

2024

INDIA ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To prevent blindness and restore sight.

OUR VISION

The elimination of avoidable vision loss.

OUR VALUES

Equity Innovation Citizenship Compassion Excellence



Kash speaks with Narayan at Srinivasapura Vision Centre (Globe Eye Foundation). Narayan was there for his cataract surgery follow-up appointment. He said he was grateful that he had not needed an attendant to guide him to the clinic, and that he'd been able to return to work as a waiter. He and Kash are both fathers of two sons, and – as proud dads do – they traded stories about their kids.

On the cover: Premi, 13, was struggling to see clearly. When she took part in a school screening in Udaipur, Rajasthan, she learned she had a refractive error. She received prescription spectacles free of charge and now enjoys reading. Learn more about our school eye health programmes on page 18.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO



Going beyond the restoration of eyesight

In my 15 years at Operation Eyesight, I have seen many things. The sight I value most is the moment a person's eyesight is restored – when a woman, a girl, a man or a boy slips on spectacles, removes eye surgery bandages or blinks in eye drops that relieve pain. Their eyes widen and their jaw drops. Some laugh. Some cry. Some do both at the same time.

However, it is what happens next that I most cherish. Immediately, people move beyond the restoration of their eyesight to speak of what they'll do, who they'll see and where they'll go. They share plans for a life transformed – of connection and education, of employment and independence.

Transforming lives is our work. Globally, 1.1 billion people live with vision loss, and 90 per cent is avoidable. Without investment in eye health care, it will be nearly 1.8 billion by 2050. In India, an estimated 275 million people live with vision loss.

That is why we are invested, and investing in, eye health care. We have been building sustainable eye health care systems in India for more than 60 years. In 2024, we entered a new phase as we launched our **Global Strategy 2024-2028**. Our India team began to execute this strategy, demonstrating resilience through this transition. Several long-term staff stepped into (and excelled in!) leadership roles. They led the team forward towards achieving our three goals: expanding into more communities

and determinants of health, building the capacity of our staff and partners, and raising awareness to grow our community.

The moment we launched the strategy, I saw impact. I felt alignment, energy and enthusiasm. Some say it's 'start-up' energy. I say it's energy from transforming our organization to improve quality of life for as many more people as possible around the world.

Thank you for your support of our work, our team and our growing community. Together, we will eliminate avoidable vision loss and its causes, to transform many more lives, now and in the future – **For All The World To See!**

With gratitude,

Kashinath "Kash" Bhoosnurmath
President & CEO
Operation Eyesight Universal



Fifteen-year-old Pushpita, from just outside of Shivrapur, Namkhana in West Bengal, had big dreams and plans for her education; however, they were overshadowed with silent worry as she struggled to read the board at school. She hoped her vision would improve on its own.

One day, Pushpita participated in an eye screening camp, organized by Sundarban Eye Hospital with support from Operation Eyesight. She was relieved to discover that she just needed spectacles.

After a comprehensive eye exam, Pushpita learned she had a refractive error. When she received her prescription spectacles, she slipped them on, and her vision, her world and her dreams came back into focus.

Why India needs more eye health care

Millions of people in India are visually impaired, and many of them face barriers to detection and treatment based on where they live, their ability to pay, shortages in eye health care professionals, and health infrastructure and cultural stigmas. **Data shows:**

- 1.1 billion people in the world live with vision loss – this is projected to grow to nearly 1.8 billion by 2050 unless there is significant investment in eye care¹
- in India, approximately 275 million people live with vision loss²
- women and girls experience 53 per cent of vision loss in India²
- more than one in four Indians age 50 and over are visually impaired³
- remote and rural areas are often severely underserved

The life-long consequences of vision loss can be devastating:

- It leads to a 30 per cent reduction in employment⁴
- An estimated 1,199, 270 years of schooling are lost each year from uncorrected refractive error (which is often treated with an eye exam and spectacles)⁵
- Students with poor vision learn 50 per cent less than peers with clear vision⁶

The cost of vision loss is felt by all – families, communities and the entire country. Estimated costs of blindness alone to the Gross National Income (GNI) are⁷:

- blindness: INR 845 billion per year
- loss per person with blindness: INR 170,624 per year
- cumulative loss of GNI to avoidable blindness: INR 11,778.6 billion

Fortunately, 90 per cent of all vision loss is preventable or treatable. And that's where we come in.

¹ Updated Vision Atlas shows 1.1 billion people have vision loss - The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

² Bourne R, et al. Trends in prevalence of blindness and distance and near vision impairment over 30 years: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study. The Lancet Global Health. 2020. Accessed via the IAPB Vision Atlas: visionatlas.iapb.org.

³ Blindness and visual impairment and their causes in India: Results of a nationally representative survey - PMC

⁴ Global economic productivity losses from vision impairment and blindness - eClinicalMedicine

⁵ IAPB Vision Atlas - Child eye health

⁶ Dhakhwa P, et al. Better education in sight. An estimate of global learning and economic productivity losses from uncorrected refractive error in schools. (2024) Accessed via the IAPB Vision Atlas: visionatlas.iapb.org.

⁷ Current estimates of the economic burden of blindness and visual impairment in India: A cost of illness study - PubMed

For all of India to see

We believe that clear vision and healthy eyes are a right for all, regardless of where people live, their gender, age or ability to pay.

That's why we are on the ground partnering with communities, hospitals, state governments and like-minded organizations to build sustainable systems that provide eye health care now and in the future. **We do this through our five programming areas:**

COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH

We train local community health workers who conduct door-to-door eye health screenings, refer patients to vision centres or hospitals for treatment, and provide health education.

HOSPITAL STRENGTHENING

We invest in hospital equipment and infrastructure, provide training for healthcare professionals and establish vision centres at the community level. The vision centres provide eye exams and spectacles and refer patients to the base hospital for surgery or other treatment.

INTEGRATED EYE HEALTH

Eye health is linked with a range of other development areas. We're working to strengthen areas of overlap between primary eye care and primary health care in our countries of operation. In doing so, we're able to address the root causes of avoidable vision loss.

