilization since its inauguration.

In Kajiado South, also under the VIP, we expanded the **Loitokitok** sub-county hospital from a single-room clinic to a fully equipped three-room clinic. We also equipped the sub-county hospital clinics at **Kitengela** and **Ngong**, in addition to meeting the specific equipment needs of other hospital partners.

We constructed an eye operation theatre at the eye unit at **Iten County Referral Hospital** and provided the hospital with a slit lamp, used for eye exams. Through a cost-sharing initiative with the county health department, a pharmacy was

also established at the eye unit, so patients can access all services under one roof.

We established a new vision centre in Ogembo in partnership with the **Kisii Eye Hospital Centre**. The hospital renovated the space, and we provided the equipment. Seeing a low uptake of services at the new vision centre, we decided to conduct a survey in the surrounding community, to better understand the community’s needs and identify the barriers to seeking care. Based on our learnings, we modified our approach, which led to more people seeking the vision centre’s services. This underscored our community-based approach and ability to remain nimble when implementing projects that are impactful and sustainable.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, we continued our community outreach programs. In partnership with the **Ministries of Health and Education**, and with support from the **United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID’s) Child Blindness Program** as well as **CBM Christian Blind Mission** through VIP, we screened nearly 70,000 students across 265 schools. As a result, 2,062 people received a pair of prescription eyeglasses.

We had planned to conduct a mass drug administration (MDA) in Narok County, to distribute antibiotics to prevent trachoma, a blinding eye disease. Unfortunately, heavy rainfall and other unforeseen delays forced us to postpone the MDA to January 2024.

Finally, we secured funding from two partners to conduct research projects on the management of presbyopia (the inability to focus on close-up objects due to aging). We look forward to sharing our findings with our global community.

Patients line up outside the Kajiado County Eye Unit on its opening day in August 2023.



Kenya	ADULTS		CHILDREN		2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	41,151	F	5,700	78,839	90,747
	M	27,132	M	4,856		
Students screened through school eye health programs			F	34,704	69,891	40,923
			M	35,187		
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	112,618	F	42,801	274,306	75,110
	M	82,162	M	36,725		
Eye surgeries performed	F	3,220	F	465	7,468	5,750
	M	3,212	M	571		
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	3,233	F	1,741	8,794	4,295
	M	2,615	M	1,205		

F Female M Male



Brighter futures ahead, thanks to school eye health programs

Vision loss affects nearly every facet of a child's life. Some studies suggest that up to 80 per cent of learning is visual. That's why we're bringing eye health services to students in classrooms across our countries of work.

"Our school eye health program is giving students more than just access to eyeglasses or sight-saving procedures," says Dr. Ritu Ghosh, our Global Director of International Programmes. "Together we are giving children the chance to attend school, build social connections and thrive."

Using innovative technology, such as the Peek Acuity app and KoboToolbox, we are training teachers and community health nurses to identify and refer students with eyesight problems. This enables us to connect students and their families with eye health care as well as their local health care systems.

"By equipping staff and teachers to identify eye health issues, and by creating a referral network with our partners, we are creating sustainable solutions that ensure families have access to eye health care long after a school eye health project wraps up," Dr. Ghosh adds.

In 2023 in Zambia, we provided primary eye care training to 20 school teachers from 15 schools. As a result, more than 3,500 students were screened for eye health issues, and 269 students received a free pair of eyeglasses.



240,571

students screened
through school eye
health programs across
our countries of work

- 1 When Salome, from Uasin Gishu County, Kenya, began experiencing vision loss, she would get injured while playing and picking berries with her friends, and her schoolwork also suffered. Thanks to the eye screening she received at school through our school eye health program, supported by the **United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Child Blindness Program**, she now has prescription eyeglasses.

"These glasses are changing everything in my life for the better," Salome says. "I am focusing on improving my grades so that I can become a doctor and help other kids like me!"

- 2 Five-year-old Grace and her teenage brother, Isaac, pose with their mother, Samanta, after getting cataract surgery at Ghana's **Watborg Eye Services**. The children were both identified with bilateral cataract through a vision screening at their school, supported by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Child Blindness Program.

"I spent many nights crying that I couldn't be there for my mom who does so much for our family," Isaac shares. "I feel more confident and happier now that my vision has returned to me."

