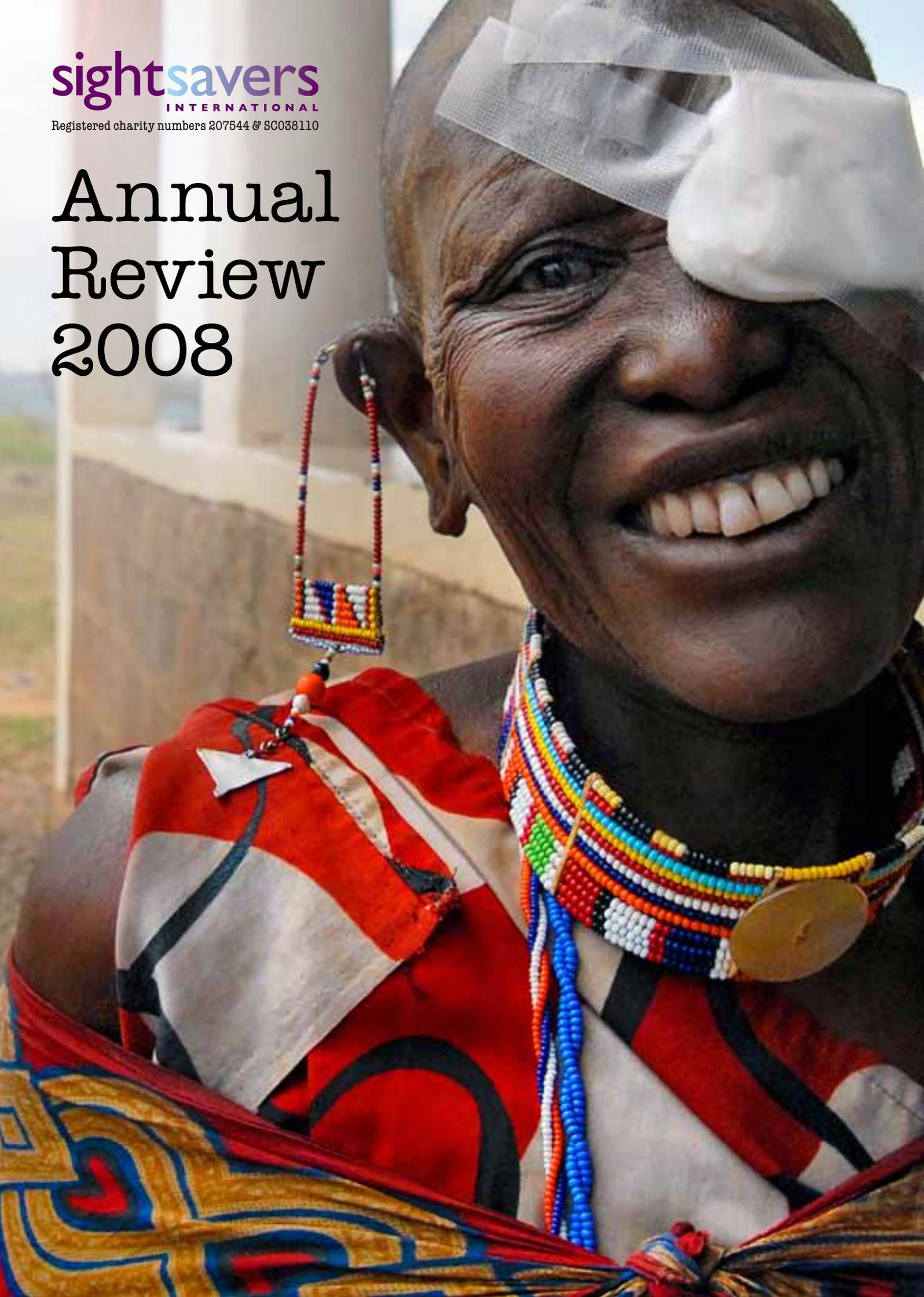


sightsavers
INTERNATIONAL

Registered charity numbers 207544 & SC038110

Annual Review 2008



Mother Jlopleh Barney, 72, from Grand Kru County in Liberia, said she was literally “overwhelmed with joy” after the cataract operation that restored her sight, after some 14 years in darkness.



Putting a smile on people's faces in

As I write this introduction, we are facing the world's worst economic crisis in decades, with developed nations seeing increased unemployment, fears over financial systems and a loss of confidence. Meanwhile, I am sitting in a guest house in Pakistan, having just visited communities who will ultimately be impacted far more by the crisis than

we will, as the problems unwind across the world.

Over the last year I have seen at first hand how, working with our partners, we can banish trachoma from a village (with antibiotic treatment and water supplies), prevent river blindness from afflicting millions, enable blind and other disabled people to participate fully in their communities and restore



Main picture: Sando Moore/Sightsavers; Right: Sightsavers



Alamgir Hossain/Sightsavers

‘In my first year as Chair I have seen how even small amounts of money can make an enormous difference locally in saving sight and changing peoples’ lives. Every supporter and every contribution makes a difference to someone somewhere. Thank you.’
– Nigel Crisp, Chairman

contents

- 4 Our performance in 2008
- 6 Preventing blindness
- 8 Restoring sight
- 10 Social inclusion
- 12 Eyewitness
- 14 Training
- 16 Advocacy
- 18 Raising awareness
- 19 Income and expenditure
- 20 Supporting Sightsavers
- 21 Thank you
- 22 Where our money is spent
- 23 Going forward
- 24 Further information

Front cover: 45-year-old Lente Orumoi from Kenya's Rift Valley after her life-changing trichiasis operation. Picture by Riccardo Gangale/Sightsavers

these difficult times

sight to adults and children who thought their blindness was for life.
We have also had an impact at a higher level – persuading governments to prioritise eye health, to include disabled children in their education policies, and to provide increased levels of funding for these activities. We believe that this way we can make lasting change.
This year I would like to extend a special thanks to our supporters – as we all face troubled times, I

am heartened that we have seen such loyalty and generosity. Our work has a major impact on the lives of individuals and their communities, and this has never been more important.

