



Sightsavers

Annual review 2012



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Bereket and Besufigad Sisay, from Booddachi town in the Oromia region of Ethiopia both suffer from trachoma. Without antibiotic treatment they would both face a future of blindness.

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Sightsavers President
HRH Princess Alexandra



BUCKINGHAM PALACE,
LONDON SW1A 1AA

As President, I was pleased to attend a number of high profile events in 2012 which highlighted the expertise and commitment of Sightsavers to tackling the major causes of blindness.

In May, a celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and 60-year patronage of Sightsavers was held, during which an appeal was launched to achieve the goal of eliminating river blindness by 2020 in the majority of projects in which Sightsavers works.

This debilitating disease, which places 102 million people at high risk of infection, is a major cause of preventable blindness in Africa. I was very pleased to support the launch of this appeal which aims to raise one million pounds a year from government funders, companies, trusts and private donors.

In November I attended a conference Reception in Washington DC hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank. During this event I had the opportunity to meet President Jim Yong Kim (Group President of the World Bank) and other key stakeholders who are working together to combat neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as river blindness and trachoma.

I am sure that the conference, combined with the partnerships, commitment and the outcomes Sightsavers seeks to achieve, will make a lasting difference to the lives of millions of the world's poorest people.

Sightsavers has had many successes this year; supporting the distribution of over 93 million NTD treatments (a significant increase on last year), supporting 284,332 operations and helping to screen over 13 million people for sight-threatening conditions. All of this has been achieved because of the dedication and professionalism of Sightsavers' staff and partners, and the kind generosity of its supporters.

I send my good wishes and offer my support to all those involved as Sightsavers continues its inspiring work to eliminate avoidable blindness.

President

Our mission, our methods

Sightsavers' vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where visually impaired people participate equally in society. We aim to achieve our vision by working with a huge range of partner organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and health authorities.

How we work

We've rooted our strategy in a culture of learning, measurement and accountability in order to work as effectively as we can – and help the most people. We measure and report progress based on the aims and objectives shown in our strategy map on page 24.

Our focus isn't just on short-term goals – we are looking to make long-term change in the countries where we work.

What we've achieved, and how we do it

The pages of this review will cover our achievements in the areas in which we seek change: eye health, education, community development and social inclusion, and stories from just a few of the people whose lives we've helped to transform.

They will also explore the methods we use to protect and restore sight – and change lives – in the most cost-effective and sustainable way. We train; we demonstrate; we advocate; and, most importantly, we collaborate.



Sightsavers is working with the Kamuli District Local Government in Eastern Uganda to provide everyone in the rural village of Kasuleta with Zithromax as preventative treatment against trachoma. Sightsavers provides ophthalmic clinical officers (OCOs) with motorbikes, fuel and lunch and they travel the area looking for people with eye problems.

In one family alone, two generations, including small children, have been diagnosed with trachoma. The village only has two pit latrines and swarms of flies spread trachoma throughout the community. The local government is opening more community clinics and treatment camps but local myths, such as 'your eyeball will be removed', can hinder uptake of treatment. So radio is being used to educate people about the facts and the importance of getting early treatment to save their sight.

A word from our Chief Executive

The highlights of the year for me personally have to be the Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) meetings in January and November. How often in your life do you get to close a meeting opened by Bill Gates? Or have Sightsavers share a platform with the President of the World Bank? This made me so proud not only for our organization but also for the recognition of our mission – and the excitement of being involved with eliminating diseases that have been around for millennia is indescribable.

The excitement continued as we began the Global Trachoma Mapping Project, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). Our hugely ambitious goal is to assess the prevalence of this blinding disease in 30 countries, supporting efforts to eliminate it altogether by 2020. It involves a consortium of major organizations and some fabulous new technology both in the field and Atlanta, Georgia, where the data is processed.

Beyond NTDs, our work with partners such as DFID via our Programme Partnership Agreement and international non-governmental organizations such as the Fred Hollows Foundation went from strength to strength. Advocacy continued on the post-2015 framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals, particularly ensuring that the voices of disabled people are heard in the process. As I write this, we hear that the UN High Level Panel report does indeed include some really important references to disabled people.

The future looks very exciting, as our NTD work grows and our profile continues to rise. But the bedrock of our work remains the strengthening of eye health systems to ensure people in the



© Zuli Mukhida / Sightsavers

poorest countries have access to quality eye care services, and the fight for effective social inclusion (including education) for those whose sight cannot be restored.

Thank you, as ever, to our loyal supporters, and our hard working staff and partners, without whom little could be achieved.

When her sight began to fail, grandmother **Rosamond Taylor** wasn't prepared to give up. She has spent her life producing and selling food to support her four children and seven grandchildren. So she was distressed when she began to lose her sight.

"I couldn't see clearly. Things looked foggy. I could only recognize people by their voice. And if I fried a fish, I would see something in the pot but didn't know if it had turned brown," she says. "It made it hard to earn a living. I was becoming a burden to my family. I asked everyone what to do and heard about the Sightsavers clinic."

