



## With healthy eyes, entire communities are thriving because of YOU!

We asked Kashinath, our Vice President, International Programmes, to write about the impact our donors are having. He could have written a lot more, because through your generous donations, **YOU** are improving the health and well-being of entire communities! Read on to learn how.

Operation Eyesight's Community Eye Health Program model sets us apart from other organizations fighting avoidable blindness – **because we focus on more than just eye health.** While

restoring sight and preventing blindness is at the heart of our mission, we can't simply treat "eye patients" and ignore other health problems.

Targeting eye health alone isn't enough to eliminate avoidable blindness; if other health care needs aren't met, there will still be people suffering from vision problems or other conditions. For example, vitamin A deficiency results in preventable childhood blindness, and increases the risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea.



One of the root causes of avoidable blindness is vitamin A deficiency. Here, a nurse gives a child a vitamin A supplement to help prevent blindness and promote general health.

**With your help**, we're enabling poor communities to lead healthier and more productive lives. Not only do we educate target communities about eye health, but **we also address their essential health care needs.** Our trained community health workers educate communities about eye health and general health (such as the importance of vitamin A) and create awareness of the eye care services available in or around the community. They also collaborate with health care staff to deliver services such as immunizations.

We're always proud to report the number of sight-restoring cataract surgeries performed or prescription eyeglasses dispensed, but the pinnacle of our work is the healthy communities that are empowered to lead happy and productive lives. For example, we've declared over 1,000 villages as avoidable blindness-free. In these villages, mortality rates have dropped significantly and school enrollment rates have increased.

**Thanks to YOU, entire communities have been transformed!**



2018 Annual Report

## A fantastic 2018, thanks to you! Our Annual Report summary is inside.

**Together**, we achieved a lot in 2018. Read the highlights and see our financial information on the following pages, or view the full report at [operationeyesight.com/annualreport](http://operationeyesight.com/annualreport).

# You transformed **entire communities** in 2018!

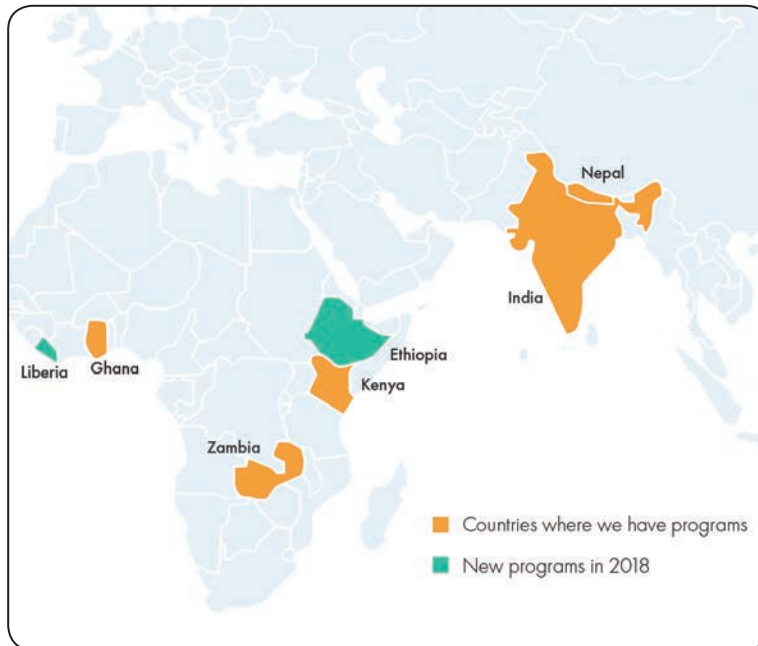
## Community Eye Health

Our goal was to declare 1,000 villages **avoidable blindness-free** by the end of 2018, and we surpassed it! By the end of December, the count was 1,010 villages. We are well on our way toward achieving our goal of 2,020 avoidable blindness-free villages by the end of 2020!

## Hospital Improvement

This year, we continued to strengthen the facilities and capacities of our partner hospitals to ensure they will be able to provide quality eye health care to more people. The initial step to achieving this is through **quality audits**.