- 3 As part of our corporate engagement program, volunteers from **Sagility Health India** joined eye health professionals to screen nearly 500 young students at a school in Hyderabad, India. "Our corporate relations program is an exciting opportunity for companies to financially support eye health initiatives and engage their staff by providing volunteer opportunities," explains Subhadip Bhattacharya, our head of fundraising in India.



Liberia

Located at the John F Kennedy Medical Centre in Monrovia, the Liberia Eye Centre is operated by our partner, the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI).

We have supported the facility in expanding the capacity of its staff through a residency program and on-the-job training.

Seven ophthalmologists are currently enrolled in the residency training program, and in 2023, three hospital staff spent three months training in ophthalmic diagnostics, nursing and low vision. In addition, five ophthalmologists from LVPEI’s campuses in India were deputed to the Liberia Eye Centre to provide specialty eye care services.

Through these initiatives, the facility is able to provide comprehensive and advanced eye health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Through a cost-recovery model, proceeds from patients who are able to pay for services help support the cost of providing care to patients who are unable to pay. **In 2023, the facility performed 1,872 eye surgeries, and 48 per cent were provided to non-paying patients.**

On the opposite page: After receiving training on operation theatre protocols, nurses Tiwonge (left) and Chrissy, are assisting cataract surgeons at Mzimba South District Hospital, Malawi.

Malawi

We recently began working in Malawi, at the invitation of the Ministry of Health. Our situational analysis revealed a high prevalence of blindness among adults and the critical need for eye care services, especially in the more isolated northern region.

We’ve partnered with district health departments to improve access to eye health care services in Chitipa, Karonga and Mzimba South. In 2023, we established a vision centre in each district, while also building the capacities of the base hospitals to meet the needs of patients referred from the project communities. We arranged for two cataract surgeons from the district hospitals of Mzimba South and Chitipa to receive training at **Nkhoma Mission Hospital** in the capital city of Lilongwe. In addition, we provided primary eye care training for 12 ophthalmic staff and 14 community health volunteers, and launched a community eye health project in Chitipa, which will benefit more than 50,000 people.

During the year, we strengthened the outpatient department and operation theatre at **Mzuzu Central Hospital**, which serves as a referral hospital for all district hospitals in the region. Community outreach combined with a strong referral network is enabling our local partners to provide quality eye care services to all.



Malawi			2023
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	3,854	10,074
	M	6,220	
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	827	1,327
	M	500	
Eye surgeries performed	F	80	134
	M	54	
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	211	301
	M	90	
F Female M Male			



36

ophthalmic staff, frontline staff and community health volunteers trained in primary eye care in Malawi

Nepal & Bangladesh

After navigating a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Asia in 2022, we intensified our community outreach activities in Bangladesh and Nepal in 2023.

We successfully relaunched four community eye health initiatives with Fateh Bal Eye Hospital in Nepal, while scaling up our community outreach and education efforts in partnership with the Dr. K Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital and Symbiosis in Bangladesh. As a result, we saw a 166 per cent increase in the number of people screened through door-to-door surveys and a 15 per cent increase in eye surgeries across the two countries.

We also launched a research study alongside the Nepal Eye Hospital, to understand community barriers to eye health-seeking behaviors. We look forward to sharing our findings with our partners and supporters.

Independence restored with clear vision

Before her cataract surgery, Ratna, from Tokha, Nepal, needed an escort to get around, and she despaired about not being able to care for her family the way they were caring for her.

A community health worker referred Ratna to our partner, Nepal Eye Hospital, where she was diagnosed with cataracts. Ratna hadn't realized that her condition could be treated, and initially she was nervous about getting surgery.

"I gathered strength," she says, "Because the community health worker told me the treatment would change my world."

And it did. Soon after her operation, Ratna was back at home, thrilled to return to a more independent lifestyle. "Now I am a strong pillar for the family, setting an example for others to get the eye care services without fear," she proudly says.

On opposite page: Ratna smiles as she sits outside her home. She says she is happy that she can see her grandson grow.



