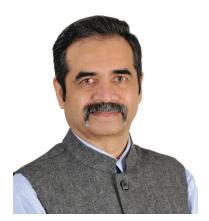
2021 ANNUAL REPORT OPERATION EYESIGHT INDIA

For All The World To See



THANK YOU



One of the most rewarding parts of my work is seeing first-hand the impact we have in the lives of not only the individuals who receive the gift of sight, but in whole communities as well.

I write this letter having just returned to Canada from a trip

to India, where I saw first-hand the impact our partners, staff and volunteers have in the lives of patients and families, every day.

On the cover: Once a vision centre was established in a nearby village, Mohammad from Uttar Pradesh was able to have an eye check-up and was prescribed new eyeglasses.

Operation Eyesight has been bringing eye health care to some of the most underserved parts of India since 1963. During my recent travels to the subcontinent, the memory that stands out the most is meeting a group of 30 women in a vision centre (in Ron, Karnataka) who were waiting for the bus to our local partner hospital to receive cataract surgery.

They shared what the gift of sight meant to them and their entire families. When people get their lives back, families and entire communities flourish.

It reminded me that our impact goes beyond restoring vision. Through dedicated local volunteers who screen their neighbours for eye health issues and through the presence of local vision centres, we are seeing more women and girls accessing eye health services and, as a result, more communities transform. It's confirmation that our focus on strengthening local health systems and empowering communities to look after their own eye health is not only effective, but also sustainable.

Speaking with our health workers in the community and patients who have undergone sight-restoring cataract surgery has been a rather emotional experience for me. Sharing in their joy at seeing again and being able to live independently has been the highlight of my travels in India. Wherever I have travelled and in various languages and dialects, the message to me has been the same: Thank you.

Yours truly,

Kashinath "Kash" Bhoosnurmath President & CEO

YOUR **IMPACT IN 2021**







1,321,617

149,783 sight-saving surgeries

157,136 pairs of spectacles dispensed

80 community health workers trained

> 769 frontline staff trained

14 villages declared avoidable blindness-free

19 new community projects launched



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OUR WORK IN INDIA



In India, where Operation Eyesight is approaching its 60th year of operations, we are working in communities in 90 districts across 17 states. Our partnership with 35 hospitals and 144 vision centres enabled our teams to declare 14 villages avoidable blindness-free in India in 2021.

Last year we screened nearly 1.5 million Indians for eye conditions through our partner hospitals and vision centres, enabling us to perform nearly 160,000 sight-saving eye surgeries. By creating a local primary eye care workforce in communities and equipping facilities with ophthalmic equipment and tools, our donors and partners are building capacity for India's health system. This approach has also allowed us to bring quality, sustainable eye health care to the most underserved rural patients and advance our goal of eliminating avoidable blindness in India.

In the last five years, Operation Eyesight has trained a team of 7,117 local health workers, including community health workers and eye care professionals such as ophthalmic staff and physicians, empowering them to be local eye health champions in their own communities.

GLOBAL VISION, LOCAL FOCUS



Together, our team partners with communities, empowers local leaders and brings life-changing eye health care to Indians who need it most. We are a team that spans across India. We are also part of a global community of more than 55 staff, 550 volunteers, 38 partners here in India and thousands of donors worldwide.

Together, we are part of a global team working to make avoidable blindness a thing of the past.

It's the presence of 140+ vision centres that we have established in communities across India, as well as the hundreds of community health workers that are providing care and assessment in their own communities, that ensures we focus on the unique needs of each community.

We partner with the government, hospitals, specialists and other institutions to bring eye health care to the most underserved populations. By training staff, upgrading existing infrastructure and improving existing health systems, we ensure our impact is sustainable.

Restoring sight is just the beginning. Our people are addressing the root causes of blindness, addressing issues like education, sanitation and equal rights for women and girls. Together, we are advancing our mission to prevent blindness and restore sight – *For All the World To See*.

KEY PROJECTS AND MILESTONES 2021/22

Born too Soon – Retinopathy of Prematurity Eradication (RoPE) Project

In September 2020, through support from the Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation, Operation Eyesight partner hospital C.L. Gupta Eye Institute (CLGEI) in Moradabad implemented the Retinopathy of Prematurity (RoP) program, with the goal of establishing a RoP unit. This included training RoP screening staff, physicians and NICU staff.

