

# 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 organization working with partners in developing countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

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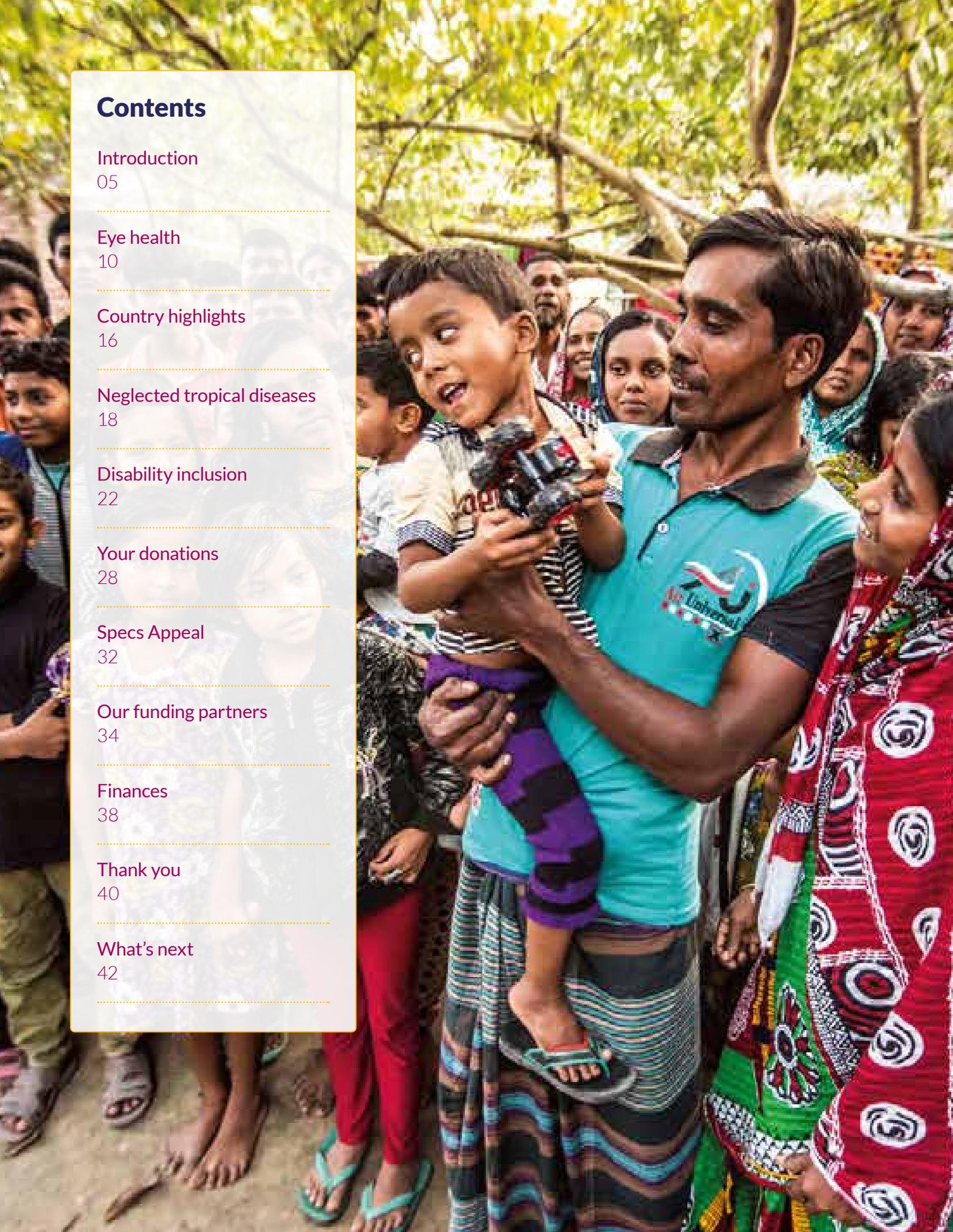
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# Foreword

Sightsavers had a very successful year which changed millions of lives through our high impact programs. We were also recognized for the quality and cost-effectiveness of our work by US charity evaluator GiveWell, who made us one of only seven organizations awarded “Top Charity” status.

I was delighted to join Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, President of Sightsavers at an event held in Washington D.C in October, where we had the opportunity to meet key stakeholders involved in neglected tropical disease (NTD) projects. Meeting these partners and donors was inspirational and we hope 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 organizations which 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 cataract operations with 261,000 performed.

Following on from the Sustainable Development Goals agreed at the United Nations 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 programs 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.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Poffley', written in a cursive style.

**Adrian Poffley**  
President, Sightsavers USA



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# 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.