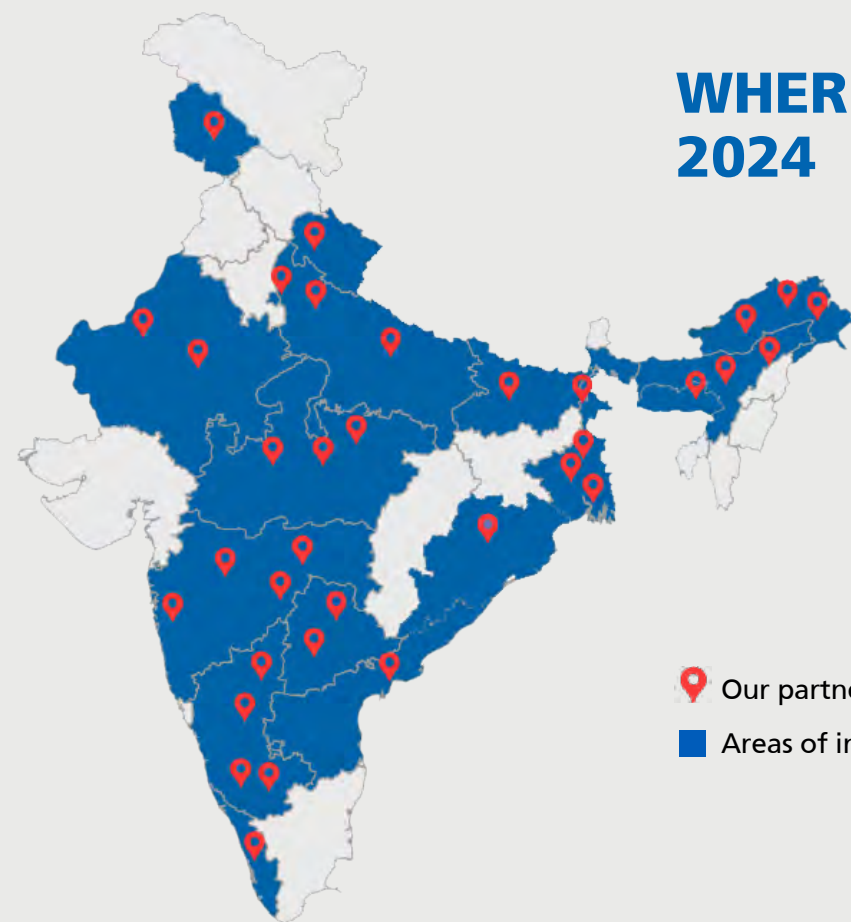
DISEASE CONTROL

We are addressing the major causes of avoidable vision loss: cataract, uncorrected refractive error, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, Retinopathy of Prematurity and other conditions. From eye screenings and prevention to treatment and follow-up care, our partners provide comprehensive eye health services.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Driven by a wealth of community-based data, we are contributing to a global body of health research and informing national eye health policies.

Ultimately, our goal is to declare all our partner communities as Avoidable Blindness-Free.



WHERE WE WORK 2024

Our partners
 Areas of intervention

YOUR IMPACT IN 2024

We have worked in India since our founding in 1963. From our roots at a single hospital in Sompeta, Andhra Pradesh, we have expanded to our current reach across 86 districts and 17 states, and have built more than 35 partnerships with hospitals, state governments and like-minded organizations.

In 2024, our community eye health work included relaunching 11 **community eye health** projects that were suspended due to COVID-19, declaring 197 villages Avoidable Blindness-Free, training 759 frontline workers, including community health volunteers, in primary eye care, and reaching 457,577 people through health education and awareness activities.

Our **hospital strengthening** work included upgrading an operation theatre and providing refresher training to 79 ophthalmic health workers in the state of Madhya Pradesh;

strengthening the Retinopathy of Prematurity sub-specialty department in Uttar Pradesh; and beginning the construction of a secondary eye hospital, as well as establishing seven vision centres, in Karnataka.

Back in 2021, we launched our first **Integrated People-centred Eye Care (IPEC)** project in India, in partnership with the state government of Arunachal Pradesh. The objective was to make eye health care services available to underserved populations by integrating primary eye care into pre-existing primary health care facilities. Based on the success of this model, we scaled this project to include additional states this year.

Read our full
Global Strategy
2024-2028



INDIA	F Female M Male		Total 2024	2023	2022
People screened for eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	758,388	1,458,722	1,710,882	1,056,076
	M	700,334			
Students screened through school eye health programmes	F	33,434	52,893	17,115	33,571
	M	19,459			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F	427,192	831,534	715,787	746,676
	M	404,342			
Eye surgeries performed	F	114,529	223,986	182,395	119,979
	M	109,457			
Pairs of prescription eyeglasses dispensed	F	108,539	202,410	200,850	208,633
	M	93,871			
Vision centres or mobile vision centres established			7	13	N/A

* Includes student data for 2024.

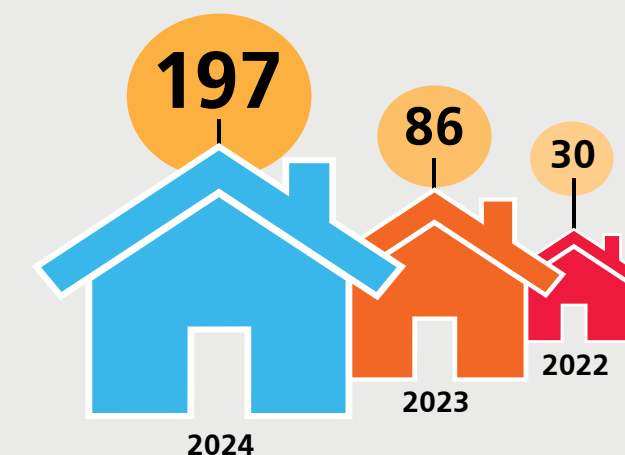
In 2024, we implemented four **IPEC** projects: two in Arunachal Pradesh, one in Madhya Pradesh and one in Meghalaya. In total, we upgraded 199 government health centres to include vision care facilities. We also handed over two mobile eye clinic vans, enabling us to increase the number of people screened through outreach camps in Meghalaya and to double the number of cataract surgeries in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.

Through our **disease control** programmes, we launched a district-wide school eye screening programmes in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, for 330 schools. Across the country in multiple states, through our school eye health programmes we screened 52,893 students from 116 schools and dispensed 895 pairs of spectacles.

