



SOWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

www.sightsaversindia.in

Contents

Sowing the Seeds of Change	_____	1
About Sightsavers	_____	2
Message From Chairman	_____	4
Message From CEO	_____	5
Strategic Approach	_____	6
Operational Framework	_____	7
Milestones Achieved		
Eye Health	_____	8
Inclusive Education	_____	12
Social Inclusion	_____	14
Funding & Marketing	_____	18
Recognition	_____	23
Financials	_____	24



SOWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE

Laying the groundwork for sustainable eye health systems of the future

In 2014, Sightsavers committed to its biggest ever challenge yet: to build sustainable eye health systems in 100 of the most backward districts in the next five years. Over the next five years, this would impact the lives of 136 million people – either saving them from unnecessarily going blind or restoring sight wherever possible.

A change of this magnitude is not possible without careful, meticulous and strategic planning, and devising innovative and cutting-edge interventions. But the most critical phase of the process is when implementation begins on-ground.

2014 for Sightsavers was about setting the right partnerships, processes and measures in place to ensure our newly launched national programmes achieved the success they set out to.

Sightsavers is a global development organisation working in 30+ countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for people with visual impairments and other disabilities.

In India since 1966, we partner with leading organisations in the most backward regions to build sustainable eye care systems, and provide education, counselling and rehabilitation support to people who are irreversibly blind.

In 2014, your support helped us provide:

1,28,695

sight restoration surgeries

352

per day

14,22,548

eye screenings

3,897

per day

1,20,834

spectacles for people in need

331

per day



Ugam Kaur

Pali, Rajasthan

“It feels like I’ve been born again, and am seeing everything for the first time”



Vishal Lodha

Nimach, Madhya Pradesh

“I can see the blackboard better, and all my friends think I look cool in my glasses.”



Kaniz Fatma

Kolkata, West Bengal

“I just casually walked into the camp. I never knew I had a problem with my sight”



Message from Chairman



Dr. S Y Quraishi
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
Sightsavers (India)
Former Chief Election Commissioner
of India

When a bird starts learning to fly, it first falters and fumbles. It feels fear; the pressure to perform. Yet it picks itself again, learns from its fledgling mistakes and tries harder with each successive attempt. The desire to soar in the skies outweighs any fears or obstacles it may face.

The above similitude sums up Sightsavers' year in 2014. We set ambitious goals for ourselves in the previous year, and now needed to carefully lay out all the plans and underlying structures to make the envisioned change happen.

Building up from our broad strategy outlined in 2014, we refined it into concrete action plans and set the wheels rolling on implementation. The early part of the year saw the launch of six national programmes; Rural, Urban and School Eye Health; Low Vision; Inclusive Education; and Social Inclusion.

The latter part of the year concentrated on refining strategies based on learnings from the ground, and making sure smooth implementation took place at the local level while contributing to national outcomes.

The results of this approach have been fantastic and are there for you to see in this report. I'd like to thank our donors, partners, and staff for their invaluable contributions in making this happen.

Message from CEO



RN Mohanty
CEO - Sightsavers (India)

2014 was an outstanding year for Sightsavers. We doubled the number of sight-restoring surgeries performed over the previous year, making it the highest growth ever in our capacities in a single year. Additionally, the vision for change identified in our reworked national strategy began to take concrete shape in 2014. We launched six national programmes providing specialised solutions to the most pressing sight-related challenges facing our communities.

In particular, Vidyajyoti – our National School Eye Health programme – represented a major step in the right direction. By integrating eye care with regular health initiatives in schools, we are not only addressing one of the leading causes of avoidable blindness (refractive error) at an early age, but are also contributing to improving the learning outcomes of children in school.

Other landmark innovations from 2014 include a mobile boat eye clinic to reach remote communities in the Sunderbans, and portable eye screening devices to deliver fast and affordable eye care services in urban slums in Bangalore. You will read more about these and other achievements in the coming pages.

And there's much more to look forward to in the coming year! The future holds bright possibilities for blindness prevention in India, and I am full of hope and excitement. I hope you are too.

Thank you all for your continued support!



