

Annual
review
2016



Sightsavers



Our vision

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



Our mission

We are an international organisation working with partners in developing countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

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4 year old Arman
photographed with family
and neighbours at his home in
Kushtia district, Bangladesh,
days after undergoing
cataract removal surgery.

A message from our Chair

This past year has been characterised by great economic and political uncertainty globally.

Despite this, Sightsavers has performed extremely well, reaching record numbers of people with treatments for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and supporting more sight-restoring operations. Following on from the Sustainable Development Goals agreed at the UN in 2015, Sightsavers continues to push for equality for disabled people, supporting their economic empowerment and political participation. We're working to 'leave no one behind' by ensuring that our programmes are inclusive for people with disabilities, and that this can be effectively measured. We are working in collaboration with other organisations and local partners in Ireland and globally, towards a world where disabled people can participate equally in society.

I would like to thank all of Sightsavers supporters; without you none of this good work would be possible. So many lives are transformed as a result of your generosity, both in the short term and beyond, as health and education systems are strengthened to support the next generation.

In accordance with best corporate governance practice I am stepping down as Chair, after two terms. On a personal note, I would like to record that it has been both a privilege and an honour to serve as Chair of Sightsavers Ireland for the past six years and concurrently as a member of the board for the last nine. During this period, I have witnessed the transformation of the organisation but more importantly the impact that your donations have made on millions of lives in some of the poorest and most marginalised countries in the world.

On behalf of those who will never get the chance, I would like to say a heartfelt **thank you.**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome my fellow Board member Jim Miley to the position of Chair of Sightsavers Ireland. Jim brings with him a wealth of experience from both the private and not for profit/charity sectors. I have no doubt that he will lead the Board with energy and determination as we continue to deliver on our mission and our strategic objectives in a world where our services and our capabilities are needed now more than ever.

Finally on your behalf I would like to thank the CEO and the team for all of their hard work and commitment to saving sight.



Pat Farrell
Chair



2016 highlights

This year saw Sightsavers mark some fantastic achievements.



A record-breaking year for neglected tropical disease treatments in Africa

In 2016, we supported 154.2 million treatments for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Africa: the highest annual number of treatments we've ever supported. We're on target to celebrate our billionth treatment in December 2017. We also launched our NTDs strategy, 'Now is the Time to Say Goodbye to NTDs', setting out our targets for the coming years.



Our partnership with Irish Aid has had a huge impact on our work

Between 2012 and 2016, Sightsavers' Programme Partnership Arrangement with the Irish government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade enabled us to strengthen our reach and impact in West Africa. The programme considerably improved access to quality health and education services for poor and marginalised communities living in Cameroon, Guinea Conarky, Liberia, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone. We championed a rights-based approach to address the inequalities faced by thousands of women, men and children living with disabilities in the programme area so they can participate equally in society. 2.5million people benefitted from eye examinations, 174 eye specialist cadres were trained and 45K trichiasis surgeries were conducted during the grant period.



Celebrating 50 years of life-changing work in India

Sightsavers marked its 50th anniversary in India with multi-city events, culminating in a golden jubilee gala in Delhi attended by the people who have had their sight saved, as well as VIPs and dignitaries. The Indian postal department issued a commemorative first day postal cover in recognition of Sightsavers' contribution in the country for half a century: since 1966 we have worked with partner organisations to treat millions of people with eye problems in India.



Protecting Sightsavers from cyber-threats

With the growing threat of cyber-attacks, we need to ensure our systems and data are kept secure and are actively monitored against threats. We rolled out several cyber-security projects aimed at neutralising attacks before they can take place. The new security measures enable us to defend against ransomware attacks, preventing cyber-criminals from intercepting and encrypting our data for their gain.

2016 in numbers



13,000

blind, low-vision or other people with disabilities received training in their rights, in employment and skills and in daily living tasks, mobility and orienteering



54,000

professionals were supported on eye health short courses



287,000

people received glasses following eye examinations



344,000

eye operations were performed



12 million

people received an eye health examination

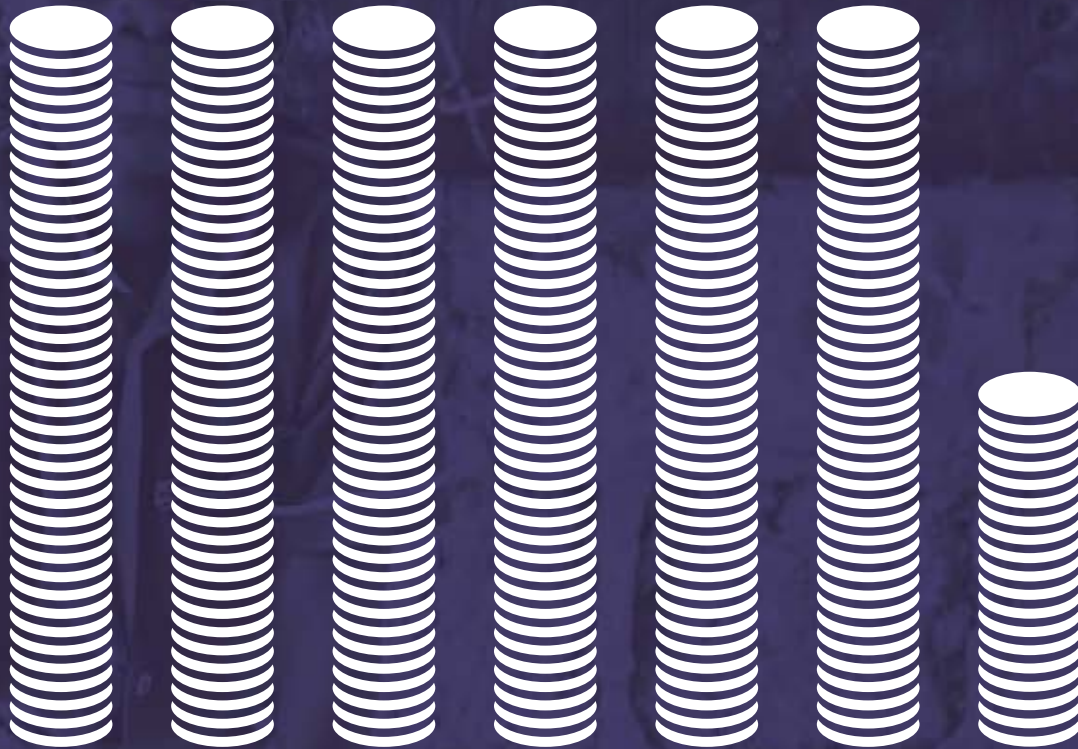


154 million

treatments given for neglected tropical diseases, such as trachoma and river blindness

