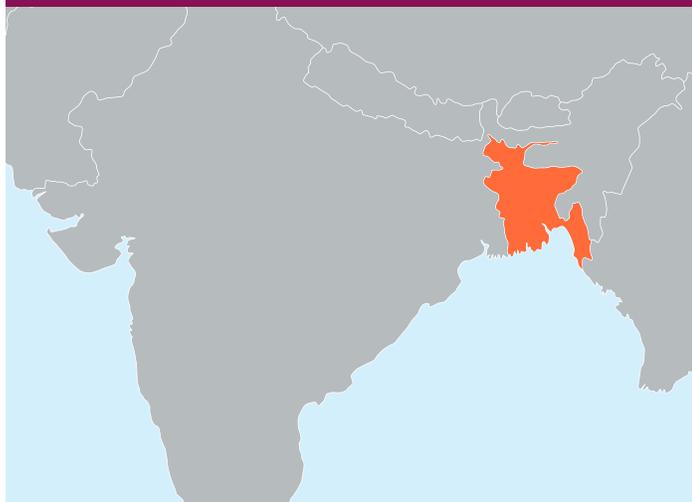


Bangladesh Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2005 | 3 Partners | 10 Hospitals

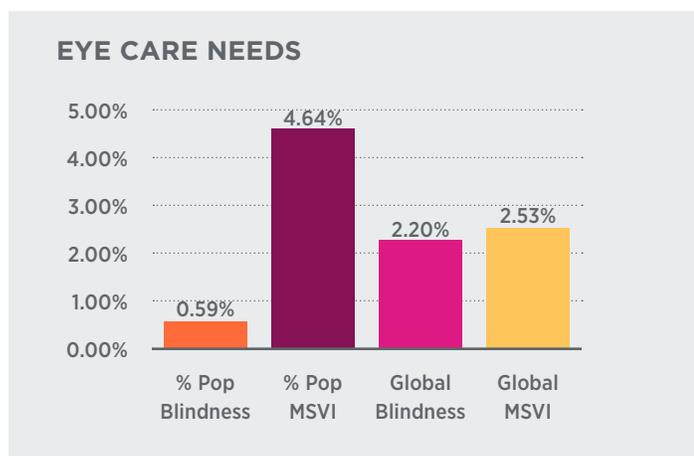


Country Overview

- » Located in South Asia
- » Bangladesh spans 56,977 square miles
- » Population: 165 million
- » 2021-2022 Human Development Index Ranking: 129 of 191 countries¹
- » Bangladesh currently hosts approximately 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar District²

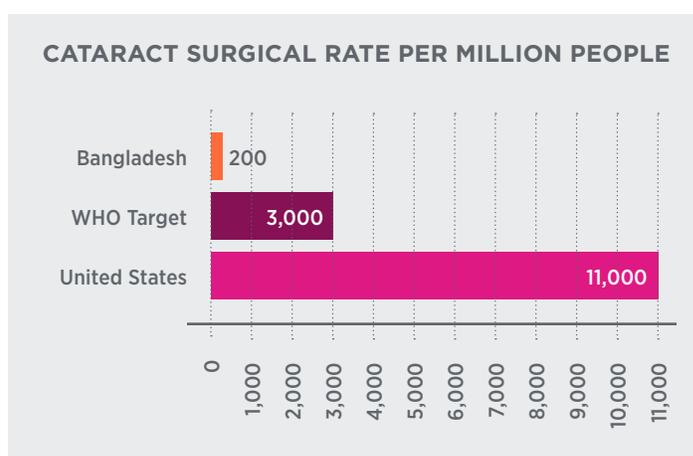
Scope of Eye Care Needs³

- » 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
- » 2.20% of global blindness
- » 2.53% of global MSVI



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
- » 6.2 ophthalmologists per million people in 2018 (1,200 total)
- » 1.2 optometrists per million people in 2019 (200 total)
- » 12 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2019 (2,000 total)



¹ 2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf#2

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

³ 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 years, Seva has worked with ten partner eye hospitals and supported the establishment of 21 Vision centers in seven divisions of Bangladesh.

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.

The **Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital** has been a long-term partner for Seva with every year thousands of patients getting free and subsidized surgeries through Seva support. This support is extended to three Ispahani Islamia Secondary Eye Hospitals at Barishal, Jamalpur, and Naogaon. In 2022-23, Seva has supported to establishment of two new eye surgery centers at Amtali and Kulaura by upgrading the existing Vision Centers for providing comprehensive eye care services in Barishal and Moulavibazar District of Bangladesh. These new eye surgery centers are expected to provide an additional 10,000 eye surgeries in the next three years.

