



Thanks to our donors and our local partners, the village of Lukanda B now has access to fresh, clean water. For children, especially girls, this means the opportunity to attend and excel in school, rather than hauling water for their families long distances. Proper hygiene also prevents the spread of blinding trachoma.

Fresh water, fresh starts

For the community of Lukanda B in central Zambia, the rehabilitation of the local water borehole has brought new life to the village.

It is one of 38 boreholes in Kapiri Mposhi District that Operation Eyesight repaired in 2022, thanks to a team of pump minders we have trained in the area. Locally-available, safe water has made a difference in the lives of parents like Mutinta.

“When the borehole broke down in 2005, I was only able to wash my children’s clothes once or twice a month,” says Mutinta. “Now I’m able to wash clothes almost every day, because there is clean and safe water nearby.”

Before the borehole was fixed, Mutinta says her 15-year-old daughter, Memory, would frequently miss or be late for school because she had to walk long distances to fetch water for the family, a

task that traditionally falls to girls. When Memory did attend school, she was often tired and her schoolwork suffered.

“I’m happy that my daughter will now be able to attend school regularly,” Mutinta adds.

Chali Chisala Selisho, our country director for Zambia, says that clean water nearby will play a key role in preventing the spread of trachoma, a bacterial eye infection that leads to irreversible blindness, as well as other diseases.

“Proper hand and face hygiene and sanitation are the best lines of defence against not only trachoma but other diseases like cholera, malaria, dysentery and diarrhea, which are on the rise in the area,” Chali adds.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you and the hard work of pump minders, Lukanda B’s future is bright!

Visit operationeyesight.com/cleanwater to see our new video from Zambia.

Thanks to your support of our community-based programs, Tonnima was able to access eye health care through a local vision centre near her home in Bangladesh. Now she can pursue an education – and her dreams!



Beauty in the eye of the beholder

For the past three years, headaches and watery red eyes were a constant reality for Tonnima, from a village in northern Bangladesh.

The 22-year-old works as a beautician and hopes to someday go to college, but vision trouble has meant difficulty reading, working and doing daily tasks at home.

“I thought that my sight problems would lead to bigger eye troubles in the future, which would affect my life,” she reflects.

Like many women in South Asia who face social barriers to seeking healthcare, Tonnima was

embarrassed to tell others about her vision problems. She says her family felt helpless and anxious.

Tonnima was grateful to learn that there was a vision centre just a kilometre away from her home, where she received an eye exam, a pair of prescription glasses and eye medication. The impact has been life changing.

“I’m very happy now, as I can see everything clearly and can do my regular work, and read and write,” Tonnima says. “I hope to live a happy and prosperous life.”



We've moved!

As of March 15, 2023, our Canada office has relocated to Campana Place in northwest Calgary, only a few minutes away from our former office. Our new, accessible location features more space for our growing team and an additional meeting room for collaboration – equipped with the technology needed

for all of our video calls with our colleagues overseas. We look forward to settling into our new home. If you are ever in the area, please stop in to say hello!

Please make note of our new address:

Operation Eyesight Canada
Campana Place, Suite #205
609 – 14 Street NW, Calgary, AB T2N 2A1



Jhanoo is the oldest rhinoceros in her clan. She can't see well because of her cataracts, but she thinks she's too old to have them treated. The youngest member of her clan, Banoo, convinces her that she should see the local community health worker, and eventually Jhanoo agrees to get cataract surgery. With her new-found independence, she can get back to what she loves most: teaching math to the local children.

Community input brings educational materials to life

Educational materials featuring stories like Jhanoo's (see photo above) are now being piloted by community health workers in Udhampur Block, which stretches over miles of hilly Himalayan terrain in India's Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. For many in the area, it's difficult to travel to seek any kind of healthcare, so vision problems often go ignored, especially for women and girls.

The educational materials are part of a larger project aimed at empowering women in rural India and debunking feminine eye health myths. The project is being implemented in partnership with Norquest College (based in Edmonton, AB) and the Rotary Eye and ENT Hospital (based in Udhampur) with support from the Fund for Innovation and Transformation, made possible through Global Affairs Canada and the Inter-Council Network. It truly is a global effort!

The new teaching tools – in the form of posters or a series of flash cards that are ordered to tell a story – are designed to ease fears of surgery and show the community how important eye health is to even its eldest members. They are the product of community workshops we hosted in the area, and community members took the lead in developing them.

"With the help of an artist, a writer and a gender equality specialist, these materials were created to help our community health workers address gender myths and other barriers to care," explains Tapobrat Bhuyan, our local project manager. **"They will continue to evolve based on community feedback."**

This project also includes training local women as community health workers and sending a four-wheel drive mobile vision clinic staffed with an all-female healthcare team into the area.



Isaya received free cataract surgery at our partner hospital in Kenya. Now he can stay safe while tending to his family's livestock.

Gift of Sight secures a family's livelihood

Thirteen-year-old Isaya shoulders more than most boys his age. As one of eight children in a farming family in the village of Inkinye, in Kenya's Rift Valley, Isaya's future livelihood has always depended on the success of the farm. His father's efforts to tend to the land deteriorated due to age, leaving the responsibility to the children.

Despite worsening vision since childhood, Isaya has been responsible for helping with many of the farm chores.

"I was always worried for Isaya, especially when he took the cattle to graze, that he would be injured," says his older sister, who works outside the home to support their family.

Isaya says his failing vision also made it difficult to read and complete his schoolwork. While other boys his age are in grade eight and preparing to enter high school, Isaya is in grade five at the local primary school. Sadly, their responsibilities at home and their lack of finances prevented Isaya and his family from seeking medical attention.

Last year, a local health worker trained by Operation Eyesight identified Isaya's vision problems during a door-to-door screening. The screening was part of a larger community eye health project we're implementing in partnership with CBM and Peek Vision. Isaya was diagnosed with cataract and referred to our partner Kajiado County Referral Hospital, where he received cataract surgery in one of his eyes, free of charge.

"Before the surgery, I could not clearly read the blackboard and had to sit near it so I could see what the teacher was writing," Isaya says. "I can now read without much struggle."

With Isaya's vision restored, his sister no longer has to skip work to assist him. She says she's excited for what the future has in store for Isaya and their entire family.

"It is wonderful to see Isaya full of life and promise again," she says. "This blessing has ensured that both of our futures are secured and that our family will thrive!"



Dr. Ben & Evelyn Gullison's work at a mission hospital in Andhra Pradesh inspired Art Jenkyns to found Operation Eyesight in 1963, and also inspired longtime donor Dr. Reddy to leave a legacy of giving through her will.

Why one donor is leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight in her will

Having supported Operation Eyesight for decades, leaving a gift in her will was a choice that made sense for Dr. Reddy.

She first learned about Operation Eyesight when she met Dr. Ben and Evelyn Gullison in 1985 after their return from a medical mission in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Reddy's home state in India.

"I was impressed by the work they initiated in Andhra Pradesh. I decided to raise funds by organizing annual luncheons at Mahalakshmi Temple in Vancouver," Dr. Reddy says.

Dr. Reddy's support for Operation Eyesight has extended nearly 40 years and will endure through the gift in her will.

"In honour of Dr. Ben and Evelyn Gullison, and what they did for my country and home state, I decided to make Operation Eyesight the beneficiary of my life insurance."

There are many ways to leave a legacy that will provide lasting access to safe, affordable and quality eye health care.

Do you also have dreams for your future legacy? Connect with Alena Schock at +1 587-355-1003 to start the conversation.

Get in touch



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