Caroline Harper

Caroline Harper, Chief Executive

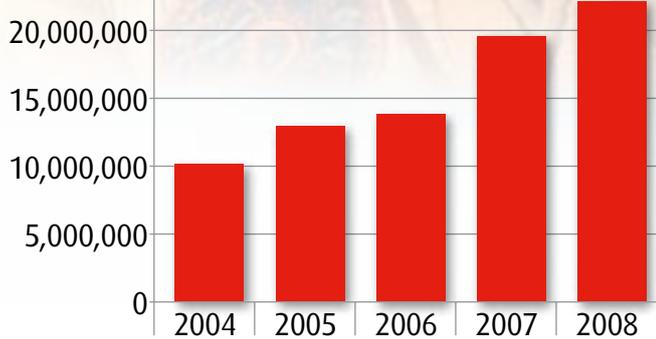
Our performance in 2008



Suzanne Porter/Sightsavers

Protection against river blindness

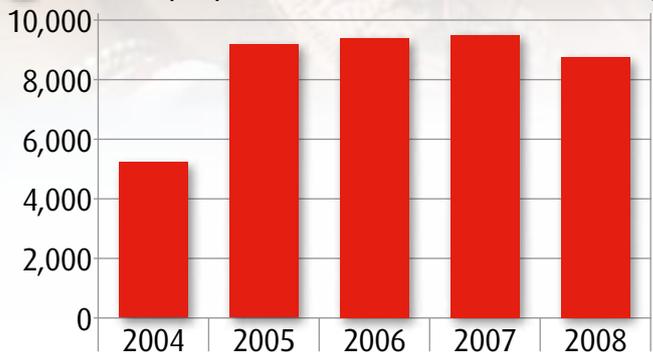
■ Number of people who were treated with Mectizan®



Phil Wilkinson/Scotland on Sunday/Sightsavers

Social inclusion

■ Number of people who are blind that received training



Eight-year-old Rahal Choudhary from the village of Bijay Gang in North East India, pictured with his mother at the Sundarbans Social Development Centre hospital.



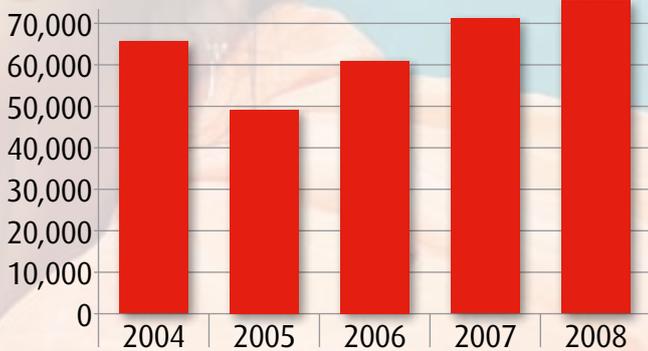
Luke Thomas/Sightsavers



Sightsavers

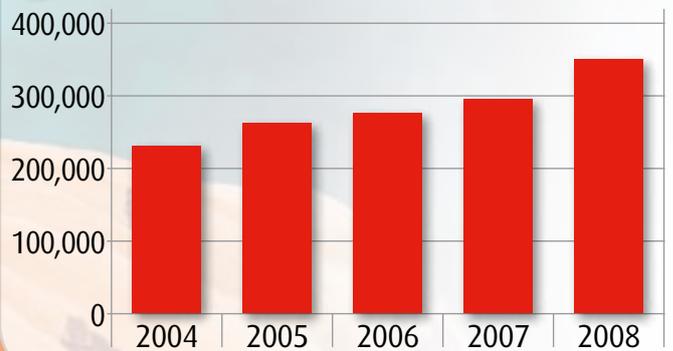
Training

■ Number of medical personnel who were trained



Eye operations

■ Number of eye operations performed



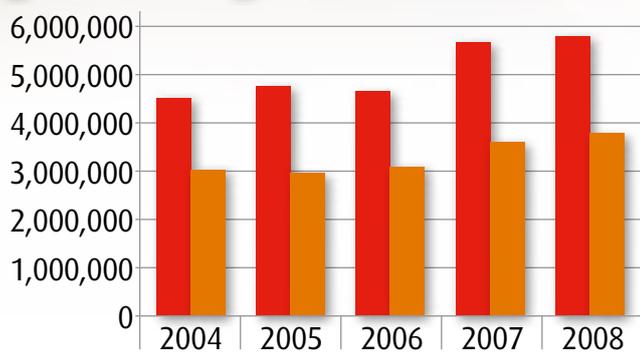
Jenny Matthews/Sightsavers



Jamshyd Masud/Sightsavers

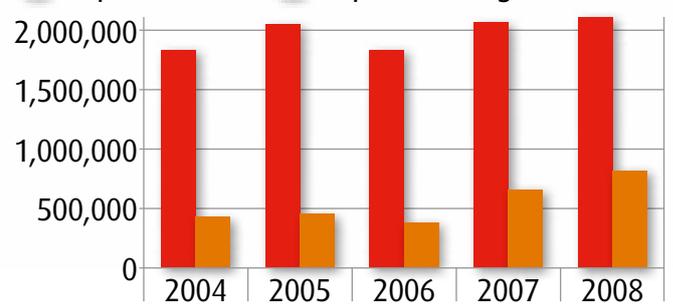
People seen and treated

■ People seen ■ People treated



People screened for glasses and low vision

■ People screened ■ People receiving treatment



Preventing avoidable blindness remains a priority for Sightsavers. Using a community-centred, sustainable approach this year we protected over 22 million people against river blindness, and treated 875,014 people for trachoma. Our work ensures people can live without the fear of losing their sight.



Toby Adamson/Sightsavers

Africa without river blindness?

Approximately 140 million people in Africa are at risk from river blindness, a disease caused by the bite of the black simulium fly that breeds in fast flowing rivers. For a long time experts believed that river blindness could be successfully kept under control, but not totally eliminated, through taking a yearly dose of Mectizan®. However new evidence suggests that this

New evidence suggests that it is possible to get rid of the disease for good

method means it is possible to actually get rid of the disease for good and break its transmission, therefore reducing the need for continued treatment. Elimination will take time and effort, but if successful will result in the number of people blinded by the disease being dramatically reduced. Sightsavers with our partners will be taking up this challenge in the years ahead. Last year we supported the training of 20,137 community volunteers to distribute the drug, and over 22 million people were successfully protected.