Rosamond was diagnosed with cataract – a common problem for older people, but treatable with a straightforward operation. She is delighted with the results, especially when she thinks about life without the operation. Back at home she can cook for her family and enjoy playing with her grandchildren again.

© Charly Cox Communications / Sightsavers



How we prevent and cure blindness

Sightsavers works to protect and restore sight to people in the developing world, and the results change lives. The effect of vision loss on individuals, families and communities in the developing world can be devastating. Breadwinners find themselves unable to provide for their families, children with sight loss are less likely to get an education than their sighted peers; younger family members are often held back from school or work in order to act as carers for blind relatives.

We collaborate, we demonstrate

Funding operations is important but we need to go further as this only has a short term impact. We work in partnership with local organizations and governments to demonstrate how eye health systems can be strengthened and to encourage replication. Our ultimate goal for a project is to hand it over to national or local health authorities to scale up our work.

Operations supported

We directly supported 284,332 operations in 2012.

We are pleased to see national and local governments incorporating eye care into their health programs and funding them. We have been able to reduce directly funded operations in India as a result, although some of this is due to a delay in starting some new projects.

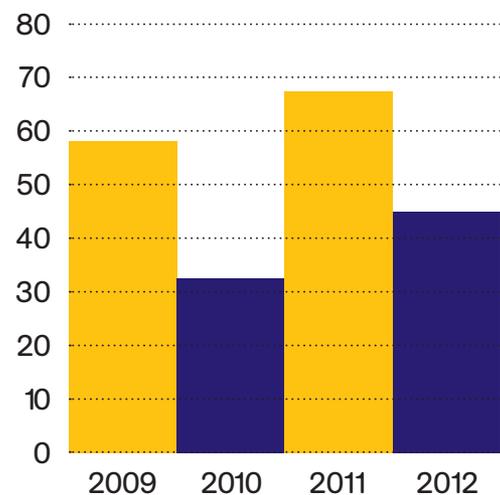
All in all, this has allowed us to focus our funding on countries where we'd like to see similar change take place.

“It made it hard to earn a living. I was becoming a burden to my family. I asked everyone what to do and heard about the Sightsavers clinic.”

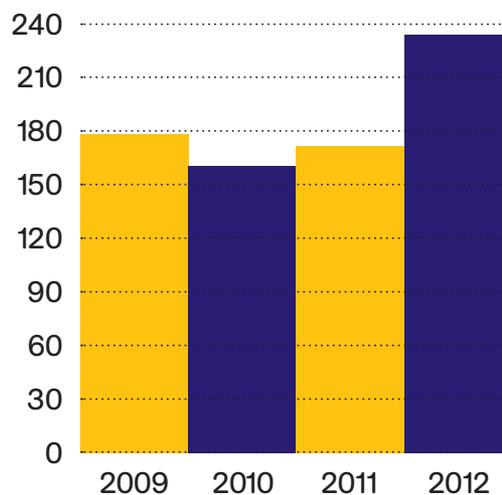
We invest in training eye health workers and volunteers, in-country

The countries in which we work, especially in Africa, suffer from a shortage of trained eye health workers; the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the world is in need of more than four million health professionals.

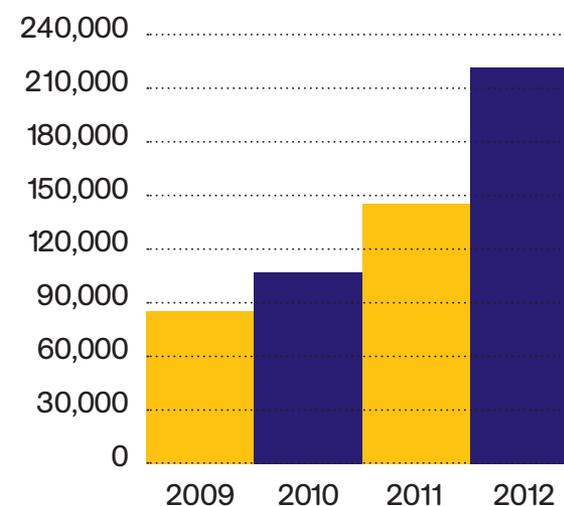
Number of ophthalmologists trained to qualification



Number of allied health workers trained to qualification



Number of village level volunteers trained





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Meet the experts

David Mtumodzi is the Ophthalmic Clinical Officer (OCO) at Thyolo district hospital in Malawi. He is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and lives at the hospital with his son. Sightsavers part-funded David's training. The Outpatients Department is a walk-up service that is free to all, including patients from neighboring Mozambique. David's day starts at 7.30am and on average he will see 60 patients a day – though he's not known for turning people away.

