Nepal Fact Sheet

Country Overview

- Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia. Predominantly located in the Himalayas it also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- Size: 147,181 km² (56,827 sq mi)
- Population: 28.98 Million (2016 World Bank)
- 2016 Human Development Index Ranking: 144 of 188 countries

Scope of Eye Care Needs

- 0.35% of Nepal’s population is blind (99,750 of 28.5M) » Compared to 0.15% in the United States.
- Nepal has 0.0027% of global blindness

Nationwide Eye Care Response

- Nepal’s CSR (Cataract Surgical Rate) was 4,364 surgeries per million in 2015 » compared to the US’s CSR of 6,353
- 7 Ophthalmologists per million people in Nepal (201 per 28.51M as of 2015 » US = 60 per million people).
- 2 Optometrists per million people as of 2015 (56/28.51M)
- 22 Allied Ophthalmic Personnel per million (600/28.51M)

VISION NEEDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Pop Blindness</th>
<th>Global Blindness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.35%</td>
<td>0.0027%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE

- Nepal: 4,364
- WHO Target: 3,000
- United States: 6,353

SEVA’S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 1978 | Partners: 21
Context

Nepal has undergone tremendous transformation since moving out of agrarian isolation and opening its borders in the 1950s to neighboring India, and with it, the outside world. The country has since abolished its monarchy, lived through a decade of civil war, which ended in 2006 and created a multi-party parliamentary system. Following nearly half a century of political turmoil and enormous transition the region was hit with the destructive earthquake of 2015, killing thousands and destroying an already nominal infrastructure as well as rich heritage sites. Nepal's economy relies heavily on outside aid, foreign remittance and tourism, as it remains one of the poorest countries in the world.

More than 80% of the blindness in Nepal is either preventable or curable, however the vast majority of people in Nepal don’t have access to quality, affordable eye care. This is greatly due to the inaccessibility of rugged terrain that separates 81%\(^1\) of the Nepalese population living rurally.

Today, there are 201 ophthalmologists in a country of over 28 million, which equates to 7 for every million person. Seva has created a network of eye care providers through partnering with Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh and its branches in 24 districts out of a total of 77 districts in the country. The services provided through this wide network target the most vulnerable populations including women, children and hard to access rural communities.

Seva supports continuing medical education, professional training, and provides surgical equipment and supplies, all of which serve to increase the quality of patient care. By equipping our partners with the tools they need to provide quality, efficient services, Seva builds locally run eye care programs that are self-sustaining within 5-10 years of establishment. Additionally about 5 million eye examinations and 50,000 eye surgeries are performed annually in Nepal through Seva and local partners, thanks to the support from TOMS One for One program, Focusing Philanthropy and other donors.

By assessing Nepal’s Burden of Blindness, we are able to reveal just how blindness or moderate to severe visual impairment (MSVI) imposes a challenge to this population. Nepal has 0.0027% of global blindness, for a country with just over 28 million, this is a fairly manageable rate. Compared to the US, with a population of over 300 million and 0.35% of global blindness, we can however still see the relative disproportion.

Seva’s Approach in Nepal

Seva supports eye care services in the four main geographical areas of Nepal:

The Lumbini Zone (the central western development region) has a total of eleven eye care facilities including one center of excellence, two secondary eye care hospitals, two surgical centers, two District Eye Care Centers and five Primary Eye Care Centers.

The Narayani Zone, located in the central south of Nepal with five districts, has a network of three eye hospitals with PECC in each district. Bharatpur Eye Hospital has one Secondary Eye Hospital in Thori and Parsa and eight Primary Eye Care Centers. Gaur Eye Hospital has three primary eye care centers. Kedia Eye Hospital has five primary eye care centers.

The Eastern Region consists of five eye care facilities supported by Seva Nepal.

Seva works closely with Geta Eye Hospital located in the Kailali district to provide eye care services in six remote districts throughout the Far Western Region. This area does not have active and organized local NNJS chapters (Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh — National Society for Comprehensive Eye Care) to help gather local resources and facilitate delivery of eye care services. Therefore, Seva’s support through outreach activities in collaboration with Geta Eye

---

1 Reported in 2016, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators.
Hospital has been critical in providing the necessary eye care services to this particularly disenfranchised population.

Seva’s approach to addressing eye health needs in Nepal prioritize three key strategies; Access to universal eye care, building Capacity of personnel and infrastructure as well as Evidence-based interventions and advocacy. These primary strategies are otherwise referred to as ACE, thoughtfully incorporated into all Seva partnership programs from delivery to post care assessment.

Primary eye care services are provided through PECCs and Vision centers (VC) as well as through eye camp outreach, which offer exams, medical treatment, glasses, surgeries and transport. In 2016-17 63% of the patients seen at eye camps in Nepal were female, similarly 63% of all patients seen at hospitals or PECVCs were female or children.

Modern Technology for patient care is vital in supporting up to date practices implemented locally. By purchasing clinical equipment for partner hospitals, Seva and our partners ensure an increase in availability of quality services for the Nepali population. This year Seva will also support one hospital to introduce teleconsultation linking its hospital with its remote primary eye care vision centers.

By focusing on Hospital Management Systems such as training, tracking and evaluations, hospitals and local communities alike are more equipped to build out their capacity and more effectively serve their populations. This year Eyexcel training was implemented and organized by the Seva Nepal staff with session delivered by local partners and invited faculty.

Seva with our partners, provide trainings for local doctors in ophthalmology residencies, Allied Ophthalmic personnel as well as teachers for school screenings. The quality of cataract surgeries, evaluation of personnel and the effectiveness of service delivery are all tracked. Attendance at professional conferences and meetings allows our partners to share program findings with a broader community of specialists.

Finally, by tracking financial sustainability and cost recovery Seva can support maintaining and building up the capability of services to those in need.

**IMPACT (FY17-18)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21</th>
<th>812,673</th>
<th>139,788</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinics in Nepal</td>
<td>Adult patients screened in fixed facilities</td>
<td>Child patients screened in fixed facilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>87,919</th>
<th>2,167</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>+4,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult surgeries completed</td>
<td>Child surgeries completed</td>
<td>Clinicians trained</td>
<td>Non-clinicians trained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources:** [Seva in Nepal](#)