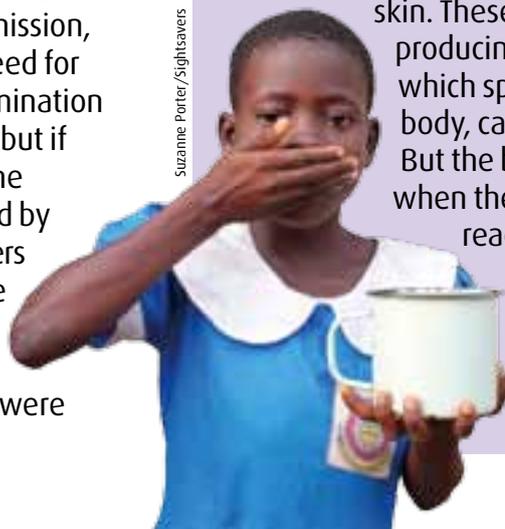
the disease being dramatically reduced. Sightsavers with our partners will be taking up this challenge in the years ahead. Last year we supported the training of 20,137 community volunteers to distribute the drug, and over 22 million people were successfully protected.

In focus

It is actually a parasitical worm, *onchocerca volvulus*, that causes river blindness (onchocerciasis). When a black simulium fly becomes infected, the worm larvae spread to its saliva glands. When it bites a human, these pass into the skin. Here they develop into adults and form nodules under the

skin. These adults then breed, producing thousands of larvae which spread throughout the body, causing intense itching. But the biggest problem is when these worms die: the

reaction of the person's immune system causes inflammation. If this happens behind the eye it can cause blindness.



Suzanne Porter/Sightsavers

 Pakistan  Kenya  Mali

Tackling trachoma

Funding from Standard Chartered Bank and Irish Aid helped our partners train over 25,000 primary eye care workers in **Pakistan** last year, including 22-year-old Sarwar Kausar (pictured) from the village of Killa Virkan. She is a Lady Health Worker, who travels from house to house to identify eye diseases like trachoma, as well as general health problems. She then refers cases that need treatment to the local health centre. Sarwar also plays an important role in promoting good hygiene and sanitation. Sightsavers promotes the SAFE strategy to tackle trachoma: Surgery, Antibiotics, Face Washing, Environmental Hygiene – and spreading the word about the F and E elements wouldn't be possible without people like Sarwar. As children are one of the most vulnerable

groups, last year 200 teachers were given personal hygiene and sanitation training and encouraged to set up school health clubs in the Kajiado district of **Kenya**. 70 water tanks for face and hand washing were also installed in schools and health facilities. Over 400,000 people were given antibiotics to treat the infection, and 690 people had trichiasis surgery in Kajiado in 2008. The four year programme sponsored by the European Union is a collaboration between Sightsavers, AMREF, cbm and the Ministry of Health.

In **Mali** too, trachoma treatment was also a great success, resulting in 4,081 people with trichiasis being operated on in eye camps and centres in six regions.



Jamshyd Masud/Sightsavers

In brief

Coming together to tackle river blindness

- In **Togo**, the first ever cross-border meeting with **Ghana** took place to discuss synchronising the distribution of Mectizan® along the borders of the two countries, in order to achieve a better coverage in light of the population movement in these areas.
- All three river blindness projects we support in **Cameroon** achieved above 70% Mectizan® coverage. The World Health Organization recommends a minimum coverage rate of 65% over at least 15 years in all endemic communities for the disease to be eliminated as a public health problem.

- Efforts to eliminate river blindness were stepped up in **Benin** last year with the first in-depth review between ourselves and other stakeholders. This was an important opportunity to swap experience and expertise.

Recognition for Mectizan® work

- The prestigious 2008 Mectizan® Award, awarded by global pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., Inc. in recognition of the efforts of an individual in the fight to eliminate river blindness, was awarded to Sightsavers' Catherine Cross. Catherine has worked at Sightsavers for over 15 years, playing a leading role in our river blindness work, distributing Mectizan® donated by Merck & Co., Inc., to those at risk across Africa.

Our vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes, and our partners work tirelessly to achieve this. Last year we carried out 274,178 sight-restoring cataract operations.



Reaching those most in need

Jainab Bibi and her husband Abul Hossain are not camera shy – and proudly show off their matching specs! Jainab, 60, explains that they both had their sight restored on the same day, through the Dhaka Urban Eye Care Project in Bangladesh which is now receiving funding from Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing programme.

"I had cataract in both my eyes and so did my husband," she says. "Abul and I sell vegetables for a living. But we had to stop work when we couldn't see."

The couple were diagnosed with cataract at an eye screening camp that came to their slum community in urban Dhaka. Cataract is a clouding of the eye's lens, which can be rectified with a simple, 20 minute operation to replace the lens with a clear plastic one.

Jainab and Abul were taken to the Islamia Eye Hospital for surgery on the bus service laid on free-of-charge for very poor people. This ensures that expensive transport costs don't stop patients receiving treatment.

Counselling is also provided at the hospital.

People can be very nervous before surgery, and this reassurance helps put them at ease.

Like many older people who undergo cataract surgery, Jainab and Abul will need to wear their new glasses for more detailed tasks, such as reading.

In focus

Dhaka, the capital of **Bangladesh**, has a population of over 12 million. Around 30 per cent of these people live in slums and squatters' colonies. Poor housing, high population density and no

sanitation mean that these communities often lack the basic needs required for good health. Sightsavers remains committed to providing eye care services for many more people like Jainab and Abul, who can find it extremely difficult to access them.



Nigeria

The need for eye care in Nigeria

When 60-year-old Deborah Bamidele had cataracts removed from both eyes, she said: “my entire family came to see me at the hospital and they were so happy we all started dancing!”

A new survey of blindness and low vision has already ensured that hundreds more Nigerians like Deborah will get the surgery they need. The survey, initiated by Sightsavers and the Ministry of Health, found that nearly half a million adults in the country are in immediate need of cataract surgery. The successful dissemination of the results has led to increased awareness about eye health by policy makers. As a direct result of the survey, over 3,500 cataract operations were performed, over 5,800 pairs of reading glasses dispensed and thousands of people’s minor ailments were treated.

‘My entire family were all so happy we started dancing’



In brief

Restoring cataract worldwide

- Two major eye camps were successfully conducted in the Louga region of **Senegal** while the number of cataract eye camps increased to nine this year in **Guinea** – 776 out of the 912 cataract operations carried out in the country were done in these eye camps.
- In **Guinea Bissau** two secondary eye units were established which have improved people’s access to cataract services.