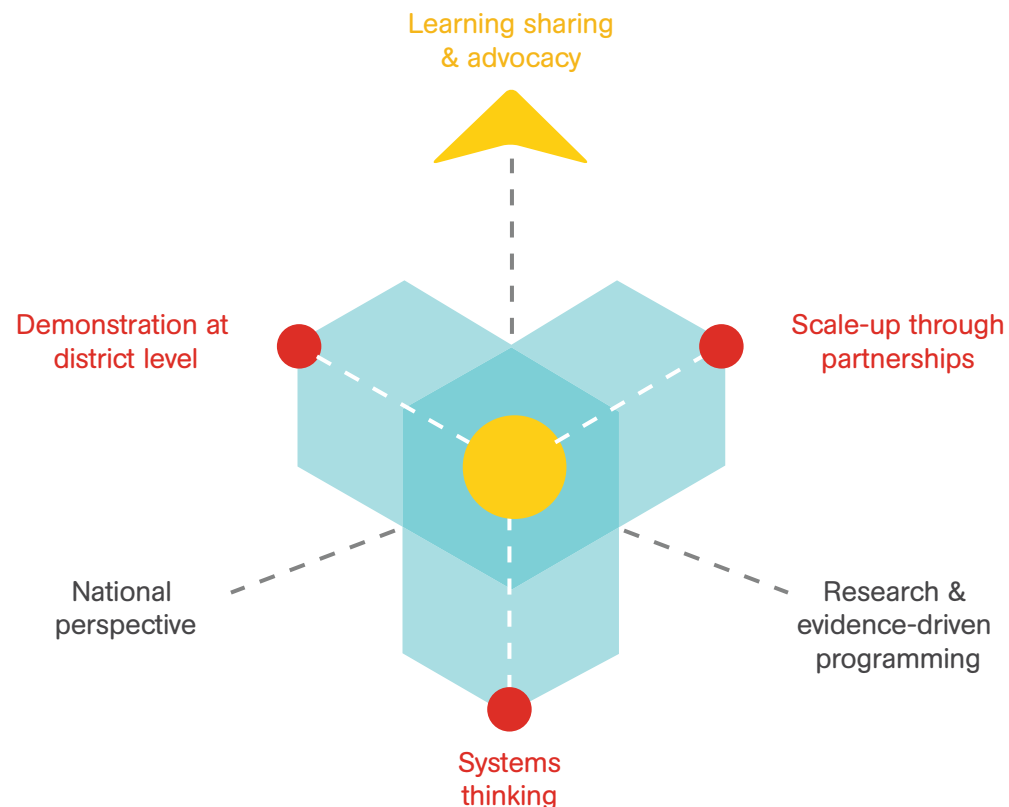
Strategic Approach

Sightsavers' interventions focus on collaboration and forging partnerships with government entities, private sector players, NGOs and communities. We work together to create sustainable systems that bridge existing gaps to better meet the eye health and disability-related needs of the present and future.