To identify and share insights, we launched two **research** studies in partnership with the **Pragyaan Sustainable Health Outcomes Foundation**: one to evaluate our survey tools, and the other to assess our approach to declaring villages as Avoidable Blindness-Free on a sustainable basis. We look forward to sharing our findings with you.

Our Avoidable Blindness-Free Village declarations are on the rise!

The impact of all these programming areas is that we are increasing the number of Avoidable Blindness-Free villages each year. In 2022 we declared 30 villages Avoidable Blindness-Free, in 2023 it was 86, and in 2024, we declared a record 197 villages Avoidable Blindness-Free.



Villages declared Avoidable Blindness-Free each year.



Robiroy (left), a community health worker, began his work by building relationships, armed not with eye charts but empathy. Learn how on page 9.

Your impact in community eye health

We train local community health workers to conduct door-to-door surveys, refer patients to a vision centre or hospital for treatment, and provide health education.

Local expertise, local passion

Our global team of community health workers (CHWs) frequently become trusted leaders and health advocates in their own community. In addition to increasing people’s knowledge of eye health, CHWs provide education sessions on a range of health topics including maternal and newborn health.

“Knowledge is power, and their goal is to connect patients with the health services they need as well as equip them with awareness of when and where to seek care for eye conditions and other ailments,” says Tapobrat Bhuyan, our Senior Programme Manager in Assam. “CHWs are many people’s first point of contact with

their health system and are able to connect patients and families with a range of health services.”

In order to understand the needs of the local community, our teams conducted needs assessments and hired project coordinators who collaborate with our local partner hospitals: **Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya** in Guwahati, Assam; **Chandraprabha Eye Hospital** in Jorhat, Assam; **Dr. Gogate’s Eye Clinic** in Pune, Maharashtra; **Sundarban Social Development Centre** in Sundarban, West Bengal; **Lions Seva Eye Hospital** in Bardhaman, West Bengal; and the **Community Eye Care Foundation** in Pune.

	<div>F Female</div> <div>M Male</div>		Total 2024	2023	2022
People surveyed through door-to-door surveys	<div>F 427,192</div> <div>M 404,342</div>		831,534	715,115	33,571
Community health workers/ volunteers trained in primary eye care	<div>F 124</div> <div>M 65</div>		189		
Other frontline staff (government health workers and other primary health care staff) trained in primary eye care	<div>F 506</div> <div>M 65</div>		571		
People screened for various eye conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	<div>F 758,388</div> <div>M 700,334</div>		1,458,722	1,710,882	1,056,076
People reached through public awareness programmes	<div>F 246,093</div> <div>M 211,484</div>		457,577		
Communities declared Avoidable Blindness-Free		–	197	86	30

*Data is not available for all indicators for 2022 and 2023 as this is being measured through the *Global Strategy 2024-2028*.

Community health worker breaks down barriers with empathy before eye charts

In the hills of Meghalaya’s Ri-Bhoi District, Robiroy, a young community health worker from Nongpoh Vision Centre, was assigned to serve 47 villages – with a total population of more than 16,000 people. Initially, he encountered skepticism from the community, as people feared medical interventions or had misconceptions. For many, fading vision was simply part of growing old.

To overcome these barriers, Robiroy put aside his medical charts and stepped into courtyards with warmth and empathy. Over cups of tea, he listened, shared stories and spoke of restored sight as a path to dignity and independence.

Small victories soon blossomed. An elder who had received eye care could weave again. A farmer saw his fields clearly. Success stories spread across villages. Soon, Nongpoh Vision Centre saw patients surge, and 520 seniors received cataract surgeries. Families began prioritizing eye care across generations.

As of publication time, five of Robiroy’s 47 villages will soon be Avoidable Blindness-Free. He is not just restoring vision – he is sparking an eye care movement!





Community outreach leads to restored sight

Sriramappa, from Karnataka, India, had vision loss from cataracts. He was dependent on his family for his daily needs, and he could no longer support them by grazing his cows and goats. His wife had passed away from an illness, and he was plunged into darkness, mentally and physically, for three years.

Hope returned when a community health worker visited his home.

Sriramappa was diagnosed with cataracts and referred to our partner, Netradeep Eye Hospital (Globe Eye Foundation), where he was able to access sight-restoring surgery free of charge.

Sriramappa expressed his gratitude to our donors. He is now enjoying life's simple pleasures, especially roaming the forest with his animals, which helps to support his family.

Did you know?

There is a strong correlation between vision loss and age. People who are 50 years of age and older experience 73 per cent of all vision loss.⁸ This puts people at risk of poverty, dependence and reduced health and well-being. At times, beliefs that vision loss is inevitable or that older people are not worthy of treatment can be barriers to overcome.

⁸ Global data – IAPB Vision Atlas

⁹ Accessed via the IAPB Vision Atlas: visionatlas.iapb.org

Senior reassured by cataract surgery counselling regains her independence

Seventy-year-old Debeswari, from Golaghat District, Assam, once led an active life, walking to her nearby village to visit. When cataracts clouded her vision, her world shrank to the four walls of her home. Once cheerful and independent, she became totally dependent on her family. Financial struggles and fear of surgery kept her from seeking treatment. She felt isolated, helpless and like a burden to her loved ones.

One day, an Operation Eyesight-trained community health volunteer named Daiboki

visited Debeswari's home. Together, they worked through her eyesight issues and her fears. Later, a team from our partner, Chandraprabha Eye Hospital, visited Debeswari and explained cataract surgery. Reassured, she accepted treatment and was transported to hospital that very day.

Now, Debeswari again walks independently to her nearby village – a freedom she hadn't enjoyed in years. In having her vision restored, she has also recovered her dignity and joy.

Did you know?

Globally, 100 million people have cataracts, the leading cause of blindness.⁸ In India, cataract causes 66 per cent of blindness, 81 per cent of severe vision loss, 70 per cent of moderate vision loss and 24 per cent of mild vision loss.⁹ Cataract surgery is one of the most cost-effective treatments at approximately INR 4,712.



79

EYE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

An eye care professional conducts a comprehensive eye exam at the vision centre in Bokokhat, Assam.

Your impact in hospital strengthening

We invest in hospital equipment and infrastructure, provide training for healthcare professionals and establish vision centres at the community level. The vision centres provide eye exams and spectacles and refer patients to the base hospital for surgery or other treatment.