“23 health centers and 600,000 people”

When 300 people responded to publicity about the clinic in local churches, David managed to see them all that same day. When the clinic closes at 4.30pm David does ward rounds at the hospital. Typically David diagnoses and treats cataract, tumor, conjunctivitis, allergy and eye diseases, as well as giving basic eye care advice. As well as being responsible for the busy Outpatients Department, David covers all 23 health centers in the district with a population of 600,000 people. Once a month he visits the health centers on his motorbike to see people who cannot make it to the hospital and to help raise awareness of eye health issues.



Five-year-old **Bigiltuu Kefeni**, from Keta town in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, is the first of four million people to be examined as part of a global project to map incidences of trachoma. It has been estimated that 180 million people could be at risk of losing their sight due to this neglected tropical disease.

Sightsavers is leading a UK government-funded consortium of organizations that includes the International Trachoma Initiative and the Fred Hollows Foundation to survey one third of the people in Africa to establish the spread and impact of the disease.

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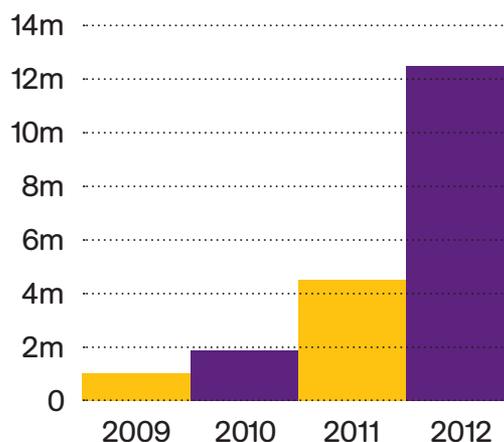
We aim to eliminate blinding trachoma from 24 countries

Trachoma, a neglected tropical disease (NTD), is a bacterial infection of the eye that causes irritation and pain. Repeated infections can cause trichiasis where eyelashes turn inwards on the eye, scraping its surface with every blink. Without surgical intervention this can irreversibly damage and, ultimately, blind.

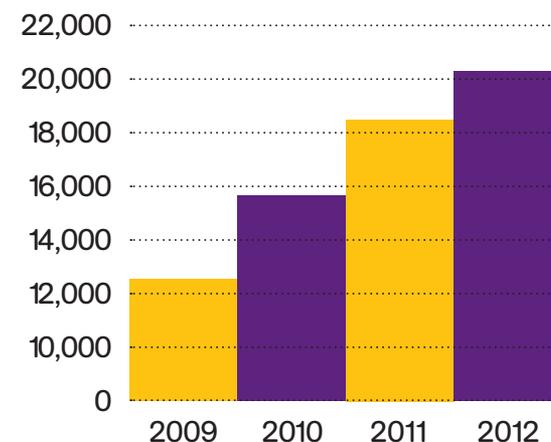
The disease thrives where sanitation is an issue and spreads easily between mothers and children. According to the International Coalition for Trachoma Control, someone in the world loses their sight to trachoma every 15 minutes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) promotes the SAFE strategy – Surgery, Antibiotics, Face washing and Environmental improvement – to tackle trachoma, which is why working in partnership with agencies with other specialties is essential if we are to meet our goal of eliminating trachoma by 2020.

Number of people treated with antibiotics for trachoma



Number of people operated on for trichiasis



We plan on eliminating river blindness from 14 countries

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 37 million people are already infected by river blindness, a parasitic NTD. The destruction it causes can extend beyond sight – communities and livelihoods suffer when whole villages flee from fertile river lands to escape the disease

“Sightsavers was there at the beginning of Mectizan® mass distribution. Working with governments and other partners, they are now the NGO supporting the highest number of treatments; with their fast track initiative they plan to be there at the end!”

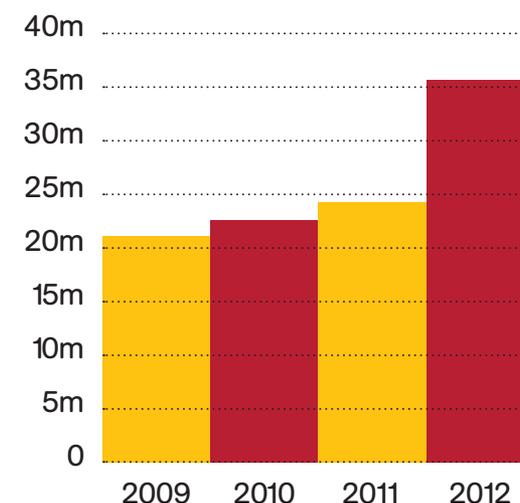
Dr Adrian Hopkins, Director, Mectizan® Donation Program

We’ve been part of control efforts since 1952. However, donation of the river blindness treatment ivermectin, brand name Mectizan®, by its manufacturer Merck has underpinned our new fast-track initiative for elimination. We plan on eliminating the infection and transmission of river blindness in all Sightsavers-supported countries by 2021, with the majority reaching this status by 2016.

