



Sightsavers

# **Sightsavers Ireland**

**Financial statements  
for the year ended  
31 December 2014**

# **Sightsavers Ireland**

**Charity Number CHY 15437**

**Company Number 377692**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 DECEMBER 2014**

# **Sightsavers Ireland**

## **Financial statements together with Independent Auditors' report 2014**

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# Sightsavers Ireland

## Officers & Other Information

### Patron

Mr Michael D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

### Members

Chairman: Mr Patrick Farrell

Mr Tobin Aldrich (resigned 28 October 2014)  
Ms Cathrine Burke  
Ms Joan Burton TD  
Dr Bernadette Carr (appointed 26 November 2014)  
Ms Caroline Casey  
Mr Simon Coveney TD  
Mr Howard Dalzell  
Mr Fintan Glynn  
Ms Patricia Hallahan

Ms Mary Moorhead  
Ms Brenda Moriarty  
Mr Michael Murphy  
Ms Fiona O'Malley  
Mrs Mary O'Rourke  
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan  
Sightsavers

### Directors

Chairman: Mr Patrick Farrell  
Mr Tobin Aldrich (resigned 28 October 2014)  
Ms Cathrine Burke\*  
Dr Bernadette Carr (appointed 26 November 2014)  
Mr Howard Dalzell\*

Mr Fintan Glynn  
Ms Brenda Moriarty  
Mr Michael Murphy\* (resigned 29 July 2014)

\*Members of the Finance and Audit Committee

### Company Secretary

Mr Michael Marren

### Chief Executive Officer

Mr Michael Marren

### Registered Office

70 Georges Street Upper  
Dún Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin

### Solicitors

McCann FitzGerald  
Riverside One  
Sir John Rogerson's Quay  
Dublin 2

Reddy Charlton  
12 Fitzwilliam Place  
Dublin 2

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Officers & Other Information

(continued)

### Principal Bankers

Allied Irish Bank  
7/12 Dame Street  
Dublin 2

HSBC Bank plc  
62-76 Park Street  
London SE1 9SW

### Auditors

Crowe Horwath  
Bastow Charleton  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
Marine House  
Clanwilliam Court  
Dublin 2

**CHY number: 15437**

**Charity Regulator Number: 20053246**

# Sightsavers Ireland

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

### 1. ORGANISATION AND STATUS

#### Legal status

Sightsavers Ireland was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 5 November 2003, for the purpose of establishing a permanent presence in Ireland of Sightsavers, a non-governmental organisation that operates programmes in 37 countries in the developing world to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness and to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. In addition to Ireland, Sightsavers has fundraising offices in the UK, Sweden, Italy, the Middle East, India and the USA. Sightsavers is the parent undertaking of Sightsavers Ireland. Sightsavers Ireland and Sightsavers are separate legal entities.

Sightsavers Ireland is the registered company name. The company number is 377692. Sightsavers Ireland is recognised by the Revenue Commissioners as having registered charity status, registration number CHY 15437. Sightsavers Ireland is also registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, the new national statutory regulatory agency for charitable organisations. Our Registered Charity Number is 20053246.

#### Organisation and Governance

Sightsavers Ireland is based in Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. The organisation is led by a governing authority called the Members. A Board of Directors reports to the Members. Each Director is also a Member of the organisation. The Chief Executive reports to the Board of Directors at its meetings, held at least quarterly. There is a clear distinction between the roles of the Board and the Chief Executive, to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated.

The Governance Manual of the organisation sets out the duties, responsibilities, and the expectations of the Members, Board, Finance and Audit Committee and the Chairman. The Board of Directors has collective responsibility for the Vision and Mission of Sightsavers Ireland and for ensuring the effective performance of the organisation in achieving maximum value and impact with the contributions of its donors and partners. The principal responsibilities of the Directors for the organisation include, but are not limited to:

- Approval of its long term objectives and strategy
- Approval of annual operating and capital expenditure budgets
- Monitor its performance in light of its strategy, objectives, business plans and budgets
- Oversight of its operations, ensuring competent management and service delivery
- Review of its Risk Register, ensuring sound internal controls and risk management processes
- Appointment of its Chairman and Chief Executive
- Determine the remuneration of the Chief Executive and arrangements for performance evaluation
- Ensure adequate succession planning for the Board and Senior Management
- Approval of annual accounts and relevant resolutions to be presented to the Members at AGM
- Undertake periodic formal review of corporate governance and Board performance.

A statement of the Directors' responsibilities in relation to the preparation of financial statements is set out in section 5 of this report. In this, the Board is supported by the Finance & Audit Committee. It meets at least twice a year to review income and expenditure, to review annual financial statements and the external auditor's report before submission to the Board and to agree the operating and capital expenditure budgets for the organisation. The committee is responsible to the Board of Directors for ensuring there is a framework for accountability, sound financial systems and controls, and compliance with relevant financial regulations and best practice.

Under the rules of the organisation, revised in 2011, a Director may serve for a maximum term of six years, while a Member may serve for a maximum term of nine years. Members and Board Directors are non-executive appointments, serve on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration for their services. Members and Directors are drawn from diverse backgrounds and bring a broad range of skills, expertise and experience to ensure the effective performance, oversight and accountability of the organisation.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Compliance Statements

Sightsavers Ireland is committed to the highest standards of transparency, governance and accountability in ensuring that it delivers the maximum value and impact with the donations it receives from supporters and partners.

Sightsavers Ireland complies with the following codes of practice:

- The Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance
- The Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising
- The Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images & Messages

In addition, Sightsavers Ireland has voluntarily adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for accounting and reporting by charities, as recommended by the UK Charities Commission, in the absence of there being a similar code here.

We publish our independently audited Annual Accounts online. Our Accounts contain details of staff salaries and pension arrangements, with the salary levels of senior management outlined within bands of €10,000 – see Notes 8 and 10 in “Notes to the financial statements”. The salary level of all staff is externally benchmarked and it is the policy of Sightsavers Ireland to set salaries at the median level compared to similar jobs in the charity sector. This policy was established to ensure that we recruit high-calibre people and that we pay staff fairly.

We also publish an Annual Review setting out the results achieved in our programmes and the impact of this work, funded by public donations. In addition to giving an insight into our work, this review details the number of sight restoring operations performed, the number of treatments administered to prevent avoidable blindness, the number of volunteers trained to assist in our work and details of our support for the education of blind children.

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Founded over 60 years ago, Sightsavers is dedicated to eliminating avoidable blindness and promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people in the developing world. We also support people who are irreversibly blind through the provision of education, counselling and training.