Ongoing Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Programmes

In September 2022, in partnership with the **Cognizant Foundation**, we launched three projects aimed at providing comprehensive eye health services to underserved areas in Assam, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The projects aim to address primary eye care needs in target communities by the end of 2025. It includes establishing five vision centres: two in Assam, one in Maharashtra and two in West Bengal. These vision centres will act

as local eye health hubs in the community, providing comprehensive eye exams, prescription spectacles and hospital referrals for patients requiring advanced care.

In 2024, ten community health workers were recruited and trained. They provide door-to-door eye health screening. This boost to eye health care human resources supports the long-term sustainable eye health care systems we build alongside communities.

HOSPITAL STRENGTHENING

Total
2024

Out-patient departments or operation theatres upgraded/strengthened	1
Hospitals constructed	1
Vision centres established/strengthened	7
Ophthalmic staff trained (nurses, optometrists, vision technicians, ophthalmologists, etc.)	79



Changemaker: From community health volunteer to eye care specialist and role model

In 2021, 24-year-old Vishnu decided to be a changemaker. Vishnu hailed from a small village in Rajasthan, where girls were not encouraged to work. Vishnu, however, dreamed of having a career so she could support her family.

Vishnu pursued a community health volunteer (CHV) role at Fatehagar Vision Centre, established through the Promotion of Avoidable Blindness-Free Communities in Rajasthan project. We implemented the project with Alakh Nayan Mandir, through support from Standard Chartered Bank.

Vishnu began working and quickly earned respect. Encouraged by her mentors, she took

a two-year diploma in optometry from Aalakh Nayan Mandir. In 2024, she became a vision technician at the Fatehnagar Vision Centre. She now sees 10 patients a day.

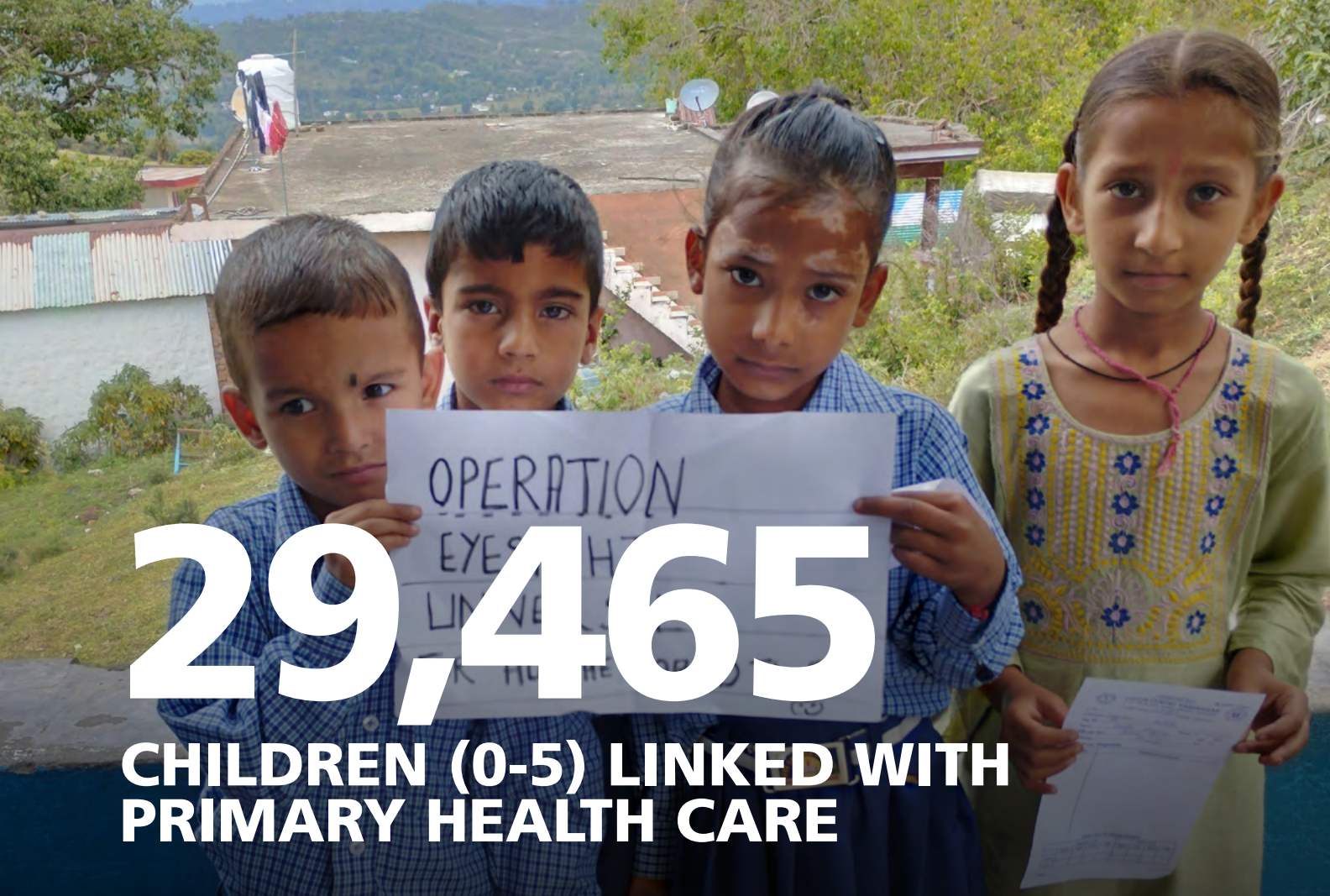
"I want to grow, and I will never allow anyone to stop me from doing my job. I'm happy that girls in my community have started dreaming of having careers after seeing me. This job has given me a chance to change my life, and I want to motivate as many girls as possible to dream big and fight for their happiness," Vishnu says.

Vishnu remains deeply grateful to Alakh Nayan Mandir and Operation Eyesight for the opportunity that changed her life as she now changes the lives of others.

Did you know?

There is a global shortage of eye health care professionals. The World Health Organization recommends four ophthalmologists for every million people. While India has 11 per million,¹⁰ many are based in urban areas, leaving rural and remote areas underserved.

¹⁰ Global data – IAPB Vision Atlas



29,465
CHILDREN (0-5) LINKED WITH
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Your impact in integrated eye health

Through this programming area, we are working to strengthen areas of overlap between primary eye care and primary health care. In doing so, we're able to address the root causes of avoidable vision loss.