## Support from USAID is enabling greater impact for our work

USAID's support has enabled Sightsavers to continue fighting avoidable blindness in Cameroon, Bangladesh and Pakistan. In Cameroon, USAID funding through the ENVISION program (led by RTI International in partnership with Sightsavers and others) enabled us to distribute millions of treatments to protect against neglected tropical diseases including river blindness and intestinal worms. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, support from USAID is helping Sightsavers to improve pediatric eye care services to reach thousands of children living in poverty.



## 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 organizations to treat millions of people with eye problems in India.



## Recognition for our effectiveness

In November 2016, Sightsavers was named a top charity by charity evaluator GiveWell for our work treating children for parasitic infections, known as deworming. GiveWell is a non-profit organization that conducts in-depth analysis to recommend outstanding charities to donors. It said the deworming programs we support have “a strong track record and excellent cost-effectiveness”, and also praised our standout record of transparency.



## 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

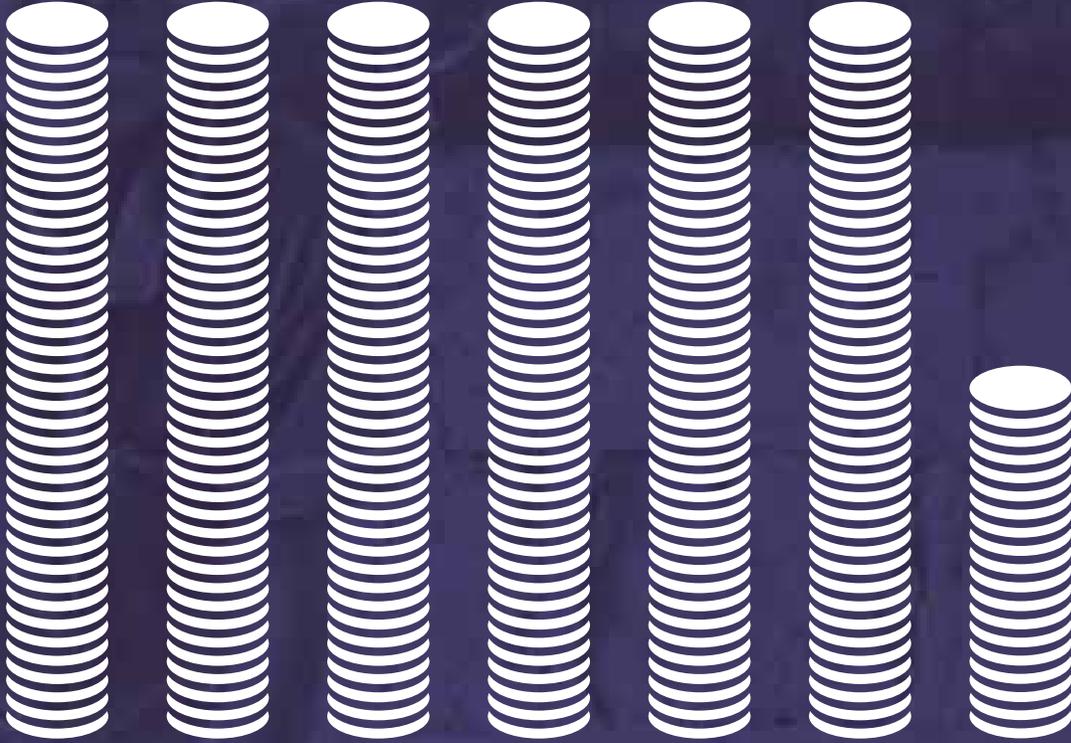


**154 million**

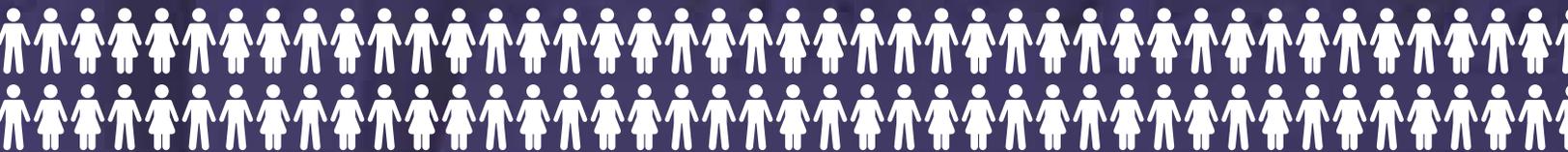
treatments given for neglected tropical diseases, such as trachoma and river blindness

# \$30 million

raised so far for A Million Miracles\*



\*Figure as at December 31, 2016. Figure at May 12, 2017 was \$33,006,827



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# 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 program to prevent eye disease or perform cataract operations, particularly for the underprivileged who could not afford them," says Vision 2020 program 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 glasses 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 pediatric 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.