There are 39 million people blind in the world, today, of which the majority, globally 80%, need not be blind. There are a further 246 million people who are visually impaired and require access to treatments to prevent the avoidable loss of sight. 90% of those who are unnecessarily blind live in the developing world, where the loss of sight can often lead to social exclusion, leaving people who are blind vulnerable to abuse, poverty and early death. For those who lose their sight in later years, they inevitably lose their livelihood and thus their dignity, their ability to support a family and forge a better life for themselves and their children. Their loss of sight is a catastrophic setback in a world where there are no safety nets or support.

Since incorporation in 2003, Sightsavers Ireland has been supported by over 120,000 people. Support from the general public is through donations, regular monthly giving, legacies and various fundraising initiatives and events. We are also supported by a variety of companies, charitable foundations and trusts. In addition, Sightsavers Ireland receives vital institutional funding for its programmes and projects from Irish Aid, the Irish Government’s programme for overseas development, and from the EU Commission. All income generated and the assets of the company will be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the organisation and no portion can be paid or transferred by way of dividend, bonus or profit to Members of the company.

The programme work of Sightsavers Ireland is operated on a contract basis by Sightsavers. This arrangement means that there is no duplication of costs, thus helping to ensure that maximum value is achieved from public donations and that more money raised is used to improve the lives of our beneficiaries.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## The Vision

Sightsavers vision is of a world in which no one is blind from avoidable causes and in which visually impaired people participate equally in society.

## The Mission

The mission of Sightsavers Ireland is that of 'Opening Eyes'. We want to open Irish people's eyes to this very important cause, the cause of literally opening eyes in the developing world, through sight restoring operations, and preventing the unnecessary loss of sight by eliminating the causes of avoidable blindness. And, in advancing the rights of the visually impaired, all of our efforts in advocating the cause will open everyone's eyes. Together with our donors, supporters and partners we can effect profound and lasting change and achieve our vision of a world where no-one is blind from avoidable causes.

## Our Values

Our core team values are 'dedicated', 'open' and 'collaborative' This is how we behave as people and as a team in undertaking our mission of 'Opening Eyes'.

**Dedicated:** We are dedicated to delivering our vision because we passionately believe that it is unjust for people to suffer the hardship of avoidable blindness. We are conscientious in our work, demanding high standards of ourselves and each other. We are dedicated to making a difference because we care. This value represents Passionate, Caring, Committed, Making a difference, Respectful and Hard-working.

**Open:** We are an open organisation that welcomes participation and ideas. We seek new ways to do things, with enthusiasm and curiosity, but without disregarding our traditions. We are transparent, being accountable to each other, our supporters and the world. We operate to the highest corporate governance standards. This value represents New ideas, Curiosity, Transparent, Accountable, Governance, Visibility.

**Collaborative:** We work together as a team, with each other, locally and internationally and with our donors, supporters and partners to make our vision a reality. We enjoy and welcome this collaboration because it makes us stronger. We feel a responsibility to treat each other, our supporters and our beneficiaries with real respect and dignity. This value represents Participatory, Togetherness, Teamwork, Partnership, Inclusivity, Fair-minded and Practical.

## What We Do

At the most fundamental level, we prevent blindness and restore sight. We tackle the main causes of avoidable blindness including cataract, and a group of diseases that have been coined 'neglected tropical diseases', such as river blindness and trachoma. Every year, we support our partners to carry out millions of eye examinations and refer people for treatment to prevent blindness and restore sight. Through community volunteers in developing countries, we enable the distribution of medication to over 100 million people to treat neglected tropical diseases and prevent blinding diseases. We fund operations for people who need them, and train eye care workers and surgeons.

Communities are not always aware of their own health needs and visually impaired people are often not included in decisions that affect them. We work to ensure that everyone, including the most disadvantaged, is involved in their community's development, a key to reducing poverty. Sightsavers' model for combating river blindness is rooted in community involvement. Volunteers are nominated and trained to take responsibility for the distribution of tablets and maintenance of village records. This ensures that millions every year are protected from this potentially blinding disease. Their training also has wider benefits as they assist in case identification and referrals for other eye conditions, improving access to eye healthcare.

We work with partners to train specialist teaching staff; supply glasses, braille kits and other learning tools; and educate communities to reduce stigma around visual impairment and blindness. Because of Sightsavers, people who are visually impaired or have other disabilities are supported to live independently, get an education and earn an income. In some countries, being disabled more than doubles the chance of never enrolling in school. We believe that getting a quality education is crucial to lifting people out of poverty, and we work to make sure children who are blind or have low vision do get the chance to go to school.



## Sightsavers Ireland

We work with national governments, strengthening systems that tackle the problems at the root of avoidable blindness – the sorts of things most of us take for granted, like access to clean water, sanitation facilities and education. We make changes for the long term, and help change systems from the inside to ensure support continues to be given to the people who need it most.

Over a billion people, around 15% of the world's population, live with a disability. 80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries. Social inclusion means making sure everyone in society is included and treated equally. People with disabilities, such as blindness, are often isolated and excluded. In fact this exclusion means that, around the world, people with disabilities are likely to have poorer health, lower education achievements and higher rates of poverty. Sightsavers is working to change this, to ensure disabled people have all the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

To maximise our effectiveness we work with local partners in the 37 countries in which we operate. We also recognise the value in working together with other like-minded organisations on a national and global scale, to make more of a difference. In order to bring about real and lasting change for as many people as possible, we work hard to influence governments in these countries. Our projects demonstrate best practice, and our aim is that governments see how successful they are and follow our examples. This means that our projects are designed to be scaled up and rolled out nationally, providing access for the maximum number of people to vital eye care services.

### 3. REVIEW OF THE YEAR

We would like thank our Patron, Michael D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, for his kind patronage and for his recognition and support of the work of Sightsavers Ireland and other development agencies through his continuing efforts to champion the rights of the disadvantaged and marginalised, particularly in the developing world.

Sightsavers Ireland would like to offer its sincere thanks to all donors who have contributed so generously to the charity in 2014. This support has ensured that millions and millions of people have been given the chance of a better future and is all the more valuable and appreciated in challenging times.

Sightsavers Ireland is deeply appreciative of the continued support of Irish Aid for its programmes in West Africa, for some of the poorest and most fragile states in the world, including a number of countries emerging from past conflicts. With the help of Irish Aid, we have been making good progress in addressing the significant challenges faced in eye health, in this part of the world. However, the tragic outbreak of Ebola has had an adverse impact on this progress in the three affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - see our Programme Review for more details. We would particularly like to acknowledge the support and flexibility of Irish Aid while our core programmes have had to be suspended in these countries and we diverted attention to supporting those at risk, Ebola survivors and planning for the period post crisis.

We are also supported by the European Commission, with a four year funding grant for a collaborative project to strengthen and increase access to health systems for people with disabilities, in three regions of Sierra Leone. While this project has been similarly impacted by Ebola, some work has recently recommenced with the improving situation there.