RoP, a disease of the retina caused by premature birth, became a major cause of blindness among children in the 1990s in many low- and middle-income countries. This was the result of increased survival rates of preterm babies, thanks in large part to expanded neonatal care capacity in many countries. The same now applies to India, where in 2014 an estimated 3.5 million of the 26 million births were preterm, with a gestational age of less than 37 weeks. Studies have shown that the incidence of RoP is significantly higher among infants born prematurely and with lower than average birth weights.

In India, at least 5,000 preterm infants require treatment for RoP each year in order to avoid irreversible life-long

blindness. Poor accessibility and a lack of awareness among parents and health providers has meant that the number of preterm infants becoming blind is on the rise.

Our training of 150 physicians and 41 NICU nurses, as well as increased screening efforts, have paid off. In 2022, our team of partners at CLGEI successfully identified two infants with RoP, one of which was part of a group of triplets.

Thanks to the quick action and expertise of healthcare staff, these two infants and many more will not experience irreversible blindness and have bright futures ahead of them

Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC)

Eye health care cannot be comprehensive or responsive without first connecting eye health care with a person's overall health and wellness.

For Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Shakuntala, a simple training program in eye health care has helped enhance the care she already provides to others in her community. For the past eight years, the 38-year-old mother has provided counselling to other women in her own community of Gadhara Village, Madhya Pradesh, providing advice regarding their pregnancies, and referring several women each month to local health facilities. She also supports access to home-based newborn care and vaccinations for children in the community.

In 2022, Shakuntala attended Integrated Primary Eye Care (IPEC) training, to enhance the level of care she's able to provide.

"The training program has built my skills in measuring the vision of a person," she explains. "Now I screen the eyesight of my community members with these simple techniques and refer them to the Health and Wellness Centres."

She says she now uses her new skills to promote awareness of eye health issues in her community, and refer those in need of eye care to the closest vision centre.

One of the key recommendations and findings of the World Health Organization's 2019 World Report on Vision is the role IPEC will play in addressing the global eye health crisis.

Operation Eyesight has been working closely with the state governments in both Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in establishing vision care facilities within already-existing government health centres, as well as organizing training for local health workers like Shakuntala. This has played a key role in making eye health care services available to the most underserved communities.

Because we are in the community, we are better able to cater services to the unique needs of the patients and families we serve.

This work is having a transformative impact on India's health system and is happening in partnership with **Jhpiego** (an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University), state and local governments, and **Optometry Giving Sight.**



Community Engagement Partnerships

In one community in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with the help of a professional illustrator and facilitator, female-led engagement sessions with our local health workers and community participants have helped us identify several 'gender myths' and misconceptions surrounding women and eye health. These were often due to misunderstandings about wearing glasses, beliefs about vision loss being a person's fault, as well as practices such as preferential access to health services often given to boys.

This led to the development of new Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials which will be used by health workers in the community.

These materials – a variety of posters and flash cards – tell stories and lend themselves to creating deeper engagement. When testing the materials, we were delighted to hear that community members see themselves reflected in the materials.

This work was made possible thanks to partnership with Norquest College and Rotary Eye and ENT Hospital, with support from the Fund for Innovation and **Transformation through Global Affairs** Canada. There may be opportunities for us to repurpose or recontextualize these materials for other projects and programs, and our learnings from implementing this community-led approach can certainly be applied to the development of new IEC materials country-wide.

MEET OUR PEOPLE Bitul Hazarika, paramedical ophthalmic assistant



It's our team's passion for working in the field and caring for patients that allowed us to impact more lives in 2021

"I have seen people who never expected to see again, because eye care services were far out of reach, not affordable and not accessible. They waited for their death," explains Bitul Hazarika, a paramedical ophthalmic assistant with one of our partner hospitals. "But when we reach them... with services and care to see again, I feel satisfaction of seeing these people smiling and thanking us for the services."

Bitul has been working in the field since 1996. In addition to working in a vision centre, over his 26 years of service he has attended more than 500 screening camps, provided prescription eyeglasses to 700+ people and referred more than 300 patients for surgery.

Today, he's working to make his home state of Arunachal Pradesh completely free of avoidable blindness.

success story Vision centres bring sight to the community

For 40-year-old Wasim from India, cataracts not only prevented him from seeing the faces of his wife and son, but also led to a number of injuries.