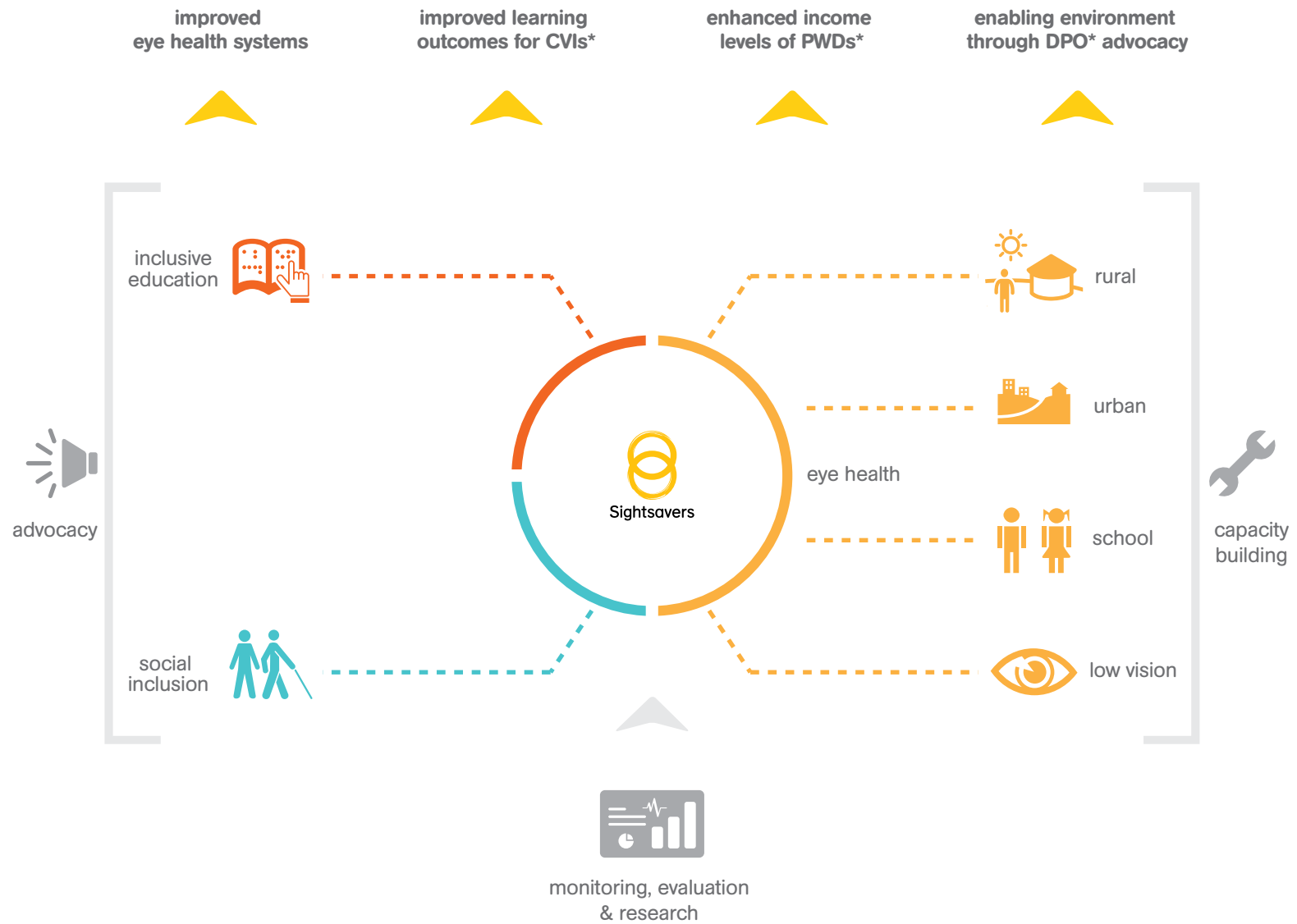
Our solutions are proven first at the district level before being scaled up for wider impact. Although designed for implementation at the local level, they espouse a national perspective, aligning with and seeking to influence national plans and policies.

Advocacy and capacity building activities cut across all Sightsavers' initiatives and are a binding thread for our work.

Additionally, Sightsavers is an evidence and research-driven organisation, committed to sharing its learning with the wider development sector to facilitate innovative and improved health interventions.



Operational Framework



* CVI - Child with Visual Impairment
 PWD - Person With Disability
 DPO - Disabled Persons Organisation

Eye Health

Objectives:

Ensure availability of affordable, quality eye health services in rural districts, urban slums and government schools

Nurture proactive health-seeking behaviour in communities regarding eye sight

Interventions:

Local vision clinics to provide primary eye care services in underserved communities

Screening camps in communities and schools to identify people with vision disorders

Linking primary services with hospitals to ensure efficient referrals and treatments

Raising awareness about eye health diseases and preventive measures through effective communication