€25 million

raised so far for A Million Miracles*



*Converted from £ at exchange rate £=Euro1.15. Figure as at 31st December 2016.
Figure at 12 May 2017 was €28,008,668.35 inc. €5.75m Aid Match



Finishing our work in Sri Lanka

In March 2016, Sightsavers reached an exciting milestone: it's the first time in a country where our work is done and we can prepare to move on, satisfied that the eye care services we've set up and supported can continue without us.

Sightsavers' work in Sri Lanka began more than 20 years ago, when eye care services in the country were limited. "Although Sri Lanka has a free health service, there was no concerted programme to prevent eye disease or perform cataract operations, particularly for the underprivileged who could not afford them," says Vision 2020 programme coordinator Dr Asela Abeydeera. "But Sightsavers filled that gap."

We started by supporting eye care training in the central Kandy district and gradually expanded, setting up eye units in different areas of the country, before opening a dedicated country office in November 2005.

During our time in Sri Lanka we've been part of several groundbreaking projects that have created a lasting legacy of eye care and social inclusion.

As part of the global Vision 2020 initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness, we worked alongside the Ministry of Health and the College of Ophthalmologists to create a national plan for tackling avoidable blindness. We also established a network of low-vision clinics throughout the country, training thousands of health workers and medical staff to screen and treat adults and children with poor vision.



Sightsavers helped to distribute more than **50,000** pairs of free spectacles to Sri Lankan children who needed them. But at first, fewer than half of the children would wear the spectacles they'd been given. "It was then that we allowed children to choose the frame they wanted," says community ophthalmologist Dr Kapila Edussuriya.

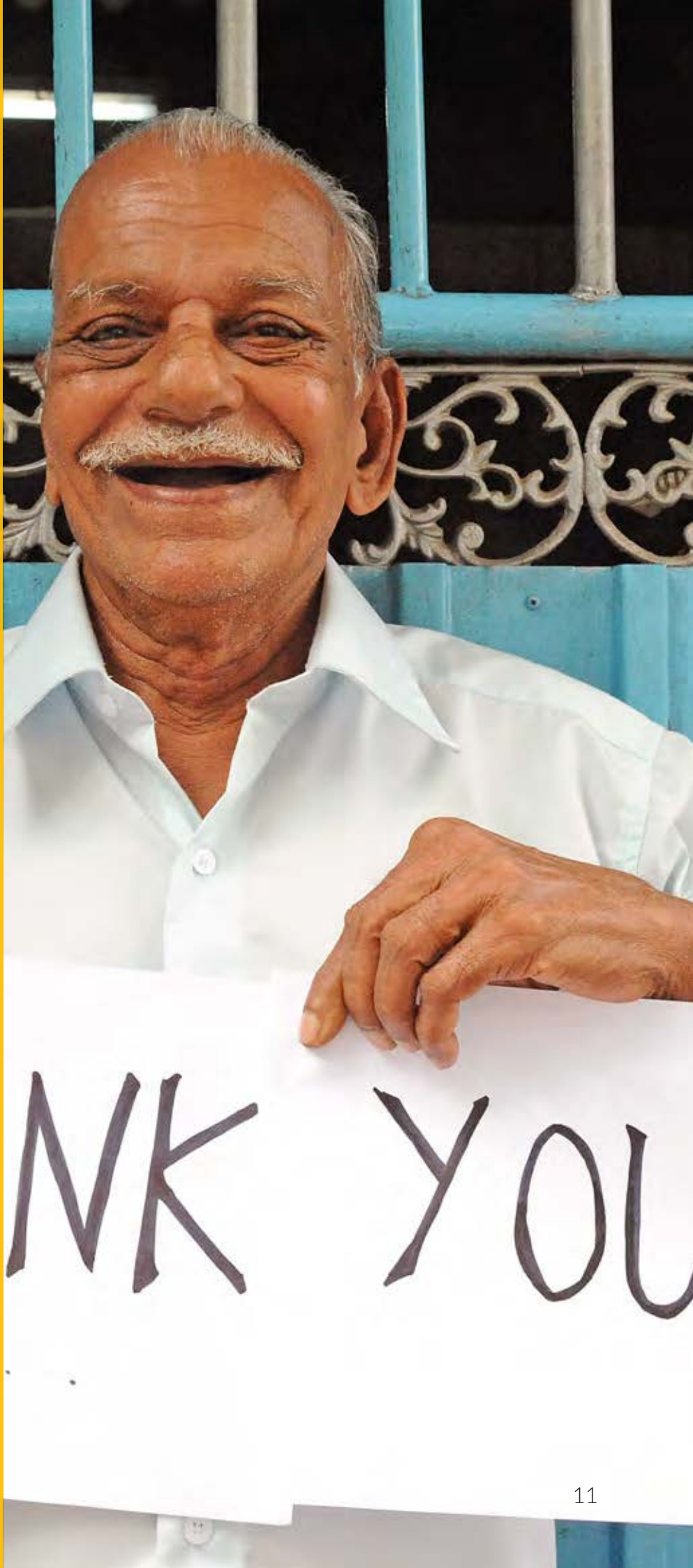
With our financial support, the first paediatric eye unit in Sri Lanka opened in January 2010, at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital in Colombo. Sightsavers provided a fifth of the money needed to build the first two floors of the building, with the Ministry of Health funding the rest.

