

Myanmar Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2006 | Partners: 1

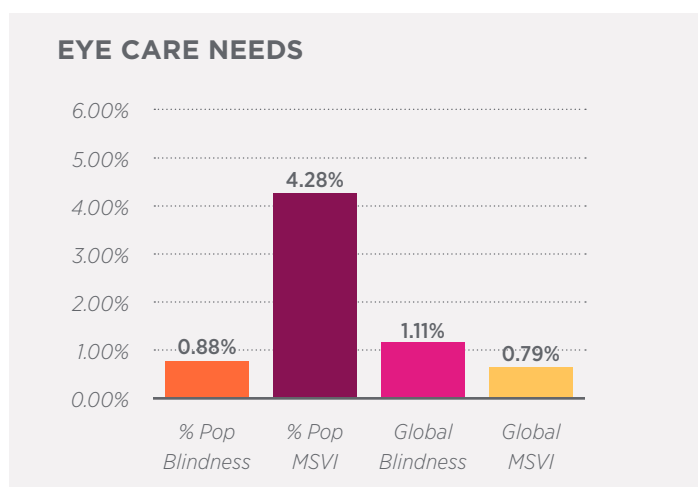


Country Overview

- » Myanmar spans 261,228 square miles
- » Population: 54.4 million
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 149 of 191¹

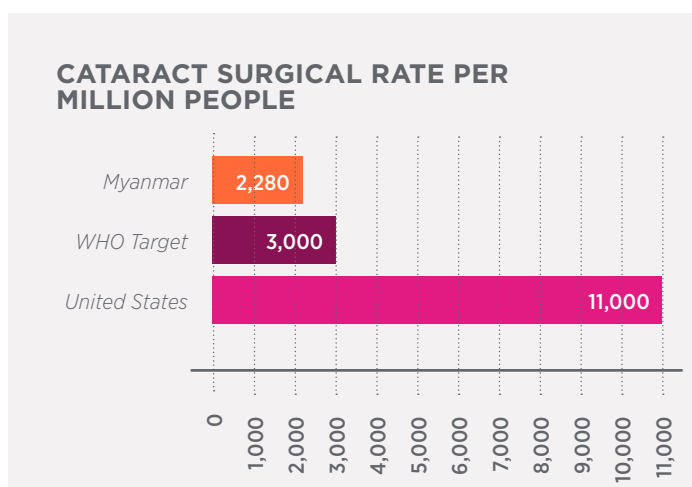
Scope of Eye Care Needs²

- » 0.88% of Myanmar's population is blind (477,463), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.28% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (2,318,893), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 1.11% of global blindness
- » 0.79% of global MSVI



Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Myanmar's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 2,280 surgeries per million in 2019
- » 5.8 ophthalmologists per million people in 2018 (361 total)
- » 1.1 optometrists per million people in 2018 (59 total)
- » 5 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2019 (260 total)



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

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 Myanmar

Seva's approach in Myanmar focuses on training front line HIV doctors to examine their patients using an indirect ophthalmoscope through the AIDS Eye Initiative and our partnership with Medical Action Myanmar (MAM).

Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) is a non-governmental organization with a mission to improve access to health care all people on Myanmar. Myanmar experiences high rates of HIV, with approximately 200,000 people living with AIDS. Seva's work with MAM enables HIV doctors to detect and treat blinding CMV Retinitis. These trained health workers can also detect tuberculosis using this technique, allowing early treatment of TB. Seva is working with its partners to develop and roll out online learning modules to complement these trainings. Seva is working with Myanmar's leading ophthalmologists, the Government, and several non-Governmental eye care organizations to promote an effective national eye care plan.

In addition to our work with MAM, Seva has previously supported the training of eye care personnel in Myanmar. During the past year, our last cohort of trainees included an ophthalmologist from Myanmar who completed her residency program in Nepal.

Impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar

Myanmar experienced its first wave of COVID-19 in November 2020 with a peak of 1,700 new daily new cases. In July 2021, the second wave arrived peaking at 6,700 new daily cases recorded.

The COVID-19 situation in Myanmar has been compounded by the military coup in early 2021. On February 1, Myanmar's military seized power from the civilian government. Political unrest, economic instability, and collapse of the health system created a hospitable environment for the virus to surge.

In light of the pandemic and current political siltation, Seva's in-person trainings with MAM have been postponed. Seva and MAM continue to

collaborate virtually. Seva is also working with its partners to develop and roll out online learning modules to complement these trainings.

Seva has also continued to support an ophthalmologist from Myanmar who was enrolled in a residency program in Nepal.

EYE CARE PERSONNEL

5.8



Ophthalmologists per million people

1.1



Optometrists per million people

5



Ophthalmic personnel per million people

 = 1 million people

SPOTLIGHT ON BUILDING CAPACITY

Dr. Lily Myint started her residency course in MD Ophthalmology in Lumbini Eye Hospital (LEI) in September 2018. During her course, she had the chance to gain practical experience in different departments, such as pediatrics, retina, glaucoma, and cornea, under the mentorship of senior doctors. She has already performed more than 50 cataract surgeries and has gained surgical skills in sub-specialty surgeries as well. After her final exams in October 2021, she was selected for 4 months further training in the Paediatric Department at LEI. Before returning to Myanmar in September 2022, Dr. Lily completed her 3 months Observership with Casey Eye Institute in the US. Dr. Lily plans to continue serving patients in Myanmar.

MYANMAR FACT SHEET



Resources

[Partner Website: Medical Action Myanmar](#)
[Regaining Sight and Hope in Myanmar](#)