Our Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC) Programmes

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. 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 NGO affiliate of Johns Hopkins University), state and local governments, and **Optometry Giving Sight**.

We are expanding an IPEC Programme that we have been conducting in 10 districts in collaboration with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Madhya Pradesh**. Through this expansion, this programme is now being implemented in two more states: Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Total
2024

0–5 year–old children linked with primary health care for immunizations – Vitamin A	17,801 (Female) 11,664 (Male)	29,465
Expectant mothers linked with primary health care for prenatal check-ups		2,464
Nursing mothers linked with primary health care for check-ups		2,344



From health worker to eye care champion

Heeralal, 45, was a resident of a village near the Community Health Centre (CHC) Niwas in Singrauli district. Passionate about health care, he joined the government as a multipurpose health worker (MPW) to serve people in remote and underserved areas.

In 2010, Heeralal became a para medical ophthalmic assistant (PMOA) after the Government of Madhya Pradesh called for MPWs to undergo PMOA training. He conducted regular eye exams at CHC Niwas but was disheartened by having only two or three patients a day. He took part in school screenings and cataract camps as awareness grew.

In 2022, Heeralal saw a turning point when we launched our Integrated People-Centred Eye

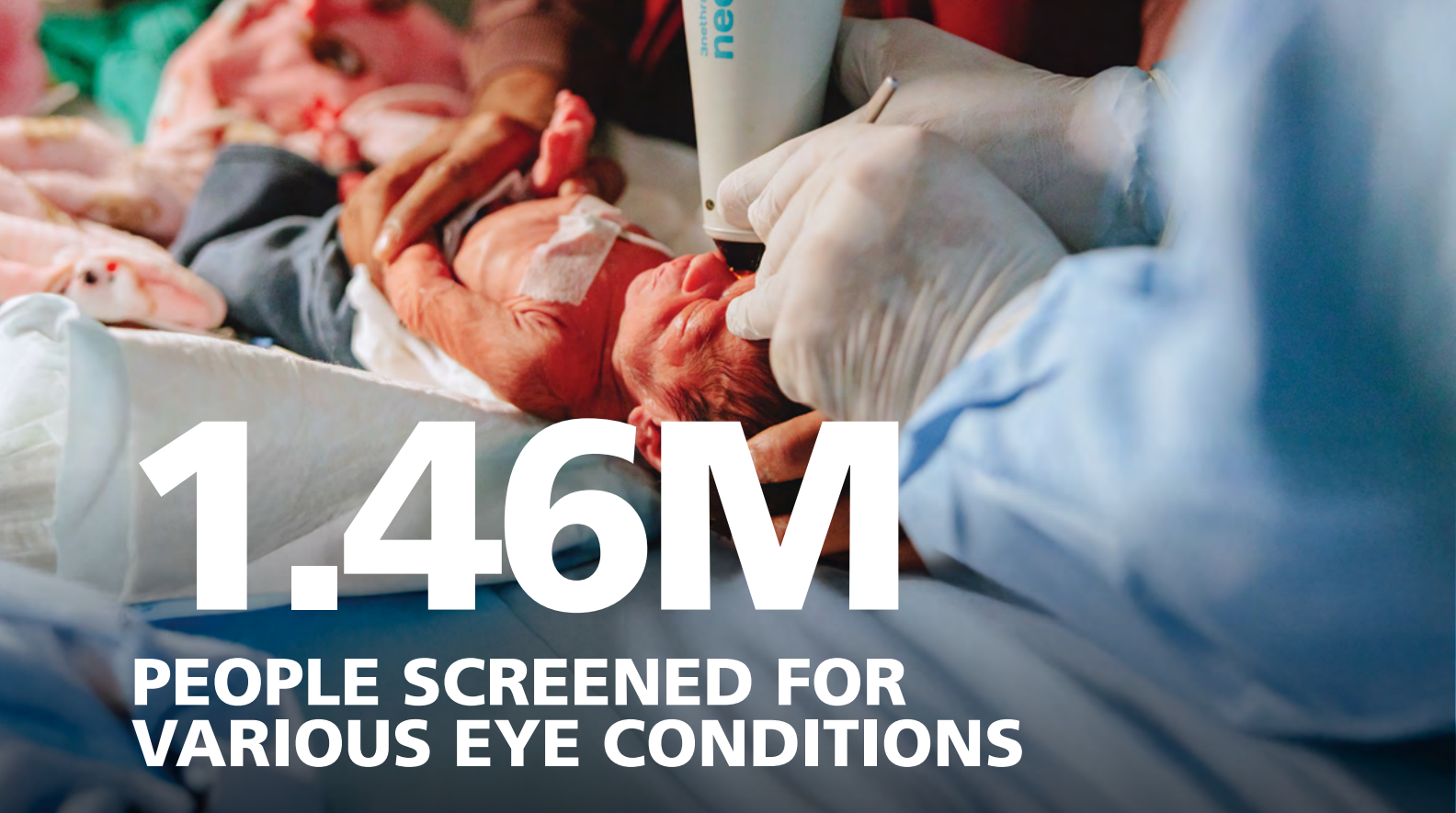
Care project in Singrauli. CHCs were upgraded to vision centres, equipped with slit lamps and essential ophthalmic tools. PMOAs received refresher training for comprehensive eye examinations to build eye care capacity.

A series of targeted interventions rolled out. We trained community health officers, accredited social health activists (ASHAs) and community health volunteers (CHVs). Screening camps were organized with a mobile vision van to boost awareness. With support from ASHAs and CHVs, Heeralal soon saw 12 to 15 patients daily.

Today, Heeralal feels more inspired than ever by the transformation in rural healthcare. His motivation grows with every person whose sight is restored.

Did you know?

Integrating eye care into universal health care is one of the five recommendations of the World Health Organization 2019 *World Report on Vision*.



1.46M

PEOPLE SCREENED FOR VARIOUS EYE CONDITIONS

A premature infant is treated for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), which requires early detection and treatment to prevent lifelong blindness. Our ROP programme is run in partnership with the C.L. Gupta Eye Institute.

