



Operation Eyesight Universal Backgrounder 2024

Operation Eyesight is an international development organization that has worked alongside communities, governments and organizations for more than 60 years to prevent blindness and restore sight, with the aim of eliminating avoidable vision loss. Founded in Calgary, Canada in 1963, Operation Eyesight has grown to become a global community that spans four continents: Africa, Europe, South Asia and North America.

The organization has 65 staff worldwide and more than 4,600 community health workers and volunteers. Operation Eyesight is connected to hundreds of communities of work and partners with more than 74 hospitals and 30 institutions, including medical universities, institutional donors and service clubs.

Vision loss impacts 1.1 billion people globally, and 90 per cent is preventable or treatable, often with a pair of prescription eyeglasses or cataract surgery. People in low- and middle-income countries are less likely to receive treatment. Operation Eyesight believes everyone has the right to affordable, quality eye health care – regardless of where they live or their ability to pay.

[Moving Beyond the Restoration of Eyesight: Global Strategy 2024-2028](#)

Moving forward, Operation Eyesight will expand service reach to include more communities, and more determinants of health related to eye health to improve the quality of life for more individuals. This work will be achieved by scaling up interventions while adopting innovative solutions, by creating new partnerships while strengthening existing partnerships, and by generating more awareness and support for the organizational mission across its countries of operation. By the end of 2023, 1,372 villages or communities were declared avoidable blindness-free. By the end of 2028, the goal is to make this declaration for 2,900 villages. Operation Eyesight aims to expand to five new countries by 2028, going from 10 countries at the end of 2023 to 15 countries by the end of 2028.

[Contributing to the United Nations \(UN\) Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

Vision loss is linked to a host of other development issues including poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, and lack of access to clean water and healthcare. Operation Eyesight is addressing the root causes of avoidable vision loss by focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals most closely connected to eliminating avoidable vision loss: Goal 1: No Poverty; Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing; Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

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