We conducted 12 comprehensive audits in Ghana, Zambia and India to evaluate our partners' capacity to meet the needs of the surrounding communities, including physical facilities and personnel, and to make recommendations for improvements that should be made.



*The impact you're having in all of these countries can be grouped into a few broad categories, as listed here. To learn more, check out our full Annual Report at [operationeyesight.com/annualreport](http://operationeyesight.com/annualreport).*

## Disease Control

One highlight this year was the launch of a **Community-Based Diabetic Retinopathy project** in India. The World Health Organization reports that almost 35 percent of diabetics suffer from some level of retinopathy, damage to the retina which may cause visual impairment. Bringing awareness about this condition and care for those who suffer from it is an important first step to keeping diabetic retinopathy-related blindness from increasing in the countries where we work.

Eye disease is often spread by poor hygiene and a lack of sanitation within communities. In 2018, we

**drilled or rehabilitated 31 boreholes** in Zambia, providing communities with safe water for washing hands and faces to stop the spread of blinding trachoma. We also implemented a training program that empowers pump minders to maintain and repair the boreholes in their communities.

## YOU made such a difference!



**2,903,296**  
people **screened**  
for eye conditions



**241,184**  
eye **surgeries**  
performed



**297,523**  
pairs of prescription  
**eyeglasses**  
dispensed



**452**  
villages declared  
**avoidable**  
**blindness-free**



**31**  
**boreholes** drilled  
or rehabilitated



**1,972**  
ophthalmic personnel,  
eye health staff and  
volunteers **trained**



**788**  
community health  
workers trained

# OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

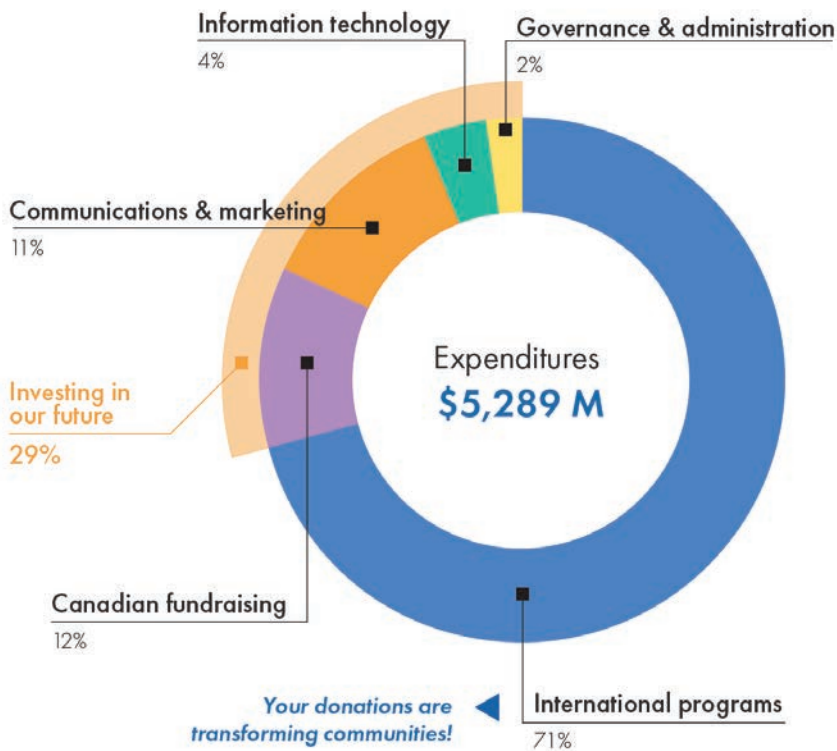
## Trust that every dollar you donate will **make an impact!**

In 2018, we took on some projects that will help us plan for the future of our organization. We invested in a new donor relationship management tool that will allow us to better track our donor information and run our organization more efficiently, and a new website that will help us attract more support. Our administrative costs for 2018 went up a bit as a result, but we will see the financial benefit in years to come.

