



Kash meets with a young girl who has retinoblastoma, a form of eye cancer, and her family in Hyderabad, India.

Our new President and CEO: Kashinath Bhoosurmamath

We are thrilled to share that our very own Kashinath (Kash) Bhoosurmamath has been named President and CEO of Operation Eyesight. Many of you will recognize Kash as the head of our international programs, based in Hyderabad, India. He has been with Operation Eyesight for 11 years, and his leadership of our international programs has been integral to our growth and the impact we are creating in the communities we serve.

"I'm excited and privileged to be taking up this role and continuing the great work of Operation Eyesight," says Kash. "I have seen first-hand the impact of our donors' support and how your generous gifts are truly transforming lives. I am proud of what we have achieved together, and I look forward to your continued support as we expand our reach and bring quality eye health services closer to the communities we serve."

To learn more about Kash, visit operationeyesight.com/CEO

Health for Humanity virtual event

On March 25, hear from Kash and our panel of health experts at our online event: *Health for Humanity*. This free, one-hour event will discuss the urgent need for integrated eye health care and universal health coverage.

Join us to learn more about our work around the world and be inspired to take action to achieve good health and well-being for all. Reserve your spot today at operationeyesight.com/healthforhumanity



Elina smiles after receiving cataract surgeries, two years after undergoing surgery for trachoma.

Thanks to your generosity, Elina's sight was protected – twice

Trachoma disrupted Elina's daily life for nearly two years before she was identified by Operation Eyesight in November 2019. The infection caused her considerable pain and was so advanced that she required surgery and antibiotics to treat it. The closest hospital providing eye health services is more than 120 kilometres away, and transport costs were beyond reach for Elina's family. With all the expenses met by Operation Eyesight, Elina successfully underwent surgery to correct her in-turning eyelashes and received antibiotics to treat the infection.

In August 2020, Elina was diagnosed with cataracts, and she needed to undergo surgery in both eyes to treat them. Thanks to donors like you, Operation Eyesight was once again able to pay for her surgeries and the necessary medications. She is now able to easily care for her family and participate in daily life unimpeded. Elina feels extremely fortunate to have avoided losing her sight not once, but twice.

Giving people access to clean water helps prevent the spread of blinding trachoma and COVID-19. Thanks to donors like you, we rehabilitated 145 boreholes in Zambia in 2020. Be sure to tune in to our social media on World Water Day, March 22, to view our new video on how clean water impacts communities.



Zambia



Deborah shares a happy moment with her younger sister after she received prescription eyeglasses.

More school eye screenings within sight thanks to funding from USAID's Child Blindness Program

We're excited to announce our funding partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). With support from USAID's Child Blindness Program, we will provide vision screenings in 200 schools in Kenya, with a goal of reaching 80,000 students and 3,000 teachers in two years.

Twenty teachers will be trained to use Peek Vision, a smartphone-based technology used to identify students with eyesight problems. Students in need of eye care will be referred to a mobile ophthalmic triage team or the nearest eye health facility, and transportation will be provided as needed. Essilor East Africa will be supplying Operation Eyesight with the prescription eyeglasses needed to ensure children (and teachers) receive the vision correction they require.

We'll engage the local ministries of health and education throughout the program, to integrate eye health into Kenya's primary health systems and ensure sustainability of the program.

"By investing in children's eye health to treat diseases, correct refractive error and restore sight, we can transform lives, families and communities. We know that women and girls are more likely to suffer from vision impairment and less likely than men and boys to receive treatment and care. Through this project, many of the barriers faced by girls, such as cost and lack of transportation, are addressed." – Alice Mwangi, Operation Eyesight, Country Manager – Kenya



This announcement is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Operation Eyesight Canada and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



Pinky visits a young woman in her village to screen her for eye conditions.

Pinky says she finds her work so rewarding that she hopes that her daughter will one day also choose to work in the eye health sector.

Employment and empowerment opportunities for women

Pinky is a community health worker who lives in Berasia, India with her young daughter. As a single mother, she was looking for work when she was recruited by Operation Eyesight. After completing her training, she now visits households in nearby villages to screen people for eye conditions and refer them to a vision centre or other facility if needed. In this role, she is not only able to help people in her community,

but she's also able to independently support herself and her daughter without assistance from male family members. Because of this, Pinky has become an inspiration to many young girls in her village, who look up to her for her tireless work ethic and independence.

We're grateful for dedicated community health workers like Pinky who are helping us bring critical eye health services to their communities.

Leaving a legacy for all to see



Our thoughtful donors are leaving a legacy of hope for future generations.

We'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the amazing donors who have designated a gift to Operation Eyesight in their wills. In 2020, we received an incredible 39 estate gifts. Each gift

represents a thoughtful, compassionate individual who cared deeply about our work and wanted not only to leave the world a better place, but to continue making an impact in the lives of others for generations to come. We hope their families and friends know just how much those gifts mean to Operation Eyesight and the people we help.

To learn more about how you can designate a gift in your will and leave a legacy of sight and hope, visit operationeyesight.com/gift-in-will or contact Kira at DevriesK@operationeyesight.com

India

A woman visits a vision centre in Nepal, where dangerous terrain makes travelling long distances to health centres especially difficult.

Vision centres are permanent facilities staffed by trained eye health personnel and established at strategic locations in the community.



Bringing eye health services closer to the community

We've always strived to bring quality eye health services closer to the communities we serve. The additional challenges and travel restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have made our work more critical than ever. People who live in remote areas are unable to travel the distance needed to visit a hospital to have their eyes checked. We are working to create access to eye health care by leveraging technology, making more services available and making sure they are affordable.

This year, our local teams will be working tirelessly to strengthen existing **vision centres** and establish new ones, including mobile vision centres, so we can expand our reach and provide more services at the community level. We will also be working closely with our partners to identify the best **teleophthalmology tools** available, adopt those tools into our programs and train staff how to use them efficiently. Imagine how many more patients vision centre staff could treat if ophthalmologists from the referral hospital could provide diagnoses and treatment plans in real time using technology.

By supporting Operation Eyesight, you can help make this a reality.

Connect with us!



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Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.
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Yes, I would like to help bring eye health services to more communities

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: info@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:

\$75 \$50 \$30 Other \$ _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I prefer to make a one-time gift of:

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$30 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: _____ / _____

This donation is made on behalf of:

Individual Business

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Please send me:

- Information about how to leave a gift in my will
- 2019 Annual Report

We want to hear from you!

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