

With your help, we have treated 200 million people in more than 30 countries around the world.

2000s

Today

Tomorrow

In 2010, we celebrated the distribution of the 150 millionth treatment for river blindness.



By 2020, we aim to take decisive steps towards eliminating trachoma. With help from people like you, this can be achieved in the next six years.

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The future is in your hands.



By working together, we can end the misery of avoidable blindness – what a truly amazing achievement that would be. But it could take many more decades of hard work and dedication and for that reason we must have a guaranteed income.

Leaving a gift to Sightsavers in your Will is the very best way of giving us the income we need. Please, will you do something special today, and arrange to leave us a gift in your Will?

Together, we can build a future without avoidable blindness.

Thank you.

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 Sightsavers

Working for a future where no one is needlessly blind



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For over 60 years, we have been supporting teams of surgeons, nurses, teachers and volunteers who are saving sight in the world's poorest places. In that time, we've come a very long way – and changed the lives of millions of people.

1950s

On 5 January 1950, Sir John Wilson founded the British Empire Society for the Blind. Later, the name changed to the Royal Commonwealth Society of the Blind.



In 1953, Dr Freddie Rodger carried out a survey in West Africa, which showed that the majority of blindness there was actually preventable. This led to the launch of a pioneering disease control programme dedicated to tackling river blindness.

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1960s

The first mobile eye units were launched, with trained staff using Land Rovers to travel thousands of miles to treat eye conditions in remote communities in Kenya and Uganda.



We started training local staff to provide eye care – a much more effective way of reaching remote communities. We also set up the first surgical training programme in Bangladesh.

1970s

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1980s

A Blue Peter appeal raised £2 million for Sightsavers, breaking all previous records. As a result of this appeal, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind changed its name to Sightsavers.



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1990s

Continues →



Volunteers were by now being trained to distribute Mectizan® treatments for people suffering from river blindness in their own and neighbouring communities – a much more cost-effective and far-reaching solution.

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