In 2013, to prepare for our departure, we led Sri Lanka's first national survey on visual impairment, blindness and disability. The survey covered every district of the country, targeting those aged 40 and above, to provide a clear view of the number of people who are visually impaired or blind. The results were used as a basis to design national programmes, helping Sri Lanka to work towards its goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by 2020.



The fact that we are able to move on, leaving behind a sustainable programme, is a testament to the work of the Sightsavers country office and our partners. We have never achieved this before – it is the aim of all development agencies to be able to exit, safe in the knowledge that they are leaving a strong legacy.

Catrina Sheridan
Sightsavers Ireland CEO



Mohammed from Colombo, Sri Lanka received a cataract operation with the support of Sightsavers.

The SHIP project: giving school children the best start

Children in poorer countries miss a combined 500 million days of school every year because of common health issues such as worm infections, short-sightedness or poor nutrition. Yet these problems can be easily diagnosed and treated if children have access to reliable health services.

The School Health Integrated Programming (SHIP) project, which ran throughout 2016, screened schoolchildren in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal for health problems such as poor vision and worm infections. It aimed to raise awareness, provide treatment and encourage governments to improve health and nutrition in schools: the goal was to reduce absenteeism and drop-out rates, and boost children's educational prospects.

Teachers were taught about major eye conditions affecting their region, and trained to examine their students and record their findings. Children with vision problems were then given free spectacles, while those suffering from or at risk of worm infections were treated with deworming medication. The teachers were also trained to educate their students about eye health and personal hygiene, with the children encouraged to share what they had learned with their families.

The project was developed and implemented by Sightsavers and Imperial College London's Partnership for Child Development, alongside the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education. It's hoped it will eventually be expanded within each country, as well as rolled out to neighbouring countries.



SHIP in numbers

476 teachers
trained in 158 schools

52,400 children
received deworming medication

57,400 children
screened for eye problems

1,000 children
given glasses



Case study



Name:

Bin Nou

Age:

35

Location:

Cambodia



Nou's story

Bin Nou, a 35-year-old headteacher from Siem Reap in Cambodia, was one of those who took part in the SHIP project.

During her training, Nou was taught about different eye conditions, and learned how to use a vision screening kit to examine her students' eyes. Any children with vision problems could then be given spectacles or referred to a specialist for further treatment if necessary.

After completing her training, Nou tested the eyesight of all 205 children in her school and identified one child who needed glasses. The student was offered a selection of differently coloured frames to choose from – while she was shy at first about wearing her new spectacles, Nou helped to reassure her.

As part of the programme, Nou's eyes were also tested: after years of suffering from poor vision, she discovered she needed spectacles and was given her first pair of glasses.



Our villages don't have easy access to eye care providers. Glasses are not available locally, so vision problems often remain uncorrected.

Bin Nou

Country highlights

This global snapshot shows some of the incredible things we've achieved over the past year. More countries than ever are now closer to eliminating neglected tropical diseases, and awareness about eye conditions continues to grow. Our work with people with disabilities is going from strength to strength in removing barriers and enabling them to participate more fully in society.

Cameroon: Inclusive Education

Sightsavers believes that if children with disabilities go to the same schools as everyone else this helps all students get a better education. After Sightsavers successfully ran Cameroon's first ever pilot for inclusive education in 5 public schools, the government has decided to scale up the initiative to 68 other schools across all regions of the country.

We are working across Cameroon to get children with disabilities enrolled in school, and working with their families to encourage them to support their children's education. Thanks to support from Irish Aid, this project will continue until 2021, helping create better futures for children with disabilities.

Burkina Faso: one step closer to eliminating trachoma

The southwestern Cascades region reached the milestone where trachoma is no longer considered to be a public health problem, with less than 1 in 1,000 people estimated to require surgery. The area will now be closely monitored during the 2 year surveillance period, using the methodology.

Ghana: trachoma elimination on the horizon

At the start of 2016, all but one of Ghana's 37 districts had met the targets for trachoma elimination. During the year the required surgeries were completed in the remaining district, and Ghana is now preparing its application to WHO, who will formally validate that trachoma has been eliminated as a public health problem.

South Sudan: stepping up the fight against river blindness

Before conflict broke out in July 2016, 460 community leaders in two counties were given information to raise awareness about river blindness. With support from The End Fund, we treated almost 200,000 people for the disease, and 1,413 volunteers were trained to distribute medication to protect their communities.



Pakistan: helping those in need of treatment

In 2016 Sightsavers screened more than 7.6 million people in Pakistan for a range of conditions, enabling them to receive treatment if needed. We also supported more than 33,000 cataract operations, giving people the chance to see again.

Bangladesh: thousands trained to spot eye conditions in children

The Child Blindness Programme trained more than 2,100 people to identify children with eye problems and raise awareness of eye conditions. The USAID-supported programme will provide eye care services to more than 100,000 children in six districts over two years.

Kenya: a new eye health unit

Sightsavers helped to develop an eye health referral unit in the northern county of Marsabit by improving infrastructure, providing equipment and training staff. The government can now provide its own eye care services in the area and no longer needs our support.

India: making eye health programmes more inclusive

Sightsavers launched an inclusive eye health pilot in Bhopal, India, building on previous work on disability data disaggregation. The initiative aims to design and test innovative approaches to ensure people with disabilities, women and other marginalised groups are given equal access to eye health services. The project will continue in 2017, and will help to shape Sightsavers' inclusion programming in future.



Six children walk arm in arm down a street in Sierra Leone.

