

Achieving quality eye health services for everyone

Inside Sightsavers' eye health strategy

Our vision is a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with disabilities can participate equally in society.

We have developed five thematic strategies to deliver our overarching vision:

1. Eye health
2. Inclusive education
3. Neglected tropical diseases
4. Refractive error
5. Social inclusion

Our principles

1. Leave no one behind
2. Coherence
3. Sustainability
4. System strengthening
5. Quality
6. Evidence-based
7. Partnership and participation
8. Alliances
9. Safeguarding

Global frameworks that guide our eye health strategy



Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 3 focuses on healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all, at all ages. It guides global action on health, with universal health coverage (UHC) underpinning it.



The World Report on Vision and The Lancet Commission on Global Eye Health: Both highlight priority areas for action, including integrating eye care into UHC and a people-centred approach to eye health.



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Article 24 of the convention states that people with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination on the basis of disability. People with disabilities must be treated with dignity and have access to services that are specific to their impairment and related to their general health needs, "modes, means and formats of communication" and "peer support and mentoring".

Our approach

Guided by global frameworks, we focus on:



Increasing investments in sustainable eye health services and supporting local policy frameworks to improve sustainability and equitable access



Tracking the availability of these services and the number of people accessing them



Supporting policy frameworks so that eye health services are embedded into expanding universal access to health care

Overarching goal: To improve coverage and equitable access to quality eye health services.



Goal 1: Promote sustainable, good quality eye health services and systems that contribute to UHC

Objective 1.1: Implement district eye health services that demonstrably improve coverage and equitable access to a comprehensive package of eye health interventions

Objective 1.2: Support government, public and private partner facilities to provide good quality, people-centred eye health services

Objective 1.3: Support eye health facilities we work with to be disability and gender-inclusive

Objective 1.4: Develop and test innovative strategies with evidence for improving public eye health services, including diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma

Objective 1.5: Strengthen links with education programmes to increase access to vision rehabilitation



Goal 2: Strengthen global, national and subnational policy and accountability frameworks that facilitate the integration of eye health into UHC

Objective 2.1: Work effectively with partners to integrate equitable eye care into national health policies, strategies and plans and accountability frameworks

Objective 2.2: Support governments and other stakeholders to strengthen multisectoral collaboration and support integration of eye health into policies and plans of other relevant sectors

Objective 2.3: Develop and strengthen partnerships to deliver increased domestic, private sector and international financing and investment in eye health and UHC

Cover image: Cataract patient Khadijah, 6, recovering after her eye surgery in Sokoto, Nigeria.
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Goal 1: Promote sustainable, good quality eye health services and systems that contribute to UHC

Alongside government and other partners, we invest in ophthalmic services in specific districts and countries. We work to decentralise health care planning and service delivery, making them accessible to more people across a wider area. We create new and improve existing services to promote healthy eyes and good vision, and we also improve demand for services through social behaviour change and community participation.

Goal 2: Strengthen global, national and subnational policy and accountability frameworks that facilitate the integration of eye health into UHC

We encourage the scale-up of effective coverage by influencing policy and financing systems for eye health, working at all levels.

We support the improvement and monitoring of service quality, access and uptake, as well as strengthening policy and accountability frameworks – ensuring they are integrated into the health system and are resilient.

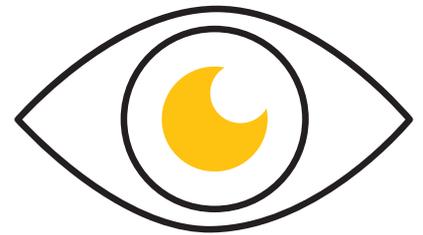
Equity is a guiding principle. We promote access to services by all people, regardless of demographic, economic, social or geographic considerations – paying particular attention to gender and disability equity. We are determined that no one will be left behind.

We conduct research and good quality monitoring and evaluation of our interventions. This informs good practice within our programmes and in the wider eye health and health sectors.

Climate change and the environment

Addressing the environment and health risks related to climate change is challenging, but in practical ways, we are making progress.

By recognising the challenges and realities of the contexts in which we work, we can take tangible steps to reduce our carbon footprint. This includes developing more effective supply chains, purchasing energy-efficient equipment for all programmes, and where possible, using renewable sources of energy (solar) to reduce the need for diesel and gasoline generators.



There are currently

2.2 billion

people around the world with a visual impairment. Almost half of those cases are preventable or treatable

Our portfolio

Sightsavers supports projects across 15 countries in Africa and Asia, focusing on building capacity for long-term sustainability, integrating eye health into wider services, and working with ministries to support national eye health coordination. We ensure that our programmes are responsive to community needs and are gender- and disability-inclusive.

Our projects expand access to eye health services and leave no one behind in the following ways:

- We develop and run eye health programmes that help district health systems to deliver good quality eye health services in parts of the world where such services would otherwise not be available. We build local capacity and strengthen the ability to maintain, sustain and expand services and reach beyond our intervention period. There are many examples of projects which now run independently of Sightsavers
- We invest in strategies and activities that make services inclusive. We reach out to communities that are marginalised due to geography, poverty, gender and disability, and ensure we work to achieve equitable access to services
- We work with our partners to increase the scope of services, such as treating diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma in some select districts. We hope to expand such initiatives in the future
- We partner with governments to develop national policies and plans. We support human resource and other capacity initiatives for long-term systems strengthening



Thank you to our current donors:

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Our strategies have been developed through robust consultation with a range of partners, including ministries, organisations of people with disabilities and international development agencies.

QR code link
to our full
eye health strategy