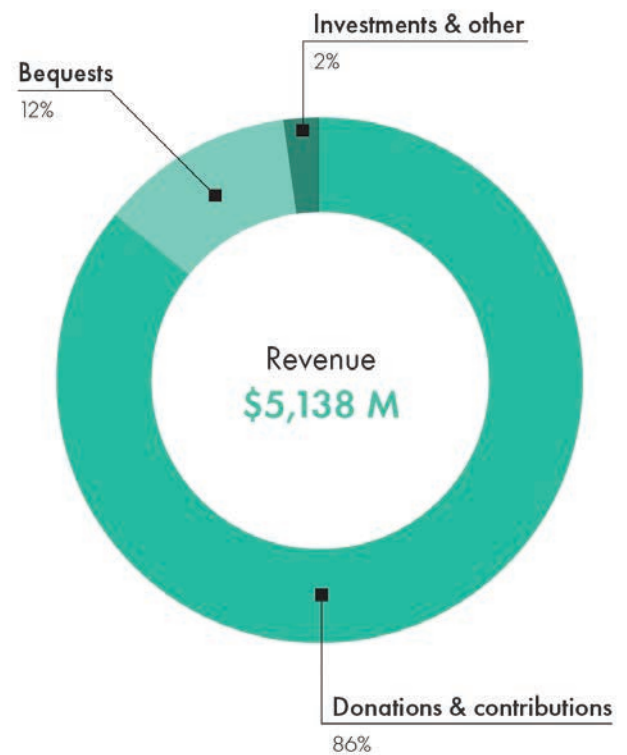
This year we were recognized by Charity Intelligence Canada as a **Top 10 Impact Charity**, earning high marks for the impact we create for every dollar we receive.

**Thank you for trusting us with your donations.** Every dollar makes a difference in the fight to eliminate avoidable blindness! You can see our full financial details at [operationeyesight.com/financialaccountability](http://operationeyesight.com/financialaccountability).

## 2018 Expenses



## 2018 Revenue



## Your donations at work in Kenya!

Working with the county government, we've set out to declare Kenya's Kirinyaga County free of avoidable blindness. To see your donations at work, watch our new three-minute video at [operationeyesight.com/kirinyaga](http://operationeyesight.com/kirinyaga).

## **YOUR** generosity means that Vineela can serve those who **need it the most!**



Vineela (seated) training the vision technicians at Udayagiri Lions Eye Hospital, Maharashtra in slit lamp (used to inspect the interior of the eye) examination.

For Vineela Cherukuri, her position as a Program Officer with Operation Eyesight in India is not just a career she had dreamed of, but also an opportunity to create lasting changes in the lives of thousands of people!

Vineela joined our family in August 2018, after working for two years as a clinical optometrist at the L V Prasad Eye Institute. "My time there motivated me to join an organization that provides quality care for the people who need it most," she says.

## Your company can make a difference around the world!

Your company can help end avoidable blindness! Donate, partner with us for your Corporate Social Responsibility program, or set up an employee giving program. Your company's investment will transform lives through the gift of sight! To learn more, contact Lynne Nieman toll-free at 1-800-585-8265 or visit [operationeyesight.com/corporategiving](http://operationeyesight.com/corporategiving).



Corporate  
**Giving**  
For All The  
World to See

Vineela's day at the office begins at 9:30 a.m. She starts by going through her weekly plans, preparing her to-do list and tackling her most urgent tasks. These often include following up on the progress of our partner hospitals and coordinating training for vision technicians, optometrists and ophthalmic assistants. Lunch is at 1 p.m., after which she's busy with project and training reports. She wraps up at 5:30 p.m. with a final report to her manager and discussion about tomorrow's important tasks.

But that's not all. With her expertise in clinical optometry, Vineela trains optometrists, technicians and final-year optometry students, visiting one or two of our partner hospitals every month.

During these trips, she also monitors our Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Projects. She visits vision centres, talks with the staff and patients, checks patient records and addresses any areas for improvement. "I get to see the changes we bring into people's lives. That's what I like about my job the most!" says Vineela.

"My interests are in clinics and teaching," she continues. "Operation Eyesight's unique approach in reaching the underprivileged motivated me to apply for this position. Now I am very happy to be a part of this family and to serve the neediest!"