Developing services

- In **North West India** we established a diabetic retinopathy clinic, and a mobile refractive error and low vision unit in Jodhpur district, serving the people of western Rajasthan, who previously had no access to such facilities.
- In **Ghana** a ‘one-stop-shop’ eye health centre was built on the premises of the Hohoe Municipal Hospital, bringing together eye care such as medical, optical, and low vision services under one roof.
- The launching of a vision centre at the Ekangala District in **South Africa** helped reduce the waiting time for surgery from one and a half years, to just two months.
- Last year Sightsavers in **Sri Lanka** successfully launched a national low vision programme, and set up four low vision clinics. Four ophthalmic technicians were trained in low vision and three senior technicians went for advanced training in India.

Overcoming challenges

- Last year we were able to carry out 598 cataract operations in **Zimbabwe**, and dispense spectacles to 9,162 people. Although not huge numbers, this reflects our commitment to the people of Zimbabwe.
- A key success last year in **Mozambique**, one of our newest countries, was the delivery of equipment and consumables to Nampula Central Hospital after almost a year of being held up in customs. This has greatly reduced the waiting time for treatment.

Sightsavers is committed to promoting equal opportunities for people with visual impairments, helping them to live independent lives. Last year we supported the training of 8,670 people who are blind in new skills. 5,910 children with visual impairments were enrolled in school.

Saying goodbye to Ravi

10 Sukumari Mallik works with visually impaired children in northeast India, teaching them skills to live a more independent life. The first person she helped was Ravi Nayak from the Chandanpur village.

“When I found him, he wasn’t able to do anything for himself: his room was dirty and he found it difficult to go to toilet. He had to depend on his mother everything,” she says.

Their training started with developing Ravi’s sense of touch, and he learnt how to count money. It continued once or twice a week for three months, and he was soon able to walk around without assistance. A small speed breaker was added by his gate, so he could identify his house.

“After a month or so, I could see a marked difference in Ravi’s daily living skills. He had started to believe in himself.

Ravi is now an independent individual. I’ve known him for three months, and have developed a

‘As a rehabilitation worker I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with people like Ravi.’

friendship with him, but I know I now have to be elsewhere to provide support. I find great pleasure in working with visually impaired children, although I get so involved with them that it is sometimes difficult to detach myself and say goodbye. As a rehabilitation worker I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with people like Ravi.”

In focus

Being able to earn a livelihood ensures that people who are blind can be truly independent. Our partner Jana Jagarana has helped Ravi with some capital to start a cycle repair shop, and offered to send him for some vocational training.

In **Sierra Leone** the second phase of the microcredit programme started.



This system of lending, targeting people who would not usually qualify for loans, allows people

with visual impairments to go on to set up their own small businesses.

Encouraging people who are blind to trade continued in **Malawi**, where Sightsavers supported its partners Malawi Union of the Blind and MACOHA in transcribing a book called “Profit Making Businesses” into Braille.

The Gambia

Going to school for the first time

Seven-year-old Abdoulie Chandoum lives with his nine brothers and sisters in a two roomed shack in Bato Kunku Village in The Gambia. He has been blind since birth, and although an extremely happy and well-loved child, he was sadly missing out on an education because his parents did not send him to school. They did not realise that school was even an option for him.

Last year he was discovered by Alieu Jallow, an itinerant teacher, whose job is to identify and support children who are blind or have low vision with their studies. Alieu was able to explain to Abdoulie's parents that sending him to school would help him live a more independent life. He has now enrolled in Batokunku nursery, about a kilometer from his home.



Anna Nancy Menden/Sightsavers

‘Abdoulie’s parents did not realise that school was even an option for him’

With help from his itinerant teacher his orientation and mobility skills have improved greatly, and he can now move confidently by himself to different parts of his school. He takes part in activities

such as singing and learning the alphabet with his 51 class-mates, and has started to learn Braille.

Sightsavers supports Inclusive Education projects such as this as we believe that children like Abdoulie benefit from studying alongside their sighted peers, allowing them to learn from an early age that they are able to participate equally in society.

In brief

Shining examples

- Blind and visually impaired pupils in **Tanzania** did extremely well in their 2008 primary school exam results. Nine out of eleven got enrolled in secondary school.
- Two students outshone their sighted peers in Turkana integrated primary school, scooping position one and two in the **Kenya** certificate of primary education exam. This shows that mainstream schools really can deliver quality education to visually impaired children.