Without the means to travel and pay for cataract surgery at the nearest hospital, which was 65 km away, his situation seemed hopeless.

When a vision centre was opened in his neighbourhood, Wasim was able to have a comprehensive eye exam and he underwent sight-restoring cataract surgery, free of charge.

After his cataracts were removed, he went home, and he was able to see his dear wife clearly for the first time. Without hesitation, he enthusiastically proclaimed how beautiful she was and that it was a joy to see her.

His son ran up to him to give him a hug, and Wasim proudly looked at his son, seeing his adorable face for the first time. It was truly a heartwarming moment for the family.



Today, Wasim earns a living by driving an electric rickshaw. This one cataract surgery changed the lives of an entire family.

Focusing on the unique needs of each community, we establish vision centres which link communities with hospitals.

In the last six years, we have established 140+ new vision centres across India.

These local eye health hubs bring primary eye care to communities, offering comprehensive eye exams, dispensing eyeglasses and referring patients to a hospital if needed.

success story Bringing hope, one pair of spectacles at a time

When six-year-old Misba began having trouble concentrating on schoolwork and withdrew from outdoor play with her friends, her parents knew something was wrong.

Vision loss was rapidly taking their daughter's sight. Her dad Mahabul and mom Ruku, who live with their family in a village in the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, say their daughter became "unhappy" and "usually irritated."

Misba's parents say their daughter was unable to read a book without moving it close to her eyes. However, the family could not seek help due to financial limitations.

When Ussahy, one of our community health workers, was conducting a doorto-door eye health screening in Misba's village, the girl was diagnosed with myopia (nearsightedness) and referred to our vision centre at Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital, West Bengal, four kilometres from her home. There, she got a pair of corrective eyeglasses.

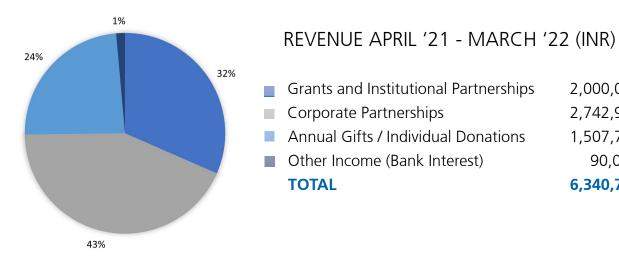


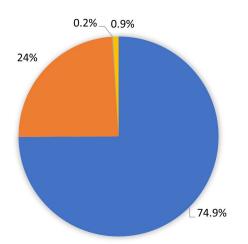
With her sight restored, Misba's mother says her daughter is happy and active. Today, she enjoys doing her schoolwork and spending time outdoors with her friends.

Today, Misba is a happy and active six-year-old. Her parents are relieved to see their daughter smiling and happy again. They say they are grateful for the care they received and refer others to their local vision centre.

2021-22 FINANCIALS: **OPERATION EYESIGHT INDIA TRUST**

Thanks to the compassion of our global community, 2021 was a year of success for Operation Eyesight. Operation Eyesight is registered as a charitable trust in India, and we're incredibly grateful for the support our donors have extended to their fellow neighbours.





EXPENDITURES APRIL '21 - MARCH '22 (INR)

2,000,000

2,742,946

1,507,767

6,340,762

90,049

India Programmes	2,339,790
COVID-19 Relief Programme	750,000
Fund Development	4,755
Governance and Administration	28,203
TOTAL	3,122,748

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The transformational impact we are having together is made possible by the generosity of donors. We are grateful to all our donors, including individuals, corporations and family foundations. In 2021, we welcomed 500+ new Indian donors into our community of supporters, and we look forward to getting to know you better and sharing our updates with you. We'd like to thank the following donors who gave more than 5,000 INR:

Edelgive Foundation Cognizant Foundation Fusion Microfinance Ltd.

...and many individual donors.





Operation Eyesight India Trust

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Operation Eyesight India is a registered Public Charitable Trust, Registration Number: IV-00778 – 2013, Kolkata. All donations are tax exempted under Section 80G(5)(IV) of the Income Tax Act 1961 Vide Notification No. DIT(E)/8E/390/2013-14/14-15/G-68/550-52 dated 12-06-2014. PAN OF DONEE ORGANIZATION: AAATO4055H.

2021 Board Chair: Dr. G. Chandra Sekhar