

Ukraine Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2017 | Partners: 2



Country Overview

- » Ukraine spans 233,062 square miles
- » Population: 43.7 million people
- » 2020 Human Development Index Ranking: 74 of 189 countries¹

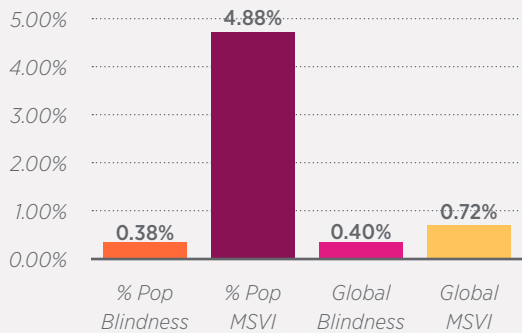
Scope of Eye Care Needs

- » 0.38% of Ukraine's population is blind (170,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.88% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (2,136,001), as compared to 2.02% in the United States²
- » 0.40% of global blindness
- » 0.72% of global MSVI

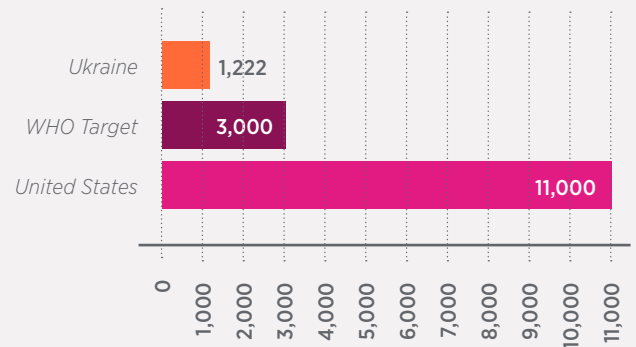
Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Ukraine's CSR was 1,222 surgeries per million in 2006³, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000.
- » 66.3 ophthalmologists per million people in Ukraine as of 2015 (US = 54.7 per million people)
- » No data available for AOPs and optometrists per million people

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 statistics provided by IAPB Vision Atlas Global Vision Database.

³ 2016 Cataract Surgical Rate and Socioeconomics: A Global Study. Accessed 8/31/2018 at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27802517>

Seva's Approach in Ukraine

Ukraine has the second largest HIV/AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In 2019, 250,000 people were living with HIV in Ukraine, up from 120,000 in 2010. With HIV infection comes the possibility of CMV retinitis, which can cause blindness if left untreated. Many people living with HIV/AIDS risk going blind from CMV retinitis because of the stigma that surrounds the disease and the lack of access to doctors with appropriate eye care training.

Seva is addressing this issue by providing training to AIDS clinicians and ophthalmologists on how to diagnose and treat CMV retinitis. In July 2017, Seva's AIDS Eye Initiative Medical Director, Dr. David Heiden trained six ophthalmologists, providing in-depth and hands-on lessons in diagnosing and treating CMV retinitis. By the end of the session, participating ophthalmologists indicated they had a high level of confidence in their ability to identify this debilitating condition. Since then, Seva continues to work with the doctors as they screen for CMV Retinitis and treat patients.

Seva also began working with Eye Samaritan International to mitigate and prevent Retinopathy of Prematurity, the leading cause of blindness for babies in Ukraine. In partnership with Seva, ESI is working to create a center of excellence to treat ROP at the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy in Odessa, Ukraine by augmenting an established institution with additional equipment, training, financial support and access to specialized expertise.

Resources:

[Seva's Work to Prevent Avoidable Blindness in Ukraine](#)

EYE CARE PERSONNEL

66.3



Ophthalmologists per million people

= 10 million people

Impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine

COVID-19 cases continue increase across the country. Services have been limited depending on government recommendations and lockdowns but overall, eye care services have been able to resume and continue to be provided at the clinics. Seva's partner in Odessa saw an initial decrease in the number of babies screened in light of the COVID-19 pandemic but these numbers are beginning to return to expected levels as safety protocols are developed and rolled out.

SPOTLIGHT ON REACHING CHILDREN

Aivazovi Lev was born preterm at 27 weeks gestation and at four weeks of age he had severe respiratory distress syndrome. His parents feared that Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) would cause permanent blindness. At eight weeks old Aivazovi was screened at Filatov Eye Institute in Odessa, Ukraine. From his screening it was identified that indeed ROP had developed to zone 1 ROP (severe type) which has a high risk of causing permanent and lifelong blindness. In September of 2020 Aivazovi had laser surgery which resulted in the resolution of the retinopathy of prematurity. From his post operative exams it was determined that he will be able to have functionally useful vision and engage in most normal activities as a result of the laser treatment.

UKRAINE FACT SHEET

IMPACT (FY 2020-2021)*

749

People receiving services

2

ROP Trainings for Pediatric Ophthalmologists Completed

65

Babies identified with ROP



* Numbers based on reports received