

# 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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# Foreword

As President of Sightsavers I was delighted to attend events held in Washington in October where I had the opportunity to meet key stakeholders involved in neglected tropical disease (NTD) projects. Meeting these partners and donors was inspirational and it is hoped that further support will be generated for this important work.

This has been a year of great economic and political uncertainty in the world, with leadership changes in several countries and global organisations that are very important for Sightsavers' work and income. Despite this, Sightsavers has done extremely well, reaching record numbers of people in terms of treatments for NTDs and showing a steady increase in sight-restoring operations. Following on from the Sustainable Development Goals agreed at the UN in 2015, Sightsavers continues to push ahead in disability work, focusing on supporting economic empowerment and political participation. Work is also under way to look at the best way of ensuring that our programmes are inclusive for people with disabilities, and that this can be properly measured. The 'leave no one behind' agenda will only be deliverable if this can be achieved.

I would like to thank all the generous supporters of Sightsavers, without whom none of this would be possible. So many lives are transformed as a result, both in the short term and beyond, as health and education systems are strengthened to help the next generation.



**Her Royal Highness  
Princess Alexandra KG GCVO**





# 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 DFID has had a huge impact on our work

Between 2011 and 2016, Sightsavers' Programme Partnership Arrangement with the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID) enabled us to invest in our programme quality, research and evidence, and strategic partnerships. It enabled us to develop a new approach to our disability inclusion programmes and to support health systems across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean to deliver more than 1.3 million cataract surgeries.





## **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 VIPs, dignitaries and beneficiaries. 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.



## **Recognition for our top-class customer service**

In October 2016, Sightsavers was named Best Charity in the Top 50 Companies for Customer Service Awards. We also came 15th in the awards overall: a fantastic achievement. Good supporter care is critical in charity fundraising, and we are lucky to have more than 160,000 loyal UK supporters who believe in what we do.



## **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.



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# 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



