Country Overview

» Located in South America.
» Peru spans 496,200 square miles.
» Population: 31.4 million.
» 2016 Human Development Index Ranking: 87th of 188 countries.¹

Scope of Vision Needs²

» 0.53% of Peru’s population is blind (146K people), as compared to 0.15% in the United States
» 3.45% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (948K), as compared to 1.25% in the United States
» 0.41% of global blindness
» 0.44% of global MSVI

Nationwide Eye Care Response

Peru’s 2013 CSR was 1,143 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353. In 2011, its cataract surgical coverage (CSC) was 63% (<3/60), as compared to the WHO target of 80%.

There were 33.2 ophthalmologists per million people in Peru (1,011/30.475M in 2013). (US = 60 per million people). There were 47.6 (1,500) optometrists per million people as of 2016.

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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 Peru

With a rapidly aging population and cataract being the lead cause of blindness, Peru has great need for high quality eye care. Seva has partnered with Clínica Oftalmológica Divino Niño Jesús (DNJ) as part of the Global Sight Initiative since 2009. The Global Sight Initiative is an expansive network comprised of three collaborating international NGOs, 10 mentor institutions and more than 90 mentee hospitals spanning the world. DNJ began as a mentee of Visualiza Clínica Médica Oftalmológica and quickly became a high quality, high volume center for eye care in South America. DNJ transitioned from a mentee to a mentor hospital in 2014 and has begun mentoring efforts with a focus on its own secondary hospital in Iquitos, Peru as well as two hospitals in other under-served states of the country. DNJ has grown their staff and hospital to perform over 1,500 cataract surgeries annually. Since 2010, DNJ has conducted several eye camps in the Loreto region of Peru the most isolated and resource-poor state in the nation and recently opened a new eye hospital in Iquitos.

SIGHT SERVICES

33.2  
Ophthalmologists per million people

47.6  
Optometrists per million people

Partner  
(DNJ)

3  
Clinics in Peru

350  
Surgeries supported  
(55% female)

20  
Staff members  
trained

SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINING

Through the training program which began in 2016, Seva and DNJ have trained 17 nurses with a specialization in ophthalmology. After the one-year specialization course with theoretical and practical content covering outreach, counseling, management, OPD and OR, the nurses are considered qualified Allied Ophthalmic Personnel. The hospital reports that the training has resolved their HR problems filling AOP positions, while patients and doctors report a higher quality of care with well-trained nurses. Additionally, nurses expressed gratitude for the program and the ability to earn a salary while taking the training, enhancing their incentive to participate in the program and their loyalty to DNJ.

Resources

Seva in Peru
DNJ website