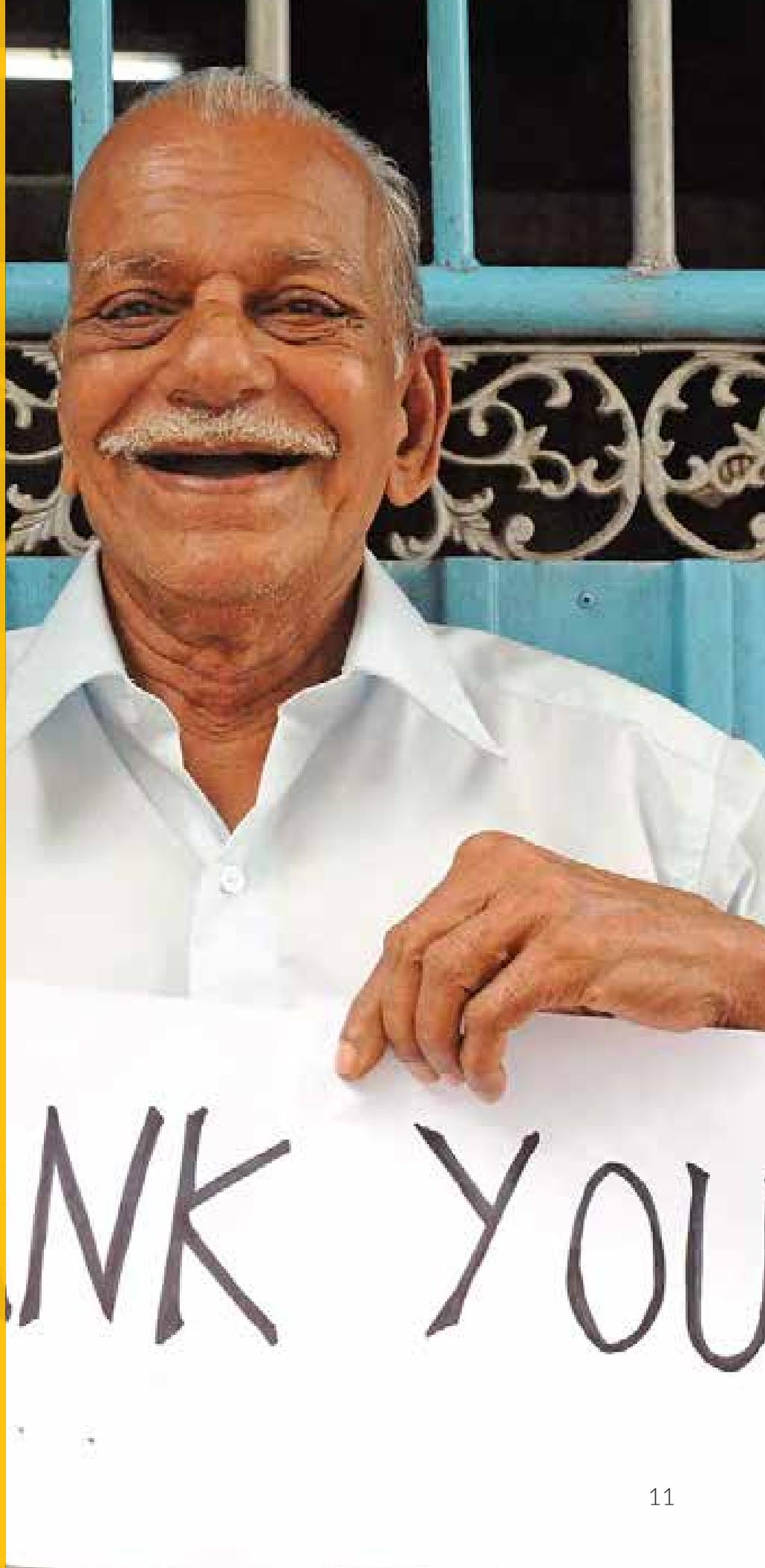
In 2013, to prepare for our departure, we led Sri Lanka's first national survey on visual impairment, blindness and disability. The survey covered every district of the country, targeting those aged 40 and above, to provide a clear view of the number of people who are visually impaired or blind. The results were used as a basis to design national programs, 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 program, 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 Colombo, Sri Lanka received a cataract operation with the support of Sightsavers.



# Sightsavers USA joins the Global Impact campaign

Sightsavers is proud to have become part of the Global Impact charitable giving alliance, which works to increase workplace giving in the US for an alliance of more than 100 international charities.

Global Impact oversees four of the world's largest workplace giving campaigns that Sightsavers now participates in each year, including the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area and the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas.