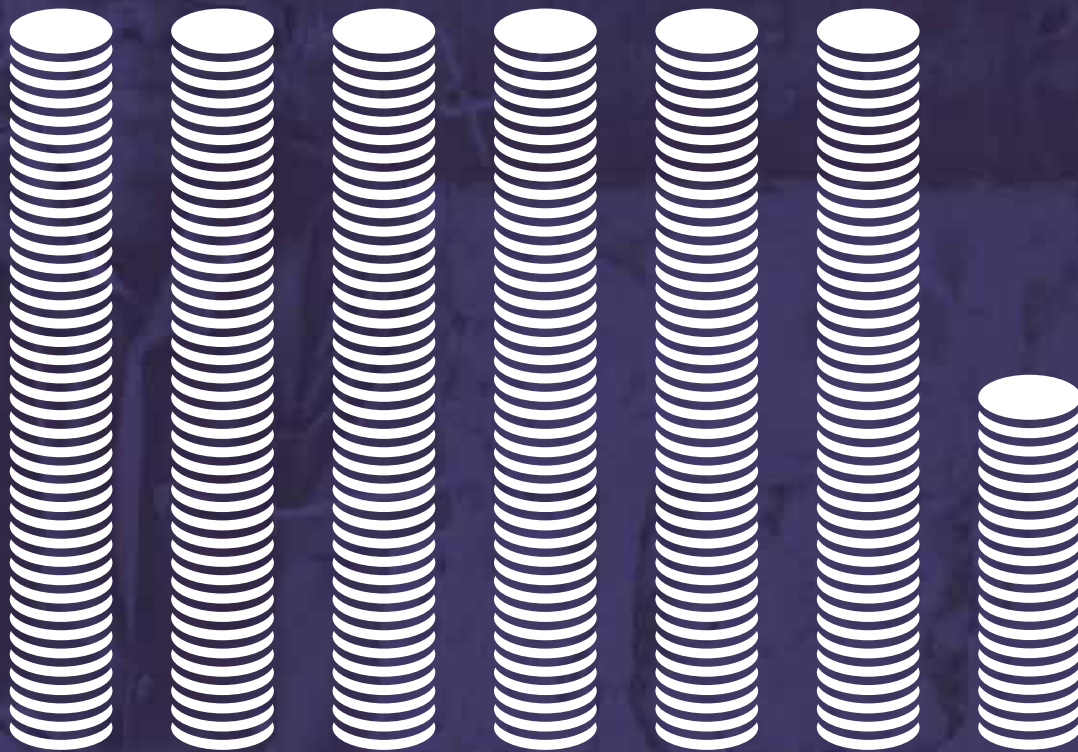
**154 million**

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



# £22 million

raised so far for A Million Miracles\*



\*Figure as at 31 December 2016. Figure at 12 May 2017 was £24,355,363.78 inc. £5m 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.

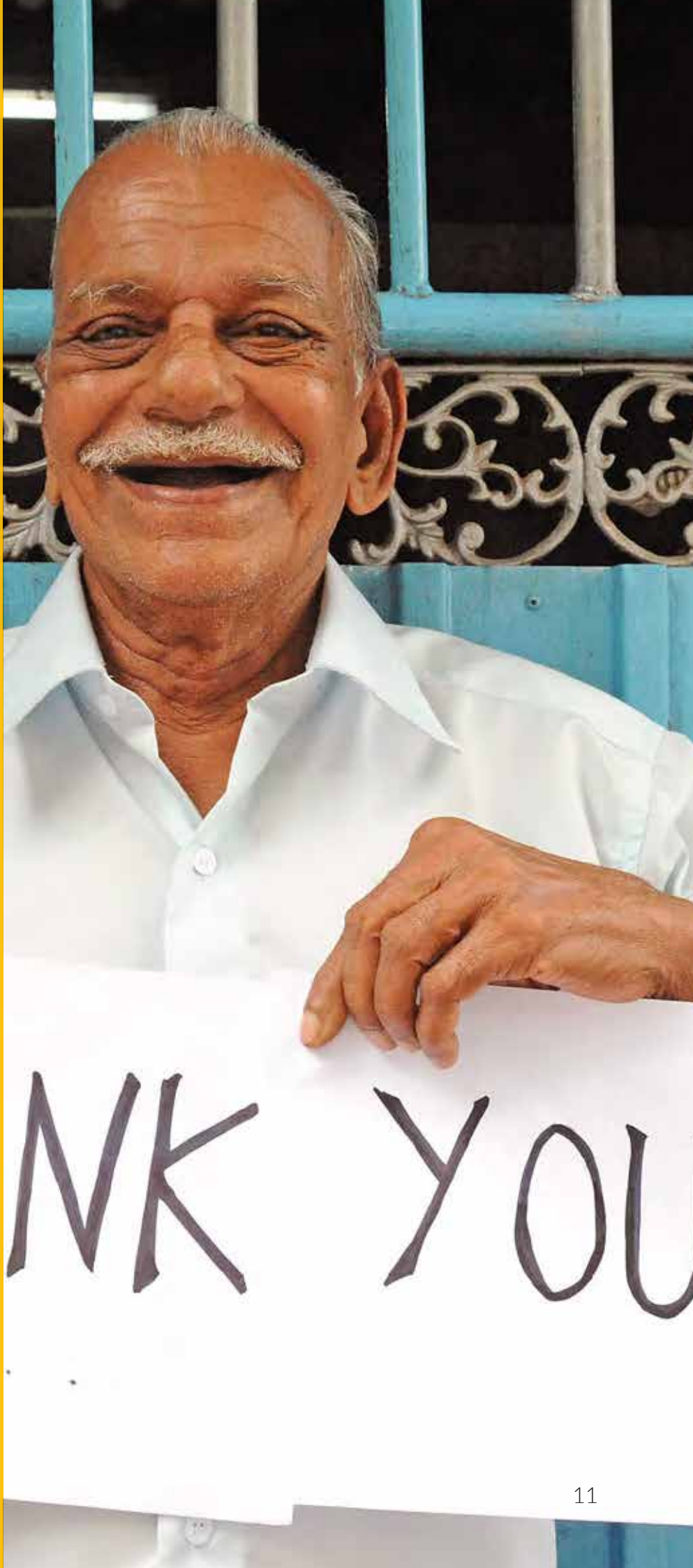




The fact that we are able to move on, leaving behind a sustainable programme, is a testament to the work of the Sightsavers country office and our partners. We have never achieved this before – it is the aim of all development agencies to be able to exit, safe in the knowledge that they are leaving a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

