



After being diagnosed with refractive error through our school eye screening program, Chris received a free pair of prescription eyeglasses, supplied by our partner Essilor East Africa. Chris's goal is to become an engineer, so he is thrilled that he can now see the math formulas on the blackboard.

## Back to school and ready to succeed

Last month, students in Kenya went back to school, and our school eye screening program in Uasin Gishu County is now in full swing. This program is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). We're training teachers to use the Peek Acuity smartphone app to identify students with eyesight problems. As of July 31, nearly 24,000 children have been screened and almost 1,800 students have been referred for treatment.

One student to benefit from the program is Rehema. Now in grade seven, she has struggled with her vision since she was a young child. Sometimes her classmates laughed at her; she was so upset that she considered dropping out of school.

Fortunately, a team of teachers trained by Operation Eyesight visited Rehema's school and referred her to our partner, the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital. She was diagnosed with bilateral cataract and underwent surgery free of charge, thanks to support from donors like you. Today she can read the blackboard and her books comfortably.



Rehema can see clearly after receiving cataract surgery.

"I want to read and become a teacher, like my father has been encouraging me," she told us. "Now I can read the blackboard like the other pupils. I know that my performance will improve, and I'll have the opportunity to achieve my dreams."



A man has his eyes examined by an Operation Eyesight-trained ophthalmologist in Ghana.

## His personal experience motivates him to help others

For Emmanuel Kumah, our country manager in Ghana, joining Operation Eyesight's mission to prevent blindness and restore sight has an important personal meaning. When he was a teenager, his father began losing his vision due to cataracts. At the time, few hospitals in Ghana offered eye health services, so he had to wait several months for treatment. Although Emmanuel was too young to fully grasp the gravity of the situation, the concern he felt for his father stayed with him until adulthood.

Upon his graduation with a master's degree in development management, he received several employment offers, including one from Operation Eyesight. For Emmanuel, the choice was obvious.

We're working in partnership with the Government of Ghana to strengthen the eye care systems across the country. Together, we're successfully integrating eye health care into the primary health care system, bringing much-needed services to previously underserved communities. With passionate employees like Emmanuel and generous donors like you, we're eliminating avoidable blindness in Ghana – For All The World To See.

“ I viewed taking the role with Operation Eyesight as a personal challenge to do what I could, so that other families didn't have to face the challenges and uncertainty that mine did,” says Emmanuel. “Now, not only am I able to support Ghana Health Services to incorporate eye health into their overall health delivery model, but I am also working to ensure that, every day, people at the community level have access to eye care services whenever they need them.

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Sulemana sits in class wearing his new eyeglasses, thanks to your support of our eye screening programs.

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## Prescription eyeglasses help a brother and sister keep up in school

Sulemana (8) lives in Rama, Ghana. The youngest of seven children, he's an active child, busy playing with his siblings and attending school. Although Sulemana has always been a good student, his teacher noticed that he was making increasingly frequent mistakes when trying to copy lessons or respond to questions written on the blackboard. His teacher reported it to Sulemana's father, who was not surprised because one of Sulemana's sisters also struggled with her vision. However, he didn't know where to go to seek medical attention for either of his children.

Several weeks later, their local community centre announced that an Operation Eyesight outreach team would soon be visiting their town to conduct free eye screenings. Sulemana's father took him and his sister to the screening, where they were both diagnosed with refractive error and given a pair of prescription eyeglasses. Now, Sulemana can see the blackboard and participate with his peers, and he knows that his vision impairment won't stand in the way of his future.

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## A historic moment in global eye health

We're thrilled that the United Nations General Assembly has passed a new eye health resolution: **Vision for Everyone – Accelerating Action to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**. This resolution sets a target for all countries to ensure full access to eye care services. This means that there will be a greater focus from national governments to prioritize eye health and incorporate it into mainstream health activities, something we have been advocating for.

We're already committed to working with local governments and ministries to incorporate eye health into existing health plans. This ensures local buy-in, culturally-appropriate care and services, and long-term sustainability. The adoption of this resolution is a validation of our critical work – work that would not be possible without your support. Thank you!





By leaving a gift in your will to Operation Eyesight, your compassion for others will live on for future generations. The ripple effect of your generosity means more than the gift of sight. It means children can thrive in school, grandparents can see the sweet faces of their grandchildren, and parents can care for their families through fulfilling employment. With access to clean water and sustainable eye health programs, your kindness will contribute to the overall well-being of communities into the future.

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## Inspiring others to leave a legacy of sight and hope

Did you know that, by the age of 75, nearly 90 percent of Canadians have written their wills, but that only five percent of Canadians leave a charitable gift in their will?<sup>1</sup>

We're excited to announce that we've partnered with **Will Power** to help Canadians advance the causes that they care about most. Will Power is a national movement made up of not-for-profits, financial advisors and legal professionals. Their goal is to educate people on the power you have to make a difference with your will. Leaving a planned gift to charity ensures your passion and values live on to help others after your lifetime.

You can view our partner page at [willpower.ca/operation-eyesight](https://willpower.ca/operation-eyesight). Be sure to test the estate calculator while you're there, which can help you visualize your potential gift as well as what will remain for your family or other beneficiaries.

Thank you for considering leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will. We're very grateful to those who have informed us of their intent to leave a bequest to Operation Eyesight

If you have questions about leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight, please connect with our Donor Relations Officer, Alena Schock, by phone at +1-800-585-8265 or email [SchockA@operationeyesight.com](mailto:SchockA@operationeyesight.com) to start the conversation.



<sup>1</sup>Charitable Giving in Canadian Wills, Current Trends & Opportunities in Legacy Giving. CAGP Foundation & Envirionics Analytics, 2020.

Roopwati smiles after recovering from her sight-restoring cataract surgery.



## Keeping communities avoidable blindness-free long term

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Roopwati noticed her vision was starting to diminish, but, like the rest of us, she was consumed by the impact of the pandemic. By the time her vision started to affect her daily life, strict lockdowns were in place across India. However, Roopwati was reassured because she knew that when the lockdowns lifted, there was somewhere she could go for help.

Three years ago, community health workers from the nearby Moradabad Vision Centre conducted door-to-door eye screenings, delivering eye health education to her community. Her village of Daulari was even declared avoidable blindness-free in 2019. Part of that process involves creating awareness about the vision centre and encouraging people to seek care when

needed. Although Roopwati didn't need eye health care at the time, she was empowered with knowledge about the services available nearby.







When it was safe to do so, she travelled to the vision centre. Doctors diagnosed her with cataracts and referred her to the hospital for care. She had cataract surgery in January 2021 and is now back to her daily life, enjoying the blessings her grandchildren bring and actively participating in her community.

With your ongoing support, we can ensure that eye health care services will be available to those who need it, when they need it. Thanks to you, communities will remain avoidable blindness-free for years to come.

## World Sight Day is on October 14

Keep an eye on our social media channels. In the month leading up to World Sight Day, we're joining the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness's Global Challenge to get over one million people to pledge to have their eyes checked. Join us online as we visit communities across South Asia and Africa for a firsthand look at our eye screening and community outreach programs. We encourage you to pledge to have your eyes checked, too. Learn more at [operationeyesight.com/worldsightday](https://operationeyesight.com/worldsightday) or follow #LoveYourEyes.

### Connect with us

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