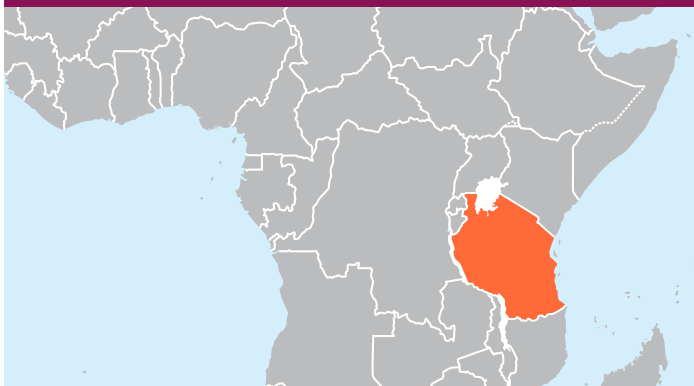


# Tanzania Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2001 | Partners: 4



## Country Overview

- » Located in Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa
- » The Republic of Tanzania spans 364,900 square miles
- » Population: 59.7 million people
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 160 of 191 countries<sup>1</sup>

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

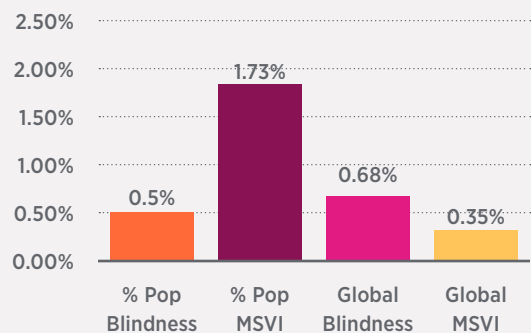
- » 0.5% of Tanzania's population is blind (293,392), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 1.73% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (1,020,266), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.68% of global blindness
- » 0.35% of global MSVI

## Nationwide Eye Care Response

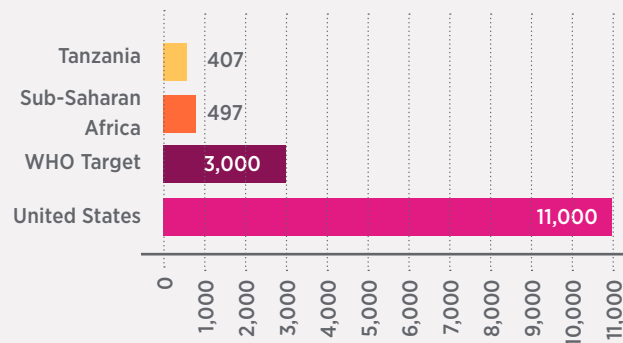
Sub-Saharan Africa's median Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) is 497 – 28% of the global average and 6% of the average for high-income countries. Seva works to improve these rates through our hospital management systems and training support in Tanzania, focusing on improvement in the following Global Action Plan indicators for universal eye health.

- » Tanzania's CSR was 407 surgeries per million in 2010, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 0.8 ophthalmologists per million people in 2018 (69 total)
- » 6.6 optometrists per million people in 2020 (394 total)
- » 3 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people (186 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/>

### EYE CARE PERSONNEL



### Seva's Approach in Tanzania

Seva partners with the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) to reduce blindness in Tanzania. Established in 2001 in response to the VISION 2020 initiative, KCCO works to increase access to high-quality eye care services provided by Africans for Africans. With Seva's support in hospital management systems and training, KCCO partners with local governmental hospitals to train community health workers, conduct outreach trips to rural communities without regular access to eye care, provide clinical training for ophthalmologists and cataract surgeons, and providing funds for medical treatments for those who cannot afford them. In Tanzania, Seva's Global Sight Initiative supports three regional hospitals to bring quality eye care to as many people as possible: Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, Dodoma; Bugando Regional Hospital, Mwanza; Mbeya Regional Hospital, Mbeya; and Singida Regional Hospital.

### Impact of COVID-19 in Tanzania

Anecdotally, COVID-19 has had a major effect on the country but reporting on the virus in Tanzania remains limited. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva worked with KCCO to provide funds for essential protective equipment for partner hospitals in Tanzania.

### SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Fatuma Saidi, a 59-year-old woman and mother of two, living in Utemini area, Singida Municipal began having eye problems in 2009. That same year she had cataract surgery for her right eye at KCMC hospital in Moshi.

In 2010, she moved to Singida (about 500 kms away from Moshi) where she started a small-scale business. In 2016, Fatuma began to experience eye problems again (in her left eye). She could not travel back to KCMC for treatment because she could not afford transport, treatment cost, and hospital stay.

In November of 2020, she heard the advertisement at her home village that the Singida Regional Referral Hospital would be conducting an eye camp at the hospital. She travelled to the hospital and the eye surgeon diagnosed a mature cataract on her left eye and advised for cataract surgery. After consulting with her husband, she agreed to get surgery, which was done the next day. The visual outcome after surgery improved from CF 5 meters to 6/24. She expressed gratitude for the hospital and the KCCO programs support. Fatuma is now able to return to work within her business and raising her children.

### Resources:

[Seva in Tanzania](#)  
[Program Videos](#)  
[KCCO Website](#)

# TANZANIA FACT SHEET

## IMPACT (FY 2021-2022)\*

35,886

People receiving services

3,444

Cataract surgeries performed

3,202

Children screened

344

Children receiving surgery

218

Children receiving glasses

242

Community Health Promoters trained



\* Numbers based on reports received.