**Dr Caroline Harper**  
Sightsavers CEO

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





# £400,000 raised through 'matched giving' appeal

In 2016, we marked the 50th anniversary of Sightsavers' work in India. To coincide with the celebrations, we launched an initiative to raise funds to protect and restore the sight of people living in some of India's most deprived areas. A handful of long-standing donors pledged to match larger gifts to Sightsavers, pound for pound, to encourage others to support this essential programme.



Dr Caroline Harper with Sightsavers India Chairman Dr SY Quraishi, Special Ambassador Kabir Bedi, the Postmaster General and Sightsavers India chief executive RN Mohanty at the golden jubilee gala in Delhi.


There is strong evidence that matched giving such as this has a marked effect on people's decision to support a charity, motivating them to make a donation or to give more than they otherwise may have done. We were delighted our supporters were inspired by this appeal, donating more than £400,000, which we may not otherwise have received.

Making a gift to Sightsavers can make a huge difference to the lives of blind and visually impaired people in some of the poorest parts of the world. If you contributed, thank you again. Your generosity means we can do even more to improve the lives of people in very real need.

Spearheaded by our major donor fundraising team, what started as a simple matched giving appeal grew rapidly, as new and existing supporters with an interest in our work in India felt moved to get involved and pledge a large gift.

It is estimated there are more than 8 million blind people in India and, despite the nation's recent advances, a significant proportion of the population has little access to essential health services. This is why our work in the country remains so important.



A photograph of two women, likely athletes, wearing black tracksuits with yellow accents and the Sightsavers logo. They are outdoors, with green foliage in the background. Both women have their right arms raised in a fist, suggesting a moment of triumph or protest. The woman on the right is shouting with her mouth wide open, while the woman on the left is also shouting and looking upwards. The Sightsavers logo, consisting of two interlocking circles, is visible on the front of both tracksuits.

Blind and visually impaired women in India are using judo to fight back against sexual abuse.



# 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:**

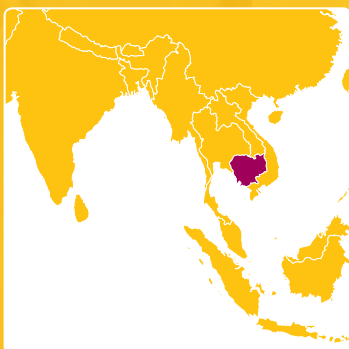
**Bin Nou**

**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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Uganda:** transforming attitudes towards disability

In 2016 the first 324 students graduated from the Connecting the Dots programme, which provides vocational training to young people with disabilities, funded by Sightsavers and the European Commission. Most of the students are now working and financially supporting themselves, and thanks to this success the project has been renewed for a further four years.

A map of Africa and South Asia. Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Kenya are highlighted in dark purple. Callout boxes with dotted lines connect these countries to their respective text descriptions. The rest of the map is yellow.

### **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.





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# 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.



## 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.org/mhealth](http://www.sightsavers.org/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.



# Highlights: Put Us in the Picture campaign

The Put Us in the Picture campaign turned three years old on 3 December 2016. Since 2013, we have been calling for the UK government and its global development partners to ensure people with disabilities are included in international development plans. With significant political change in the UK in 2016, the end of the year was particularly successful for our campaigners: the UK government announced several commitments to prioritise people with disabilities as part of the work of DFID.