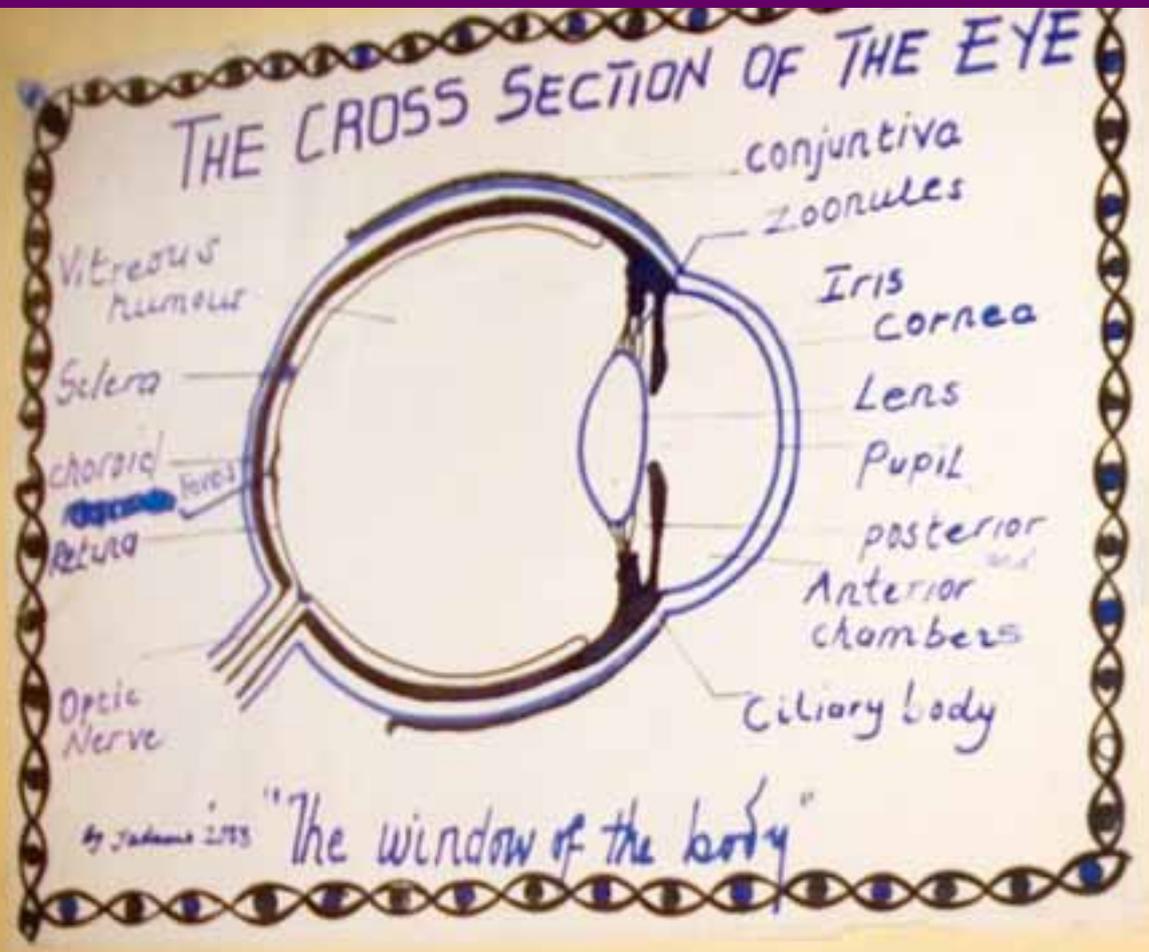
Supporting children

- Training started for four additional itinerant teachers in **Belize**, who will support blind and visually impaired students in the mainstream school system.

- As a result of successful lobbying, the Ministry of Education has posted three more itinerant teachers to the Chikwawa District of **Malawi**.
- The Integrated Education Programme in **The Gambia** has successfully installed a Braille embosser and software. Printing of core text books and other teaching and learning materials has started, making them accessible to blind and low vision children enrolled in mainstream schools.

Financial equality

- Sightsavers in **Liberia**, along with other stakeholders (including the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare) took part in drafting a national social welfare policy – to protect the economic rights of people with disabilities. This is in line with government’s poverty reduction strategy.



Isatou Drammeh from Aljamdou village in The Gambia, at a drop-in clinic. She was diagnosed with trachoma, and treated with antibiotics.



One of the most challenging aspects of delivering eye care is the severe shortage of trained staff. Last year we supported the training of 73,608 primary eye care workers and 490 ophthalmologists.



Training health workers

Malawi is notoriously short of trained health workers, not least eye specialists. At the moment there are only six ophthalmologists serving the population of over 12 million. In order to reach as many people as possible, we believe that ensuring eye care is integrated into existing health systems is the most sustainable way of working. Last year, in the South West Zone of Malawi, we supported the training of 933 clinicians, nurses, and health surveillance assistants in primary eye care. This has

equipped them with the skills to identify and treat basic eye conditions. Cases requiring more complex treatment, such as surgery, have to be referred to the district hospital.

In June 2008, 25-year-old Sphiwe Mankwala undertook

her primary eye care training, learning about common ailments such as conjunctivitis. Sphiwe is a medical assistant at the Mbulumbuzi Health Centre, in the district of Chiradzulu. "Previously I could not treat eye patients, all I could do is tell them to go to Chiradzulu

district hospital, 12 kilometres away. It made me sad to see patients despondently going back home without being treated." On average she examines 30 eye patients in a month, and hopes to see more people get treated, as the community becomes more aware of the services available to them.

In focus

A lack of trained staff poses a huge challenge in developing countries. Ophthalmologists tend to be based in the larger cities, while isolated communities have extremely limited access to eye care. The introduction of health surveillance assistants (HSAs), who are based in the community itself, means more people can be reached, and have their eye conditions diagnosed. These HSAs are trained in primary eye care, so are able to treat certain eye conditions.



Training vision specialists in Pakistan

Last year Sightsavers in **Pakistan** led on an important piece of research showing that refractive errors are the commonest form of visual impairment in the country. Refractive error is when the eye has problems focusing light, which affects how acute, or clear, vision is; a condition that can generally be corrected with spectacles. Over six million people are examined for refractive error in Pakistan every year, and more than two million pairs of spectacles dispensed.

However, the research showed that the needs of the population are not being adequately addressed, and that many more eye health practitioners (such as optometrists and opticians) need to be trained. Sightsavers supports a number of training programmes in Pakistan, including a BSC Vision Sciences course in Lahore, in the Punjab Province.

Hashim Ali Khan is a second year student. He is from Gilgit, in the mountainous north west of the country, where there is only one hospital with optometry facilities. It was the lack of eye services here that made Hashim decide to pursue this career. He hopes to continue his studies and specialise further, to help provide a better service for the people of his home town.

‘It was the lack of eye services that made Hashim decide to pursue this career’



In brief

- Eight ophthalmic clinical officers and seven ophthalmic nurses completed their training at Chainama College of Health Sciences in **Zambia**, becoming the first students in the country to complete these courses.
- Sightsavers sponsored the training of the only ophthalmologist working in **Guinea**.
- Two more staff in **Senegal** have successfully completed their training in cataract surgery. Once their internship is completed, they will be deployed to the underserved districts.
- Surgeons in **The Gambia** have been trained in the technique of small incision cataract surgery (SICS). The technique will drastically reduce the cost of the surgery.
- Three nurses returned to **Sierra Leone** upon completing their ophthalmic nursing course in The Gambia. Once they complete their internships they will help deliver quality services to people in the west, east and south of the country. However we are still far from meeting our estimated target of 16 ophthalmic staff to be trained by end 2009.

In November last year, former Home and Education secretary David Blunkett MP travelled to Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar with Sightsavers. Here he talks about our work and how he was able push for positive change for disabled people.



David Blunkett talking to nine-year-old Cynthia Wanjiku, one of the pupils at Kilimani inclusive primary school where children who are blind and deaf-blind learn alongside classmates who do not have a disability.

