Country Overview

» Located in Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa
» The Republic of Tanzania spans 945,087 square kilometers (364,900 square miles)
» Population: 56.3 million people
» 2019 Human Development Index Ranking: 159 out of 189 countries

Scope of Eye Care Needs

» 0.61% of Tanzania’s population is blind (136K), as compared to 0.15% in the United States
» 3.12% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (779k), as compared to 1.25% in the United States
» 0.38% (136,523/36M) of global blindness
» 0.36% (779,643/217M) of global MSVI

Nationwide Eye Care Response

Sub-Saharan Africa’s median Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) is 488 – one third of the global average and 1/13th of the average for high-income countries. Seva works to improve these rates through our hospital management systems and training support in Tanzania, focusing on improvement in the following Global Action Plan indicators for universal eye health.

» Tanzania’s CSR was 518 surgeries per million in 2010, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353
» 0.8 ophthalmologists per million people in Tanzania (40/50.64M as of 2013 (US = 60 per million people)
» 5.7 optometrists per million people as of 2012 (280)
» 8.8 AOPs per million people (405 in 2011)

2 Unless otherwise noted, all statistics provided by IAPB Vision Atlas Global Vision Database.
Seva’s Approach in Tanzania

Seva partners with the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) to reduce blindness in Tanzania. Established in 2001 in response to the VISION 2020 initiative, KCCO is the largest organization in Africa dedicated to reducing blindness through community ophthalmology training. With Seva’s support in hospital management systems and training, KCCO partners with local governmental hospitals to train community health workers, conduct outreach trips to rural communities without regular access to eye care, provide clinical training for ophthalmologists and cataract surgeons, and providing funds for medical treatments for those who cannot afford them. In Tanzania, Seva’s Global Sight Initiative supports three regional hospitals to bring quality eye care to as many people as possible: Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, Dodoma; Bugando Regional Hospital, Mwanza; and Singida Regional Hospital.

Resources:

Seva in Tanzania
Program Videos
KCCO Website

* Numbers based on reports received

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**CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE**

- Tanzania: 518
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 488
- WHO Target: 3,000
- United States: 6,353

**SIGHT SERVICES**

- 0.8 Ophthalmologists per million people
- 5.7 Optometrists per million people
- 8.8 Ophthalmic personnel per million people

**IMPACT (FY 2019-2020)**

- 14,359 people receiving services
- 919 cataract surgeries performed

**SPOTLIGHT ON BUILDING CAPACITY**

Seva and KCCO expanded its commitment to reaching children with specialized eye care in 2020, working with Bugando to establish a pediatric eye clinic led by Dr. Evarista. This first year focuses on outreach and increasing awareness of eye care services for children.