Our campaign has the potential to help millions of people around the world. It's thought that 285 million people worldwide have some form of visual impairment, while about 67 million people use a wheelchair, and 360 million have hearing loss. Our aim is to empower them so they can participate fully in society.



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

[www.sightsavers.org/campaigning](http://www.sightsavers.org/campaigning)



## Our favourite moments of 2016



### Quizzing the United Nations

We made our mark at the UN thanks to Sightsavers campaigner Harriet Ngendanabo, a participant of our Connecting the Dots project that provides vocational training to people with disabilities in Uganda. She recorded a question as part of the process to select the next UN Secretary-General: "People with disabilities have been left out of development discussions for too long – how will you change this?" It was one of just 10 questions selected to be answered by all candidates.



### Our campaign training day

Our campaign day in December gave campaigners an opportunity to hear more about Sightsavers from the people who work with us, such as Ambrose Murangira from the Uganda National Association of the Deaf. They received training on how to take action, and it gave the wider Sightsavers team an opportunity to get to know our supporters.



### Building support among MPs

The Sightsavers team were regular visitors to Westminster throughout the year, rebuilding our support base following the general election in 2015. Our campaign received a lot of support from MPs across the political spectrum. Other important actions included asking questions on behalf of Sightsavers on campaign issues, and signing a new early day motion, a formal motion submitted for debate in the House of Commons, which helped to draw attention to our cause.



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



# Connecting the Dots: transforming the lives of young people with disabilities

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 and support themselves and their families. Of the 324 students who enrolled, the majority are now employed and earning money, and thanks to this success the project has been renewed for a further four years.

The programme, funded by Sightsavers and the European Commission, offers a huge range of training and apprenticeship opportunities for different employment areas, from hairdressing and tailoring to catering, carpentry, mechanics and computer skills. Yet it also seeks to change community attitudes towards disability and show potential employers how hiring people with disabilities could benefit their businesses. Since it launched, it has helped to transform lives and attitudes in the four districts in western Uganda where it operates: Masindi, Buliisa, Kiryandongo and Hoima.

One of the success stories from the project is the tale of students Najiiba and Julius. They met during their training and lost touch after they graduated, but Julius managed to trace Najiiba and asked her to marry him. "I got the courage because of the support I got during my training," Julius explains.



Najiiba leads her husband Julius through their young banana plantation.

A further 450 students are set to complete their training in the coming year as the programme continues to change lives and challenge negative attitudes towards disability.



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](http://www.who.int/blindness/actionplan/en)

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

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



# How your donations make a big difference

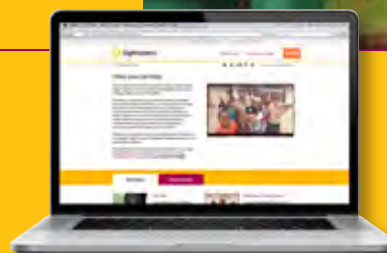
Every year, Sightsavers receives many generous donations and in memoriam gifts. Your support can change the lives of people with visual impairments and other disabilities and help to eliminate diseases in some of the poorest parts of the world.

We would particularly like to thank those who remembered us in their wills in 2016. More than £12 million was donated: a record contribution.



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

[www.sightsavers.org/how-you-can-help](http://www.sightsavers.org/how-you-can-help)





## Case study



**Name:**

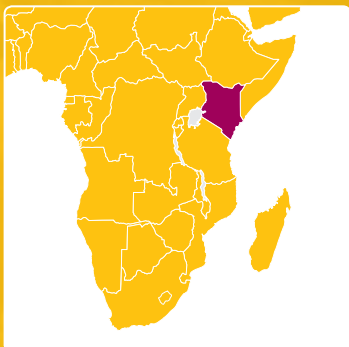
**Flash Odiwuor**

**Age:**

**12**

**Location:**

**Kenya**



### Flash's story

A generous supporter made a substantial gift on behalf of her only child, who sadly passed away. He was a teacher and a Sightsavers supporter and he 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.