Our objective moving forward, is to work closely with the Global Impact campaign team to expand our outreach and visibility to new individual and corporate audiences to increase campaign income in the years ahead.



Companies who are offering staff the opportunity to donate through payroll can be viewed online:

[charity.org/corporations](https://charity.org/corporations)



Heads of various local self help groups for people with disabilities pose for a photograph in Narsingdi, Bangladesh.



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# 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 neighboring 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 principal 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 child 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 colored frames to choose from – while she was shy at first about wearing her new spectacles, Nou helped to reassure her.

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



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

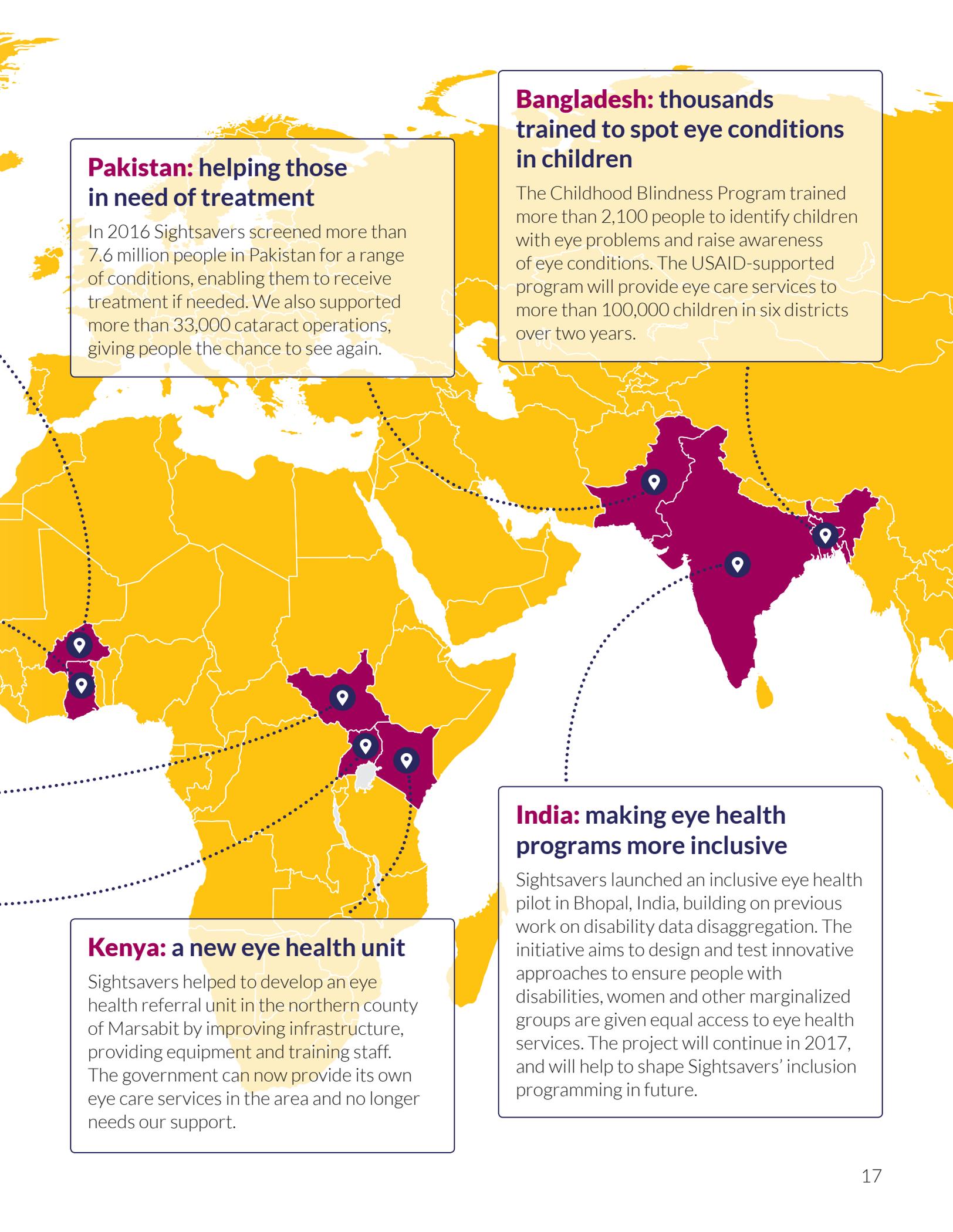
The southwestern Cascades region reached the milestone where trachoma is no longer considered to be a public health problem, with less than 1 in 1,000 people estimated to require surgery. The area will now be closely monitored during the two-year surveillance period, using the methodology.

## **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 program, 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.