Responding to the **Ebola** crisis

In 2014 and 2015, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were devastated by Ebola, a highly contagious disease. During the epidemic, more than 28,500 people across West Africa contracted the disease and more than 11,000 died. Many survivors are now living with its devastating effects. Ebola remains resident in up to 25 per cent of patients, causing long-term symptoms including visual impairment, joint and muscle pain, neurological disorders and debilitating weakness. Survivors are particularly susceptible to an eye disease called uveitis, which, if left untreated, can lead to blindness. As well as providing support to the governments to respond to the Ebola crisis, during 2016 we continued to work with health ministries to provide much-needed treatment to survivors. Much of this work was supported through our partnership with Irish Aid for which we and our beneficiaries were enormously grateful.

A map of West Africa is shown in shades of yellow and orange. Three callout boxes are connected to the map by dotted lines. The first box points to Guinea, the second to Liberia, and the third to Sierra Leone. The map also shows three location pins in the western part of the region.

Guinea

Sightsavers continued to raise awareness of eye conditions among survivors, and supported eye screening programmes in affected areas. In 2016, more than 1,200 people were screened for eye complications resulting from the disease, and more than 1,000 received treatment. We also trained 12 ophthalmic nurses to provide specialist eye care services in districts affected by the disease, and donated Ebola protection kits and equipment for local eye care units. During the year the infection rate was reduced to zero, resulting in the World Health Organization declaring the country free from the disease in June 2016.

Liberia

In May 2016, Sightsavers donated a consignment of eye care drugs to treat Ebola survivors. This was in response to an appeal by the Liberian Ministry, which called on international NGOs to provide aid. We were one of the first organisations that stepped in to help, and our donation was used to treat patients in a low-income community in north-western New Kru Town.

Sierra Leone

As part of the country's post-Ebola recovery effort, we provided new eye care equipment to be used as part of the national eye health programme presented in 2016. The operating theatre at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown is now fully equipped with new instruments.

We will continue to support Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to rebuild their health services after the epidemic, with a particular focus on developing eye health services and ensuring ongoing treatment, where needed, for survivors.

How mobile phones help to fight disease

It's been an exciting year for mHealth at Sightsavers. mHealth, which stands for 'mobile health', involves using mobile phones to collect data and provide training during health programmes. Sightsavers is working to pioneer new ways to do both.

Many of our neglected tropical disease programmes use mass drug administration (MDA), in which entire populations within endemic areas are treated with medication in our continued effort to eliminate these diseases. These MDAs take place within local communities, making it historically difficult to monitor treatment and distribution during the campaign.

Our new approach, which uses mobile phones to collect data from these communities, is now being used in Cameroon, Nigeria and Zambia. This gives both Sightsavers and the ministries of health powerful access to real-time data, so for the first time ever we can take action during drug distributions – for example, if an area is behind target, we can investigate any issues and attempt to solve them as soon as possible. This new way of working has significantly improved the quality of our data, and means far fewer drugs are wasted.

We're also taking part in another mobile-based data-collection initiative called Tropical Data. Created with partners including the World Health Organization, Tropical Data builds on the same approach and technology as the Global Trachoma Mapping Project - this ambitious initiative was the largest infectious disease survey ever undertaken and tracked the spread of trachoma, an infectious eye disease. Tropical Data supports countries to implement "gold-standard" surveys as they work towards eliminating trachoma. In total, 300 surveys in 23 countries have already taken place, and soon the platform will be set-up to support other neglected tropical diseases.

As we look ahead to next year, we hope to expand these programmes as well as pioneer some new innovations, such as tracking patients using smartphones, ensuring we give the best care to those we serve. Stay tuned!



You can visit the Sightsavers website to find out more information about mHealth here:

www.sightsavers.ie/mhealth





Kenya

We are teaming up with Amref Africa using its Leap platform, a mobile learning package that helps community health volunteers continue to learn at home. It works on basic mobile phones and enables the volunteers to complete quizzes, have group chats via SMS and listen to audio recordings of training material. There are now 300 volunteers using our trachoma module: in these very isolated communities, volunteers are taking advantage of this new source of information.



Zambia

Sightsavers is working with Akros, an organisation that already uses mobile phones to collect data about water and sanitation across the country. We are now gathering data on specific indicators linked to trachoma elimination. As well as helping us to collect the data, Akros is also feeding information back to the communities: chiefs have tablets showing their area and the surrounding area's water cleanliness performance, and community volunteers are sent SMS updates about upcoming MDAs and other activities.

Participants of the Leap project in Kenya pose with their smartphones.

Your generosity in 2016

During 2016, generous supporters donated an incredible €3,451 million to Sightsavers work. Your support helped millions of people, by preventing blindness, saving sight and supporting people with disabilities to learn and work.



Majidul had successful cataract surgery in Romanthpur Bangladesh.

From supporting Sightsavers plans to eliminate trachoma by 2020, to making sure blind children receive an education, to helping children with cataracts, who would be blind for life without surgery – you are changing lives.

We are so grateful to people across all the counties of Ireland.

For every €1 we receive (including donated supplies)



91% goes on vital charity work

9% goes on growing awareness and our funding



Jackie runs to save sight

We're inspired by the determination of Jackie Carroll and her amazing mini marathon achievement!

Jackie took part in the VHI Women's Mini Marathon, raising a magnificent €270 for Sightsavers. Jackie has experienced the fear that can come with developing cataracts. Fortunately, she received the operations she needed to recover her sight. She told us: "I was lucky enough to have two cataracts removed this year and wanted to give someone else the same opportunity if I could."