**Dr Caroline Harper**  
Sightsavers CEO

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





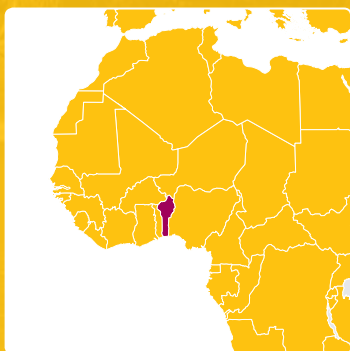


## Case study



**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 £11,000, with Ringo Starr's specs receiving the highest winning bid, eventually selling for £1,850. Other popular spectacles included a pair donated by cyclist Chris Froome, which went for £716, and Daniel Radcliffe's sunglasses, which sold for £514.

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](http://www.sightsavers.org/specsappeal)



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**Ringo Starr** drummed up support for Specs Appeal among his two million social media followers, helping his spectacles sell for more than **£1,800**





Women greet visitors  
at a community-based  
childcare centre in  
Malawi, supported  
by Comic Relief.





# 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.



## 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](http://www.comicrelief.com)



The **Fred Hollows**  
Foundation

## Fred Hollows Foundation

Sightsavers and The Foundation enjoy a strong strategic relationship and we collaborate across many areas of research, business systems, advocacy and programming. The Foundation is a partner on a number of Sightsavers-led consortia programmes and in 2016 The Foundation supported Sightsavers to deliver two projects to increase the quality of eye health services, particularly cataract surgeries in Bangladesh and Pakistan.



For more information, visit  
[www.hollows.org](http://www.hollows.org)





## Jersey Overseas Aid

Thanks to generous funding from Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA), we are making strides towards eliminating neglected tropical diseases and avoidable blindness in Africa. In 2016, JOA's support of four Sightsavers programmes has funded work touching millions of people's lives in Tanzania, Nigeria, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique.

In Sokoto State in Nigeria, JOA is supporting Sightsavers' work to eliminate five neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including river blindness, trachoma, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths. Tackling multiple diseases through integrated drug distribution is one of the most cost-effective ways to eliminate NTDs, and also helps to significantly reduce poverty.

In 2016 alone, Sightsavers' project in Sokoto State has distributed more than 6 million treatments to protect people from blinding and disabling NTDs, and JOA's support has contributed to training more than 5,000 volunteer community drug distributors and 2,000 teachers to distribute medication.



For more information, visit  
[www.joa.je](http://www.joa.je)

See pictures from the project on the Guardian Online by visiting  
[www.goo.gl/TN8uVQ](http://www.goo.gl/TN8uVQ)



## 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](http://www.givewell.org/charities/sightsavers)



## Swedish Postcode Foundation

The Swedish Postcode Foundation promotes positive social development, seeks long-term solutions to global challenges and provides financial support to projects within the areas of people, planet, culture and sport.

With the help of the Foundation during 2016 and 2017, Sightsavers is working in Zambia to tackle trachoma, a neglected tropical disease that causes blindness. The project is providing thousands of eyelid surgeries to underprivileged patients suffering from trichiasis (advanced trachoma), as well as helping to refurbish four hospital eye care units and distributing antibiotics to prevent trachoma to thousands of disadvantaged people.

This generous grant will make a huge impact on the future of communities in five rural districts in Zambia, and will enable Sightsavers to get one step closer to eliminating trachoma from these areas.



For more information, visit  
[www.postkodstiftelsen.se](http://www.postkodstiftelsen.se)



## UK Aid Match

Sightsavers has a growing partnership with the UK government's Department for International Development. Through its UK Aid Match Scheme it doubled donations from members of the public during Sightsavers recent funding appeals which we have put towards reducing avoidable blindness in some of the world's poorest countries.

