Haiti Fact Sheet

Country Overview

» Located in the Caribbean
» Haiti spans 10,714 mi² (27,750 square kms)
» Population: 11.4 million
» 2020 Human Development Index Ranking: 170 of 189

Scope of Eye Care Needs

» 0.39% of Haiti’s population is blind (49,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
» 2.04% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (253,340), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
» 0.11% of global blindness
» 0.09% of global MSVI

Nationwide Eye Care Response

» Haiti’s 2013 CSR was 542 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000 and WHO target CSR of 300 per million.
» In 2015, there were 5.4 ophthalmologists per million people in Haiti.
» There were 0.6 optometrists, and 10 AOPs per million people.

EYE CARE NEEDS

CATARACT SURGICAL RATE 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 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 capital 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.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROMOTING EVIDENCE

As part of its mentorship process, Visualiza works with hospitals to ensure they have an electronic data management system to assess the work that they are doing to improve eye care delivery. The system allows serves as an electronic management system for patients, allowing the hospital to assess care over time. This year, Seva will work with Visualiza to set up this system with the De Castro Clinic. The hospital can also use this data to assess if they are reaching their target demographic of patients, if there is a village or community that needs further eye health promotion, if quality outcomes are being reached, or if further follow up is required. With this information, the hospital is better equipped to provide quality services to communities in need.

Impact of COVID-19 in Haiti

Haiti experienced an increase in COVID-19 cases early in the summer of 2021 but the numbers have reduced. Vaccinations have been limited in the country and the situation compounded by recent natural disasters. 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.