### **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 Childhood Blindness Program trained more than 2,100 people to identify children with eye problems and raise awareness of eye conditions. The USAID-supported program 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 programs more inclusive

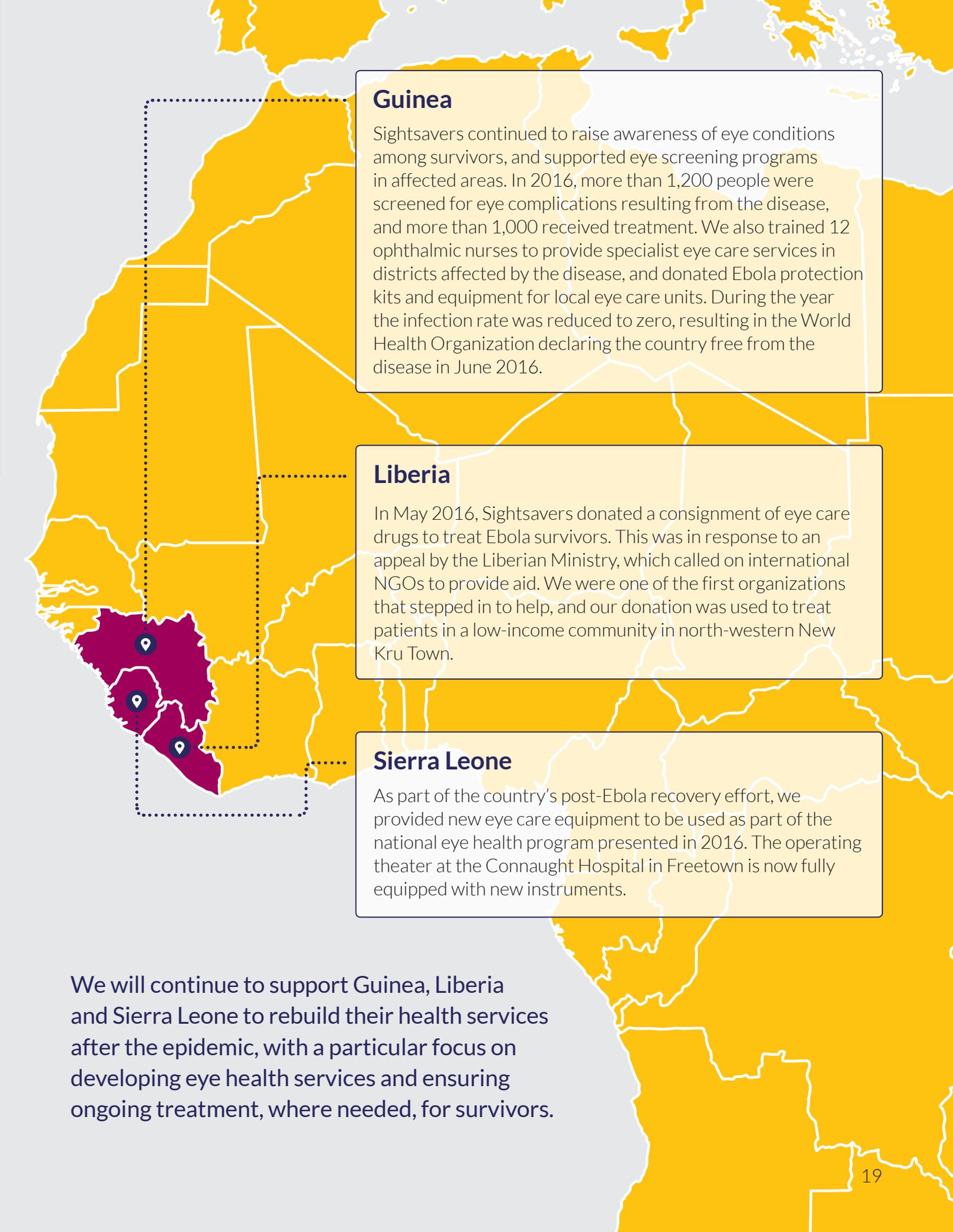
Sightsavers launched an inclusive eye health pilot in Bhopal, India, building on previous work on disability data disaggregation. The initiative aims to design and test innovative approaches to ensure people with disabilities, women and other marginalized groups are given equal access to eye health services. 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 the Government of Ireland's overseas aid program, Irish Aid.

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

## Guinea

Sightsavers continued to raise awareness of eye conditions among survivors, and supported eye screening programs 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 organizations 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 program presented in 2016. The operating theater 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.

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# How cell phones help to **fight disease**

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

Many of our neglected tropical disease programs 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 cell 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, led by Sightsavers, 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 programs 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 organization 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.