We’re already starting to see results. Sightsavers has co-authored a key study alongside the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC), one of our key partners. It suggests that river blindness may already be eliminated in Kaduna State, Nigeria, where we have been distributing Mectizan® in partnership with the Ministry of Health since 1991.

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and long patronage of Sightsavers, we launched the Diamond Jubilee river blindness appeal with the aim of raising £1.5 million a year from government funders, companies, trusts and private donors.

Number of people treated with Mectizan®





“I’ve been blind for 20 years. I think I am nearly 100 years old now – but nobody knows for sure,” says **Ajiyan Allah** as her five-year-old granddaughter, Godiya, leads her out of her house.

“I don’t know how I lost my sight. It didn’t just suddenly happen – it grew over time and got gradually worse. It could have been from the swarms of black flies that bit us when we tried to tend our crops,” Ajiyan says. “My life has been crippled since I went blind. I can’t do anything to earn an income for my family like I used to.”

When Ajiyan contracted river blindness, the disease was endemic in the area. Sightsavers started educating the community about its risks and began distributing Mectizan® a decade ago. Since then no more cases have been reported and children like Godiya, who have received treatment, are protected from the disease.

We work for long-term change

We work with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach as many people as possible.

Helping governments include or strengthen eye health in their own systems takes us beyond funding vital treatments. We aim to help countries achieve sustainable, positive change for themselves.



© Sightsavers

Like many people with albinism, seven-year-old **Rajab** suffers from eye problems. By the time he was diagnosed with bilateral cataract he was no longer able to read and his mother removed him from school because she did not think he could continue his education.

When a cataract occurs in a child, prompt action is essential to prevent it impairing their visual development.

Happily, Rajab's grandmother heard about the Zanzibar eye health screening and surgical camp, jointly organized by Sightsavers and the Muhimbili Childhood Blindness Initiative – and he received the surgery and rehabilitation necessary to protect his sight.

Rajab's vision has improved dramatically and he wears dark glasses to protect his eyes from light and dust. He has now been able to successfully return to school, thanks to this operation.



Meet the experts

Evodia Njah is a 35-year-old widow, raising five children on her own. But she believes it's important to make time to help her neighbors. That's why she volunteers as a Sightsavers community directed distributor (CDD) in her village of Kesu, in the Wum district of North West Cameroon. She distributes Mectizan® to protect her community against river blindness.

Evodia was trained at the local health center to conduct a census of households in order to identify people needing treatment and learned how to measure and give the right dose. Every day for two weeks each summer, Evodia visits households in her village to dispense the treatment and explain the importance of receiving it.

“I tell them not to worry”

“People know about the diseases from the posters I put up myself and that the distribution is coming as we have meetings, announce it in church, at the market and through the town crier,” says Evodia.

“I enjoy my role and feel appreciated. My children are proud of me and tell their friends when I am distributing Mectizan®.”

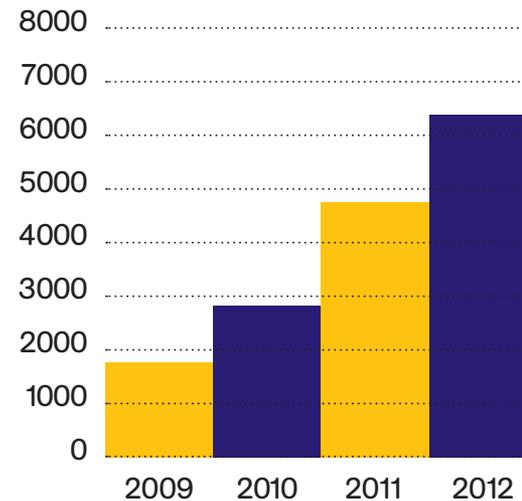
We work to make education accessible to blind children

Approximately three-quarters of the world's blind children live in the poorest regions of Africa and Asia. We believe that sight loss should be no barrier to a quality education, and that, wherever possible, children who are blind or partially sighted should be educated alongside their sighted peers in an inclusive setting.

Sightsavers works with its partners to give teachers the skills they need to include blind children fully in lessons and school life, and to identify possible eye health issues in all pupils. In 2012 we helped train 6,102 teachers in the skills they need to include children who are blind or partially sighted in their lessons.

Just as we work with government health authorities, we also work with ministries of education.

Number of education professionals supported on short courses





Fourteen-year-old **Manisha** and her seven-year-old brother Yogesh have been blind from birth. For the first years of her life her parents kept her at home, believing that as she was blind she couldn't do anything for herself. In 2002 a local teacher, Vikram, contacted the family. Vikram helped Manisha learn daily living skills and she enrolled into an integrated education program. She was given a blindness certificate, railway pass, bus pass and a scholarship to attend a local government school. Community counselors explained to the village head, teachers and other villagers that children like Manisha can attend school alongside sighted peers.

“If Vikram hadn't contacted me I would still be dependent on others for everything. I've gained confidence and independence,” she says.