+ Your impact in disease control

We are addressing the major causes of avoidable vision loss: uncorrected refractive error, cataract, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, Retinopathy of Prematurity and other conditions. From eye screenings and prevention to treatment and follow-up care, our partners provide comprehensive eye health services.

Community-based Diabetic Retinopathy Project

Launched in October 2022, our Community-Based Diabetic Retinopathy Project in the district of Trissur, Kerala is now offering quality clinical treatment for diabetic retinopathy to underserved populations. India has one of the highest rates of diabetes globally.¹¹ In Kerala, diabetes affects as much as 20 per cent of the population – more than double the national average – and these rates are expected to increase over the next 20 years.¹²

Diabetic retinopathy develops when high blood sugar levels damage the blood vessels of the retina. Left untreated, it can cause irreversible vision loss. People with diabetes need frequent eye examinations, as early detection and treatment are critical for preserving sight; however, with a shortage of ophthalmologists across the country and many patients unaware of their diabetes, the need for diagnosis and treatment is not always met.

We are lending our technical expertise by helping to train resident ophthalmologists and other staff to support screening programmes as well as provide care for patients with diabetic retinopathy. Laser surgery intravitreal injections are the primary treatments, and at times patients also require surgery. Thanks to our donors and partners, we're providing patients with frequent eye examinations and timely treatment, stopping the progression of this eye disease.

Ensuring a community can look after its eye health needs on a sustainable basis requires many pieces to come together. From community outreach, to providing advanced care, to fundraising, partnership plays a key role in creating eye health solutions to meet the needs of communities.

DISEASE CONTROL	F Female M Male		Total 2024	2023	2022
People screened for various conditions through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F	758,388	1,458,722	1,710,882	1,056,076
	M	700,334			
People identified with cataract and advised surgery/ies	F	146,198	282,656		
	M	136,458			
People underwent cataract surgery/ies	F	99,294	194,361		
	M	95,067			
People identified with non-cataract cases and advised surgery/ies	F	4,816	9,013		
	M	4,197			
People underwent non-cataract surgery/ies (people were referred from base hospitals, vision centres and outreach)	F	15,212	29,594		
	M	14,382			
Spectacles prescribed by vision centre, hospital or outreach	M	171,205	324,089		
	F	152,884			
Pairs of prescription spectacles dispensed	M	108,539	202,410	200,850	208,633
		93,871			

*Data is not available for all indicators for 2022 and 2023 as this is being measured through the Global Strategy 2024-2028.

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

Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a disease of the retina caused by premature birth, became a major cause of blindness among children in the 1990s. This was the result of increased survival rates of preterm babies, thanks in large part to expanded neonatal care capacity.

Studies have shown that the incidence of ROP is significantly higher among infants born prematurely and with low birth weights. In India, approximately 5,000 infants¹³ require treatment for ROP each year to prevent irreversible life-long blindness. Poor accessibility and a lack of awareness among parents and health providers have led to a rise in preterm infant blindness.

With support from the **Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation**, our partner hospital **C.L. Gupta Eye Institute (CLGEI)** in Moradabad implemented the RoPE project, with the goal of establishing a

ROP unit. This included training ROP screening staff, physicians and neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) staff.

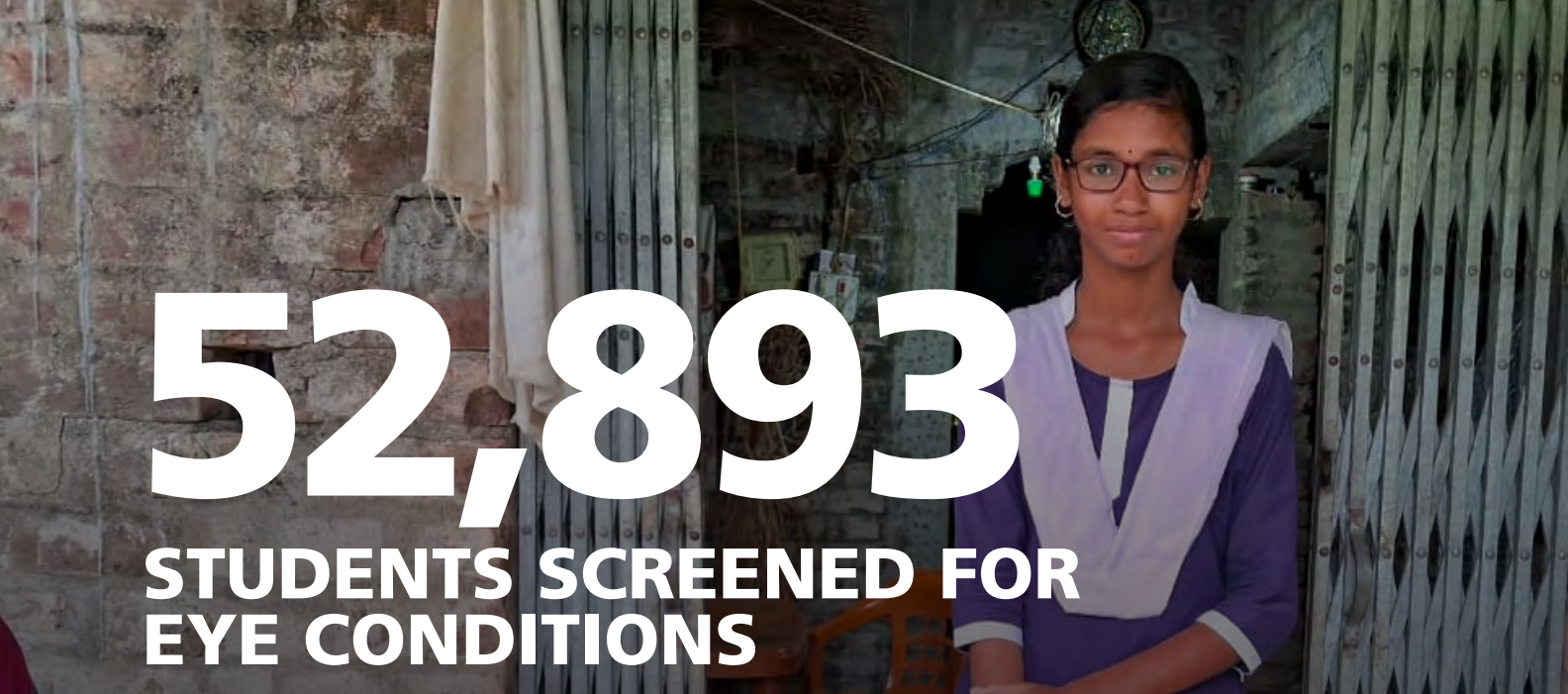
Our training of 150 physicians and 41 NICU nurses, as well as increased screening efforts, have paid off. In 2022, 253 babies were screened and 50 were treated, and in 2023, 288 were screened.