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# Our disability inclusion question reached the United Nations

In May 2016, we posted a question about disability on the agenda for discussions with the candidates for United Nations Secretary General – and they responded! It was one of just 10 questions selected to be answered by all candidates.

Our question was put to candidate Natalia Gherman of Moldova by video during the informal dialogue sessions held with the candidates in New York. In her answer, Gherman spoke of “more participation” and “more representation” for people with disabilities. The video, which was played in the UN Trusteeship chamber in front of ambassadors to the UN as part of the process of choosing the next UN Secretary General, featured our very own Harriet Ngendanabo. Harriet asked; “People with disabilities have been left out of development discussions for too long – how will you change this?”

In her answer, Natalia Gherman said, “Indeed, there is the sentiment that these people seem to be left behind from development discussions and from common actions, and if we are to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda with the motto that should guide our efforts... nobody should be left behind.”

Gherman also spoke of the need for “more participation, more representation... we have to be ready to listen to their plight, to what they have to say and act accordingly in a very inclusive manner, and for this we also need to work even closer with civil society and with the non-governmental sector who are able to consolidate these partnerships in this particular field.”

Andrew Griffiths, Sightsavers’ Global Head of Advocacy, said: “The critical element of Natalia’s response to Harriet’s question was the point she made about the participation of people with disabilities in development. Recognizing the rights of people with disabilities is to accept the role of people with disabilities as key actors in the transformation and inclusivity of societies, economies and environments – development doesn’t happen to people with disabilities, but with people with disabilities. Our hope for the new UN Secretary General is that they show a long-term commitment to including people with disabilities within decision-making processes, and that they prioritize the development of systems to ensure that people with disabilities benefit equally from development progress.”



Harriet Ngendanabo sits in her classroom with fellow students who are learning to knit and sew.

GET

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



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

In 2016, the first students graduated from Uganda's Connecting the Dots program, 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 program, 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 program 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

Sightsavers' global aim is 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 centers. This means that resources can be better targeted in future.



### Sierra Leone

We have fostered close collaboration between the government and civil society organizations, 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.

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# How your donations make a big difference

Every year, Sightsavers globally 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 \$16 million was donated globally: a record contribution.



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

[www.sightsaversusa.org/how-you-can-help](http://www.sightsaversusa.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 program to help children with disabilities.

Nyaburi primary school in Kenya is one of the pilot schools for the program, 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' program.



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

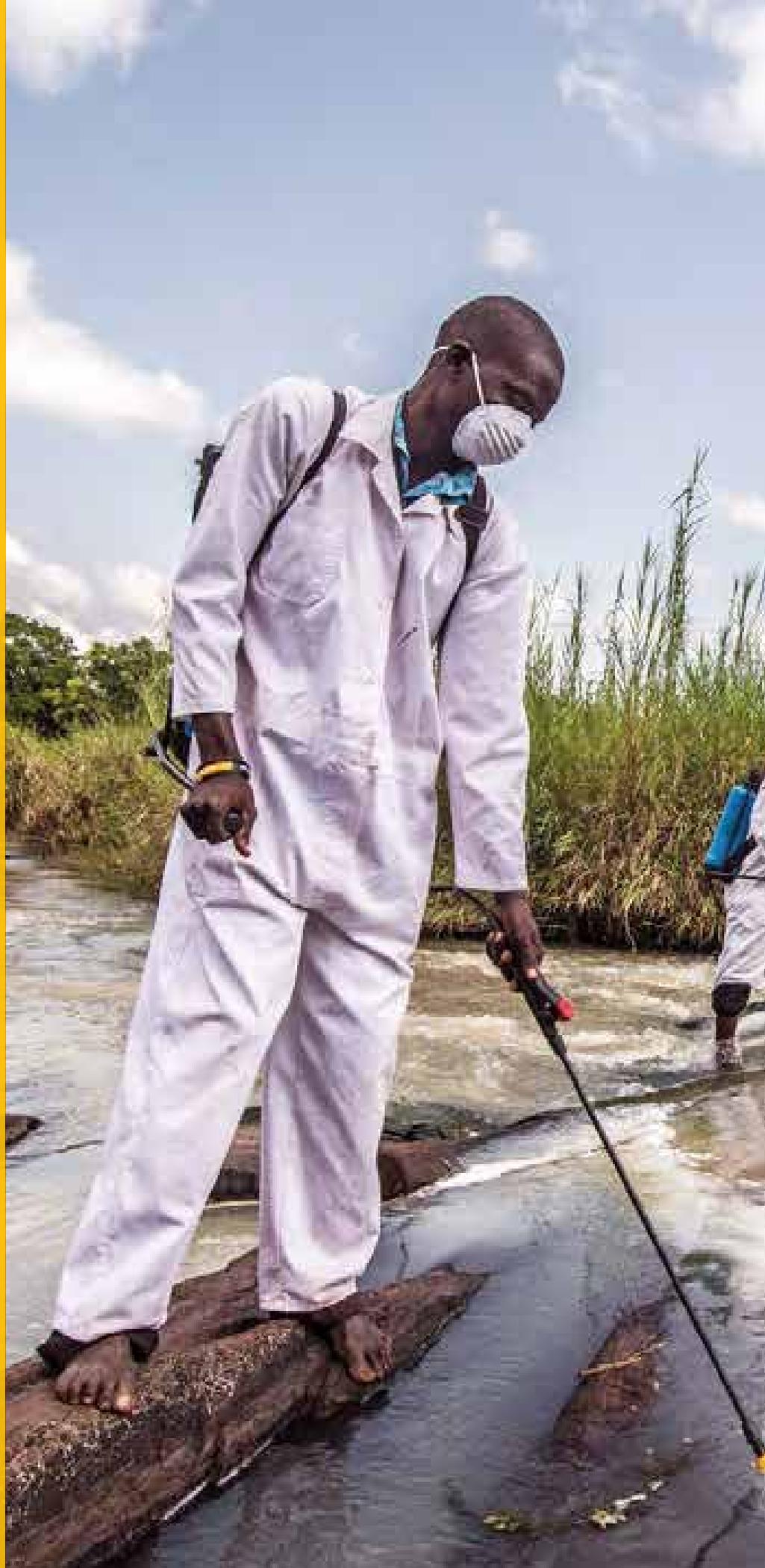
Flash is one of 281 children with disabilities who were assessed last year and enrolled in education as a result of the program in Kenya.



