



Sonam (top, far right), Roshni (bottom, far right) and some of the many women who have been helped by Sonam through her community outreach work. The group wanted to say “thank you” to our donors for your incredible support, as we dedicate this issue of *SightLines* to you and the many lives you transformed in 2020.

## A mother’s restored vision inspires her daughter to help others

Sonam, from India, recently became a community health worker, and the story of why she chose this profession is inspiring. Until recently, Sonam was a full-time caregiver for her mother, Roshni, who lived with poor vision as a result of bilateral cataracts.

When Roshni was finally able to have cataract surgery, her vision was completely restored. She was once again able to care for herself and complete her daily tasks independently. Sonam was inspired by the incredible impact this sight-restoring surgery had on her mother and their entire family. As Roshni no longer needed her as a full-time caregiver, Sonam decided she wanted to help others the way her mother had been helped.

Sonam trained to become a community health worker and joined the Operation Eyesight project team. In this role, she goes door-to-door in communities near her own, screening people for eye conditions and referring them to a vision centre or hospital when further diagnosis or treatment is needed. Sonam’s visits provide hope for people who have been suffering with vision impairment but do not know where to go for help.

Thanks to the support that Roshni received from generous donors like you, her family is thriving and the positive effects of Sonam’s work will last for years to come.

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## Your Impact in 2020

Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support and dedication of donors like you. Every dollar donated made an impact to empower communities and promote better eye health outcomes for vulnerable people. Thank you!

**1,411,994** people were screened for eye conditions.

 **147,031** eye surgeries were performed.


**250** boreholes were drilled or rehabilitated in Zambia.  
These boreholes brought clean water to 26,250 people.



 **414** people were trained to provide primary eye health care.

**5** villages were declared avoidable blindness-free in Kenya.  
These are the first villages declared avoidable blindness-free in Kenya. 3,203 people in these villages have been screened and given the resources they need to ensure their families will not suffer from avoidable blindness.



 **19** vision centres were launched in India (17), Ghana (1) and Bangladesh (1).

**8** countries of work.  
We have programs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia and Zambia.



# Our COVID-19 Response in 2020

Last year, when COVID-19 became an emergency in the countries where we work, donors like you answered the call. Because of your compassion and generosity, we were able to provide clean water, safety supplies and education to empower vulnerable people to protect themselves, their families and their communities from the threat of this virus. We were able to keep our partner hospitals from becoming overwhelmed, allowing them to return quickly to our sight-saving programs.



## Community Empowerment

We worked with our hospital and government partners to educate the communities we serve on preventing the spread of the virus. Through our 2020 COVID-19 response, we **trained 1,660 community health workers** who then went door to door to distribute hygiene kits (containing items such as soap, masks, bleach, hand sanitizer and an educational brochure) and ensure families had the information and supplies they needed to protect themselves. We distributed more than **20,000 hygiene kits** and provided health education to more than **800,000 people**.



## Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The availability of clean water is critical to avoiding the spread of COVID-19. We distributed water vessels to families in need, and we expanded on our existing programs to prevent the spread of blinding trachoma by rehabilitating far more boreholes than we had originally planned for the year. Through our 2020 COVID-19 response, we **rehabilitated 145 boreholes**, bringing clean water directly to communities where it was desperately needed.



## Infection Prevention and Control

We're supporting our partner hospitals to ensure they have comprehensive infection prevention measures in place, allowing them to deliver quality eye health care services in a safe environment.

To view our full 2020 Annual Report including a financial summary, visit [operationeyesight.com/annualreport](https://operationeyesight.com/annualreport)





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## Continuing our COVID-19 response in South Asia

In 2021, we continue to support our partner hospitals in the face of the pandemic so that together we can save sight and save lives. Right now, we're focusing our COVID-19 response efforts in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, where our partner hospitals urgently need PPE and life-saving supplies. We also continue to educate communities about COVID-19 prevention. To learn how you can help, visit [operationeyesight.com/covid-19](https://operationeyesight.com/covid-19).



A woman has her temperature checked at a vision centre

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## Multiply your impact by becoming a monthly donor



You can help meet the eye health needs of communities all year long by signing up to become a monthly donor. Your monthly gifts will enable us to expand our programs in Africa and South Asia to prevent blindness and restore sight for people who might otherwise go unreached. Just fill in the form on the back page, select "monthly" and indicate the amount. You'll make a difference every month with an automatic deduction, and you'll receive a consolidated tax receipt at the end of the year. Just think of how many lives you'll transform every year. Thank you!



Regina (right) and her friend happily drawing water from the newly rehabilitated borehole.

## Access to clean water improves the lives of entire families

Regina is a mother of five who lives in Zambia. To provide her family with clean water, she visited her village's borehole every day until 2018, when the borehole stopped working. The next closest borehole was 10 kilometres away. With such a long distance to walk to collect clean water, Regina and her children didn't have time to do much else, including attend school.

When they didn't have enough clean water, the family was forced to collect from unclean sources, and Regina's household often suffered from diarrheal diseases. They also faced the risk of contracting diseases such as COVID-19 and trachoma, a painful bacterial disease that can lead to permanent blindness.

In 2020, Operation Eyesight rehabilitated the borehole in Regina's village, transforming the lives of her and her children. Thanks to support from donors like you, Regina is able to collect clean water right in her own community.

Her children are healthier and can attend school, and she has time to do other things, including working in and watering her vegetable garden.

### Connect with us



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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](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

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

## Yes, I would like to help transform lives and make an impact

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: [info@operationeyesight.com](mailto:info@operationeyesight.com)  
By scan or fax: 403-270-1899  
Online: [operationeyesight.com/donate](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**This donation is made on behalf of:**

Individual  Business

**My details:**

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First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province / State: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please send me:**

- Information about how to leave a gift in my will
- 2020 Annual Report

## We want to hear from you!

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Please cut or tear this page out before filling it out and mailing it back to Operation Eyesight.