The impact of Ebola and insecurity in a number of countries is a recurring theme of 2014 and has impacted our output statistics for the year. Nonetheless Sightsavers delivered over 100 million neglected tropical disease (NTD) treatments for the second year in a row. Had it not been for the Ebola crisis, we estimate we would have supported 130.8 million rather than 102.3 million treatments. Similarly, we would have trained some 205,000 community volunteers rather than the 166,539 achieved. Other key highlights for the year include undertaking 12.8 million eye examinations and over 271,000 operations to restore sight or prevent blindness, of which 217,907 were cataract surgeries. This represents an increase of 4% on the year before, resulting from increased investment in our programmes in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, where cataract is most prevalent. Sightsavers also provided training to more than 32,000 disabled people and school support for more than 8,000 children with disabilities. Overall, this represents real progress in our drive to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness throughout the developing world.

## Sightsavers Ireland

Leading this drive is some ground-breaking work being undertaken by the organisation in the elimination, within a few short years, of two NTDs, river blindness and trachoma, which cause avoidable blindness.

Central to the Fast Track Initiative to achieve the elimination of river blindness is the continued support of the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Inc, known as MSD here. The treatment is a preventative drug called Mectizan and they have committed to provide the drug, free of charge, for as long as it takes to eliminate river blindness. We are now working to a ten year plan to eliminate this terrible disease. The other key element to achieving the widespread distribution of this treatment is the community volunteer model, developed by Sightsavers. We train thousands of such volunteers every year and combined with the free supply of drugs, we can deliver a treatment for a mere 8 cents. This represents incredible value for money.

We are also working on an ambitious programme to eliminate trachoma by 2020. Sightsavers is leading a consortium of the International Trachoma Initiative, other NGOs and academic institutions, carrying out what the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has described as “the single biggest infectious disease mapping programme that has ever been undertaken”. This essential step of mapping trachoma prevalence has now been completed in 20 countries, with elimination programmes being mobilised and established to end this terrible blinding condition. We aim to complete the Global Trachoma Mapping Project by the end of this year.

The Board and management of Sightsavers Ireland undertook a strategic review of the organisation, early last year, to ensure we are aligned with our Vision and Mission and best placed to further grow our donor base and level of support in Ireland. In this way, we can best contribute to the acceleration of progress in the drive to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness, particularly the elimination of the above neglected tropical diseases of river blindness and trachoma, which are both now within our grasp. The review developed and refined our fundraising, marketing and communications strategies, using competitive mapping to agree our positioning in the Irish market. In undertaking the review, we clarified our medium term goals and identified the key drivers of our strategy as being; building trust in the organisation and its brand; the recruitment of individual and major givers; the retention and development of our existing donor base, including the key support of Irish Aid; and the development of our people, living the values of the organisation. In the pursuit of these strategies, Sightsavers Ireland will continue to leverage the strength and capabilities of Sightsavers International, which has transformed itself in recent years into a global Development Organisation now with the capacity to advocate for, drive and achieve its goal of eliminating avoidable blindness, within our lifetime.

Last year, Sightsavers launched its biggest ever global fundraising appeal, A Million Miracles. The appeal aims to raise €36 million by 2018 to fund a million sight-restoring cataract operations in some of the poorest parts of the world, cataract being the cause of half the world’s blindness. Launched on World Sight Day, in Dublin, London and New York, it captured live the journey from blindness to sight of one individual, Winesi March, in Malawi. Donors joined our long-time supporter Miriam O’Callaghan in the Mansion House for the live broadcast of his sight-saving cataract operation. The broadcast captured on camera the miraculous moment Winesi could see again and was seen online by over 20 million people worldwide. And the really good news is that so far we’re a third of the way to hitting our target for the appeal.

During the course of the past year, we stepped up our activities in raising awareness of the cause, of preventing and eliminating avoidable blindness, and in improving understanding in Ireland of the challenges facing disabled and visually impaired people in developing countries. We further enhanced our current education initiatives aimed at primary and secondary school pupils, hosted an educational booth at BT Young Scientist Exhibition, the largest national event at secondary school level and we increased our social media activities. Our primary route for reaching the maximum audience last year was through TV advertising, with over 2.263 million people (54% of the population) seeing our advertisements on TV3, Channel 4 and Sky. Their main message was the devastating impact of blinding trachoma and the challenges facing those living with this terrible disease.

Sightsavers Ireland has registered with the new national statutory regulatory agency for charitable organisations, the Charities Regulatory Authority, was established last year under the terms of the Charities Act 2009. The Authority was set up to promote compliance, the effective use of charitable resources, accountability to donors, beneficiaries and the public, and to increase public trust and confidence in the management and administration of charitable trusts and organisations.

## Sightsavers Ireland

With our commitment to high standards of transparency, governance and accountability, we particularly welcome the establishment of the Charities Regulatory Authority as a further important step in ensuring public trust and confidence in the sector as a whole.

To assess our own adherence to these high standards, the Board commissioned an independent review of its governance of Sightsavers Ireland during 2014, conducted by Internal Audit Consultancy Services. The review was based on the Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance, developed by Dóchas and the Corporate Governance Association of Ireland, and also reviewed compliance with the Governance Manual for the Members and Board of Sightsavers Ireland. In summary, the findings of the review were; "Internal Audit Consultancy Services is of the opinion that the Board and CEO/Company Secretary are committed to the highest standards of transparency, governance and accountability in Sightsavers Ireland. In summary, based on this Corporate Governance review concluded in October 2014, Sightsavers Ireland can be assured that they can publically state compliance with The Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance and do not need to consider explaining, under the comply or explain principles, any areas of non-compliance". We are pleased that this independent review confirms and provides further assurance that we comply with and demonstrate commitment to the highest standards of transparency, governance and accountability within the organisation, in line with best practice.

Overall, 2014 has been a year of good progress on many fronts, made possible by the continuous generosity and loyal support of our donors.

### Financial Review

We are pleased to report that 2014 was another strong year in public fundraising for Sightsavers Ireland, maintaining the gains made in 2013, its first year of increase in the amount and number of public donations received in 6 years. The level of Voluntary Income received in 2014 €3,772,668 was marginally ahead of the previous year and was achieved despite the damage done to public trust in charities by scandals in two significant domestic players in the health sector and there being a number of one-off and non-recurring receivables in 2013.

Our Grant Income did, however, suffer a reduction of €113,916 in 2014. The primary reason for this was the necessary suspension of our EC Grant Programme in Sierra Leone due to the Ebola crisis there. The resultant deferral of payments under the grant programme led to a reduction of €84,516 in income received from this grant last year. In line with all grant partners and the reduction in Ireland's Overseas Development Aid budget for 2014, our Irish Aid grant was 2% lower at €1,543,508. Overall, the reduction in grant income resulted in total income of €5,399,573 for 2014 being 2% lower than for the previous year.