In 2024, we screened 478 infants, and 109 had RoP. Of these, 25 underwent Lazer treatment and 38 infants received an injection. We also expanded our RoPE project in Moradabad to include five additional districts, thanks to **Rotary International**, the **Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park (Canada)** and the **Rotary Club of Moradabad East**. The expansion allowed us to screen an additional 1,500 premature infants and treat 400.

¹¹ [South Asians need culturally informed NCD action - The Lancet Global Health](#)

¹² [Incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus and prediabetes in Kerala, India: results from a 10-year prospective cohort - PMC](#)

¹³ [Retinopathy of Prematurity - DRROP](#)



Like many students with poor vision, Pushpita’s confidence and ability to learn fell as her eyesight grew blurry.
Read her story on page 6.

Your impact in school eye health

Through our disease control programmes, we launched a district-wide school eye screening programme for 330 schools in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. In 2024, across all our school eye health programmes in multiple states, we screened 52,893 students from 116 schools and dispensed 895 pairs of spectacles.

Bringing eye health care to students helps detect and treat eye issues early, before they significantly impact education. An investment in school eye health is an investment in student health and well-being, education, future employment and financial security. Students who learn about eye health in school also bring that education to their parents and families.

SCHOOL EYE HEALTH	F Female M Male		Total 2024
Schools covered			116
Frontline workers trained in screening	F	249	547
	M	298	
Students screened	F	33,434	52,893
	M	19,459	
Students prescribed spectacles	F	2,658	3,871
	M	1,213	
Students dispensed with spectacles	F	505	895
	M	390	
Students underwent surgical treatment	F	23	31
	M	8	
Students received low vision devices	F	5	7
	M	2	

Your impact in research and advocacy

Driven by a wealth of community-based data, we are contributing to a global body of health research and informing national eye health policies.

In 2024, we launched two research initiatives to identify learnings and to share our findings. In partnership with the **Pragyaan Sustainable Health Outcomes (PRASHO) Foundation** we started an evaluation of the survey tools that we use and an assessment of our Avoidable Blindness-Free methodology and its effectiveness. We look forward to sharing our findings with you!

Award-winning presentations at VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India conference



Our team contributed four presentations to the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India conference, which brought together organizations, hospitals, research institutes and others to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities across the eye health field.

We submitted four presentations. Senior Programme Manager Tapobrat Bhuyan and Project Officer Emmanuel Benia Tanti presented. Project Coordinator Aditya Sharma (shown here, third from left) brought home the award for Best Paper for Oral Presentation. Operation Eyesight was also honored with an award as a founding member for its contributions to VISION 2020.

Recognized nationally and globally



Our poster focusing on our donor-centric approach won second spot for Best Poster at The Right to Sight – India conference. Here, our Head of Resource Mobilization Subhadip Bhattacharya (left) accepts the award.

The poster was also selected to be featured at the 2024 IN SIGHT LIVE event organized by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness in Mexico City.

Did you know?
We share our evidence-based learnings at international, national and state conferences and meetings to inform policies that support universal eye health care for all, particularly in remote and rural areas, which are underserved.



A community health worker from the Bokokhat, Assam Vision Centre works with a senior to screen her eyes.

Financials: Operation Eyesight India Trust

In 2024, we reflected on our past achievements while looking ahead to the future as we developed our **Global Strategy 2024–2028**. We have set ambitious goals that require strategic investments across all aspects of our operations.

Thanks to the generous contributions of both long-term and new supporters, our revenues in the financial year 2024-2025 surpassed INR 14.22 million. We are especially grateful to our corporate and institutional partners such as the **Cognizant Foundation India, Fusion Finance Ltd, EdelGive Foundation, Shalina Laboratories Ltd** and **SEIL Energy India Ltd**, whose support enabled us to implement specific project activities – including setting up and running vision centres, conducting school eye screening programmes and supplying spectacles. Contributions from individual donors also significantly strengthened our efforts to prevent blindness and restore sight.

We continued to build and strengthen partnerships with institutional and corporate supporters, which accounted for more than 56 per cent of our revenues. During the year, we also welcomed several new partners – including SEIL Energy India Ltd, **Abhay Dan** and **Vishva Protech Pvt Ltd** – who are now supporting our community eye health initiatives.

Multiplying our impact

We are committed to developing effective partnerships that enable us to maximize our impact at the same, or even reduced, cost. As we expand our programmes, we continue to collaborate with local hospitals, the Ministry of Health, the National Health Mission and grassroots NGOs – ensuring that the value we deliver to communities far exceeds our reported programme expenditures.