The Amtali Eye Surgery Center acts as a first point of interface with the local population with comprehensive eye care services and surgery. These centers are equipped to provide cataract and duct surgeries along with other small surgeries by an experienced ophthalmologist. This acts as a hub for surgeries and additional care for a cluster of Vision Centers in the same areas and is closely connected and supported by the Secondary level or tertiary level Eye hospital of IIEH.

Seva organized the first ever 'Eyexcel Bangladesh – Excellence in Eye Care Training' with 7 participating hospitals team of more than 20 people. It was hosted by **Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital in Dhaka.**

Working with Seva, **Grameen Healthcare Services** has established four hospitals in the Bogra, Barisal, Thakurgaon and Satkhira districts. Seva sponsors the training of the hospital's staff, including doctors, nurses, and management professionals. In the last two years alone, Seva has supported short and long-term clinical training programs at Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai for more than 13 ophthalmologists, managers, and eye care providers from multiple Grameen eye hospitals. These training include Short Term Training in Phacoemulsification and Clinical Observership of Glaucoma, Management Training & Systems Development for Hospital Managers, Certificate Course on Instruments Maintenance for Technicians, Community Outreach and Social Marketing along with Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery. Additionally, the management and leadership explore, and orient eye care priorities has been supported by Seva at Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai and L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

In partnership with Seva, Grameen Health Care Services has also established a Pediatric department at the Barishal Hospital that has started providing services in 2023. This pediatric unit at the hospital is expected to provide services to more than 50,000 patients through eye care treatment, surgeries, and by providing spectacles. This child friendly pediatric unit conducts pediatric surgeries, providing spectacles and medicines at subsidized prices/free of cost to poor children who need treatment.

These eye hospitals by Grameen Health Care 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 eyeglasses and reduces costs for outreach. Together, we identify and overcome local barriers to care to ensure that quality services are accessed by under-served populations.

BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

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.

In partnership with Seva, Marium Eye Hospital, Saidpur in Rangpur district has received the additional equipment needed to start providing pediatric surgeries. The facility is benefitting hundreds of patients from nearby areas to receive comprehensive surgical innervation for children in need.

SPOTLIGHT ON STRENGTHENING PRIMARY EYE CARE THROUGH A NETWORK OF VISION CENTERS

Seva in collaboration with partners in Bangladesh has established and operates 21 Primary Eye Care Vision Centers and another 8 Vision Centers getting ready to be operational by the end of 2023. These Vision centers are spread across 24 districts and provide eye care access to 17 million population in catchment areas.

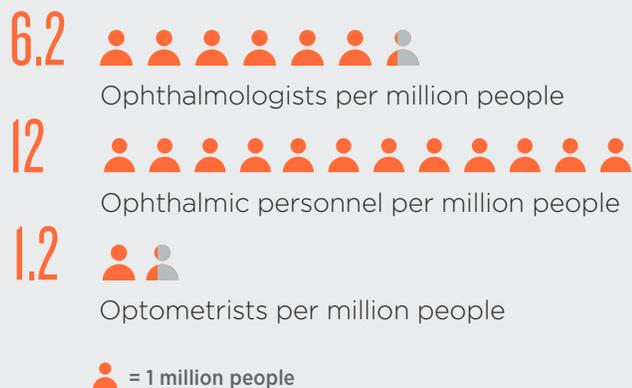
Collectively, these Vision centers have provided eye care services to more than 338,723 people, provided 59,513 glasses, enabled 11,869 plus eye surgeries, and have referred more than 43,845 patients to the base hospitals for other eye conditions in the first three years of services or less. These Vision Centers provide a robust community service approach by ensuring access in under-served geographies. Vision Centers are efficiently run by a team of people

including one Vision Technician or Junior Optometrist along with other support. The Vision centers in Bangladesh supported by Seva have 3 to 10 staff based on the model the partner hospital has adopted along with the need in the community and service provisions. The Vision Center employs additional Community Mobilizers, who oversee community engagement including refraction screening camps, advocacy, and frontline worker training. Vision Centers play a critical role in following up with patients who received surgery at the hospital and monitoring chronic eye diseases in consultation with the hospital.

Primary Eye Care Vision Center plays a very important role in providing integrated people-centered eye care. The vision centers are part of a larger eye care network and people-centered eye care in remote rural areas of the country. Seva's approach focuses on strengthening the primary eye care network supported by secondary and tertiary care hospitals for the collective goal of achieving universal eye health and eliminating avoidable blindness.

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EYE CARE PERSONNEL



Resources

[Seva in Bangladesh](#)

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

[Training Ophthalmic Nurses in Bangladesh](#)

IMPACT (FY 2022-2023)*

835,407

People receiving services

44,934

Cataract surgeries performed

11,500

Children screened

5,475

Children receiving glasses

45,618

People receiving services at VCs

5

New VCs funded through Seva

458,844

People who now have access to care

3

Administrators trained

* Numbers based on reports received

BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