During the past year, Sightsavers Ireland has continued to invest in the recruitment of new donors, in strong governance and has increased its commitment to advocacy and the development of the public's understanding of the challenges facing disabled and visually impaired people in the developing world. With our focus on recruiting donors who commit to regular monthly giving, the benefits of our investment in this recruitment programme will be realised over a number of years. This is the primary factor in increasing the cost of generating voluntary income by €76,886 to €1,295,625 last year.

This increase in the cost of generating funds was offset by lower staff costs, resulting from staff shortages earlier last year. Overall, we have managed to maintain our contribution to charitable activities at the level commensurate with total income, similarly 2% lower than for the previous year. This is considered a satisfactory outcome for the year.

Spending on charitable activities by Sightsavers Ireland was €4,005,341 in 2014 compared to €4,088,222 in 2013. With the combination of the Ebola crisis and a concentration of the number of countries supported directly by Ireland, our spending on eye healthcare reduced by €332,680. On the other hand, we increased our investment in Social Inclusion by €158,333 and in Education by €128,687 to strengthen our programme work in these areas, with a view to effecting fundamental and sustainable change through demonstrating effective approaches and results which encourage governments and partners to scale up their pilot experience.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Outlook for 2015

The strategic review of the organisation, undertaken by the Board and management of Sightsavers Ireland early last year, has been the essential guide to ambitious plans for 2015. Central to this is our plan to recruit 5,000 new donors in 2015. This will combine a mix of roughly two thirds regular givers and one third cash donations. Our strategy recognises the need to increase the level of cash income to fund increased growth and investment, while maintaining our consistently strong level of contribution to the cause of prevention and restoration of sight loss.

Another key element to our plans for 2015 is achieving a step-change in our Major Giving Programme. These plans have been given fresh impetus by the recruitment of a new Head of Major Giving in the second half of last year and will feature the development of new propositions and initiatives to attract new supporters in this area.

With this increased level of activity, we anticipate that voluntary income will grow by 10% this year, with regular giving showing an increase in income for the first time since 2008.

The outlook for grant income in 2015 is less favourable. We have been advised of a further decrease in Irish Aid support to all international NGOs of 2% again this year. While there is continuing uncertainty in Ebola affected countries, there have been indications of an improving situation of late and the signs are now more encouraging. Some partner activities have restarted on the ground, including work relating to our EC Grant Programme. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that we will quite match last year's grant income level.

Overall, we anticipate that total income for 2015 will grow by 7%. This will fund the increased investment in an ambitious plan to recruit new donors to sustain our drive for the elimination of river blindness and trachoma and to achieve our vision of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and in which visually impaired people participate equally in society. Meanwhile, with the cost of a full staff complement for the year, there will be a marginal reduction in our contribution to charitable activities in 2015.

A key priority in 2015 is to resume our core programmes in the Ebola hit countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as soon as possible. We are conducting country-by-country situational analysis to determine how our programmes can contribute to the rebuilding of the countries' health systems, working with Irish Aid, the European Commission and the governments and our partners in each of the three countries.

The relationship with Irish Aid and other international NGOs will continue to be developed through the Chief Executive's membership of and contribution to the activities of the Dóchas Board, as well as engagement with Fundraising Ireland, the Irish Charities Tax Research Group and the Wheel.

2015 is a critical year for the future of our world. In September, the UN will agree new Sustainable Development Goals, replacing the expiring Millennium Development Goals, to solve the world's biggest problems and eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. In December, the Climate Change summit in Paris will set new climate action targets, to replace the Kyoto Protocol. The importance of these events is recognised in 2015 being also designated European Year of Development.

There was no mention of disabilities in the Millennium Development Goals. Neglected tropical diseases were not mentioned nor was there any reference to any eye condition, at any level. Sightsavers is ramping up its advocacy in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals – for disability to be cross-cutting on the core principle of leaving no one behind, for NTDs to be explicitly referenced at the target level and for cataract surgery to be a tracer indicator.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Programme Review

In 2014, our supporters helped Sightsavers Ireland and its partners to carry out:

- More than 102 million treatments to protect against neglected tropical diseases
- Over 700,000 treatments for non-NTDs
- More than 12.8 million eye examinations
- Over 271,000 operations to restore sight or prevent blindness
- School support for more than 8,000 children with disabilities
- Training of over 32,000 blind or disabled people
- More than 26,000 professionals provided with courses on eye health
- Training of 300 health workers to gain initial professional qualification
- Over 166,000 village level volunteers trained for treatment distribution

Overall, the results for 2014 are a significant demonstration of the scale and breadth of our work and reflect our relentless drive to achieve our vision of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where visually impaired people participate equally in society. The impact of Ebola and insecurity in a number of countries has adversely impacted our output statistics for the year. Had it not been for the Ebola crisis, we estimate we would have supported 130.8 million rather than 102.3 million treatments and trained some 205,000 community volunteers rather than the 166,539 achieved. Nevertheless, we did deliver over 100 million NTD treatments for the second year in a row.

In recent years Sightsavers Ireland has significantly concentrated its support on West Africa. This has been facilitated by a four year grant support agreed with Irish Aid, of which €1.54m was received in 2014. The Irish Aid Grant Programme has provided the single biggest investment into comprehensive support for our strategy in West Africa and is focussed on six countries; Cameroon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal & Sierra Leone. These countries are among the poorest in the world, with fragile health systems and some are emerging from horrific conflicts in the not too distant past. With the help of Irish Aid, we have been making good progress in addressing the significant challenges faced in eye health, in this part of the world. Tragically however, the outbreak of Ebola has had a devastating impact on three of these countries, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, in the second half of last year.

In all three countries, the scale of the outbreak has triggered full blown health and humanitarian crises affecting all sectors of national services, including health, education and social inclusion, with states of emergency being called. Health resources were diverted to deal with the crisis and this combined with public fears severely limited the provision of day to day services, including eye care services. The ban on mass public gathering meant most project activities, mass drug treatments, training and outreach activities had to stop, while the closure of schools, to contain the outbreaks within children of schooling age, brought education project activities to an end. These factors, together with consideration for the safety and wellbeing of our staff, left no option but to suspend our programmes in each of the three countries affected, from the end of July last year. Needless to say, our output results in West Africa have been severely impacted in 2014, while we diverted attention to supporting those at risk, Ebola survivors and planning ahead for the period post crisis, with our staff continuing to work from home.

