Haiti Fact Sheet

Country Overview

» Located in the Caribbean
» Haiti spans 10,714 mi²
» Population: 11.1 million
» 2019 Human Development Index Ranking: 169 of 189

Scope of Vision Needs

» 1.1% of Haiti’s population is blind (71K), as compared to 0.15% in the United States
» 3.91% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (272K), as compared to 1.25% in the United States
» 0.20% of global blindness
» 0.10% of global MSVI

Nationwide Eye Care Response

» Haiti’s 2013 CSR was 542 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353 and WHO target CSR of 300 per million.
» In 2013, there were 6 ophthalmologists per million people in Haiti.
» There were 0.7 optometrists, and 10 AOPs per million people.

2 Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/
Seva’s Approach in Haiti

With its high rates of poverty being a barrier to accessing eye care, Haiti currently has the highest prevalence of blindness in the Latin American/Caribbean region. The greatest cause of blindness in Haiti is cataract. With only 60 trained ophthalmologists in the entire country, high quality, affordable eye care for the entire country is desperately needed. Seva and Visualiza work with the De Castro Eye Clinic located just outside the capitol city of Port au Prince. Since 2013, they have trained de Castro’s ophthalmologists and hospital administrators, assisted with the design of their new clinic, installed and trained staff to use a hospital management system and trained staff to perform outreach activities to rural communities desperately in need of eye care with Seva’s support.

Impact of COVID-19 in Haiti

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the country although to a lesser degree than some of its neighboring countries. Seva’s partner continues to provide necessary eye care services to those who need them. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva provided funds for essential protective equipment for its partner hospital in Haiti.

Resources:

Case Study: Visualiza Eye Care Systems

* Numbers based on reports received.