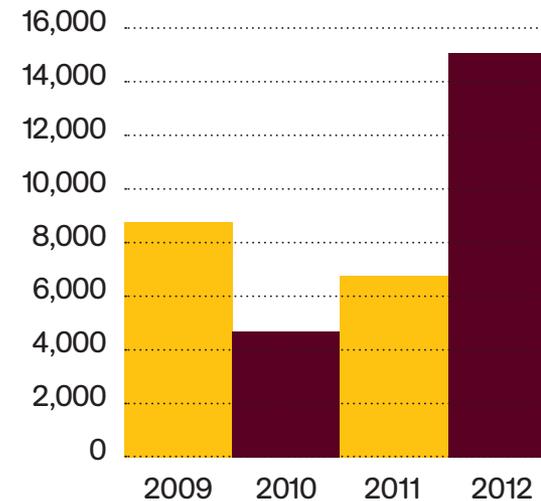
Today Manisha receives a fortnightly Braille newspaper that she reads to other villagers and helps her brother and other blind children with their studies.

We work towards social inclusion

Although 80 per cent of the world's blindness is preventable, this still leaves a large number of people for whom loss of vision is an unavoidable reality. Where communities live in poverty, someone who is blind or partially sighted – or disabled in any other way – can be easily considered a burden and become socially isolated.

We work with our partners to ensure that people living with blindness and other disabilities are identified so that we can help their inclusion further. For example, we support assistance with daily living skills and vocational training, to help people earn their own living.

Number of blind and other disabled people who received training



“When I lost my sight I lost the capacity to smile,” says **Somarajan Pillai**.

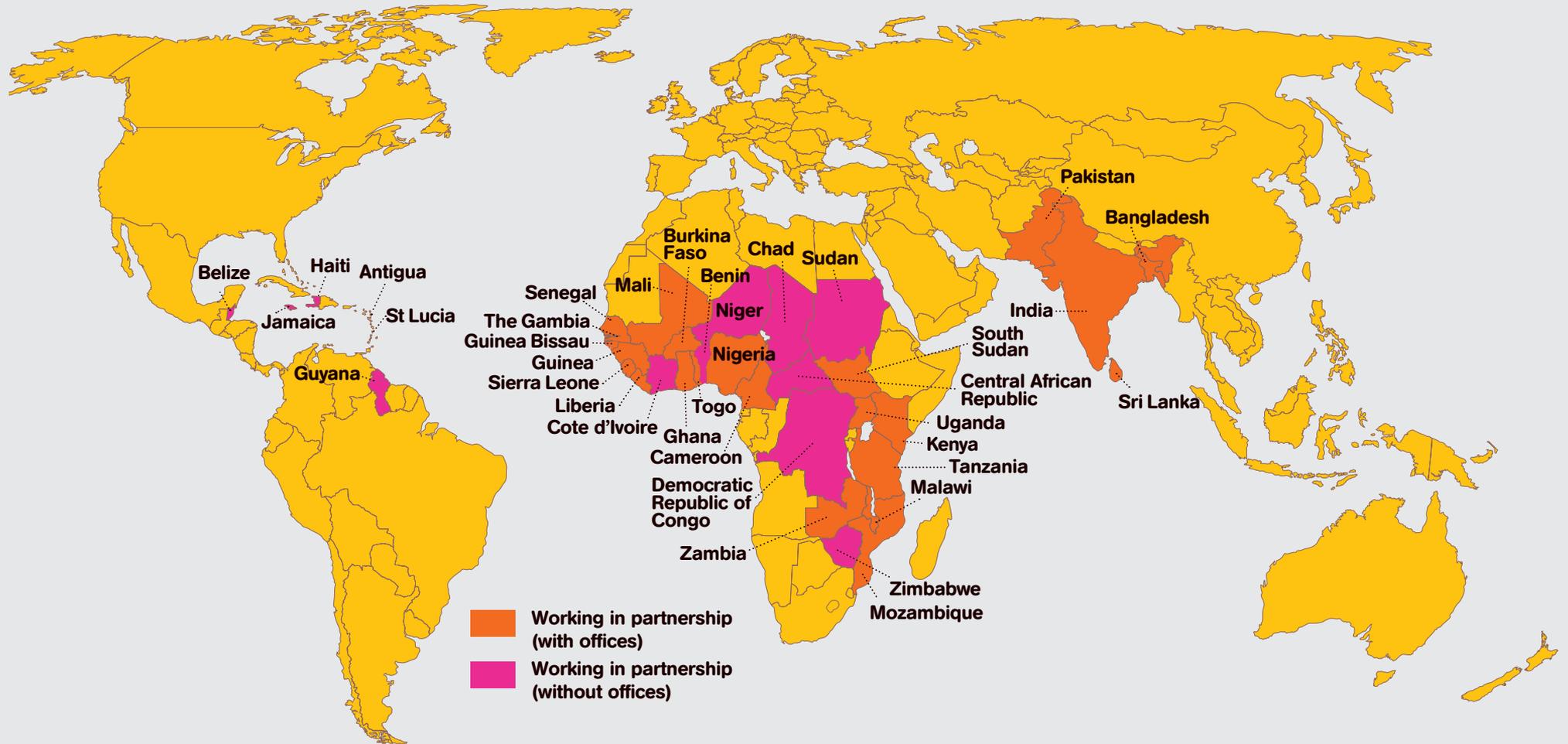
When Somarajan’s sight failed and he could no longer work to support his family, he lost his will to live. But with help from Ani, a rehabilitation worker with the Kerala state branch of the National Association for the Blind (NAB), his self-confidence is returning as he gains access to all the support available to him and learns to adjust.