David Blunkett in Africa

“I think the contribution of Sightsavers has been deeply impressive: I’m encouraged by their way of working as partners; I’m impressed with the progress they’ve made both in terms of campaigning for change publicly (including changing attitudes), but also the practical steps that are being taken in both prevention and in opportunity of equality and inclusion.

I met one of the Vice Presidents in Kenya, as well as the Health and Education Ministers, the Prime Minister and equivalent ministers in Tanzania, and the President of Zanzibar. This was an opportunity to be able to provide a high profile opportunity for local people and representative groups to have their voices heard. It also demonstrated that a blind person can achieve at the highest possible level.

One of my most memorable moments was meeting the young people at the University of Kenyatta who made up a song to sing, to gently pull my leg as well as welcome me. And secondly, going into the unit working inside a school (which itself had enormous problems) providing education for deaf-blind youngsters. I was completely taken aback by what they were able to do with such limited resources.”

In focus

Director of Sightsavers in Kenya, Nancy Thuo, reflects upon David Blunkett’s visit

“He came, saw, shared, interacted, inspired and above all influenced key figures. As newspapers headlines boldly put it: ‘Though visually impaired, he is unstoppable’. David Blunkett’s visit to Kenya was a great success as it created a platform to present important education issues to the Minister of Education. These included the employment of graduate teachers with disabilities; lowering enrolment points for admission to universities for students with disabilities and copyright exemptions to allow production of materials in accessible formats, such as Braille.”



Making rights a reality

Disabled people, such as those who are blind, are among the poorest in the world due to the discrimination they face. Sightsavers wants visually impaired people to be equal members of society, and last year saw a real step towards this becoming a reality. When Ecuador became the 20th country to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in May 2008, it became legally binding in the countries that have already ratified it.

Negotiated by disabled people and their organisations and governments from all over the globe, the Convention is the first human rights treaty of the 21st century. This will ultimately lead to a massive improvement to the rights of people with disabilities all over

the world, such as Juliet Makiwolo from Uganda who is blind (pictured).

Ten countries in which we work have ratified the Convention: **Bangladesh, Guinea,**

India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, South Africa, Tanzania and **Uganda**. By ratifying the treaty these countries accept the obligation to promote the human rights of disabled people by passing anti-discriminatory laws or eliminating legislation and practices that do discriminate.

A further 14 Sightsavers countries have signed (but not ratified) it:

Antigua, Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Guyana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Togo and **Zambia**.



Rachel Heald/Sightsavers

In brief

- In **Uganda** we played an important role in petitioning parliament to amend the Disability Act of 2006.
- Sightsavers in **Kenya** supported and participated in a regional conference about mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals. To take forward the outcomes, we have secured a meeting between the disabled people's organisations and development partners, starting with DFID (Department for International Development).
- One of our partners in **South India**, St Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC), celebrated a major victory with regard to

people who are blind having equal access to services. The Reserve Bank of India for the first time in its history has categorically instructed all banks to provide adequate facilities for their visually impaired customers.

- One of our proudest achievements in **North India** was a signature campaign run on World Sight Day last year, which raised our profile with the government, NGOs and the public, as well as conveying messages about eye care far and wide.
- In **Zambia**, the National Eye care Coordination Programme, supported by Sightsavers, was fully incorporated into the government health system.



Specs Appeal

What do Ewan McGregor, Michael Caine and Jimmy Saville all have in common? They were three of the 26 celebrities who donated their glasses to our Specs Appeal in August last year, an eBay auction that raised over £4,000! It also attracted coverage in *The Daily Mail*, *The Independent* and Sky.com, helping us to highlight the amount of people who are blind in developing countries simply because they don't have glasses. The campaign was also supported by iconic photographer Rankin, who took a stunning picture of all of the celebrities' specs.

**‘My worst nightmare would be to lose my sight. I share Sightsavers’ belief that sight is a basic human right, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to help their cause’
– Rankin**

In brief

- The *Scotland on Sunday* chose us for their Christmas Appeal for the fourth year running, featuring our work in urban Delhi and the rural Sundarbans area of India. The paper has raised over £152,000 for us over the years, which is fantastic!
- Singer Corrine Bailey-Rae lent her support to Sightsavers Sunday, an opportunity for churches to raise awareness, and vital funds, for Sightsavers.
- We participated in the *Guardian* Development Awards, encouraging amateur and freelance journalists to engage with development issues.



Classy showing

Our work with schools went from strength to strength last year, with the third annual Junior Painter competition attracting nearly 9,000 entries! We were thrilled to be able to showcase the winning paintings at the Royal Academy, and the four national winners were treated to an awards day in London where they had the chance to visit Professor Maurice Cockrill's private studio.



Clicking with young people

Our Schools Team launched two brand new initiatives for UK schools last year:

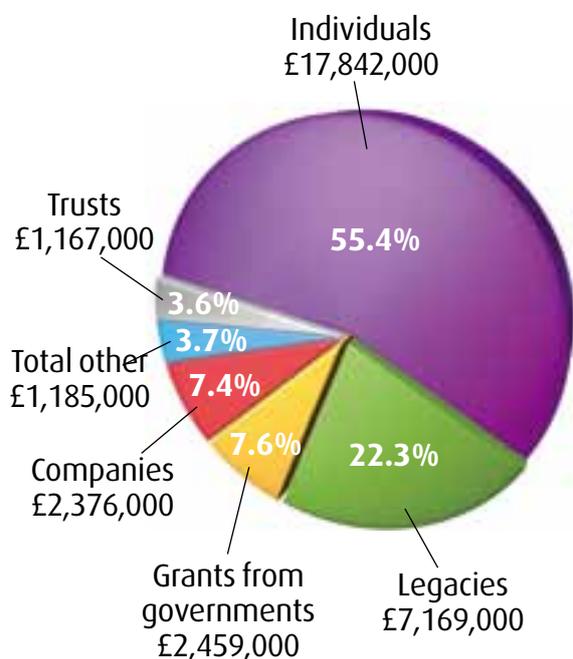
i:click is a new photography competition for 11-18 year-olds, which was launched to raise awareness of the issue of global blindness whilst celebrating the creativity of young people throughout the UK.

The **i:care** day is an annual opportunity to teach all about blindness and the senses, whilst having some fun in the classroom!