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 which were used to help fund our entire program to treat two neglected tropical diseases in Benin. Thanks to programs 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 programs. 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, including the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation, 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.

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# 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 Meryl Streep, Beatle Ringo Starr, pop sensations will.i.am and Rita Ora and Harry Potter stars Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson.

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 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. British actor Stephen Fry's tortoiseshell glasses came with a handwritten message saying: "We all need to see more clearly".

The 10-day auction raised more than \$13,000, with Ringo Starr's specs receiving the highest winning bid, eventually selling for \$2,300.

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 Specs Appeal here:

[www.sightsaversusa.org/specs-appeal-campaign](http://www.sightsaversusa.org/specs-appeal-campaign)



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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 **\$2,300**



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.

## GiveWell

### GiveWell

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

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

GiveWell deems the deworming programs 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)



### Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

For several years, Sightsavers has worked with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to help eliminate trachoma in Mali and Tanzania, the latter as part of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Trachoma Initiative. The partnership has helped to train surgeons and carry out operations, as well as teaching communities about the importance of hygiene to control the disease. Support from the Hilton Foundation should ensure trachoma is eliminated from both countries by 2020.

More recently, the Foundation has supported a project run in partnership with Sightsavers and HelpAge International, a Hilton Humanitarian Prize Laureate. The Mwangaza Eye Health project will provide affordable eye care for marginalized communities, particularly older people, in the central Morogoro region, and will carry out 10,000 cataract operations with funding from the Foundation.



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



**COMIC  
RELIEF**

## Comic Relief

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



## 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 Match 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 Vision Spring USA, distributed glasses to close to 14,500 people. 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 8 million treatments and 11 million 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)

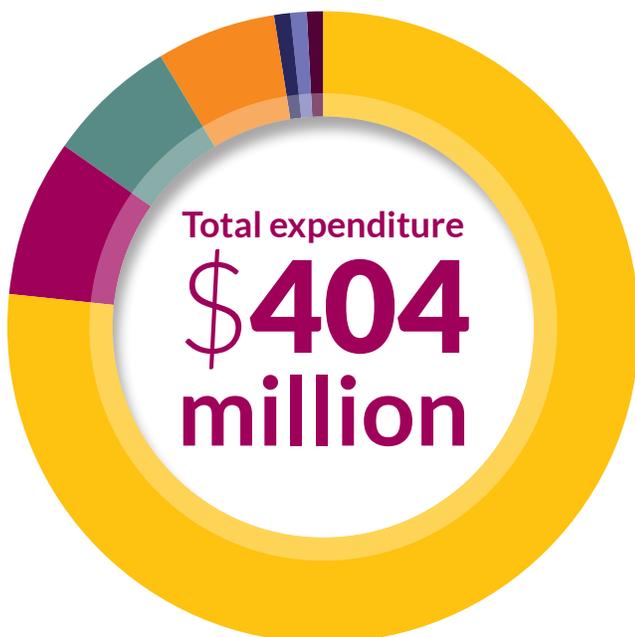
# Finances

## Global income



\$311.5m	Gifts in kind (including Mectizan® tablets)
\$42.3m	Grants from governments/NGOs
\$30.4m	Individuals
\$17.2m	Legacies
\$3.8m	Companies
\$2.5m	Trusts and foundations
\$1.1m	Other