15%

increase in eye surgeries performed across the two countries

Nepal & Bangladesh	ADULTS		CHILDREN		2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	272,902	F	35,665	582,597	453,410
	M	231,584	M	42,446		
Students screened through school eye health programs			F	15,813	31,973	25,210
			M	16,160		
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	22,186	F	7,541	59,057	22,170
	M	22,051	M	7,279		
Eye surgeries performed	F	19,646	F	30	37,486	32,625
	M	17,787	M	23		
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	26,390	F	5,292	58,564	62,515
	M	22,178	M	4,704		

F

 Female

M

 Male



Zambia

In 2023 in Zambia, in partnership with the respective district health departments, we established two new vision centres, at Kanyama General Hospital in Lusaka Province and Kapiri Mposhi Urban Health Clinic in the Central Province, benefiting over 400,000 people.

To create demand for eye health services at these facilities, we launched outreach and education activities in surrounding communities. At the same time, to ensure our partners could meet the increased demand, we made improvements to the operation theatre of Kanyama General Hospital.

We're grateful to the **OneSight Essilor Luxottica Foundation** for setting up optical shops at the aforementioned vision centres, as well as at **Maamba General Hospital** in the Southern Province. Patients now have better access to eye exams and custom eyeglasses all under the same roof. We also continued to support **Lusaka Eye Hospital** as it transitioned its entire medical records system from a manual one to a more efficient, electronic one.

In the Central Province, we are bringing clean water to communities, so people can wash their hands and faces to prevent the spread of blinding trachoma. After rehabilitating 120 dysfunctional water boreholes the previous year, in 2023 we focused on building the capacities of the water committees that had been revived. These committees, made up of local volunteers, maintain the boreholes and provide hygiene and sanitation education to their fellow neighbours. We rehabilitated 25 more boreholes and trained an additional 20 pump minders – including our second cohort of women – on how to repair the boreholes in their areas.

Almost all our project areas were affected by the cholera outbreak that began in Zambia in fall 2023. We ensured our teams took the necessary precautions and suspended some of our community activities, with plans to relaunch them as soon as it is safe to do so. In 2024, we plan to intensify our outreach and education activities across our project areas and ultimately declare communities as avoidable blindness-free.



Learn more about the connection between clean water and eye health.



25
dysfunctional
water boreholes
rehabilitated

Zambia	ADULTS		CHILDREN	2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F 18,614	M 11,461	F 5,541 M 4,865	40,481	20,378
Students screened through school eye health programs			F 2,157 M 1,398	3,555	14,489
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F 6,422	M 2,594	F 1,045 M 768	10,829	16,004
Eye surgeries performed	F 321	M 523	F 30 M 39	913	646
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F 1,120	M 750	F 321 M 238	2,429	1,758
Area Pump Minders trained to maintain and repair boreholes	F 4	M 16		20	122
Boreholes rehabilitated				25	120

F

Female

M

Male



Financials

In 2023, we reflected on our past as we celebrated our 60th anniversary, and we also looked to the future as we developed our *2024-2028 Global Strategy*. We are a healthy organization with ambitious goals that require strategic investments in all aspects of our operations, and we have worked on an investment plan and secured significant donations to support this future growth.

Contributions from supporters both old and new

Thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our long-term donors, our revenues were once again bolstered by a rise in legacy gifts, which surpassed \$1 million for a second year. We also focused on strengthening our partnerships with institutional and grant funders, which represented 24 per cent of revenues. We forged partnerships with many new individuals and organizations, including the Calgary Foundation which is supporting our efforts to build the capacity of our team to advance Indigenous eye health programs in Calgary.

