Scope of Eye Care Needs

- 0.19% of Uganda’s population is blind (83,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- 1.10% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment OR MSVI (475,965), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- 0.19% of global blindness
- 0.16% of global MSVI

Nationwide Eye Care Response

Sub-Saharan Africa’s median Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) is 497 — 28% of the global average and 6% of the average for high-income countries. Seva works to improve these rates through our hospital management systems and training support in Uganda, focusing on improvement in the following Global Action Plan indicators for universal eye health.

- Uganda’s CSR was 192 surgeries per million in 2010, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- 1.2 ophthalmologists per million people in 2014 (45 total)
- 0.2 optometrists per million people in 2019 (10 total)
- 14 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2014 (504 total)

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 Uganda

With approximately one ophthalmologist per 1 million people, Uganda’s need for reducing avoidable blindness remains an important component of 2030 In Sight, a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness. Uganda was the first country in Africa to come up with a national plan, including the elimination of river blindness (onchocerciasis), which affected one-third of the nation’s districts. Because of their efforts, Uganda has reduced transmission of the disease from eight out of eighteen endemic areas. Along with river blindness, the reduction of avoidable childhood blindness, and treatment of trachoma trichiasis are strategic initiatives of Uganda’s Vision2020 plan.

Seva’s partnership with Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) in Uganda supports direct service care of medical treatments and surgeries for patients affected by trachoma, cataract, and other debilitating eye diseases. In 2016 Seva began working with an eye clinic in Tororo to expand eye care services to children.

Impact of COVID-19 in Uganda

Uganda implemented strong protective measures during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Services were limited depending on government recommendations. As part of its response, Seva worked with KCCO to provide funds for essential protective equipment for its partner hospitals. Eye care services continue to be provided using the local recommended safety precautions.

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**Impact (FY 2021-2022)**

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<td>People receiving services</td>
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<td>Children receiving glasses</td>
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* Numbers based on reports received.
Resources:
Celebrating Uganda’s Dr. Patrick
Restoring Vision, and Independence, to a Local Leader in Uganda