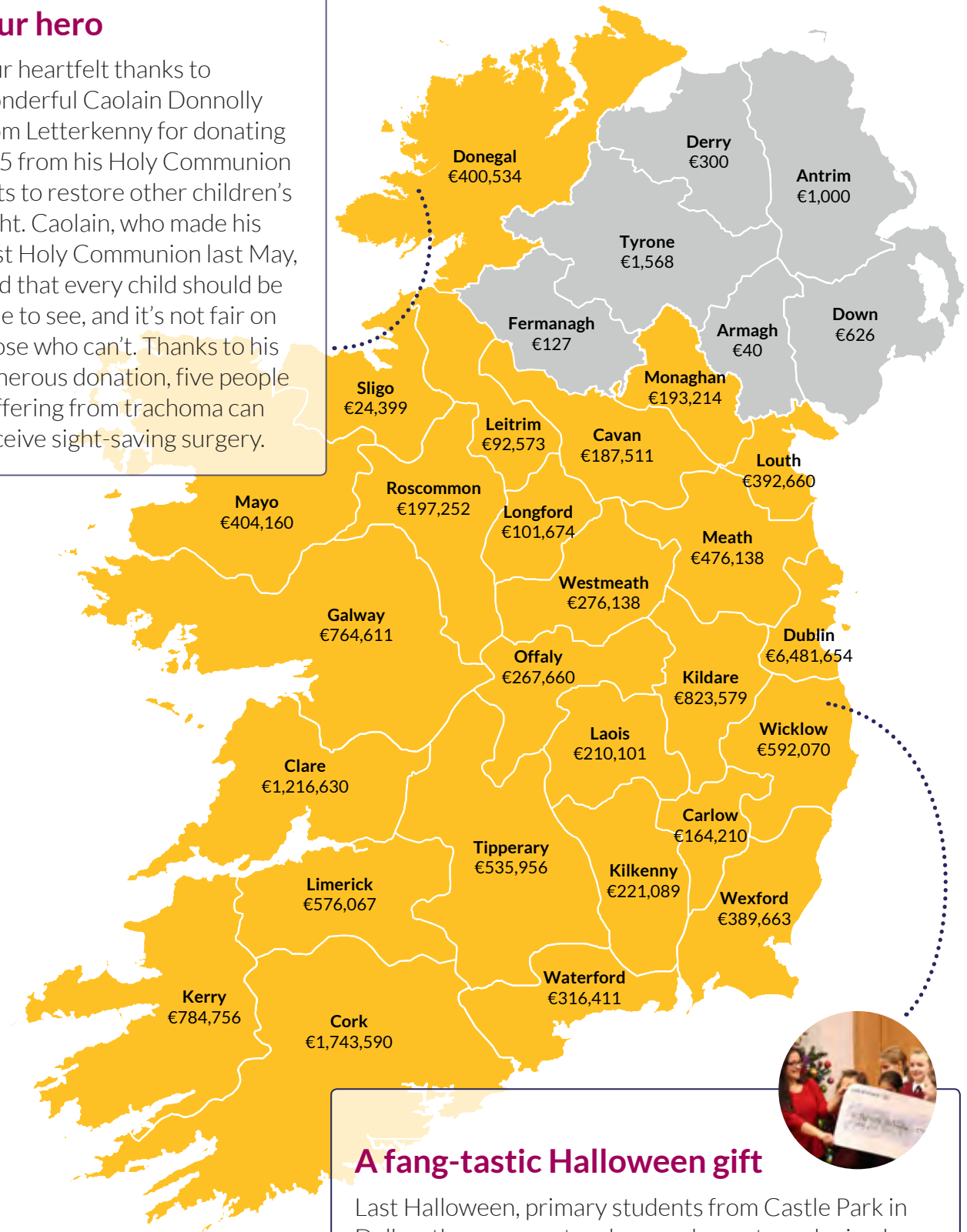
www.sightsavers.ie/meet-our-fundraisers-jackie-carroll





Our hero

Our heartfelt thanks to wonderful Caolain Donnolly from Letterkenny for donating €45 from his Holy Communion gifts to restore other children's sight. Caolain, who made his first Holy Communion last May, said that every child should be able to see, and it's not fair on those who can't. Thanks to his generous donation, five people suffering from trachoma can receive sight-saving surgery.



A fang-tastic Halloween gift

Last Halloween, primary students from Castle Park in Dalkey threw a spectacular spooky party and raised a monster €1,545 for our work. Thanks to them, children in developing countries will be given the miracle gift of sight, and the opportunity to learn and play like others around them.

Euro donations to the Million Miracle Appeal.

Your stories



The Greene Farm Foods team.

Sightsavers was delighted to be a part of this very special event, which raised a staggering **€30,360** combined for the three charities.

We're so grateful to Greene Farm Foods, who supported Sightsavers while celebrating their 25th anniversary in business in 2016.

Kenneth Greene and the team at Greene Farm Foods celebrated this very special occasion by organising a charity sports day in Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath.

The whole community got behind this fun celebration, raising funds for three charities close to their hearts.

2016 was a year of incredible achievements, none of which would have been possible without your support. We always love to hear from you and were inspired when Noel O'Riordan, from Rathfarnham, Dublin recently shared his reason for supporting.

We are grateful to Noel and all our supporters for your ongoing generosity, which allows us to continue our life-changing work.



Noel O'Riordan, from Rathfarnham, Dublin.

“ It is great to see the immediate impact of my donation. For the price of my lunch I can save someone's sight. It's such a small sacrifice to make, to change someone's whole life.

Noel O'Riordan

Irish Hero

Words just can't express our gratitude to Christy Butler. He's worked his socks off to raise money and awareness for Sightsavers and, even in retirement, he's still going strong. Now it's our turn to say thank you, and to celebrate Christy's remarkable accomplishments.

Since 2003, Christy has been giving a regular monthly gift of €5 to Sightsavers, which adds up to an incredible €820 – equivalent to 22 miracle cataract operations! He's also been an active fundraiser on our behalf. For eight years he took part in the annual Dublin Bus crew 'bus pull' from Donnybrook to the end of O'Connell Street. This was a huge operation, and Christy and the team went to great lengths each year to make it a success.



Christy with the Dublin Bus crew at the 'bus pull' in 2008.

Another of Christy's fundraising endeavours was a golf drive on World Sight Day. He took it upon himself to get 1,000 golf balls sponsored, raising a fantastic €3,000 – to which hosts, Stepside Golf Course, kindly added an extra €500.