## Global expenditure



\$311.0m	Gifts in kind (including Mectizan® tablets)
\$33.0m	Neglected tropical diseases
\$26.5m	Eye health
\$25.0m	Costs of generating funds
\$3.5m	Social inclusion
\$3.3m	Education
\$3.1m	Policy and research
(\$1.5m)	Other*

\*Foreign exchange gain.  
Translated from 2016 financial statements of Sightsavers using average GBP:USD exchange rate in the year.  
Figures represented in millions.

## US Total contributions

Sightsavers Inc. is the sister non-profit to Sightsavers – a global development organization headquartered and registered as a charity in the United Kingdom. The Sightsavers family includes independent non-profits in 10 countries and branch offices in over 30 countries where we do our charitable work. Financial statements are audited by Robinson Grant & Co., P.A.

U.S. Income	Figure
2016 total revenue	\$945,965

U.S. expenditure	Figure
Charitable activities – program services / grant expense	\$715,613
Management and general	\$147,510
Fundraising	\$79,808
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$942,931</b>



80.3%	Trusts and foundations
10.6%	Other
7.3%	Individual donors
1.8%	Companies

## Sightsavers International, Inc.

Sightsavers International, Inc. is a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit that operates primarily for the purpose of distributing the drug Mectizan® to treat the neglected tropical disease onchocerciasis (river blindness) in targeted African countries, through an in-kind drug donation from Merck & Co. Inc. Sightsavers International Inc. is sub-classified as a 509 (a)(3) supporting organization of Sightsavers.

Income	Figure
Gifts in kind – Mectizan® tablet donations from Merck & Co. Inc. to treat river blindness	\$267,513,000
Cash contributions	\$86,587
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$267,599,587</b>

Expenditure	Figure
Program services - grant expense and donations	\$267,556,500
Management and general	\$40,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$267,596,608</b>

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# 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 and foundations, to corporate partners and fellow non-profits, 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:

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### 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  
Higgins-Trapnell Family Foundation  
Hover Trust  
IZUMI Foundation  
James and Patricia Hamilton Charitable Trust  
Khoo Teck Puat UK Foundation  
Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust  
Lions Clubs International Foundation  
Lions Sight Savers  
MB Trust  
Northwick Trust  
Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation  
Rotary International  
Swedish Postcode Foundation  
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
The End Fund  
The Ingram Trust  
The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust  
The Ranworth Trust  
Zochonis Charitable Trust  
Henderson Charitable Trust  
Stichting Polar Lights

## Individuals

Sanjiv and Anu Awasthi  
James C. Grant  
Waheed Hassan  
Jeffrey Kleintop  
Jim and Kimberly Lowe  
Eric-Japp Molenaar  
Mohammad Naeem  
Gregory Noakes  
Andrew and Carol Phelps  
Niall Porter  
Wendy White

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## Corporate partners

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

PayPal Giving Fund  
Partners for Global Research and Development  
Pentair Foundation  
Pfizer  
Rayban  
Robert Bion & Co Ltd  
Rotork  
RPG  
Schistosomiasis Control Initiative  
SKS India  
Standard Chartered  
Tomlinsons  
Urvi Ashok Piramal Foundation  
Virgin Unite  
Zumtobel Lighting Inc

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## 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

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## NGOs

Helen Keller International  
RTI  
The Fred Hollows Foundation

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## 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 programs. 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 programs.

## Working together

We will continue to develop and strengthen key partnerships and alliances, such as with the UK Government Department for International Development, 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 maximize our impact.

## 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.sightsaversusa.org](http://www.sightsaversusa.org)  
or call us on **800-707-9746**

Find us on social media:

-  Share [SightsaversUK](#)
-  Follow [@SightsaversUSA](#)
-  Watch [SightsaversTV](#)

### **Global Patron**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

### **Global President**

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

### **Global Vice Presidents**

Lady Wilson OBE  
Sir David Thompson KCMG  
Sir John Coles GCMG  
Sir Nicolas Fenn GCMG (deceased Sept 2016)  
Sir Graham Burton KCMG

### **Global Chief Executive**

Dr Caroline Harper CBE

### **US Board**

Adrian Poffley, Director and President  
Ann-Marie Walsh, Director and Vice President  
Michael Chilton, Director and Vice President  
Simon Bush, Director  
Geordie Woods, Director  
Ken Moon, Treasurer  
Mark Ramsden, Secretary

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