

# Peru Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2009 | Partner: 1



## Country Overview

- » Located in South America.
- » Peru spans 496,200 square miles (1,285,216 Square Kms)
- » Population: 33 million.
- » 2020 Human Development Index Ranking: 79 of 189 countries.<sup>1</sup>

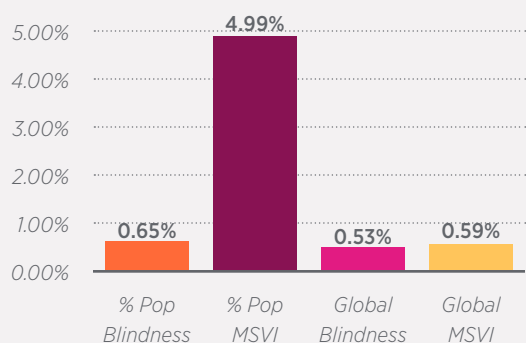
## Scope of Eye Care Needs<sup>2</sup>

- » 0.65% of Peru's population is blind (146K people), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.99% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (1,746,947), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.53% of global blindness
- » 0.59% of global MSVI

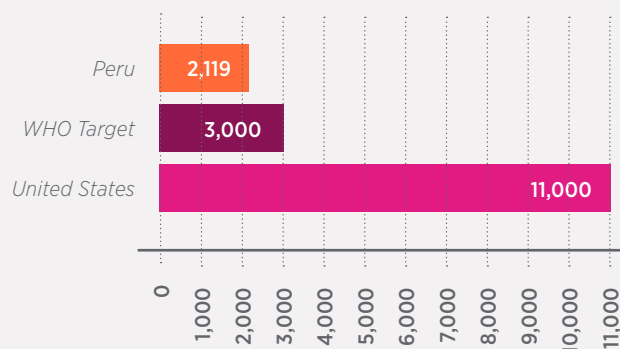
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

Peru's 2019 CSR was 2,119 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000. In 2011, its cataract surgical coverage (CSC) was 36.9% (<3/60), as compared to the WHO target of 80%. There were 39.6 ophthalmologists per million people in Peru (1,012/33M in 2019). (US = 54.7 per million people). There were 91 (3,000) optometrists per million people as of 2019.

### EYE CARE NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



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

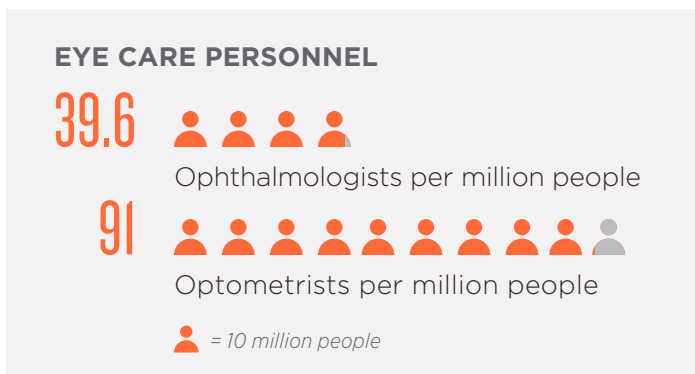
<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

## 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 Clinica Oftalmológica Divino Niño Jesús (DNJ) as part of the Global Sight Initiative since 2009. The Global Sight Initiative is an expansive network comprised of more than 120 mentor and mentee hospitals and clinics 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 three hospitals in other underserved states of the country. 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.

## Impact of COVID-19 in Peru

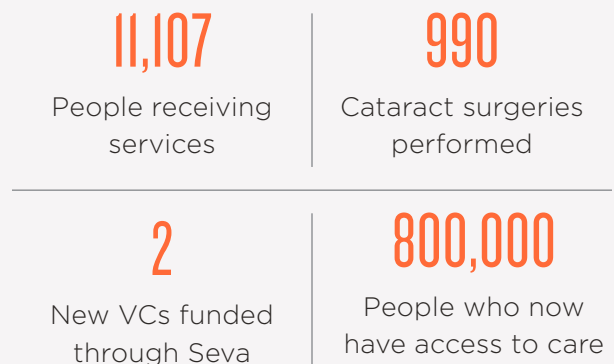
COVID-19 continues to have a tremendous impact on the country. Although Peru instituted one of the strictest lockdowns in the region, it suffered the highest mortality rate due to COVID-19. Over the past few months, the country has gradually begun to reopen and eye care services have resumed. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva made funds available to its partners in Peru to procure necessary protective equipment.



## SPOTLIGHT ON BUILDING CAPACITY

Mary Luz Contreras Ramos joined DNJ's training program for allied ophthalmic personal (AOP) in early 2020. Eye care is not an area of focus at her university, and she wanted to learn this specialization. "Today it is even more difficult to access a health service, due to the situation that is happening in the country and the world (pandemic)," Mary said. "There are few places where ophthalmology services are provided. This affects the elderly who don't have economic resources and have no way to care for themselves, since in some places the costs are a bit high." That was one reason she opted for this specialization – she agrees with DNJ's approach of affordable eye care for everyone. "One of my goals is to be able to show what I learned in this training project," she said. "Specialized training is important because I have gained a good learning experience. The opportunity to have a specialized training is a great contribution to my professional career." Once she completed her course in December 2020, Mary achieved her ambition and became a full-time AOP with DNJ.

## IMPACT (FY 2020-2021)\*



\* Numbers based on reports received.

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## Resources

[Seva in Peru](#)  
[DNJ website](#)