He may be retired but Christy's efforts to support Sightsavers in the community continue. He visits local schools to talk about our work, and encourages people to give a donation as an alternative to buying a wreath for funerals. Christy has also visited a local hospital in India with Sightsavers, where he met with ophthalmologists and local schools. He describes this experience as 'life-changing'.



I was drawn to Sightsavers' good governance and partnership with local organisations in developing countries.

Christy Butler

Highlights: Put Us in the Picture campaign

Sightsavers is working towards a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with disabilities can participate equally in society. Our Put Us in the Picture campaign is putting people with disabilities at the heart of development.

There are one billion people around the world who have a disability. 800 million of them live in developing countries where they have limited access to health care, education and employment, and often face stigma and discrimination. Put Us in the Picture campaigns for people with disabilities in developing countries to have the same opportunity to learn, earn and be happy as everyone else.

In 2016, Sightsavers worked with the Irish government, other organisations and people across Ireland to champion the rights of people with disabilities.

To mark the UN International Day for People with Disabilities, Sightsavers led an event in the National Library in Dublin, where special guests Irish paralympian Jason Smyth and Ambrose Murangira from the Ugandan National Association of the Deaf spoke about the importance of disability inclusion.

We are so grateful to the public for supporting this important work and in 2016 more than 1,300 Irish people signed our petition calling for policies to benefit the lives of people with disabilities in the developing world.



For more information about Put Us in the Picture or to join our campaigns visit:

www.sightsavers.ie/campaigning





Our favourite moments of 2016

Connecting the Dots

In 2016, the first students graduated from Uganda's Connecting the Dots programme, which provides vocational training to young people with disabilities so they can find work. Of the 324 students who enrolled, the majority are now earning money, and the project has been renewed for a further four years.

The programme, funded by Sightsavers and the European Commission, also seeks to change negative attitudes towards disability and show employers how hiring people with disabilities could benefit their businesses.

Disability inclusion in Ireland and Uganda

To mark the UN International Day for People with Disabilities, Sightsavers led an event in the National Library in Dublin, where special guests Irish paralympian Jason Smyth and Ambrose Murangira from the Ugandan National Association of the Deaf, who spoke about the importance of disability inclusion.

Building support in Leinster House

In June, Sightsavers spoke in Leinster House about the lives of people with disabilities in Africa. Sightsavers CEO Catrina Sheridan was joined by Dr Joseph Oye of Sightsavers Cameroon over video link, and spoke alongside other NGOs and experts. Our campaign received support from TDs and Senators.

Julius Balinda and his wife and children in front of the home they're building in Masindi, Uganda.

Head of Advocacy
Andrew Griffiths giving
his closing address at
the UN Sustainable
Development Summit.



Advocacy in action

We aim to create lasting change that is sustainable in the long term – and key to achieving this is making sure governments commit to respecting the human rights of all people in their countries.

Our advocacy work aims to influence public policy and systems, ensuring that there are global agreements we can hold governments accountable to in their national policies.

One example of this is our work with the World Health Organization on the global eye health action plan 2014-2019. We also work closely with governments and people with disabilities to put into practice the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Another is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. After our hard work on the agreement of the agenda in 2015, our focus in 2016 was to get it off to a good start and make the promises a reality. The agreement was made by 193 countries who committed to ‘leave no one behind’, which for Sightsavers, means access to healthcare, inclusive education, and people with disabilities playing an active role in society.



Download the global eye health action plan:
www.who.int/blindness/actionplan/en

Download the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication





Here are just a few of last year's advocacy highlights:



Bangladesh

The government has agreed to measure and record eye health conditions identified at health centres. This means that resources can be better targeted in future.



Sierra Leone

We have fostered close collaboration between the government and civil society organisations, to ensure successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Uganda

We worked closely with the government to develop an action plan to further the rights of people with disabilities.



Zambia

Sightsavers supported the government to create a new four-year strategic eye health plan.

How your donations make a big difference

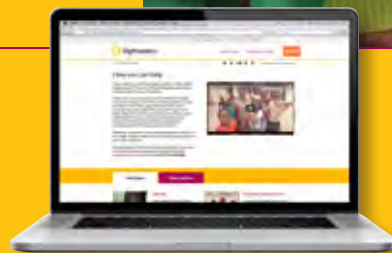
Every year, Sightsavers receives many generous donations and in memoriam gifts. Your support can change the lives of people with visual impairments and other disabilities and help to eliminate diseases in some of the poorest parts of the world.

We are hugely grateful to the people across Ireland who remembered Sightsavers in their legacies and gave to us in memory in 2016.



If you want to know more about giving to Sightsavers you can visit our website:

www.sightsavers.ie/how-you-can-help/





Case study



Name:

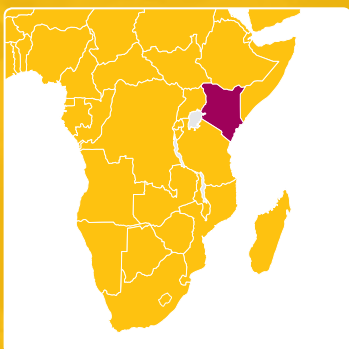
Flash Odiwuor

Age:

12

Location:

Kenya



Flash's story

A generous supporter made a substantial gift on behalf of her only child, who sadly passed away. As a teacher and Sightsavers supporter himself, her son believed all children should have the same opportunities. So it seemed fitting that we use part of the donation to fund a new inclusive education programme to help children with disabilities.

Nyaburi primary school in Kenya is one of the pilot schools for the programme, where children with disabilities are taught alongside children without disabilities. Their teachers receive specialist training and the school building itself has been adapted with wider corridors, ramps and pathways to make it more accessible.

The school has been life-changing for children like Flash Odiwuor. Flash was a lively, healthy boy who did well at school, but just after his fifth birthday he contracted polio. Flash soon lost the use of his legs, leaving him unable to go to school. He missed out on seven years of education until 2016, when his mother Rose heard about Sightsavers' programme.



