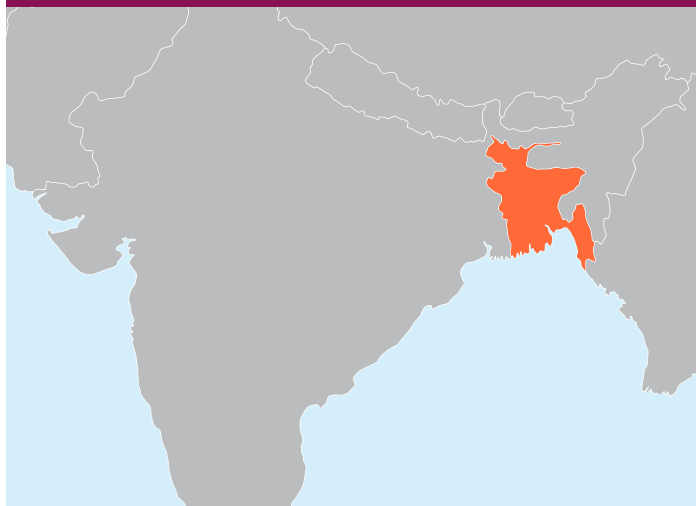


# Bangladesh Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2005 | Partners: 3



## Country Overview

- » Located in South Asia
- » Bangladesh spans 56,977 square miles
- » Population: 165 million<sup>1</sup>
- » 2020 Human Development Index Ranking: 133rd of 189 countries and UN-recognized territories
- » Bangladesh currently hosts approximately 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar District<sup>2</sup>

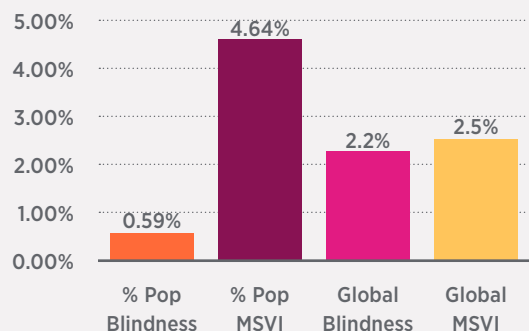
## Scope of Eye Care Needs<sup>3</sup>

- » 0.59% of Bangladesh's population is blind (948,295), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.64% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (7,478,869) as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 2.2% of global blindness

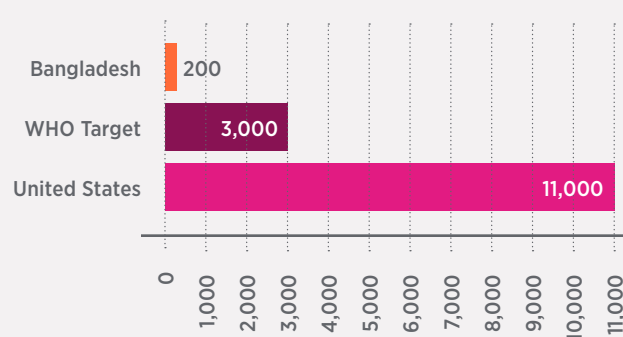
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Bangladesh's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 200 surgeries per million in 2019, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » There were 6.2 ophthalmologists per million people in Bangladesh in 2018 (1,200).
- » The US has 54.7% ophthalmologists per million people
- » There were 12 Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) per million people in 2019 (2000)

### EYE CARE NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



<sup>1</sup> 2020 Human Development Report. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BGD>

<sup>2</sup> IAPB and Seva. A Situational Analysis: Eye Care Needs of Rohingya refugees and the Affected Bangladeshi Host Population

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

### Seva's Approach in Bangladesh

Bangladesh ranks among the poorest countries in the world, with more than one-half of its 161 million people living below the poverty line and an estimated 800,000 people afflicted by blindness. As such, Seva Foundation partners with three organizations in Bangladesh to address eyecare needs vulnerable populations. In the last three years, Seva have worked with ten partner eye hospitals and supported establishment of 12 Vision centers in five divisions of Bangladesh out of a total eight along with pediatric interventions in another two divisions.

By focusing on smart solutions and building partners capacity in evidence-based decision making with the support of data dashboard and training — which includes Eyexcel, fellowships and conferences — as well as tracking data collection and evaluations, hospitals and local communities alike are more equipped to build out their capacity and more effectively serve their populations. Seva has organized the first ever 'Eyexcel Bangladesh - Excellence in Eye Care Training' in 2019 with 7 participating hospitals team of more than 20 people. It was hosted by Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital at Dhaka.

Working with Seva, **Grameen Healthcare Services** has established four hospitals in the Bogra, Barisal, Thakurgaon and Satkhira districts. Seva sponsors training of the hospitals' staff, including doctors, nurses and management professionals. These eye hospitals serve people living in Grameen's micro-credit communities. Embedding the service delivery within the existing Grameen networks rapidly facilitates the opportunities for early detection and referral of people for cataract surgery and eye glasses and reduces costs for outreach. Together, we identify and overcome local barriers to care to ensure that quality services are accessed by underserved populations.

With **Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital**, Seva has funded the training of hospital staff and provides subsidies for free and low-cost service

delivery. Islamia Eye Institute began as a charitable dispensary and grew into a pioneering eye hospital providing quality ophthalmic services for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

With the **Quasem Foundation**, Seva supports low-cost and high-quality comprehensive eye care services for the vulnerable populations of Northern Bangladesh. Through the implementation of focused and comprehensive projects, the Quasem Foundation has grown in both reach and reputation over the last six decades, serving not only Ulipur but the entire Rangpur district and other parts of Northern Bangladesh. Seva and Quasem work together to provide low-cost and high-quality comprehensive services for patients and training for ophthalmic providers.

### SPOTLIGHT ON VISION CENTERS

On June 21, 2020, Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital (IIEI&H), supported by TOMS and Seva Foundation, inaugurated the 17th Primary Eye Vision Center (PECC) at Lalmohan of Bhola District in Bangladesh. A total of 3 full time staff (1 Vision Technician and 2 Community Mobilizers) and 1 part time task-based cleaning staff work at the PECC.

Unlike previous inaugurations, Covid-19 played a major factor in its process. People couldn't physically be together and travel to the site, but IIEI&H brought the key stakeholders together remotely to recognize this important milestone. Guests from various organizations and departments joined the program along with local people and some patients. Despite the pandemic, a community came together to provide a resource for 300,000 people. Shortly after the inauguration, the PECC started its services and already served patients of different ages with varying eye health needs.

## BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

### IMPACT (FY 2020-2021)\*

392,105

People receiving services

26,636

Cataract surgeries performed

22,965

Children screened

59

Children receiving surgery

4,938

Children receiving glasses

5

New VCs funded through Seva

644,273

People who now have access to care

6,539

People receiving services at VCs

1

Eyexcel Webinar

5

Hospitals participating in Eyexcel

13

People participating in Eyexcel

5

Doctors trained

5

AOPS trained

3

Administrators trained

### EYE CARE PERSONNEL

6.2



Ophthalmologists per million people

12



Ophthalmic personnel per million people

= 1 million people

### Impact of COVID-19 in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has seen 1.5 million COVID-19 cases, the vast majority in the capital, Dhaka. The Ministry of Health is leading the response, in coordination with the World Health Organization. Seva's partners limited services earlier in the pandemic but have since resumed. Seva-supported vision centers continue to see patients in more remote and difficult to reach areas.

### Resources

[Seva in Bangladesh](#)

[Situational Analysis of Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Bangladesh](#)

[Training Ophthalmic Nurses in Bangladesh](#)

\* Numbers based on reports received

# BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