Thankfully, the crisis has abated somewhat in more recent times and we are beginning to see the resumption of some partner activities. In addition, it has emerged that some of the survivors of Ebola have developed eye health complications with symptoms similar to Uvetis, an eye inflammation that can cause blindness. Sightsavers is working with Ministries of Health and eye care partners in researching people experiencing eye conditions after having the virus. We are planning to undertake a country-by-country situational analysis, the results of which will form the basis for our post-Ebola recovery plans. The human, social and economic cost of the crisis has been devastating for each of the three countries, where health systems were fragile in the first place. This is an enormous setback to the progress made and a major challenge to be addressed. Sightsavers is committed to provide much-needed support to vulnerable communities in these countries and, working with ministries and our partners, to assist in rebuilding and strengthening their health systems.

## Sightsavers Ireland

The main objective of the West Africa Programme, is to improve access to health, education and social inclusion for women, men and children living there. The programme has five specific objectives, as follows:

- To strengthen health systems in order to deliver eye health services as an integral part of the national health strategy in the six target countries in West Africa
- To improve learning opportunities for blind, visually impaired and disabled children within wider government education systems in programme countries.
- To strengthen the capacity of blind and disabled persons organisation and civil society organisations to access services and advocate for People with Disabilities' rights in West Africa
- To strengthen programme management capacity in target countries
- To improve understanding, in Ireland, of the challenges facing disabled and visually impaired people in developing countries.

**Objective 1:** To strengthen health systems in order to deliver eye health services as an integral part of the national health strategy in the six target countries in West Africa

Sightsavers guiding principal is that it should work to build and strengthen the health systems within the countries that it supports. We view this as the most likely way to deliver sustainable development so that countries can in time take over responsibility for both managing and funding their own eye-care programmes. The World Health Organisation has defined 6 building blocks that need to be developed for an effective health system to be established. These are; Health Worker Staffing, Infrastructure, Health Commodities (such as equipment and medicines), Logistics, Tracking Progress and Effective Financing.

Ensuring adequate numbers of health workers is a key challenge and essential to making progress in strengthening health systems in developing countries. They are the backbone of the efforts to eliminate NTDs and their training also has wider benefits beyond NTDs. Community health workers assist in case identification and referrals which helps to improve access to eye health. This has been especially noted in large scale programmes where the activities of the community health workers and primary eye health workers result in identification of large numbers of people with other eye problems, such as cataract and refractive error, which the programmes were not designed to treat. In 2014, some 42,897 such workers were trained in these six countries. A second example is the support given to the training of eye health specialists, 80 of these finalised their training in 2014.

During the course of the past year in West Africa, a total of 15,094,130 NTD treatments were delivered, 572,417 people were examined for eye conditions and 18,011 operations were carried out to restore sight or prevent blindness.

The prevalence of neglected tropical diseases in this area is significant, as borne out by the fact that the above six countries normally account for roughly a third the total NTD treatments delivered by Sightsavers, across the 37 countries in which we operate in the developing world.

**Objective 2:** To improve learning opportunities for blind, visually impaired and disabled children within wider government education systems in programme countries.

Sightsavers believes that, where possible, blind children should be educated with their sighted peers and not sent to schools specifically for blind or disabled children. This reflects the movement in Ireland away from special school education towards what is called Inclusive Education. One of the ways that this can be delivered is through advocating to governments to develop Inclusive Education programmes, at national level. Experience suggests that the most effective way of doing this is to support the advocacy efforts of local Disabled Person's Organisations (DPOs), Blind Person's Organisations (BPOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

To strengthen Sightsavers programmes in West Africa, a specialist in Inclusive Education and Social Inclusion was recruited last year. We developed a new Education Strategy which has guided our approach, especially the focus on pan disability, covering a broader range of disabilities than visual impairment alone. During the year, 361 children (138 girls and 175 boys) with disabilities were integrated in 39 pilot schools (primary and secondary) in West Africa. Sightsavers' inclusive education approach also builds the capacity of institutions, especially schools, to provide training to visually impaired children. Developing the pedagogical skills of teachers, influencing the adoption of an inclusive school curriculum, providing

## Sightsavers Ireland

teaching and learning materials including equipment and adapting the environment to support learning of children with disabilities, all had an impact on enrolment, retention and programme sustainability.

Our advocacy work to adopt inclusive learning targets both community and government authorities. In Cameroon, a proposal to roll out our inclusive education programme from 5 to 68 schools is under discussion with the government. This is a direct result of Sightsavers advocacy and its demonstration of inclusive learning through the pilot schools.

Sightsavers also conducted situation analyses and consultations with country office staff over the past year to develop a new Social Inclusion Strategy which will be launched and rolled out in June 2015.

**Objective 3:** To strengthen the capacity of blind and disabled persons organisations and civil society organisations to access services and advocate for People with Disabilities' (PWDs) rights in West Africa

It is difficult to achieve Objective 2 without a programme to support the various local organisations that both support and represent people with disabilities. One of the ways this can be done is by increasing the number of community workers available to work on building the capacity of local organisations. To address this, the programme supports a Community Development programme run by the University of Winneba in Ghana. In 2013 a total 102 students completed the programme, up from 76 the year before.

With disability becoming an international area of strategic focus, Sightsavers is helping Irish Aid ensure that economic growth and development progress are inclusive, by working with disabled people's organisations in developing countries, and listening to and taking account of the voices of people with disabilities about issues such as the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Sightsavers is also demonstrating approaches leading to better inclusion of disabled people in decision making through strengthening processes for elections, in inclusive employment and in ensuring that children with disabilities have access to good quality education

We are actively working with main partner BPOs/DPOs in five of the six Irish Aid countries (all except Guinea) to develop their capability to advocate for the rights of disabled people to government and other relevant authorities. DPO/BPO federations in each of these countries are now advocating for their rights, on the UNCRPD, the Marrakesh Treaty (to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled) and on the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals at national level.

The impact of the DPOs' advocacy work can be seen for example in processes for more inclusive elections being established, e.g. in Cameroon (during which, for the first time, people with disabilities had appropriate access and material to be able to vote on their own), and in the inclusion of the key concepts and messages in government policies: Ministries are now willing to scale up their pilot experience. In Cameroon and Mali, DPOs received training in inclusive education and they are now regularly involved in consultative processes along with other civil society organisations. Five of the six countries supported in their advocacy efforts now have Inclusive Education programmes in place.

**Objective 4:** To strengthen programme management capacity in target countries

As well as supporting local development organisations, Sightsavers works to build the management capacity of our own country offices and our partners, to ensure the delivery of more effective programmes, with the people managing them acquiring greater levels of skill and expertise.

The strategic alignment process undertaken by the organisation provided a learning opportunity for staff and partners. The new Eye Health and Education Strategies, finalised last year, both included a component on the promotion of effective partnerships and alliances in programme design, implementation and learning. The process built on the organisational and thematic theory of change and took a more strategic approach in how programmes are conceptualised and designed to improve partner co-ordination and effect a higher impact on the beneficiaries. The alignment process was conducted by staff jointly with local partners who carried out a portfolio review, programme cycle management and thematic quality assessments. Additional active learning with partners took place through stakeholder meetings, experience exchanges, cross border initiatives, such as on Education Programming between Guinea and Mali, and developing formal project reporting mechanisms.