Our current UK Aid March projects are going from strength to strength. In our project known as CATCH, during the project's second year we screened about 165,000 people for eye conditions, provided cataract surgery to almost 7,000 people, and in partnership with private sector organisation Vision Springs USA, distributed close to 14,500 people with glasses. We are also making sure that the project is sustainable by training eye health professionals and influencing governments. Our most recent UK Aid Match project exceeded expectations in its first year by delivering over 8m treatments and 11m treatments to help eliminate river blindness and lymphatic filariasis respectively across four countries in Africa.



For more information on CATCH, visit  
[www.sightsavers.org/catch](http://www.sightsavers.org/catch)

For more information on  
oncho and LF, visit  
[www.sightsavers.org/onchoLF](http://www.sightsavers.org/onchoLF)



# Finances

## Global income



£229.8m	Gifts in kind
£31.2m	Grants from governments/NGOs
£22.4m	Individuals
£12.7m	Legacies

£2.8m	Companies
£1.9m	Trusts
£0.8m	Other

Figures represented in millions

## Global expenditure

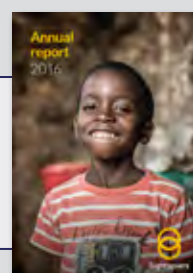


£229.4m	Gifts in kind drug donation
£24.3m	Neglected tropical diseases
£19.5m	Eye health
£18.4m	Costs of generating funds

£2.6m	Social inclusion
£2.4m	Education
£2.2m	Policy and research



You can download the Sightsavers annual report for more information:  
[www.sightsavers.org/annualreport2016](http://www.sightsavers.org/annualreport2016)





# 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.

## Special thanks to:

### Trusts and Foundations

A G Leventis Foundation  
Beatrice Laing Trust  
Bernard Lewis Family Charitable Trust  
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust  
Carmen Butler-Charteris Charitable Trust  
Comic Relief  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Conservation, Food and Health Foundation  
GiveWell  
Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases - END7 Campaign  
Henry E Niles Foundation  
IZUMI Foundation  
James and Patricia Hamilton Charitable Trust  
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Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation  
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The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
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The Ingram Trust  
The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust  
The Ranworth Trust  
Zochonis Charitable Trust  
Henderson Charitable Trust  
Stichting Polar Lights

## Individuals

Ben Brodie  
David and Christine Walmsley  
Doris and Reginald Downie  
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Greg Nasmyth and Samantha Rowe-Beddoe  
Lund Trust, a charitable fund of Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing  
Mary Beattie, in memory of Alec  
Miss Machlagan

## Corporate partners

Allergan International Foundation  
Anzal Begum Foundation  
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Cholamandalam  
Dubai Duty Free  
eBay for Charity  
Emirates  
Engie  
First City Monument Bank  
Fondation d'entreprise Thea  
Fondation L'Occitane  
Fullerton  
Innoven Capital  
ITI  
Merck Fellowship for Global Health  
Netapp India  
Optical Express  
Oracle  
Paperchase  
Partners for Global Research and Development

Pfizer  
Rayban  
Robert Bion & Co Ltd  
Rotork  
RPG  
Schisto Control Initiative  
SKS India  
Standard Chartered  
Tomlinsons  
Urvi Ashok Piramal Foundation  
Virgin Unite

## Institutions

European Commission  
Irish Aid  
Jersey Overseas Aid  
The OPEC Fund for International Development  
The UK government's Department for International Development  
The World Bank  
United States Agency for International Development

## NGOs

Helen Keller International  
RTI  
The Fred Hollows Foundation

## Universities

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine  
University of Birmingham



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# 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, the UK and Ireland. 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 the Department for International Development in the UK, the World Bank, Irish Aid, 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

In 2017 we hope to recruit up to four new trustees for our 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.org](http://www.sightsavers.org)  
or call us on **0800 089 2020**

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Sir Nicholas Fenn GCMG (deceased Sept 2016)

Sir Graham Burton KCMG

### **Honorary Officers**

Chair, Lord Nigel Crisp KCB (term ended July 2016)

Vice Chair, Martin Dinham CBE

Treasurer, Michael Chilton

### **Chief Executive**

Dr Caroline Harper CBE

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