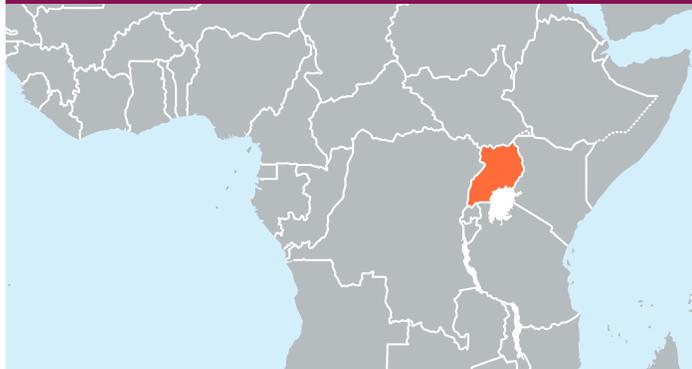


# Uganda Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2008 | Partners: 2



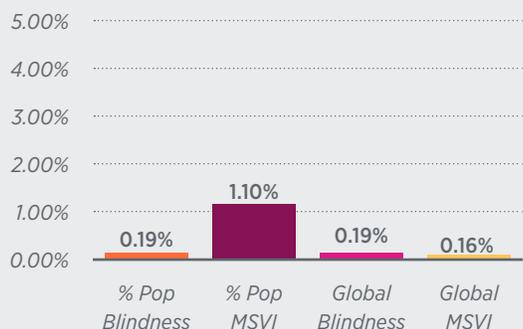
## Country Overview

- » Located in Sub-Saharan Africa
- » Uganda spans 93,000 square miles
- » Population: 45.7 million
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 166 of 191 countries<sup>1</sup>

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

- » 0.19% of Uganda's population is blind (83,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 1.10% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment OR MSVI (475,965), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.19% of global blindness
- » 0.16% of global MSVI

### EYE CARE NEEDS

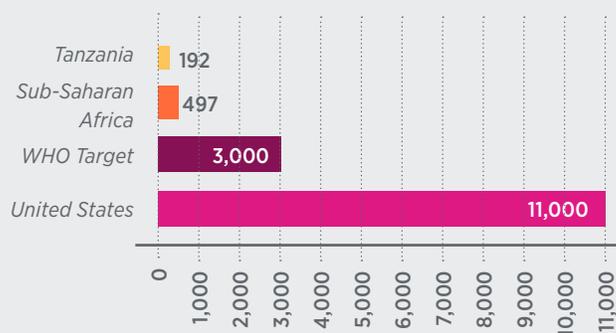


## Nationwide Eye Care Response

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 Uganda, focusing on improvement in the following Global Action Plan indicators for universal eye health.

- » Uganda's CSR was 192 surgeries per million in 2010, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 1.2 ophthalmologists per million people in 2014 (45 total)
- » 0.2 optometrists per million people in 2019 (10 total)
- » 14 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2014 (504 total)

### 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)

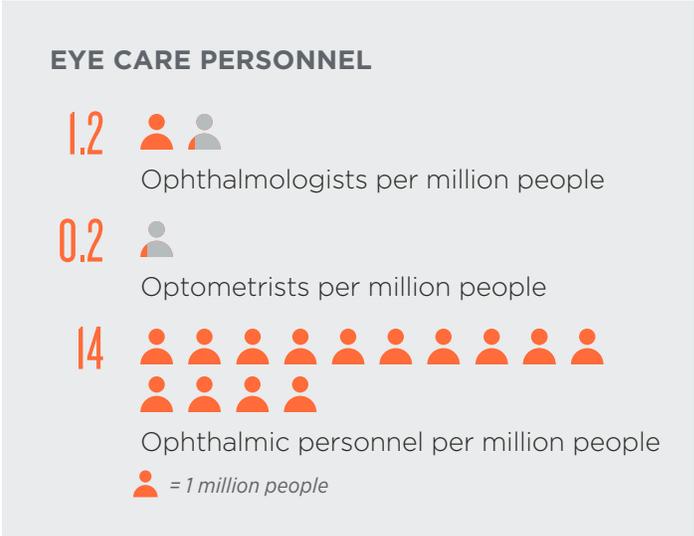
<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

**Seva’s Approach in Uganda**

With approximately one ophthalmologist per 1 million people, Uganda’s need for reducing avoidable blindness remains an important component of 2030 In Sight, a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness. Uganda was the first country in Africa to come up with a national plan, including the elimination of river blindness (onchocerciasis), which affected one-third of the nation’s districts. Because of their efforts, Uganda has reduced transmission of the disease from eight out of eighteen endemic areas. Along with river blindness, the reduction of avoidable childhood blindness, and treatment of trachoma trichiasis are strategic initiatives of Uganda’s Vision2020 plan.

Seva’s partnership with Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) in Uganda supports direct service care of medical treatments and surgeries for patients affected by trachoma, cataract, and other debilitating eye diseases. In 2016 Seva began working with an eye clinic in Tororo to expand eye care services to children.

Working with KCCO and the Benedictine Eye Hospital, we have increased access to eye care for children through improved screening and referral processes. The hospital instituted a process to more actively follow up with children who did not come in for follow up care. This helps ensure children with long-term vision impairment continue to get the services they need.



**SPOTLIGHT ON REACHING CHILDREN**

Grace’s parents knew there was a problem. Their daughter would not react when they put something in front her eyes. She could not see. They thought that there would be no treatment and their first-born child would remain blind forever. Fortunately, they explained their situation to the village health team. The team suggested Grace’s parents take her to the BEH clinic. When she was just a couple of months old, Grace had her first cataract surgery. Because she got care so early, the staff are optimistic. Her parents reported that Grace can now follow objects placed in front of her eyes - especially when she’s wearing her glasses.



\* Numbers based on reports received.

## UGANDA FACT SHEET



### Resources:

[Restoring Vision, and Independence, to a Local Leader in Uganda](#)