I thank Sightsavers for restoring a mother's hope. Words cannot express enough of my gratitude for this support given to him.

Rose, Flash's mother

Flash is one of 281 children with disabilities who were assessed last year and enrolled in education as a result of the programme in Kenya.



We value the generosity of all our supporters and are proud to be able to work so closely with individuals who have chosen Sightsavers. The support of our major donors is vital to our work – by working together, your philanthropy has the power to transform the lives of so many people.

Ciara Smullen
Sightsavers Ireland
Head of Major Donors

Members of a project to eliminate river blindness in Uganda spray larvicide into the Agongo river.



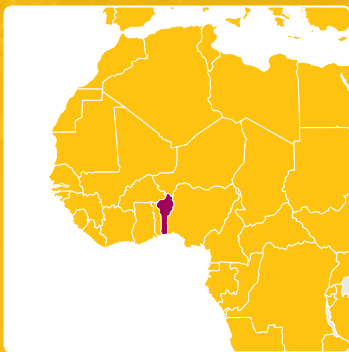


Case study



Theme:
NTDs

Location:
Benin



Combating neglected tropical diseases in Benin

In 2016 we received a number of generous donations from a small group of supporters, which were used to help fund our entire programme to treat two neglected tropical diseases in Benin. Thanks to programmes such as this, these diseases are now close to being eliminated.

Onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness, is spread by the bite of infected black flies. People experience years of symptoms including unbelievably itchy skin and painful swellings. Ultimately, they can go blind. Lymphatic filariasis is a parasitic disease transmitted via mosquito bites that causes painful symptoms including abnormal enlargement of body parts. The stigma that follows can have an additional devastating impact on those affected and their families.

Yet the two diseases can be treated together, hugely improving the cost-effectiveness of elimination programmes. The infections that cause them can be treated with a dose of medication, given once or twice each year. This is distributed to local people by volunteers within the community over the course of several years.

Thanks to our supporters, in July and August 2016 we helped to treat more than 3.7 million people for river blindness and 1.6 million people for lymphatic filariasis in Benin. In 2017, we will ensure the country moves another step closer to eliminating these diseases for good. This means younger generations will grow up free of the burden these diseases have inflicted on their parents and grandparents, causing so much discomfort and hardship.

Specs Appeal sets social media abuzz

In 2016 we launched our first Specs Appeal campaign, an online auction of spectacles donated by celebrity supporters, in partnership with eBay. The appeal gave fans the chance to bid on more than 120 pairs of glasses and sunglasses once owned by celebrities including Ringo Starr, Annie Lennox, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Kate Moss.

More than 50 celebrities took part, many of who also promoted the appeal on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, helping to drive a huge social media response from our supporters.

Celebrity supporters including Chris Froome, Kelly Osbourne and Liv Tyler mentioned Specs Appeal on social media and shared the links with millions of their followers, providing valuable exposure and helping to spread our message.

We supported the campaign with case studies and video content on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, plus a quiz entitled 'Who's your celebrity specs style?' that matched supporters with their perfect celebrity spectacles. They were then encouraged to visit the auction site to make a bid.

Many of the stars also shared a personal note to accompany their specs. Stephen Fry's tortoiseshell glasses came with a handwritten message saying: "We all need to see more clearly," while Sir Tony Robinson, who donated a pair of reading glasses, said: "I want to give someone a chance to see more clearly and look as cool in my glasses as I did."

The 10-day auction raised more than €12,650*, with Ringo Starr's specs receiving the highest winning bid, eventually selling for €2,128*. Other popular spectacles included a pair donated by cyclist Chris Froome, which went for €823, and Daniel Radcliffe's sunglasses, which sold for €591*.

Following the success of the campaign, we plan to expand the Specs Appeal concept for 2017 to incorporate cause-related marketing and other types of fundraising – plus plenty more pairs of celebrity specs.



You can visit the Sightsavers website for more information about the Specs Appeal Campaign here:

www.sightsavers.org/specsappeal





Ringo Starr drummed up support for Specs Appeal among his two million social media followers, helping his spectacles sell for more than **€2070***





12 year old Bineta was born blind and never had the chance to go to school. Now, thanks to our Irish Aid funded programme, she's in school and thriving. Bineta's mother, Astou, is thrilled her daughter is learning and has high hopes for her future.

Our funding partners

We collaborate with many partners, large and small, whose support continues to be invaluable. Here are a few we have worked with in 2016 to make lasting change.



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Irish Aid

In 2017, we received a further four-year development funding grant from Irish Aid, to support our work in West Africa and help us save sight and change lives while delivering measurable results and accountability.

The grant builds on a previous four year programme, funded by Irish Aid, and supports programmes in four countries in West Africa: Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

We chose these countries because of the extreme poverty they face and because some are post-conflict zones. Because of this, they've had low investment in health systems, inclusive education and social inclusion programmes.

With four years of focused investment we aim to:

- improve the eye health system;
- improve educational opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired;
- improve the political participation of people with disabilities;

- campaign for the rights of people with disabilities (particularly those who are blind and visually impaired); and
- increase the impact of programme management.

The funding provided by Irish Aid has made a big impact on our work and we're hugely grateful for their support.



For more information, visit
www.irishaid.ie



European Union (EU)

In 2012, the EU provided a four year funding grant in 2012 for a collaborative project to strengthen, and increase access to, health systems for people with disabilities in three regions of Sierra Leone. The project is led by Sightsavers, delivered with local partners and funded by the EU and Sightsavers.

In 2016, the EU supported a Social Inclusion Programme addressing the needs of people with disabilities Sierra Leone and Uganda.

We are hugely grateful to EU for their continued support and partnership.



ElectricAid

ElectricAid is the social justice and development fund of ESB and EirGrid staff. It provides funding for small development projects in Ireland, Europe and developing countries.