## Sightsavers Ireland

Another of our objectives is to increase the number of countries that are active across all Sightsavers' change areas; Health, Education and Social Inclusion. Most programme countries have traditionally worked only in the area of Health, supporting the delivery of eye care programmes. A more comprehensive response to the issues of blindness and education and social exclusion can be delivered by supporting the integration of blind and visually impaired children into the school system.

This is achieved by developing programmes that help voluntary groups to support blind and visually impaired people living in their communities. In 2014, four of the six countries delivered programmes across all the change themes.

**Objective 5:** To improve understanding, in Ireland, of the challenges facing disabled and visually impaired people in developing countries.

While people in Ireland have a good appreciation of development needs in say Africa, there is not a widespread understanding of the challenges facing people with disabilities living in the developing world. By improving understanding of the challenges facing disabled and visually impaired people, it is more likely that Irish people will support and indeed advocate for the provision of adequate resources to enable such disabled people achieve their full potential.

To reach the widest possible audience, we employed TV advertising on TV3, Channel 4 and Sky as a key element of our communications strategy. Some 54% of the population, 2.263 million people, have seen our message of the devastating impact of blinding trachoma and the challenges facing those living with it in the developing world. Inserts also ran in national publications explaining the avoidable nature of blindness and the impact it has on individuals, families and entire communities.

On World Sight Day, supported by RTE's Miriam O'Callaghan, we launched our biggest ever fundraising appeal, A Million Miracles, in the Mansion House, Dublin. The appeal was brought to life by one individual in Malawi, Wineshi March, to visually demonstrate the impact of avoidable blindness on him and his family and captured the miracle of his sight being restored. The live broadcast of his sight-saving operation was widely seen online, with over 20 million people having viewed it worldwide. Bloggers supporting our appeal ensured our messages were heard across social networks and among blogging communities and national newspapers picked up Wineshi's story allowing us to engage new audiences.

We participated once again in Irish Aid's flagship Africa Day event in Dublin to celebrate the continent's rich culture, to showcase our work there and to engage with visitors of all ages to our stand in building and deepening their understanding of the challenges facing disabled and visually impaired people in the developing world.

We connect with thousands of school children and teenagers across the country through our Development Education Programme, sharing key messages about blindness, social inclusion and visual impairment, as part of the overall curriculum. We focus attention on educating primary school children through our art competition, the Sightsavers Junior Painter Awards, designed to encourage students both to appreciate the value of their own sight, whilst also learning about the challenges facing those who lose their sight in the developing world.

Similarly, we engage secondary school students through a specially designed education resource distributed to all secondary schools in the country. In addition, we hosted an educational booth during 2014's BT Young Scientist Exhibition, an event that attracts 59,000 pupils over three days. Engaging directly with students, the educational booth followed some of our beneficiaries on their journey from blindness/visual impairment to sight, detailing the many challenges along the way.

These programmes are supported by a series of school visits, where pupils learn about the challenges of being blind in the developing world and the negative impact it has on someone's opportunity to obtain an education, to work and to lead an independent life. These initiatives are backed up by using social media as an effective means of communicating our core messages.



# Sightsavers Ireland

## Reserves Policy

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. The Board reviews reserves on an annual basis so as to ensure that sufficient funds are available to allow for spending on programmes and fundraising activity to continue, without disruption, in the case of a fall in income. All reserves are currently held in cash. The policy is that the organisation can draw on the resources required to operate for a minimum of 3 months.

## 4. DIRECTORS

The list of directors and the members is shown on page 2.

During the course of 2014, Mr Tobin Aldrich, Director of Global Fundraising with Sightsavers International, and Mr Michael Murphy, long serving Director and former Director of Irish Distillers, resigned from the Board of Sightsavers Ireland. We welcome the appointment of Dr Bernadette Carr, Medical Director of Vhi Healthcare, to the Board.

Neither members nor directors received any remuneration for their work during the period. Expenses are reimbursed where appropriate. Annual declarations are completed by the directors to ensure that no conflicts of interest arise within the organisation.

## 5. STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company's financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the Financial Statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2013 as applicable to a company limited by guarantee. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The directors have responsibility for, and are aware of, the risks associated with the operating activities of Sightsavers Ireland. The directors are required to identify and review the strategic, operational, regulatory, people, political and environmental risks to which Sightsavers Ireland is exposed; and to assess the likelihood of such risks and possible level of impact they would have.

As part of the risk management process an annual risk review is undertaken by the Board to review identified and potential risks of the organisation. The major risks identified by the Board are detailed in our Risk Register, together with mitigating actions agreed. These risks are also ranked by likelihood and impact. Management undertakes ongoing monitoring of the level of risk and reports on this to the Board.

Appropriate control systems are in place to manage the risks of the organisation and to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of Sightsavers Ireland resources, safeguard the assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced.

## Sightsavers Ireland

Financial information is subject to detailed review allowing for continuous monitoring of Sightsavers Ireland operations and financial status.

The Board is satisfied that the systems are in place to monitor, manage and, where appropriate, mitigate Sightsavers' exposure to major risks.

### **7. EVENTS SINCE THE YEAR END**

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

### **8. POLITICAL DONATIONS**

The company did not make any political donations in the year.

### **9. BOOKS OF ACCOUNT**

To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 202, Companies' Act, 1990, the Directors have engaged appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The books of account are located at the Company's premises at 70 Upper Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

### **10. AUDITORS**

Crowe Horwath Bastow Charleton is eligible and has expressed its willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTORS

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

# Sightsavers Ireland

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SIGHTSAVERS IRELAND**

We have audited the financial statements of Sightsavers Ireland (a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital) for the year ended 31 December 2014 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Reconciliation of Movement in Funds, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

As explained more fully in the Directors Responsibility Statement, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements giving a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## **SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2014 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013.

## MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY THE COMPANIES ACTS 1963 TO 2013

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

## MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Signed:

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**Sharon Gallen**

For and on behalf of:

**Crowe Horwath  
Bastow Charleton**  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
Marine House  
Clanwilliam Court  
Dublin 2

Date:

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Statement of financial activities

(Including the Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

### For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	Note	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 31 December 2014 €	Total 31 December 2013 €
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income					
Donations and gifts	3	3,300,644	312,270	3,612,914	3,641,564
Legacies	3	159,754	-	159,754	127,819
Grants	4	-	1,617,905	1,617,905	1,731,821
Other incoming resources		9,000	-	9,000	12,300
Total incoming resources		3,469,398	1,930,175	5,399,573	5,513,504
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income	6	1,295,625	-	1,295,625	1,218,739
		1,295,625	-	1,295,625	1,218,739
Charitable activities					
Health - Eye Care	5/6	1,090,545	1,388,357	2,478,902	2,811,582
Social Inclusion	5/6	245,806	315,038	560,844	402,511
Education	5/6	620,981	257,358	878,339	749,652
Policy and Research	5/6	38,202	49,054	87,256	124,477
Total charitable activities		1,995,534	2,009,807	4,005,341	4,088,222
Governance costs	6	115,381	-	115,381	104,930
Total resources expended		3,406,540	2,009,807	5,416,347	5,411,891
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>					
		62,858	(79,632)	(16,774)	101,613
Transfer between funds	15	17,519	(17,519)	-	-
		80,377	(97,151)	(16,774)	101,613
Fund Balances at 1 January 2014	15	1,136,317	162,745	1,299,062	1,197,449
<b>Fund Balances at 31 December 2014</b>	15	1,216,694	65,594	1,282,288	1,299,062

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the net incoming resources for the year. All the above results are derived from continuing activities.

ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTORS

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Balance sheet 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 €	2013 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	7,061	4,290
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	1,008,716	896,150
Cash at bank and on short term deposit	13	638,233	545,976
		<u>1,646,949</u>	<u>1,442,126</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>371,722</u>	<u>147,354</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,275,227</u>	<u>1,294,772</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>1,282,288</u>	<u>1,299,062</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Unrestricted funds	15	1,216,694	1,136,317
Restricted funds	15	65,594	162,745
		<u>1,282,288</u>	<u>1,299,062</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTORS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Sightsavers Ireland

### Cash flow statement For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
<b>Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities</b>	A	97,007	(304,423)
<b>Capital expenditure and financial investment</b>			
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(4,750)	-
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in cash in the period</b>	B	<u>92,257</u>	<u>(304,423)</u>

### Notes to the cash flow statement

	2014 €	2013 €
<b>A Reconciliation of net incoming / (outgoing) resources for the period to net cash inflow from operations</b>		
Net incoming resources	(16,774)	101,613
Depreciation	1,979	858
(Increase) in debtors	(112,566)	(323,649)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	224,368	(83,245)
<b>Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities</b>	<u>97,007</u>	<u>(304,423)</u>

	1 January 2014 €	Cash flow €	31 December 2014 €
<b>B Analysis of changes in net cash</b>			
Cash at bank and on short term deposit	545,976	92,257	638,233

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

### 1. Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Companies Acts 1963 - 2013. Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and the Financial Reporting Council. The financial statements are drawn up to reflect the format of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", published in March 2005 by the Charities Commission (UK).

#### Connected organisations

Sightsavers Ireland was registered in November 2003, with the purpose of expanding the fundraising operations of Sightsavers and establishing a permanent presence in Ireland. The organisations are legally separate but co-ordinate activities based on legal agreements.

#### Fund accounting

General Funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the members in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and that have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated Funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the members for particular purposes. The use of each Designated Fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. Details of restricted funds are set out in note 15.

#### Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when Sightsavers Ireland is legally entitled to them; it is reasonably certain of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Consequently, gift aid tax reclaims made after the year end but which relate to donations made prior to the year end have not been accrued. Grants from Governments are recognised on a receivable basis. Unspent balances are carried forward within the relevant restricted fund.

#### Charitable expenditure

Sightsavers work in developing countries with partner organisations. Expenditure by partners on overseas projects is charged when remitted. Other direct charitable expenditure is charged on an accruals basis. Expenditure is incurred on the continued support of medical projects, including the provision of surgical instruments and medical supplies, the rehabilitation, training and resettlement of blind adults, the education of blind children and the payment of bursaries to overseas students studying outside their home countries. All direct charitable expenditure is channelled through Sightsavers on a contract basis with Sightsavers Ireland.

All other expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT. Salaries are allocated according to the nature of the work performed by each member of staff. Other costs are allocated on a direct basis where possible or proportionate to departmental activity.

#### Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than €1,000 are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets in use at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:



# Sightsavers Ireland

## Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

Computer equipment	33%
Office fixtures and fittings	20%

#### Foreign exchange

Income or expenditure arising from a transaction denominated in a foreign currency is translated at the exchange rate in operation on the date the transaction was incurred.

The balance sheet accounts are translated at the prevailing year end rates.

#### Pension

The company does not operate a pension scheme. The company contributes to the personal pension plans taken out by eligible contracted employees. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

### 2. Taxation Status

The Company is exempt from taxation due to its charitable status in Ireland (Revenue Commissioners Registration no. CHY 15437).

### 3. Donations, gifts, legacies & similar incoming resources

	2014 €	2013 €
Individuals and Major Donors	3,337,616	3,353,281
Trusts	101,837	137,000
Companies	166,289	145,569
Other organisations e.g. churches, schools	7,172	5,714
Legacies	159,754	127,819
	<u>3,772,668</u>	<u>3,769,383</u>

### 4. Grant income

	2014 €	2013 €
Irish Aid	1,543,508	1,572,908
European Commission	74,397	158,913
	<u>1,617,905</u>	<u>1,731,821</u>

## Sightsavers Ireland

### Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

#### 5. Direct charitable expenditure

	Health Eye Care €	Social Inclusion €	Education €	Policy and Research €	2014 €	2013 €
Bangladesh	16,441	-	-	-	16,441	29,911
Benin	-	-	-	-	-	16,873
Burkina Faso	-	-	-	-	-	23,678
Caribbean	-	-	-	-	-	35,823
Cote D'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	-	17,759
Cameroon	320,866	76,893	90,720	5,229	493,708	508,188
Gambia	-	-	-	-	-	47,356
Ghana	42,704	33,540	9,400	1,468	87,112	152,991
Guinea	101,232	14,857	12,392	2,366	130,847	191,529
Guinea Bissau	-	-	-	-	-	23,678
India	12,626	-	-	-	12,626	32,155
Kenya	-	-	1,830	-	1,830	43,120
Liberia	133,317	21,902	21,856	3,623	180,698	351,858
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	8,425
Mali	456,670	76,555	95,367	6,747	635,339	498,741
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	79,619
Nigeria	186,333	39,829	32,545	6,203	264,910	144,057
Pakistan	12,626	-	-	-	12,626	11,839
Senegal	156,431	53,049	47,747	2,722	259,949	207,279
Sierra Leone	145,065	51,026	35,792	3,479	235,362	338,456
Sri Lanka	3,894	-	-	-	3,894	11,839
Sudan	5,615	-	-	-	5,615	10,802
Tanzania	55,822	-	-	-	55,822	26,230
Togo	6,216	-	-	-	6,216	-
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	1,539
Zambia	17,837	-	-	-	17,837	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	2,760
Regional:						
East, Central & Southern Africa	-	-	-	-	-	59,195
India	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Africa	189,077	43,519	35,879	6,843	275,318	223,803
Programme Technical Support	616,130	149,674	122,791	48,576	937,171	713,660
Advocacy, Communication and Education Programmes	-	-	372,020	-	372,020	275,059
Direct Charitable Expenditure	<u>2,478,902</u>	<u>560,844</u>	<u>878,339</u>	<u>87,256</u>	<u>4,005,341</u>	<u>4,088,222</u>

Expenditure charged to the projects includes grants paid to partner organisations, representing an integral part of the company's programme work. The work of these local organisations is closely monitored.

