

Paraguay Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2011 | Partner: 1



Country Overview

- » Location: South America
- » Paraguay spans 157,047 square miles (406,752 Km²)
- » Population: 7.13 million
- » 2020 Human Development Index Ranking: 103 of 189¹

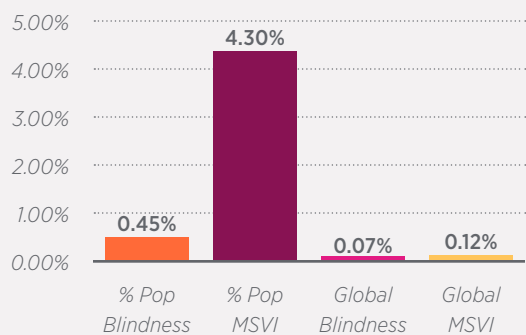
Scope of Eye Care Needs²

- » 0.45% of Paraguay's population is blind (32,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.30% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (310,817), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.07% of global blindness
- » 0.12% of global MSVI

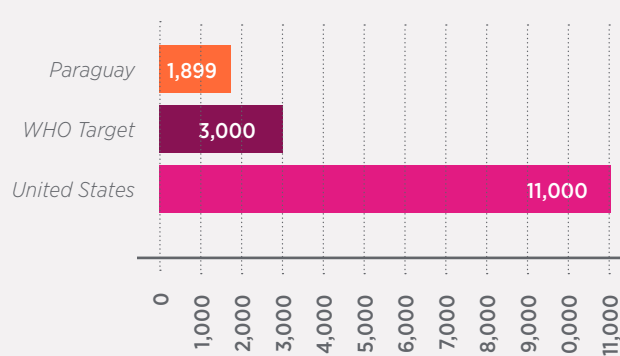
Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Paraguay's 2019 CSR was 1,899 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000 and WHO target CSR of 300 per million.
- » In 2019, there were 34.6 ophthalmologists per million people in Paraguay.
- » In 2019, there were 61 AOP per million people in Paraguay.

EYE CARE NEEDS



CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



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

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 Paraguay

Paraguay's low population density, along with its subtropical climate, makes this landlocked country an important region for understanding blindness. Most blindness in Paraguay is due to cataract, with many ophthalmologists working in or near the capital city of Asunción. A 2011 Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness showed a significant reduction in blindness due to cataract since 1999, pointing to a substantial improvement in the results and coverage of cataract surgical services.

Seva's partnership with Fundación Visión has contributed to the greater access of eye care in populations that live outside of Asunción, where much of the blindness is concentrated. Fundación Visión is a leading institution in the prevention of blindness, with more than 25 years in Paraguay, 5 clinics in different cities. Fundación Visión's state of the art comprehensive eye hospital and training facility is reaching out to help improve access to eye care throughout Paraguay. The base hospital also has a residency program that trains future ophthalmologists from across Latin America, exposing them to a way of sustainably providing eye care at a high quality to all who need it. In 2018, Visualiza, DNJ and Fundación Visión entered into a three-way mentoring partnership through the Global Sight Initiative. Through this partnership, Visualiza and DNJ will work with Fundación Visión to streamline their systems across the four clinics they operate.

Impact of COVID-19 in Paraguay

COVID-19 continues to have a major impact on the country. Following initial closures, the government has permitted many businesses to reopen. Seva's partner has been able to resume routine, non-emergency eye care services. In recent months, demand for eye care services has continued to increase. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva made funds available to its partner in Paraguay to procure necessary protective equipment for its staff.

EYE CARE PERSONNEL



IMPACT (FY 2020-2021)*



SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Paraguay has a highly fragmented, segmented and weak health system that has been magnified by COVID-19. Overall health services have been affected more, with a reduction of the 30% in the number of follow-up consultations, increasing ocular emergencies. Fundación Visión, in partnership with Seva and Visualiza, is establishing a mobile unit to expand its eye care services to more remote parts of the country. Access has been further challenged by mobility restrictions imposed due to COVID-19. This mobile unit will allow the clinic to improve access to more people to address visual impairment and provide treatment, reaching an estimated 2,400 people.

Resources:

[Partner Website: Fundación Visión](#)

[A TOMS Story in Paraguay: Sabino's Journey](#)

* Numbers based on reports received.

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