Investing in our future

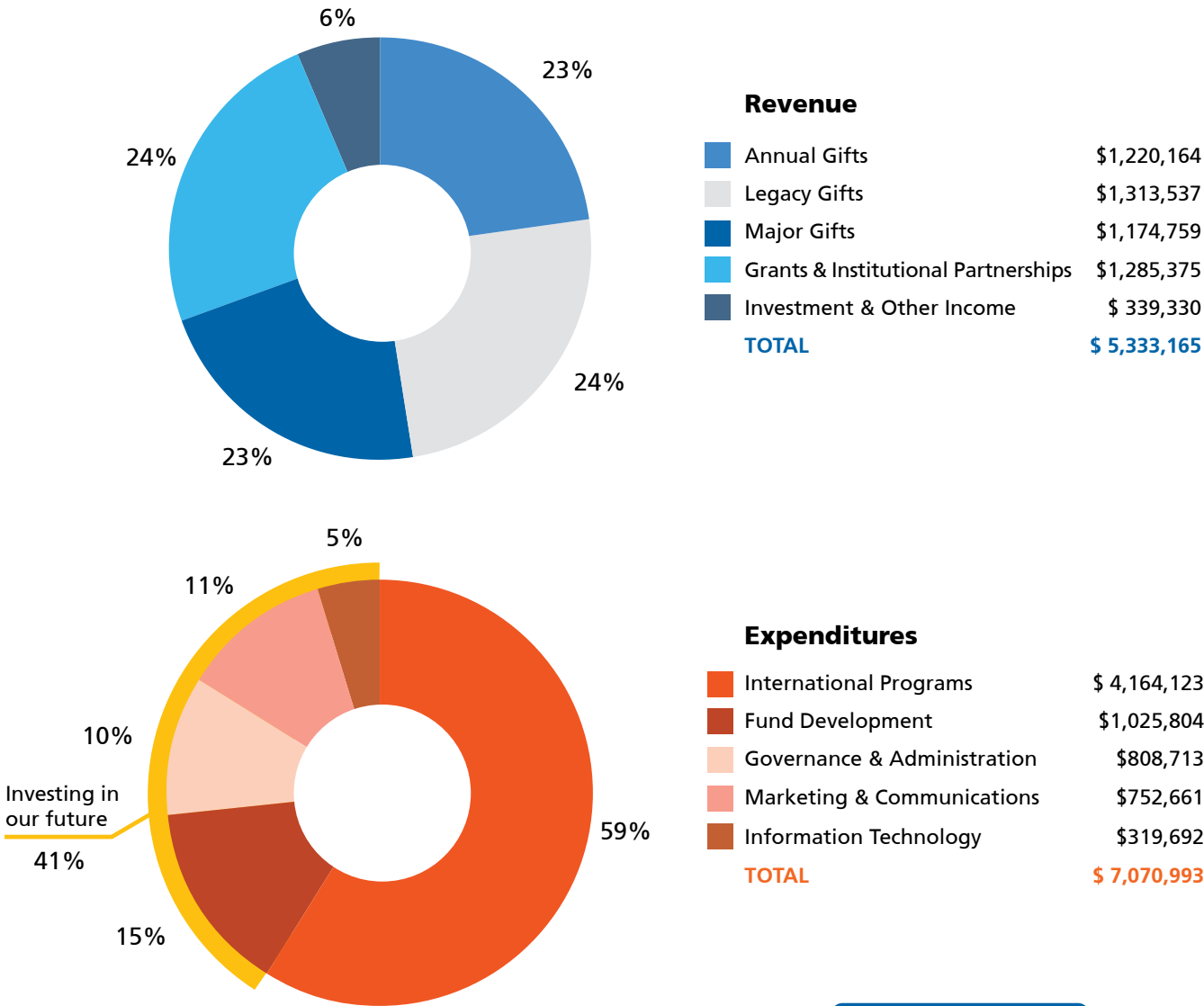
Much foundational work began in 2023 as we prepared to launch our global strategy – from infrastructure and technology, to recruitment and team capacity-building, to increasing awareness about our mission. In a post-pandemic era, where travel and project resumption took precedence, we had the opportunity to fully engage in these areas. We also moved to a new office space to support our growing Calgary team. Some expenditures were one-time investments,

and although we utilized part of the surplus gained in 2022 to fund them, they contributed to the figure of 41 per cent of 2023 expenses shown on page 30.

Multiplying our impact

Internationally, we are committed to building effective partnerships that enable us to multiply our impact at the same, or even reduced, cost to us. As we expand our international programs, we continue to partner with local hospitals and organizations to provide a value much higher than the actual program expenditures we report (59 per cent in 2023). As an example, we saw a 44 per cent increase in the number of eye surgeries performed year over year (see *page 5*), with many of our non-financial technical partners contributing to that as we worked together to address the backlog in surgical cases. Due to the nature of our international and community-based work, we sometimes must temporarily delay project activities due to weather or conflict. In 2023, we experienced some of these effects, which impacted our annual program expenditures. For example, some activities in Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia were postponed to 2024 (see *pages 9, 19 and 27*). Over the next few years, the percentage of international programs related to overall expenditures will increase as we implement our global strategy.

With ongoing support from our global community, we will expand our service reach and improve quality of life for more individuals. *Thank you!*



Thank you to our donors!