Sightsavers has been hugely fortunate to be supported by Electric Aid since 2013 to help deliver our range of eye health care programmes.

2016 saw the purchase of key equipment that is integral to carry out treatments and surgeries to reduce the prevalence of blindness in vulnerable communities in the Koulikoro region in Mali.

We would like to thank Electric Aid for their ongoing support in helping rid the world of avoidable blindness.



For more information, visit
www.electricaid.ie



Bank of Ireland

Since 2007, The Bank of Ireland Group Staff Fund has been a leading donor in Sightsavers' eye health care programmes. They have provided invaluable support to a variety of programmes, in developing countries that include Senegal, Mali and Tanzania.

In 2016 alone, The Bank of Ireland Group Staff Fund provided funding to support the elimination of River Blindness in Benin, an eye health care project concentrating on the older population in Tanzania, as well as an outreach clinic in Mozambique offering eye health care to rural populations.

“One of the primary motivations for the Bank of Ireland Group Staff Fund to commit support to Sightsavers is the unquestionable efficiency in how they go about transforming lives through their eye health care work. We are extremely proud to support this work.”

Tom Buckley, Projects Officer,
The Bank of Ireland Group Staff Fund

We would like to thank everyone in the Bank of Ireland Group Staff Fund for their ongoing commitment in helping Sightsavers eliminate avoidable blindness across the developing world.



For more information, visit
www.bankofireland.com

GiveWell

GiveWell

Sightsavers is proud to have been named as one of seven 'top charities' by charity evaluator GiveWell for our work on treating children for parasitic infections, a process also known as deworming. GiveWell is a non-profit organisation that conducts in-depth analysis to find and recommend outstanding charities to donors.

Sightsavers is being recommended by GiveWell to scale up our deworming programmes to distribute treatment for schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths, as part of our integrated NTD programmes in a number of sub-Saharan African countries, including Nigeria and Guinea Bissau.

GiveWell deems the deworming programmes we support as having "a strong track record and excellent cost-effectiveness". We were also endorsed because of our standout record of transparency.



For GiveWell's full report on Sightsavers, visit www.givewell.org/charities/sightsavers



COMIC
RELIEF

Comic Relief

With fantastic support from Comic Relief, we are helping to drive positive change in education for pre-school children with disabilities in Malawi. During the project's first year, we worked with our partners to train carers in Chikwawa's early learning centres to support the inclusion of young children with disabilities. We provided the centres with bicycles with carriers to help bring children who cannot walk to the centres, and outside play equipment to help stimulate the children.

We also trained government workers to help identify and refer children with disabilities for assessment and onward inclusion in early learning centres. We worked with the parents themselves and other members of the community to help raise awareness about the importance of giving young children with disabilities early-learning provision.



For more information, visit www.comicrelief.com

Finances

Global income



€281.4m	Gifts in kind
€38.2m	Grants from governments/NGOs
€27.5m	Individuals
€15.5m	Legacies

€3.5m	Companies
€2.3m	Trusts
€1m	Other

Figures represented in millions

Global expenditure

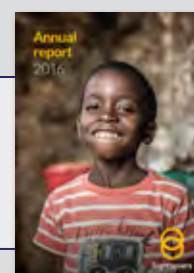


€280.9m	Gifts in kind drug donation
€29.8m	Neglected tropical diseases
€23.9m	Eye health
€22.6m	Costs of generating funds

€3.2m	Social inclusion
€3m	Education
€2.8m	Policy and research




You can download the Sightsavers annual report for more information:
www.sightsavers.org/annualreport2016



A group of people in a meeting, with a central circular graphic containing text.

**Last, but
not least,
Thank you!**



2016 was a year of incredible achievements, none of which would have been possible without your support.

From individual donors, government ministries, trusts and foundations, to corporate partners and fellow charities, all of you have helped us make an enormous impact on a great number of people.

We are grateful for your ongoing generosity, which allows us to continue our life-changing work.

What's next?

Throughout 2016, your donations have helped us to continue our life-changing work. With your support, we can keep working towards a world where no one goes blind from a preventable or treatable cause and where people with disabilities are able to reach their full potential. Here are our plans for the year ahead.

One billion treatments

In December 2017 we're on track to deliver our one billionth treatment for neglected tropical diseases, and will be celebrating by holding events in countries including Nigeria, Ireland and the UK. We expect to provide 145 million NTD treatments during the year – that's an average of 4.59 treatments every second.

Inclusive health

2016 saw the start of a pilot initiative to strengthen the disability and gender inclusiveness of our eye health and NTD programmes. This initiative, started off in Bhopal, India and we will be continuing throughout 2017 to test the approach elsewhere before scaling up further.

Research

In the coming year, costing studies on inclusive education and studies of barriers to uptake of cataract services are planned. We will continue a range of NTD research, including a study of alternative treatment of river blindness in Cameroon. We will also conduct further research on disability, education and gender in Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Senegal. All research will address global knowledge gaps and will benefit Sightsavers' upcoming projects and programmes.

Working together

We will continue to develop and strengthen key partnerships and alliances, such as with Irish Aid, the Department for International Development in the UK, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, The Fred Hollows Foundation, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Partnership for Education, to enable us to maximise our impact.

Recruiting for the Board

We will also appoint a new Chair in Ireland.

A new website

We are overhauling our website to make it as user-friendly, engaging and accessible as possible, and to make sure it provides all the essential information about our work, our partners and our beneficiaries.



You can help:

The world is changing
Your help really makes a difference

Visit www.sightsavers.ie
or call us on +353 (0)1 6637666

Israel Shek drives a rickshaw fitted with a loadspeaker advertising eye health services through Kushtia district, Bangladesh.

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President Michael D Higgins

Chairman

Pat Farrell

Board of Directors

Cathrine Burke

Dr Bernadette Carr

Howard Dalzell

Dominic Haslam

Brenda Moriarty

Jim Miley

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