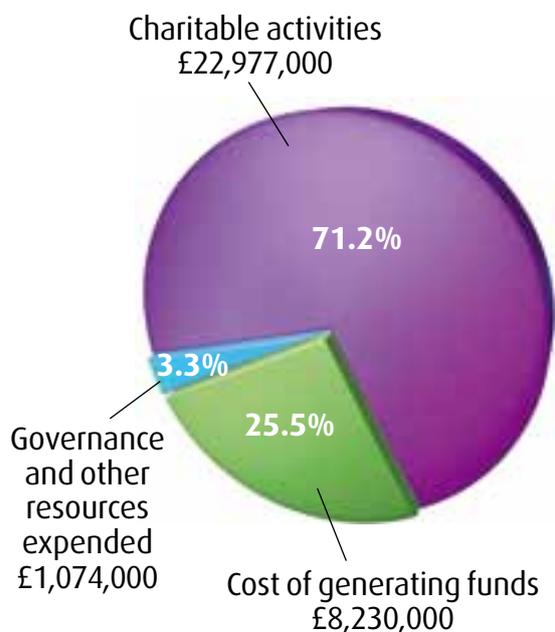
If you'd like any further information about our schools work please do get in touch on **01444 446727** or email **schools@sightsavers.org**

Income and expenditure

Income 2008¹



Expenditure 2008¹



Summary financial statements²

	2008 £	2007 £
Incoming resources		
Donations	21,783,000	19,790,000
Legacies	7,169,000	7,149,000
Grants	2,459,000	1,262,000
Other income	787,000	432,000
Total incoming resources (excluding gifts in kind)	32,198,000	28,633,000
Gifts in kind	69,378,000	44,253,000
Total incoming resources	101,576,000	72,886,000
Resources expended		
Charitable expenditure	92,355,000	63,309,000
Costs of generating funds	8,230,000	6,960,000
Governance costs and other resources expended	1,074,000	527,000
Total resources expended (including gifts in kind)	101,659,000	70,796,000
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(83,000)	2,090,000
Other recognised (losses)/gains	(1,638,000)	113,000
Net movement in funds	(1,721,000)	2,203,000
Opening total funds	10,243,000	8,040,000
Closing total funds	8,522,000	10,243,000

Trustees' statement

We have extracted the figures provided on this page from the full, published financial statements, which have been audited by Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors. The full financial statements, approved on 8th May 2009, and which received an unqualified audit report, are available from Sightsavers' head office (see back cover for contact details) or can be downloaded at www.sightsavers.org/downloads

Michael Pitts, Honorary Treasurer

A sighted pupil helps a blind student in a maths class at the Malian Union of the Blind (UMAV) in Bamako, Mali.



How to help

If you would like to make a donation to Sightsavers you can give online at www.sightsavers.org, call **01444 446710** (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm), or send a donation to **Sightsavers International, FREEPOST SEA4079, Haywards Heath, RH16 4BR.**

Tugela Ridley/Sightsavers

giftaid it If you pay UK Income or Capital Gains Tax your donations can be worth at least 25% more to Sightsavers International at no extra cost to you! You will need to make a Gift Aid declaration: we can either send you the simple form to complete, or it can be done over the phone. Simply call us on **01444 446710**. It doesn't matter what rate of tax you pay, as long as the amount you pay is at least equal to the tax we reclaim for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next).



Did you know that if you were to sell your unwanted items on eBay you can donate the proceeds to Sightsavers? eBay for charity allows you to select your favourite charity when you list an item for sale, and all or part of the sale price can be donated to Sightsavers.

Fundraising is a fun way to raise vital funds and awareness of our work. Whether you enjoy running, cycling, walking, baking or knitting, then why not do it for Sightsavers? Visit www.sightsavers.org/fundraising to find out more or email events@sightsavers.org



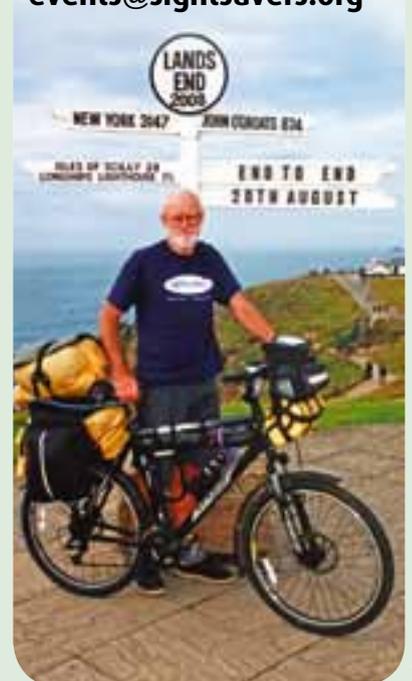
Sightsavers



For every £1 entry to the Unity lottery, 50p comes directly to Sightsavers as profit, and you could be in with a chance of winning up to £2,500 each week! Lucky winners are selected at random every Saturday and prize cheques are posted directly to you, so there is no need for you to claim. If you want to join, please phone Helen Hamilton on **01444 446738** or download the application form from the 'other ways to help' section of our website.



Whatever the occasion; birthday, Mother's/Father's day, Easter, Christmas – a life changing gift from the Gift of Sight can make the perfect present. Gifts to choose from include an adult cataract operation, two trichiasis operations, and a Braille kit. We'll send you a card and certificate for you to give to your friend or loved one, and if you order online you can personalise your card and we'll send it directly. Visit www.giftofsight.co.uk or call now on **01444 446710**. Text **GIFT3** to **84880** to receive our latest catalogue.



