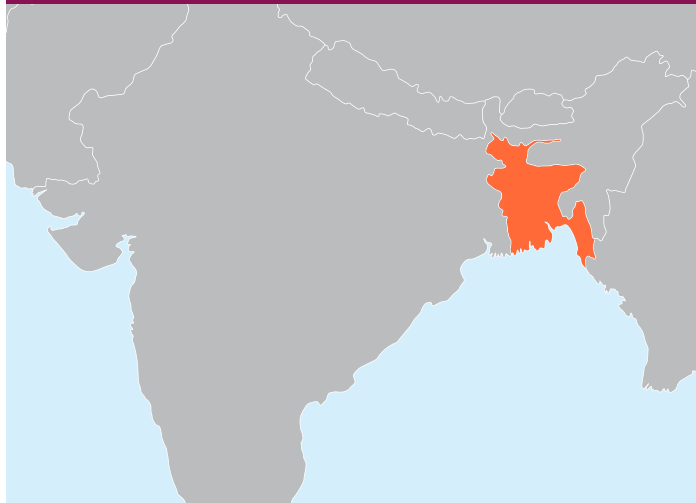


Bangladesh Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2005 | Partners: 3



Country Overview

- » Located in South Asia
- » Bangladesh spans 56,977 square miles
- » Population: 165 million
- » 2021-2022 Human Development Index Ranking: 129 of 191 countries¹
- » Bangladesh currently hosts approximately 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar District²

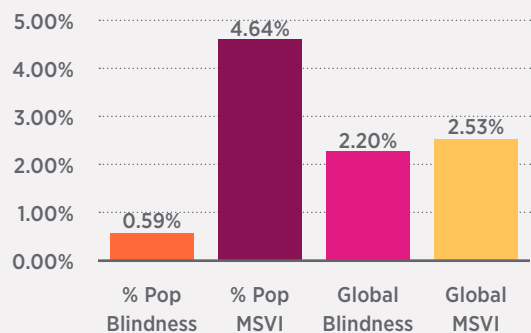
Scope of Eye Care Needs³

- » 0.59% of Bangladesh's population is blind (948,295), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.64% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (7,478,869), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 2.20% of global blindness
- » 2.53% of global MSVI

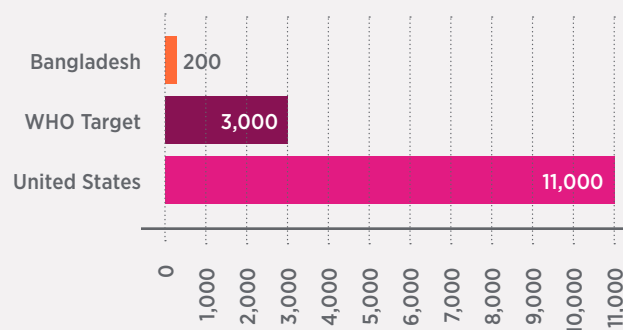
Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Bangladesh's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 200 surgeries per million in 2019, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 6.2 ophthalmologists per million people in 2018 (1,200 total)
- » 1.2 optometrists per million people in 2019 (200 total)
- » 12 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2019 (2,000 total)

EYE CARE NEEDS



CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



¹ 2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf#2

² IAPB and Seva. A Situational Analysis: Eye Care Needs of Rohingya refugees and the Affected Bangladeshi Host Population

³ Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

Seva's Approach in Bangladesh

Bangladesh ranks among the poorest countries in the world, with more than one-half of its 161 million people living below the poverty line and an estimated 800,000 people afflicted by blindness. As such, Seva Foundation partners with three organizations in Bangladesh to address eyecare needs vulnerable populations. In the last three years, Seva have worked with ten partner eye hospitals and supported establishment of 20 Vision centers in seven divisions of Bangladesh out of a total eight along with pediatric interventions.

By focusing on smart solutions and building partners capacity in evidence-based decision making with the support of data dashboard and training — which includes Eyexcel, fellowships and conferences — as well as tracking data collection and evaluations, hospitals and local communities alike are more equipped to build out their capacity and more effectively serve their populations. Seva has organized the first ever 'Eyexcel Bangladesh - Excellence in Eye Care Training' in 2019 with 7 participating hospitals team of more than 20 people. It was hosted by Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital at Dhaka.

Working with Seva, **Grameen Healthcare Services** has established four hospitals in the Bogra, Barisal, Thakurgaon and Satkhira districts. Seva sponsors training of the hospitals' staff, including doctors, nurses and management professionals. These eye hospitals serve people living in Grameen's micro-credit communities. Embedding the service delivery within the existing Grameen networks rapidly facilitates the opportunities for early detection and referral of people for cataract surgery and eye glasses and reduces costs for outreach. Together, we identify and overcome local barriers to care to ensure that quality services are accessed by underserved populations.

With **Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital**, Seva has funded the training of hospital staff and provides subsidies for free and low-cost service

delivery. Islamia Eye Institute began as a charitable dispensary and grew into a pioneering eye hospital providing quality ophthalmic services for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

With the **Quasem Foundation**, Seva supports low-cost and high-quality comprehensive eye care services for the vulnerable populations of Northern Bangladesh. Through the implementation of focused and comprehensive projects, the Quasem Foundation has grown in both reach and reputation over the last six decades, serving not only Ulipur but the entire Rangpur district and other parts of Northern Bangladesh. Seva and Quasem work together to provide low-cost and high-quality comprehensive services for patients and training for ophthalmic providers.

SPOTLIGHT ON VISION CENTERS

Seva in collaboration with partners in Bangladesh have established Six new Vision Centers in this last year, making the total Seva supported Vision Centers in Bangladesh to over 20 in the last few years. The newly established Vision Centers have created access to eye care for an additional 600,000 people. These Vision Centers provide a robust community service approach by ensuring access in underserved geographies. Vision Centers are efficiently run by a team of people including one Vision Technician or Junior Optometrist. Each Vision Center may employ additional Community Mobilizers, who oversee the community engagement including refraction screening camps, advocacy, and Front line Worker training. Vision Centers play a critical role in following up with patients who received surgery at the hospital and monitoring chronic eye diseases in consultation with the hospital.

IMPACT (FY 2021-2022)*

406,532

People receiving services

38,624

Cataract surgeries performed

6,684

Children screened

6

Children receiving surgery

1,530

Children receiving glasses

6

New VCs funded through Seva

1,702,772

People who now have access to care

26,393

People receiving services at VCs

* Numbers based on reports received

EYE CARE PERSONNEL

6.2



Ophthalmologists per million people

12



Ophthalmic personnel per million people

1.2



Optometrists per million people

 = 1 million people

Impact of COVID-19 in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has seen 2 million COVID-19 cases and has administered a total of 297,510,843 vaccine doses as of September 2022. The case number is significantly lower compared to the last two years. Seva's partners continue to provide all eye care services with applicable COVID-19 protocols and vaccination advisory according to the Ministry of Health. Seva supported vision centers continue to see patients in more remote and difficult to reach areas.

Resources

[Seva in Bangladesh](#)

[Situational Analysis of Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Bangladesh](#)

[Training Ophthalmic Nurses in Bangladesh](#)

BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

