Burundi Fact Sheet

Country Overview
» Located in Sub-Saharan Africa
» Burundi spans 10,747 square miles
» Population: 11.9 million
» 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 187 of 191 countries

Scope of Eye Care Needs
» 0.14% of Burundi’s population is blind (17,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
» 0.82% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (97,624), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
» 0.04% of global blindness
» 0.03% 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 Burundi, focusing on improvement in the following Global Action Plan indicators for universal eye health.
» Burundi’s CSR was 247 surgeries per million in 2014, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
» 1.3 ophthalmologists per million people in 2019 (16 total)
» 0.2 optometrists per million people in 2019 (2 total)
» 2 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2019 (24 total)

EYE CARE NEEDS

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 Burundi

Seva works with CTSOE and the Clinique De L’Oeil to increase access to compassionate, high-quality and affordable eye care services for children and their families. This year, Seva provided critical equipment to the clinic, including investment to strengthen their existing five vision centers. We also collaborated to introduce diabetic retinopathy (DR) screenings. Individuals requiring treatment for DR are able to receive laser treatment thanks to a laser that Seva helped to provide. Together, we brought necessary cataract surgery to community members who could not afford to pay for surgery.

Resources:

https://ctsoe.net/

SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Candide, a 63-year-old farmer, was the sole provider for her children after her husband’s death. As time went on, her vision began deteriorating. It wasn’t long before she developed a cataract in each eye and became blind. She wished to get treatment but could not afford it. Fortunately, Clinique de L’oeil often conducts mass screening and surgery campaigns for the elderly who cannot afford surgery. Candide was screened in her neighborhood and scheduled for surgery. The surgery went as planned in the capital city. Candide has since returned home with her family, happy and full of gratitude. She resumed her daily activities with restored vision!