

# Paraguay Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2011 | Partner: 1



## Country Overview

- » Located in South America
- » Paraguay spans 157,047 square miles
- » Population: 7.13 million
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 105 of 191<sup>1</sup>

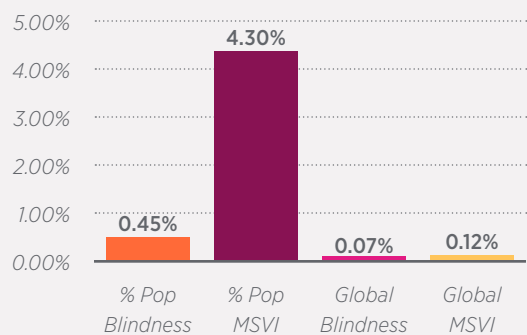
## Scope of Eye Care Needs<sup>2</sup>

- » 0.45% of Paraguay's population is blind (32,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.30% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (310,817), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.07% of global blindness
- » 0.12% of global MSVI

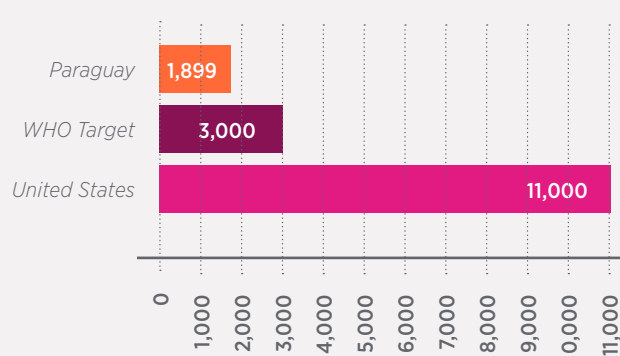
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Paraguay's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 1,899 surgeries per million in 2019, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 34.6 ophthalmologists per million people in 2019, (216 total)
- » 61 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2019 (432 total)

### EYE CARE NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



<sup>1</sup> 2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: [https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf\\_1.pdf](https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

### Seva's Approach in Paraguay

Paraguay's low population density, along with its subtropical climate, makes this landlocked country an important region for understanding blindness. Most blindness in Paraguay is due to cataract, with many ophthalmologists working in or near the capital city of Asunción. A 2011 Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness showed a significant reduction in blindness due to cataract since 1999, pointing to a substantial improvement in the results and coverage of cataract surgical services.

Seva's partnership with Fundación Visión has contributed to the greater access of eye care in populations that live outside of Asunción, where much of the blindness is concentrated. Fundación Visión is a leading institution in the prevention of blindness, with more than 25 years in Paraguay, 5 clinics in different cities. Fundación Visión's state of the art comprehensive eye hospital and training facility is reaching out to help improve access to eye care throughout Paraguay. The base hospital also has a residency program that trains future ophthalmologists from across Latin America, exposing them to a way of sustainably providing eye care at a high quality to all who need it. In 2018, Visualiza, DNJ and Fundación Visión entered into a three-way mentoring partnership through the Global Sight Initiative. Through this partnership, Visualiza and DNJ will work with Fundación Visión to streamline their systems across the four clinics they operate.

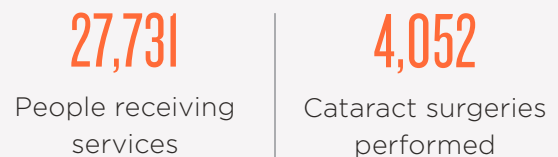
### Impact of COVID-19 in Paraguay

COVID-19 continues to have a major impact on the country. Following initial closures, the government has permitted many businesses to reopen. Seva's partner has been able to resume routine, non-emergency eye care services. In recent months, demand for eye care services has continued to increase. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva made funds available to its partner in Paraguay to procure necessary protective equipment for its staff.

#### EYE CARE PERSONNEL



#### IMPACT (FY 2021-2022)\*



#### SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Paraguay has a highly fragmented, segmented and weak health system that has been magnified by COVID-19. Overall health services have been affected more, with a reduction of the 30% in the number of follow-up consultations, increasing ocular emergencies. Fundación Visión, in partnership with Seva and Visualiza, established a mobile unit to expand its eye care services to more remote parts of the country. The mobile unit allows Fundación Visión to increase access to more people to address visual impairment and provide treatment.

### Resources:

- [Partner Website: Fundación Visión](#)
- [A TOMS Story in Paraguay: Sabino's Journey](#)

\* Numbers based on reports received.

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