



Looking forward

Aly Bandali, President & CEO

The year 2020 has turned out to be very different than we anticipated. We had been developing a global strategy for Operation Eyesight that focuses on growth and sustainable solutions to enable us to make an even greater impact until March 2020 when the height of COVID-19 affected all of us on an international, national, local and personal level. COVID-19 has changed plans and priorities on a global scale.

As a health-focused organization, we have been actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation. By extension of our commitment to address eye health issues, general good health and well-being is a top

priority for us. Our international staff in all the countries where we work are continually assessing the situation and ensuring that our partners have resilient systems in place to respond to the changing needs of their communities.

We are pivoting our strategy to continue to make the most impact. Our beneficiary communities are counting on us now more than ever, and you are helping us keep our word to them.

To learn more on what we're doing to help our partners address COVID-19, please visit operationeyesight.com/covid-19 and subscribe to our e-news to be kept up to date.



- S Surgery
- A Antibiotics
- F Face-washing & Hygiene
- E Environmental Improvement

School children wash their faces with water from a borehole next to their school

The ripple effect of water

The SAFE method used for trachoma prevention

What does clean water have to do with preventing avoidable blindness? More than you might think. Inaccessible or unsafe water can negatively impact hygiene and overall health, including eye health.

The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 1.9 million people suffer from visual impairment due to trachoma. Trachoma is a bacterial eye infection that, if left untreated, can lead to irreversible blindness. Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of visual impairment worldwide, but it can easily be prevented through proper hygiene and face washing.

Without access to safe water, people must rely on surface water that could be contaminated or walk long distances to fetch water for their households.

When communities don't have access to clean water and sanitary facilities, women and girls bear the brunt of the burden. If girls have to collect water for their families, they may miss out on valuable educational and social opportunities.

Easily accessible clean water creates a ripple effect of positive change. It helps increase the enrollment of girls in school, builds resilient communities and prevents the spread of eye health-related illnesses. Clean water and the sanitation opportunities that it provides are also critical for preventing the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19.

Kenya



A borehole drilled by Operation Eyesight in Kenya

Thanks to you, clean water helped transform a community

Operation Eyesight began working in Kenya in the early 2000s to help combat trachoma, a leading cause of preventable blindness. We partnered with the local government to treat this bacterial infection with antibiotics and surgery, and access to clean water.

Operation Eyesight drilled its first borehole in 2008, in the Kenyan village of Ongata Naado - an area subject to harsh climate and frequent drought. Prior to the drilling of the borehole, women and girls had to make a five-hour round trip walk to collect water from the nearest river. Ongata Naado Primary School often had to close before the end of the school term due to drought. Trachoma and other infections ran rampant throughout the community.

Our borehole changed this.

The population of Ongata Naado Primary School has risen from 20 students in 2008 to over 400 in 2019. In just three years, community gardens growing healthy food have sprung up around the village. The borehole now serves approximately 3,000 people, making Ongata Naado a hub of trade, education and opportunity. The community continues to thrive because of access to clean water, and the occurrences of trachoma have been significantly reduced.

A gardener tends to the community garden near the Ongata Naado borehole





Young girls in Zambia wash their faces at a local borehole.

“The day will come when even the poorest people will get the eye care they need. With the help of our donors, the fear of blindness will be taken away from them. What a gift!” says Dan.

Thanks to the Parlow family, trachoma remains at bay in villages in Zambia

The Parlow family is committed to eliminating the spread of blinding trachoma through the gift of clean water in Zambia.

Operation Eyesight has special significance for Dan Parlow, who sits on our Board of Directors. The Parlow family funded two boreholes in memory of Dan’s father, Dr. Jack Parlow.

With clean water and improved sanitation, the members of these communities remain healthier, children continue to go to school and women and girls spend less time collecting water and more time on their work and education. Thanks to the generosity of the Parlow family, most children in the village will never know the pain of trachoma.

This student is changing lives with the Gift of Sight

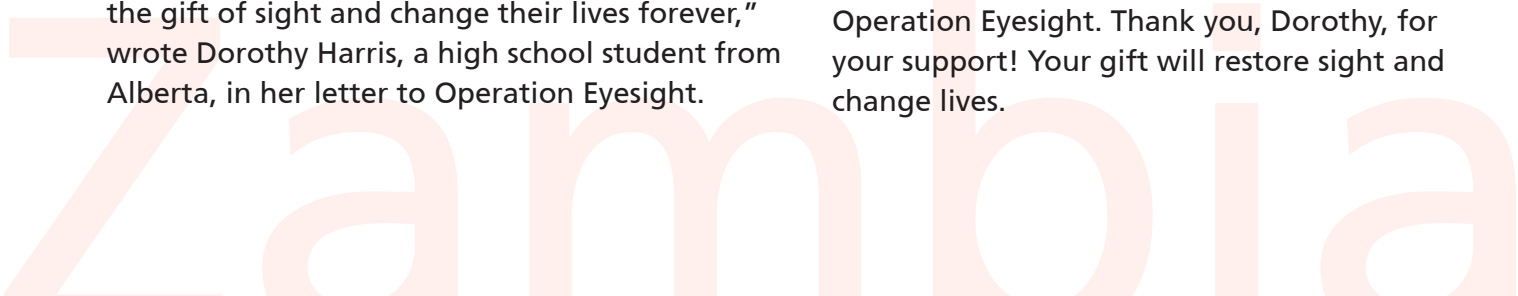


“I would like to donate this money to Operation Eyesight, because I’ve heard of the wonderful things you do to change people’s lives.”

“A small amount of money can give someone the gift of sight and change their lives forever,” wrote Dorothy Harris, a high school student from Alberta, in her letter to Operation Eyesight.

Dorothy wrote to us after receiving the Pay It Forward award in 2019. This award is given in memory of Dorothy’s friend and classmate, Kennady Amanda Clarke, who passed away from an asthma attack at the age of 10. Every year, Kennady’s family presents the Pay It Forward award of \$200 to a kind, caring and helpful student to give to a charity of the recipient’s choice.

Dorothy donated the gift she received to Operation Eyesight. Thank you, Dorothy, for your support! Your gift will restore sight and change lives.



Shelly is thrilled that she no longer suffers from the pain of trachoma



Eliminating blinding trachoma through treatment and prevention


Living with trachoma for years, 43-year-old mother Shelly lived with extreme pain in her eyes every day. When she attended an eye screening camp we organized near her village in Zambia, she was diagnosed with trachoma and referred for surgery. Facing a long-held fear of surgery, Shelly went ahead with it, and she was so glad she did. It eliminated her pain, and saved her sight.

Shelly was taught that her trachoma had been caused by poor hygiene practices, and that her children were at risk of contracting this debilitating disease.

When trachoma affects a community, the only way to eliminate it is through a combination of treatment to all those affected, and prevention to ensure people aren't reinfected. Our programs provide antibiotics throughout the entire village to cure mild cases, surgery to treat advanced cases like Shelly's, education about hygiene practices to prevent the future spread of disease and the provision of a clean water source when there isn't one nearby.

Today, Shelly fetches clean water daily and she has taught her children to keep their faces clean. She is determined that her family and community will remain free of trachoma.


Connect with us!

 1-800-585-8265

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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.

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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.

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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

Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.
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Yes, I want to support the Operation Eyesight COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

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

By scan or fax: 403-270-1899

Online: operationeyesight.com/donate

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

\$80 \$55 \$35 Other \$ _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I prefer to make a one-time gift of:

\$120 \$80 \$55 \$35 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:

Individual Business

My details:

Title: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City / Town: _____

Province / State: _____

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Telephone: (_____) _____

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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: _____