Ani has worked with Somarajan for a year. “His attitude was the first thing I had to change. He wasn’t willing to accept a lifetime of blindness. But I’ve helped him slowly rebuild his confidence. This started with basic orientation and mobility. I motivated the children to help improve their father’s welfare and provided emotional support for the whole family too,” she says.

Through the NAB, Ani has helped Somarajan access services and financial support he did not know he was entitled to including a disability pension, access to the national health insurance scheme, bus and train passes, and a house maintenance scheme to renovate his home to suit to his needs. She also helped him to identify currency notes and coins. From having lost all hope, Somarajan is now making plans for his future. He is waiting for a government grant to open a small jewelry shop and Ani will continue to work with him as he sets this up.



Where we work



Funding innovation

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) supports Sightsavers in our exploration of innovative ways of promoting eye health, inclusive education and social inclusion programs through a Programme Partnership Arrangement (PPA).

We launched the Innovation Fund and are now able to generate new evidence to inform and guide future best practice. We expect this learning will effect large-scale change in the way we do things and contribute to global learning in our sector.

Five Sightsavers projects in Tanzania, Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh were the first to be supported by the Fund. In Bangladesh, we are examining the effects of climate change on the lives of people with disabilities and how to ensure disaster preparedness activities are responsive to their particular needs. The project also looks at alternative livelihoods for people in areas vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In May 2012 Sightsavers opened up its Innovation Fund to other NGOs, academic institutions, the private sector and disabled peoples' groups. We received 477 proposals from a range of organizations in many countries. After a rigorous appraisal 13 initiatives were selected for support grants of up to £75,000 each. These projects started in September 2012 and initial results are exciting.

Lynne Featherstone, Minister for International Development at DFID, said:

“This Fund offers an excellent chance for charities, academic institutions and businesses to work together to find innovative solutions to health or disability problems. I'm thrilled so many organizations are taking advantage of this opportunity and look forward to seeing the results – especially if they can be used later to address other health or disability challenges.”



World Bank Group President, Dr Jim Yong Kim, with Sightsavers President, HRH Princess Alexandra, at World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. The statue of a blind man being led by a child represents a joint effort to stem the spread of river blindness.

*...TING COUNTRIES: People's Republic of Angola * Republic of Benin * Burkina
...blic of Burundi * Republic of Cameroon * Central African Republic
...d * Democratic Republic of Congo * Republic of Congo * Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
...atorial Guinea * People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia * Gabonese Republic
... * Republic of Guinea * Republic of Guinea-Bissau * Republic of Kenya
...ria * Republic of Malawi * Republic of Mali * Republic of Mozambique
... * Federal Republic of Nigeria * Rwandese Republic * Republic of Senegal
... Leone * Republic of the Sudan * United Republic of Tanzania * Republic of Togo
...da*

A global leader in tackling neglected tropical diseases

Sightsavers' reputation as an international player in the fight against global blindness rocketed after we contributed to two high-profile events that focused on seven preventable neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), two of which are blinding.

At the first meeting, which was hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Coalition against NTDs, international organizations and government representatives came together in London with the aim of improving the lives of more than one billion people worldwide affected by NTDs. Bill Gates attended the event and Caroline Harper, Sightsavers' CEO, delivered the closing speech as spokesperson for the UK Coalition against NTDs.

At the end of 2012 we attended the Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases conference at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. Chaired by the World Bank and the Gates Foundation, the conference provided an opportunity to discuss funding and methods of collaboration to achieve the aims agreed in London – the 'London Declaration'.

The conference was an overwhelming success for Sightsavers and allowed us to showcase our expertise and leadership in the NTD field. Caroline Harper chaired an event celebrating progress in the fight against NTDs and several of our directors gave presentations on related topics.

Pictured here at the opening reception are Sightsavers' President, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, and President of the World Bank Group, Dr Jim Yong Kim, with Sightsavers' Chair, Lord Crisp, Dr Julie Jacobson of the Gates Foundation, Professor Don Bundy of the World Bank and other participants.