Sightsavers

Thank you

Trusts and foundations

A G Leventis Foundation
Allan and Nesta Ferguson
Charitable Settlement
Anson Charitable Trust
Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in
Great Britain and Ireland
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust
Cotton Trust
Donald Forrester Trust
Edwina Mountbatten Trust
Four Acre Trust
Henry E Niles Foundation
Higgins-Trapnell Family Foundation
JL Beckwith Charitable Trust
Jack Petchey Foundation
Kiawah Trust
Lennox & Wyfold Foundation
Lewis Family Charitable Trust
Lions Sightsavers Trust
Morel Charitable Trust
Rotary International in Great
Britain and Ireland
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
Sandra Charitable Trust
Tolkien Trust
Unitarian Women's League
Windfall Trust

Corporate partners

Abraaj Capital
Alternative Wedding List
Anglo American Foundation
ASDA
Blindcare
Bowleven plc
Dubai Duty Free Foundation
The Good Gift Catalogue
International Power
Lehman Brothers Foundation
Lyndsay Brown Opticians
Merck & Co
Paperchase
Robert Bion & Co Ltd
Safaricom
Scotland on Sunday
Skywards
Standard Chartered
Bank PLC
Wright, Johnston &
Mackenzie LLP
Tullow Oil

Individual supporters

Mrs Y Calver
Julian and Jenny Cazalet
David and Rosamund Durnford-
Slater
Jackie Eatock Taylor
David Killick
Major ADG Llewellyn MC
Alasdair McKerrrell
Raymond Mellor
His Honour Judge Moloney QC
Nigel and Sharon Roberts
Dr and Mrs Mark and Jan Scott
Patrick and Frances Wallace
Christine and David Walmsley
Lyn Wendon
Mr GA Young

Programme funding

African Medical and Research
Foundation AMREF UK
AusAid
Agency for Educational Development

AZZ Project and United States
Agency for International
Development (USAID)
BRAC
Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
Comic Relief
Department for International
Development (DFID)
European Commission
The Freedom from Hunger Council
of Ireland (GORTA)
Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee
Helen Keller International
Jersey Overseas Aid Committee
International Centre for Eye Health
(ICEH)
Irish Aid
Islamic Relief
Isle of Man Overseas Aid
Committee
Mectizan® Donation Programme
Optometry Giving Sight
WaterAid

Babul Miah (orange shirt) from Bangladesh has been blind since birth. Thanks to Sightsavers' partner ABC he is now enrolled in Purba Sayed Nagar School. He is pictured with his best friend Shaikat, who is sighted.



Where our money is spent



Sarah Elliott/Sightsavers

22

West Africa

	Benin	£41,486
	Cameroon	£505,173
	Ghana	£2,157,554
	Guinea	£155,350
	Guinea Bissau	£153,835
	Liberia	£273,519
	Mali	£682,549
	Nigeria	£1,363,095
	Senegal	£158,563
	Sierra Leone	£810,230
	The Gambia	£476,193
	Togo	£106,452

***Health for Peace**

£94,341
A regional initiative, whereby Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Senegal and The Gambia collaborate on a number of health issues, including eye care

East Africa

	Kenya	£2,018,536
	Sudan	£6,273
	Tanzania	£807,222
	Uganda	£672,455

Southern Africa

	Malawi	£723,829
	Mozambique	£168,791
	South Africa	£19,551
	Zambia	£696,906
	Zimbabwe	£75,168

Asia

	Bangladesh	£1,865,727
	India	£2,947,740
	Pakistan	£1,661,020
	Sri Lanka	£201,537

Caribbean

	Antigua		Belize		Dominica
	Grenada		Guyana		Haiti
	Jamaica		St Lucia		Trinidad

For the purposes of reporting, Sightsavers groups the above as one region. Our total expenditure for this region in 2008 was **£527,784**

Our Strategic Direction

2008 was an exciting year for Sightsavers, as it saw us adopt a new vision, mission and values, and a set of ‘change themes,’ which will form the backbone of everything we do from 2009 onwards, and reflect the changes we want to make in the world.



Sando Moore/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 disabled people.

Our values

- Blindness is an important cause and effect of poverty. We work with poor and marginalised communities in developing countries.
- We achieve much more when we collaborate. We forge alliances and partnerships to ensure a positive and long-term impact on people’s lives.
- People should not go blind unnecessarily. We prevent, treat and cure avoidable blindness and promote eye health.
- People with visual impairment should be able to develop their potential to the full. We work with disabled people and others to promote equal right and opportunities.
- With the right resources, people can find their own solutions. We strengthen organisations and communities to develop practical and enduring solutions.
- Learning and innovation are essential in order to improve the quality of what we do. We underpin our work with the best available evidence and research.
- Our supporters are a key part of the solution. We work together to accomplish our goals.

Our four change themes

	Theme 1 Health	Theme 2 Education	Theme 3 Social Inclusion	Theme 4 Community Participation & Development
Ultimate Aim	Governments will ensure that good quality eye care is universally available to all people as an integral part of wider health systems.	Governments will ensure that all disabled children have the opportunity to receive a quality education within a wider education system.	Visually impaired people will be equal members of society. Governments will implement their obligations under international conventions for disabled people.	People will actively seek eye health services, and those who are visually impaired will enjoy long term positive change in the quality of their lives through engagement with, and participation in, community development programmes.
Aim for 2009 – 2013	Sightsavers will demonstrate approaches to eye health which are scalable, adaptable and cost effective, and which strengthen and support the overall health system.	Sightsavers will demonstrate approaches to delivering high quality education for visually impaired children in their local context, which are scalable, adaptable and cost effective.	Sightsavers will enable blind and disabled people’s organisations to become effective advocates for their members’ rights.	Sightsavers’ eye health and social inclusion programmes must be deeply rooted in community development.



sightsavers
INTERNATIONAL

Registered charity numbers 207544 & SC038110

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

President

Her Royal Highness Princess
Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy,
KG, GCVO

Vice Presidents

Lady Wilson OBE
Sir David Thompson KCMG
Sir Nicholas Fenn GCMG
Richard Porter
Ted Heimsath

Honorary Officers

Chairman
Nigel Crisp

Vice Chairman
David Jordan CBE

Treasurer
Michael Pitts

Sightsavers International
Grosvenor Hall, Bolnore Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex
RH16 4BX, United Kingdom
Tel 01444 446600

Fax 01444 446688

Email info@sightsavers.org

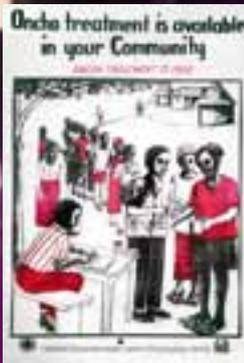
For further information about
Sightsavers, or to contact our
regional offices, please visit our
website: www.sightsavers.org

To request this annual review in
Braille, large print, HTML or DAISY
(audio), please contact us at the
address above.

Sightsavers International is also
known as The Royal Commonwealth
Society for the Blind.

 This Annual Review has been
printed on 100% recycled paper.

Sri Lanka Eye Foundation



Jenny Matthews/Sightsavers



Momodou Bai/Sightsavers

Sightsavers

Vicky Astbury/Sightsavers