Our work would not be possible without the compassion and support of our global community. We are grateful to all of our donors – including legacy donors, annual donors, major donors, institutional funders and 636 monthly donors – for their incredible generosity. Due to space limitation, we are listing donors who gave \$5,000 or more.

Individuals

Agnes Hohn
Ann Pituley
Bill and Karen Barnett
Chitra Ramaswami
Doreen Richards
Eric and Vizma Sprott
Helen Isaac
Ian and Trudy Gillis
Judy Farvolden
Margaret and Paul O’Connor
Margaret E. Ratcliff
Marlene and Alexander Mackenzie
Marty Cutler, Marilyn Minden and Family
Penny Pattison
Ralf and Helga Schmidtke
Robert J. Noakes
Robert James Burns
Robert Ohlson
Steve Gallant
Suzannah Dobbie

Foundations

Alice Elizabeth Brown Fund at Waterloo Region Community Foundation

Anonymous Fund at Calgary Foundation

Christine A. Sethi-Van Impe Foundation through the Victoria Foundation

Calgary 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

Jack Brown and Family Alzheimer Research Foundation

LRDR Foundation

MacEwan Family Charity Fund at Calgary Foundation

Margaret Clementi Fund

Peterborough K M Hunter Charitable Foundation

Pinch Family Trust Fund through the Victoria Foundation

River Foundation

Ross-Lynn Charitable Foundation

Ted & Enid Jansen Fund at Calgary Foundation

The Lawrason Foundation

The P & P Murray Foundation

Toronto Theosophical Society

Corporations

Meadowlark Resources Corp.

Vision Group

Wiza Inc.

Grants and Institutional Partners

Canada Gives

CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V

Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)*

Freybe Foundation

Joseph G. Rauenhorst Family Foundation

Livelihood Impact Fund

NorQuest College

Optometry Giving Sight

Peek Vision

Sightsavers International

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

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***The contents are the responsibility of Operation Eyesight Canada and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*

Estates

Estate of Caro Charmian Bay Hagar

Estate of Dorothy Madge Clarke

Estate of Dr. Nancy Silver Maguire

Estate of Elin Johnson

Estate of George Kuss

Estate of Gwendolen Margaret Crowe

Estate of Iain Douglas Watson

Estate of Jacobus Van Pelt

Estate of Joan Paterson Hudson

Estate of Jocelyn Nancy Braithwaite

Estate of John Joe Maltais

Estate of Karoline Seniw

Estate of Marion Eisener

Estate of Merle E. Southam

Estate of Nicholas Spencer Valeri

Estate of Nora Wood

Estate of Ruth Budd

Estate of Shauna Lee Wilson

Estate of Tina Hattem

Estate of William Thomas Whiting

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.



Decades of support, a lifetime of compassion

Eileen Giuliani’s support for Operation Eyesight is rooted in her compassion for others and her own battle with avoidable vision loss.

In 1988, while waiting for her semi-annual eye exam at a local clinic in Vancouver, Canada, she saw a poster for Operation Eyesight on the wall. By then, Eileen had been at risk of glaucoma for 37 years. Frequent eye checkups were crucial to monitor the risk.

In 2004, she was diagnosed with closed-angle glaucoma, which could lead to severe increase in eye pressure and vision loss. Eileen’s vision was saved, thanks to regular

checkups, quick diagnosis and immediate laser surgery.

Eileen then became an advocate for Operation Eyesight. Since her first gift in 1988, she has helped bring eye care to many across South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

A healthcare professional herself, Eileen worked for the welfare of others. In 1970, she volunteered as an X-ray technician in the Caribbean Island of Dominica. It informed her of the disparities in healthcare and deepened her love for humanitarianism. A few years later, she became one of the early technologists to learn ultrasound, a role she cherished for 39 years.

“I can only imagine what it would be like to be blind,” Eileen says. “I believe in Operation Eyesight and encourage others to look into its programs.”

Thank you for your dedicated support, Eileen!



Sign up for our eNews for frequent updates throughout the year.



**Thank you to
our global community
for your ongoing support
– For All The World To See!**





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

*** Our board of directors in Canada is led by Shaad Oosman, Chair. We also have boards of directors and charitable registration in Ghana, India, Kenya, the US, the UK and Zambia.**