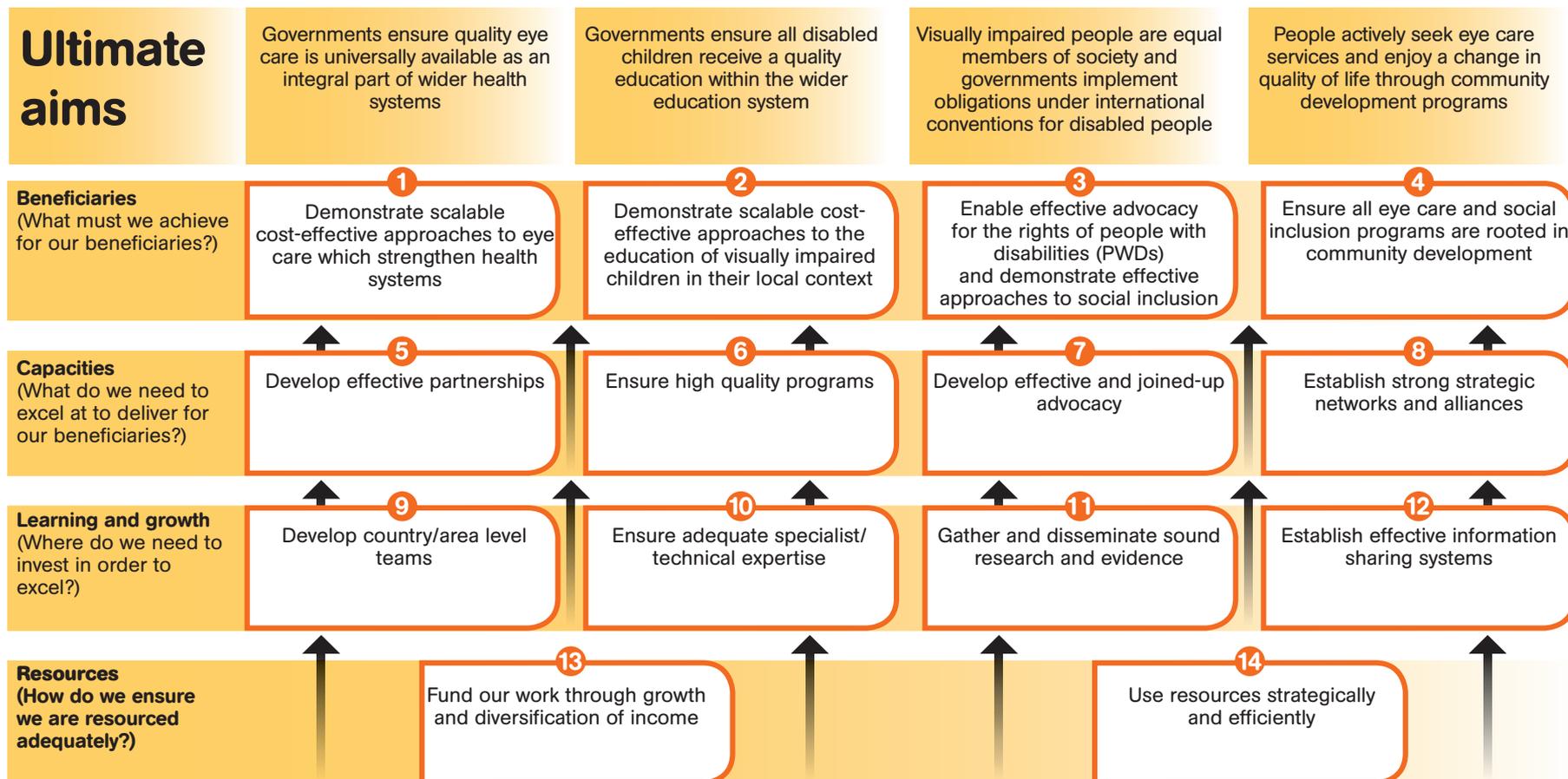


How we measure our progress

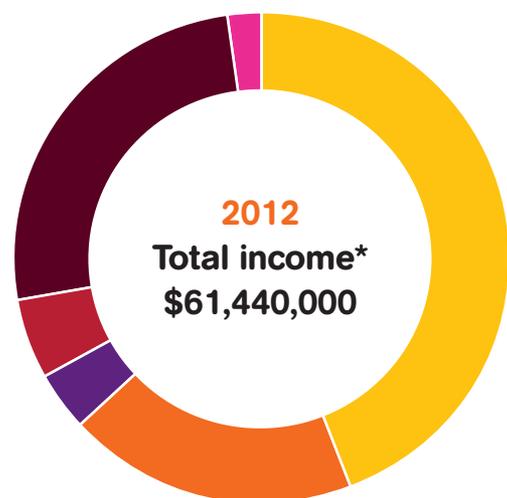
– Sightsavers' strategy map

Our vision: No one is blind from avoidable causes; visually impaired people participate equally in society