Administration with regards funding of partner organisations is carried out through Sightsavers on a contract basis with Sightsavers Ireland.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

### 6. Total resources expended

	Grants Payable €	Other Direct Costs €	Allocation of Support costs €	2014 €	2013 €
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	1,246,687	48,938	1,295,625	1,218,739
Charitable activities					
Health- Eye Care	2,478,902	-	-	2,478,902	2,811,582
Social Inclusion	560,844	-	-	560,844	402,511
Education	506,319	363,471	8,549	878,339	749,652
Policy and Research	87,256	-	-	87,256	124,477
Governance costs	-	112,425	2,956	115,381	104,930
	<u>3,633,321</u>	<u>1,722,583</u>	<u>60,443</u>	<u>5,416,347</u>	<u>5,411,891</u>

#### Governance costs

	2014 €	2013 €
External audit	8,610	8,610
Strategic review	16,236	10,332
Staff costs	54,386	45,678
Operational costs	36,149	40,310
	<u>115,381</u>	<u>104,930</u>

## Sightsavers Ireland

### Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

#### 7. Net incoming / (outgoing) resources

This is stated after charging:

	2014 €	2013 €
Depreciation	1,979	858
Auditors' remuneration	8,610	8,610
Operating lease – building	14,376	10,782
	<u>14,965</u>	<u>20,250</u>

## Sightsavers Ireland

### Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

#### 8. Staff costs

The average monthly number of Sightsavers Ireland employees during the year was:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Chief Executive	1	1
Fundraising and Communications:		
Full time	6	7
Part time	1	1

Total employee remuneration for the year was:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Wages and salaries	362,908	410,677
Social welfare costs	38,805	43,682
Pension costs	14,036	15,885
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Sightsavers Ireland	415,749	470,244
Allocation of staff costs from Sightsavers	60,443	60,820
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>476,192</u>	<u>531,064</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments were greater than €70,000 was as follows:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
€ 70,001 to € 80,000	1	1
€ 80,001 to € 90,000	1	1

The salary of the Chief Executive is represented within the band €80,001 - €90,000. The total remuneration package of the Chief Executive amounts to €90,000. The Chief Executive does not avail of a pension contribution from the organisation and there are no additional benefits provided or paid to him, such as bonuses, health insurance or company car.

Support costs and management and administration of the charity costs are an apportionment from Sightsavers, based on a proportion of time spent on Irish related activities.

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

### 9. Members/Directors' expenses

During the year there were no expenses to either members or directors.

No emoluments are paid directly to the directors. Directors can be reimbursed for their travel and subsistence expenses for attending board, executive committee and team review meetings. Additionally, directors may occasionally visit Sightsavers Ireland partners and programmes overseas with costs of such trips being met by the company.

### 10. Pension costs

The company does not operate a pension scheme but contributes to the personal pension plans taken out by our contracted employees, at a rate double the employee contributions up to a maximum of 10% of pensionable pay. The pension cost charge for 2014 was €14,036 (2013: €15,885). There was €1,563 payable at year end for 2014 (2013: €3,433).

### 11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office Fixtures & Fittings €	Computer equipment €	Total €
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2014	70,405	17,966	88,371
Additions	-	4,750	4,750
At 31 December 2014	70,405	22,716	93,121
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2014	70,405	13,676	84,081
Charge for the year	-	1,979	1,979
At 31 December 2014	70,405	15,655	86,060
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2014	-	7,061	7,061
At 31 December 2013	-	4,290	4,290

## Sightsavers Ireland

### Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

#### 12. Debtors

	2014 €	2013 €
<b>(Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Accrued income	222,063	183,780
Sightsavers (note 18)	765,845	695,482
Other debtors and prepayments	20,808	16,888
	<u>1,008,716</u>	<u>896,150</u>

#### 13. Cash at bank and in hand

	2014 €	2013 €
Restricted funds	65,594	162,745
Unrestricted funds	572,639	383,231
	<u>638,233</u>	<u>545,976</u>

#### 14. Creditors

	2014 €	2013 €
<b>(Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Other creditors	49,780	17,582
PAYE/PRSI	18,685	16,902
Accruals and Deferred Income	303,257	112,870
	<u>371,722</u>	<u>147,354</u>

# Sightsavers Ireland

## Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

### 15. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 January 2014 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers €	Balance at 31 December 2014 €
<b>General Reserve</b>	1,132,027	3,469,398	(3,406,540)	14,748	1,209,633
<b>Designated funds:</b>					
Fixed assets fund	4,290	-	-	2,771	7,061
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>1,136,317</u>	<u>3,469,398</u>	<u>(3,406,540)</u>	<u>17,519</u>	<u>1,216,694</u>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Donations and gifts	62,146	312,270	(308,822)	-	65,594
<b>Grants:</b>					
European Commission	-	74,397	(69,534)	(4,863)	-
Irish Aid	100,599	1,543,508	(1,631,451)	(12,656)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>162,745</u>	<u>1,930,175</u>	<u>(2,009,807)</u>	<u>(17,519)</u>	<u>65,594</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>1,299,062</u>	<u>5,399,573</u>	<u>(5,416,347)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,282,288</u>

**Designated funds** - the balance on the fixed asset fund represents the net book value of tangible assets at the balance sheet date.

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets €	Net current assets €	Net assets €
Unrestricted funds			
General	-	1,209,633	1,209,633
Designated	7,061	-	7,061
Restricted funds	-	65,594	65,594
	<u>7,061</u>	<u>1,275,227</u>	<u>1,282,288</u>



# Sightsavers Ireland

## Notes to the financial statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

### 17. Leasing commitments

	2014 €	2013 €
<b>Land and buildings</b>		
Expiring 1 to 5 years	<u>14,375</u>	<u>14,375</u>

### 18. Related Party Transactions

In order to achieve its mission, Sightsavers Ireland supports the overseas programmes of Sightsavers on a contract basis. At the end of the year, there was a related party balance owed of €756,845 (2013: a balance owing of €695,482).

Amount owing 2013	€ 695,482
Advanced	70,363
Repaid	-
Amount owing 2014	<u>765,845</u>

**We work with partners  
in developing countries  
to eliminate avoidable  
blindness and promote  
equal opportunities for  
people with disabilities.**

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