Vineela provides training in using a lensometer (used to determine the prescription for a pair of eyeglasses) for vision technicians at the Sundarban Social Development Centre Eye Hospital in West Bengal.

## What **YOU** achieved at Kitale District Hospital



*Bernard (with glasses) is one of 72 community health volunteers trained at Kitale District Hospital.*

**Bernard is a great example of the transformation our donors have made at Kitale District Hospital.** Bernard, from Kenya's Trans Nzoia County, spent three years unable to see, dependent on others for everything. Now, after receiving sight-restoring surgery, he's one of the hospital's most dedicated community health volunteers! He's committed to helping others receive the same gift of sight that changed his life.

Before Operation Eyesight started working in Trans Nzoia County, the hospital's eye unit was just one small room with a staff of two. Twice a year, a surgeon would travel 74 kilometres

from another hospital for patients in need of more specialized treatment. Since services were limited, many people were left to struggle with visual impairment.

In September 2010, an upgraded eye unit funded by Operation Eyesight's donors was opened at the hospital.

**You can see for yourself the dramatic changes!**

Additionally, hospital staff and other Operation Eyesight partners have screened all 168,730 primary school children in Trans Nzoia County for eye problems.

**Because of our amazing donors, the people of the county now have quality eye health care that's available to everyone.** Thank you for making this possible!



*Bernard (left) was once blind from cataracts. Today he regularly walks great distances to check on rural families to identify eye injuries, cataracts and other eye issues.*

## Kitale District Hospital eye services



- One room
- One ophthalmic clinical officer and one ophthalmic nurse
- 20 patients a day
- 40 cataract surgeries per year
- No outreach services



- Consultation rooms, refraction room, operating theatre, 18-bed recovery ward, and administration and research facilities
- One ophthalmologist, four cataract surgeons and eight ophthalmic nurses
- 100 patients a day
- 600 cataract surgeries a year
- Three satellite clinics in Cherangany, Endebess and Matunda sub-counties, staffed by ophthalmic nurses trained by Operation Eyesight

# Make your gift today!



**Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more unless otherwise requested.**

We do not sell, trade or otherwise share our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of Operation Eyesight, including our programs, special events, funding needs and more. If you have questions about our organization or wish to be removed from any of these contacts, phone us at 1-800-585-8265 or email [admin@operationeyesight.com](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com).

I understand that my monthly donation will be automatically withdrawn from my bank account or charged to my credit card. I can change or cancel my monthly contribution at any time. To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information about my right to cancel a PAD Agreement, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement.

To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

**Operation Eyesight Canada**  
Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW  
Calgary, AB Canada T2N 3T8  
Tel: 403-283-6323  
Fax: 403-270-1899  
Toll-free: 1-800-585-8265  
[admin@operationeyesight.com](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com)

Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.  
#11906 8955 RR0001

Operation Eyesight USA is a registered charitable organization.  
#20-2682468

## Yes, I want to help people get the eye care they need

**By mail: Operation Eyesight Canada**  
Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 3T8

**Operation Eyesight USA**  
14900 Interurban Ave. S. Suite 271 PMB 35  
Seattle, WA, United States, 98168-4654

**By telephone:** 1-800-585-8265 (Toll-free in Canada & the USA)

**By emailing this form to:** [admin@operationeyesight.com](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com)

**By scan or fax:** 403-270-1899

**Online:** [operationeyesight.com/donate](http://operationeyesight.com/donate)

**Yes!** I will support Operation Eyesight's sight-saving projects by making a regular monthly gift of:

\$50  \$30  \$20  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 min

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to make a one-time gift of:**

\$100  \$75  \$50  \$20  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options:

I have enclosed my cheque payable to Operation Eyesight (or a blank cheque marked VOID to pre-authorize a monthly gift).

Charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is made on behalf of:

an individual  a business

### My details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province / State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal / ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Please send me:

Information about how to leave a gift in my will

2018 Annual Report

### Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that if more funds are received for a particular program, project or item than required, Operation Eyesight will re-allocate the funds to areas of highest priority.**



# Thank you!

Please cut or tear this page out before filling it out and mailing it back to Operation Eyesight.