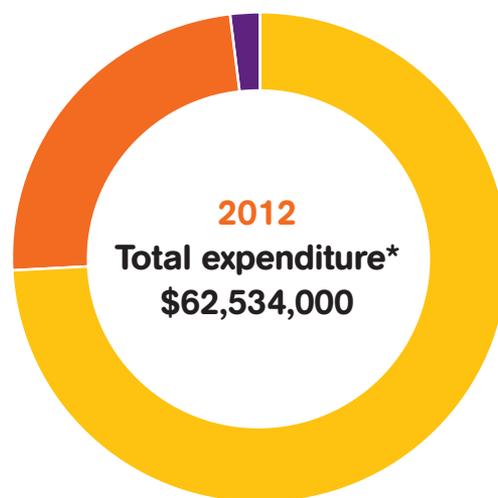
Our mission: To eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people



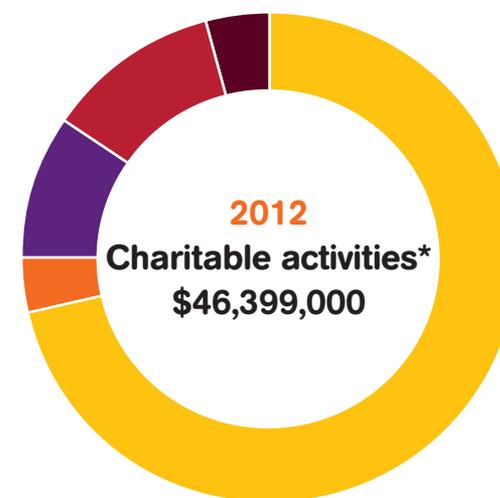
Global income and expenditure



- Individuals \$27,126,000 (44.2%)
- Bequests \$11,718,000 (19.1%)
- Trusts \$2,276,000 (3.7%)
- Companies \$3,274,000 (5.3%)
- Grants from governments \$15,817,000 (25.7%)
- Other \$1,229,000 (2.0%)



- Charitable activities \$46,399,000 (74.2%)
- Cost of generating funds \$15,071,000 (24.1%)
- Governance costs \$1,064,000 (1.7%)



- Eye health \$33,165,000 (71.5%)
- Mectizan® \$1,644,000 (3.5%)
- Education \$4,509,000 (9.7%)
- Social inclusion \$5,184,000 (11.2%)
- Policy and research \$1,897,000 (4.1%)

* Excluding gifts in kind of \$189,762,000

Celebrating and influencing



On June 8th, Mr Danny Lopez, British Consul General in New York, and his team hosted a breakfast reception to celebrate the launch of Sightsavers' Jubilee Appeal to eliminate river blindness. We were very pleased to welcome among the 50 attendees the Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Americas and the Executive Director of the Office of Corporate Responsibility at Merck & Co. Inc., who spoke about their partnerships with us.

Sightsavers CEO Caroline Harper was master of ceremonies (pictured) for a celebration on Capitol Hill on September 19th. Senators Patrick Leahy and Chris Coons announced that the Senate Caucus on Malaria would now be expanded to include NTDs.

Guests from USAID, UK's DFID, a number of pharmaceutical companies, the World Health Organization and various NGOs came together to recognize some of the champions from endemic countries, and to thank Congress for supporting NTD work.

We returned to New York on November 19th, when HRH Princess Alexandra attended a reception at the British Consulate-General for our \$1m River Blindness Elimination Appeal.

Mr Adrian Poffley, President Sightsavers USA, commented: "This disease of neglected people could – and should – be consigned to medical history. Sightsavers is determined to protect the millions of people across Africa who are threatened by river blindness every day."

British Consul-General Danny Lopez said: "Sightsavers' noble efforts to prevent the devastating effects of river blindness are utterly life-changing for those affected by this terrible disease. I commend Sightsavers for its work on behalf of millions of people afflicted with vision problems around the world."

Our Supporters

What our supporters say about us

“The IZUMI Foundation has been fortunate to partner with Sightsavers over the past three years on an integrated control of lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis program in Nigeria. During this period, Sightsavers kept us informed of the program progress and was able to report that over 3.6 million people were protected from lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis--what a success! We look forward to potential future partnerships with this dynamic organization!”

Gretchen Stoddard, Program Officer, Izumi Foundation

Our thanks go to everyone who helped us make last year great, including:

Corporate partners

Afren PLC, African Petroleum Corporation Limited, Ebay for Charity, GDF Suez Energy International, Paperchase, Polar Vision, Polaroid Eyewear, Standard Chartered, Standard Life, Vitol Foundation, Robert Bion & Co, The Financial Times.

Institutions, trusts and foundations

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To find out how you can help us this year, please visit www.sightsaversusa.org



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Cover image

A child from Kudara, Nigeria, is measured to work out the correct dose of Mectizan® to protect her against river blindness. The disease was endemic in the area where she lives until Sightsavers began distributing Mectizan® 10 years ago. Since then there have been no more cases.

Photographer: Kate Holt / Sightsavers

Other formats

This publication is available upon request in Braille, large print and audio.

Sightsavers International, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. EIN: 31-1740776