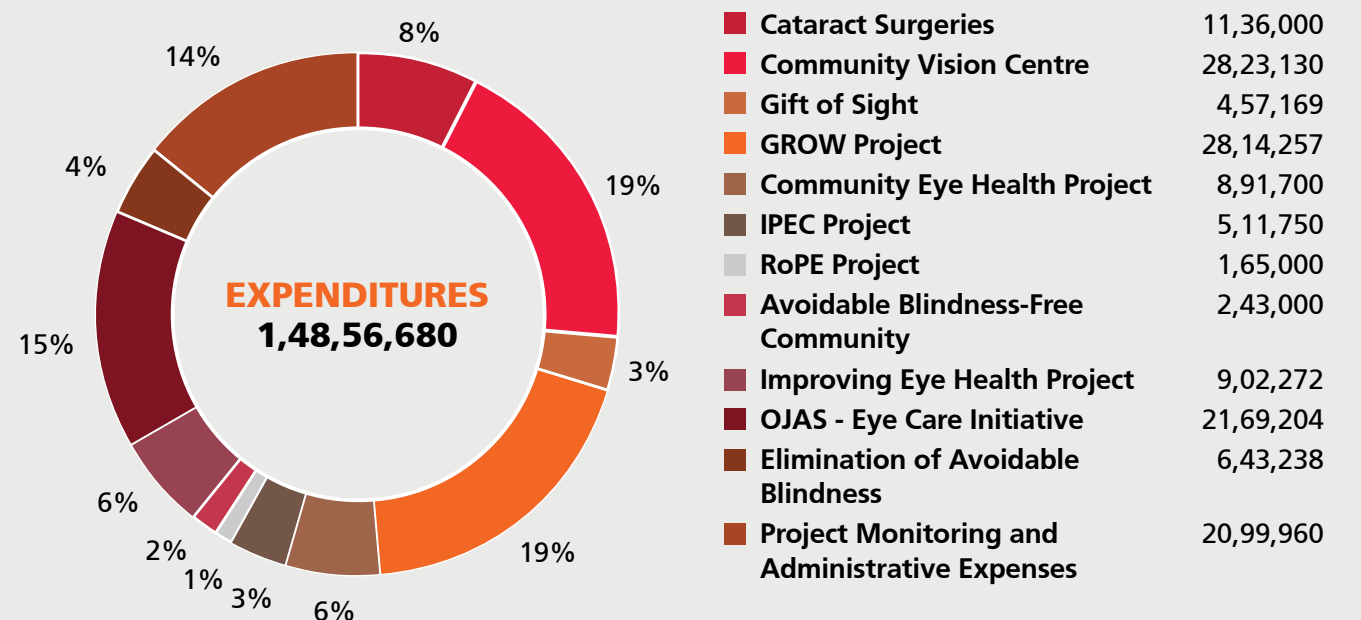
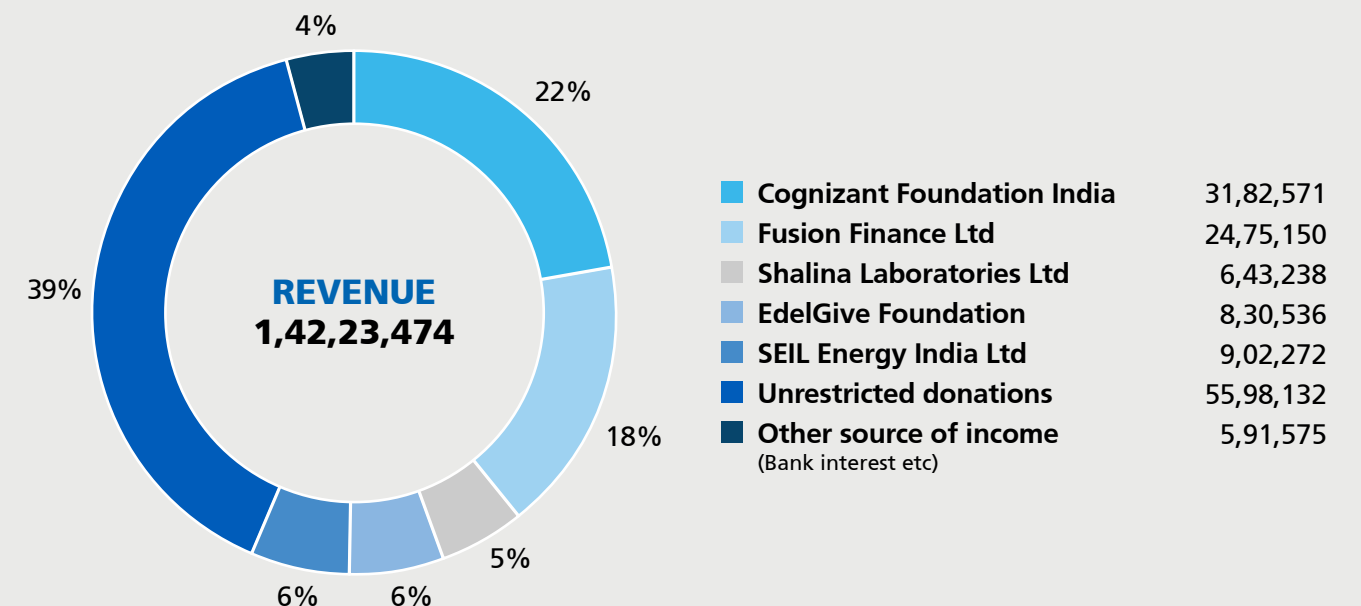
For instance, in FY 2024–25 we recorded a tremendous increase in the number of eye surgeries performed year over year. This achievement was made possible through the strong contributions of our non-financial technical partners, who worked alongside us to address the backlog in surgical cases and declare Avoidable Blindness-Free villages.

With the continued support of corporate partners, individual donors and campaign supporters, we are confident we will expand our reach and improve the quality of life for even more people in the years to come.

Our work would not be possible without the support of our community. **THANK YOU** to all of our donors and partners for your generosity!

OPERATION EYESIGHT INDIA TRUST

*All amounts listed in INR



*Programmes reporting includes data from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Financials reporting is on the financial year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

We are grateful for all of our partners, including our more than 35 partner hospitals, for your dedication to our mission to prevent blindness and restore sight - *For All The World To See!*



Fusion Finance Ltd supported an eye care initiative designed to reduce the backlog of avoidable blindness and vision impairment from cataracts and uncorrected refractive errors. This work began in June 2024 and continues into 2025 in the regions of Satgachia in West Bengal, as well as in Katghora and Pathalgaon in Chhattisgarh.

A word from our partner – Fusion Finance Ltd

“We at Fusion Finance have had the privilege of partnering with Operation Eyesight Universal since 2020 to implement our CSR initiative OJAS – An Eye Care Initiative. Over the last five years, this collaboration has proven to be deeply impactful and professionally managed.

“The Operation Eyesight Universal team brings commendable dedication and expertise to the field, and their on-ground execution has significantly strengthened the reach and effectiveness of our programme. We appreciate their proactive approach, timely updates, and comprehensive reporting that aligns seamlessly

with our CSR requirements. Their transparency, commitment, and attention to detail make them a trusted and valued partner in our efforts to create accessible and inclusive eye care services in underserved communities.

“We continue to enjoy a meaningful partnership in our efforts to extend the impact of OJAS to more lives.”

Priya, Assistant Vice President & Head of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) & Social Performance Management (SPM), Fusion Finance Ltd.



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.

2024 Board Chair: Mr. Shekhar Mehta