Training and enhancing capacities of ophthalmic staff at all levels



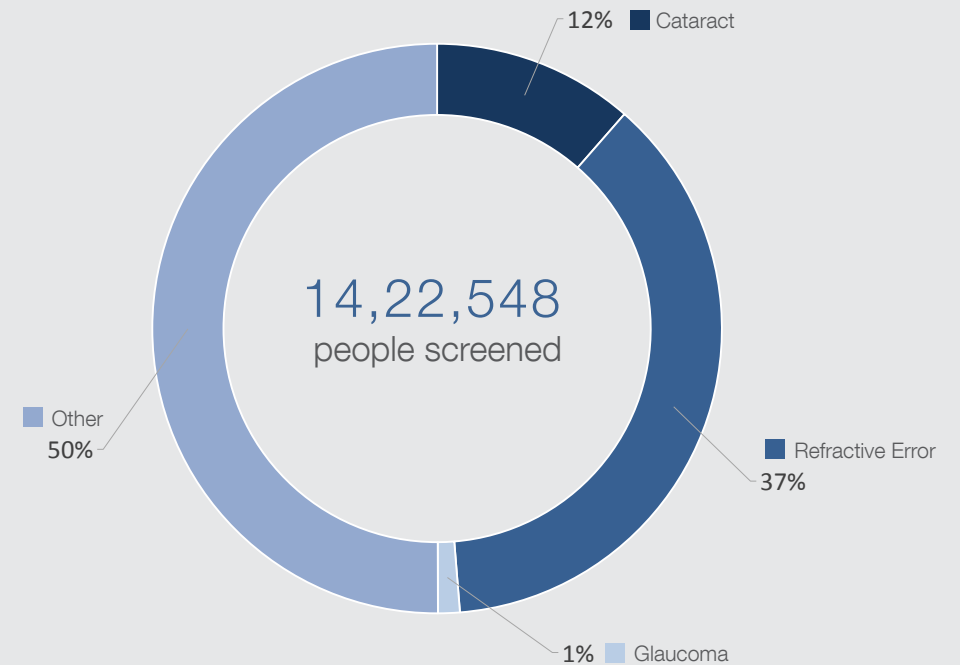


Paying Kindness Forward!

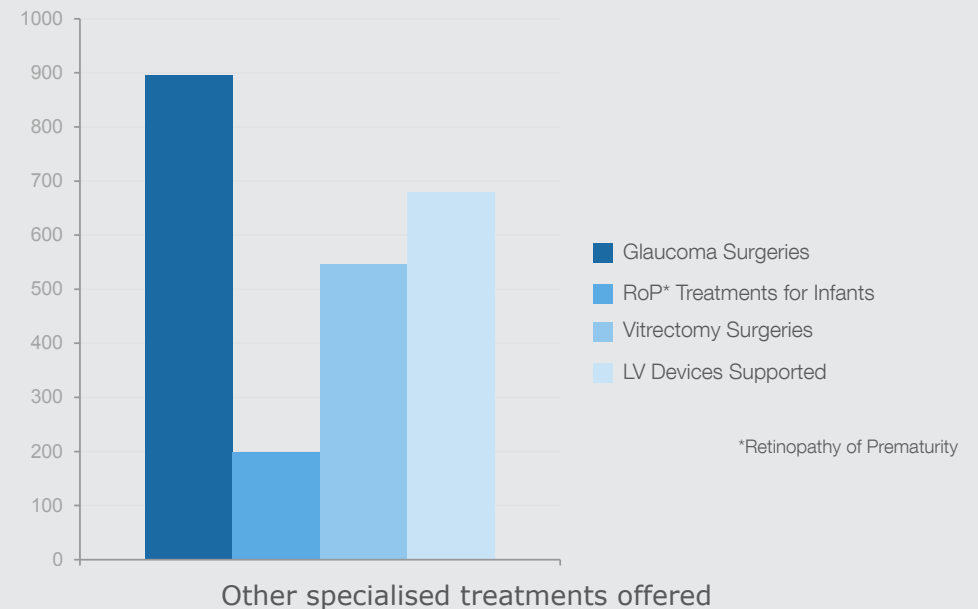
“Samanto has saved the sight of many in her neighbourhood by sharing her own positive experience”

Srimati Samanto, 72, from Madanganj village in the Sundarbans, has been on a mission ever since she got cataract surgery. When she first started experiencing blurred vision, a community health worker from Sightsavers – Chumki – had visited her at home. Samanto had initially refused treatment when she was told she had cataract in both eyes. The thought of traveling to a far-away hospital seemed daunting to her.

However, Chumki’s persistence paid off. Samanto had her first surgery in her left eye in April, and her second in August 2014. The new lease of life her renewed vision gave her convinced her to commit her life to saving vision. Today Samanto independently takes care of all her needs and enjoys reading religious texts. In cases like hers where patients are unwilling to undergo surgery, she acts as a counsellor and convinces them.

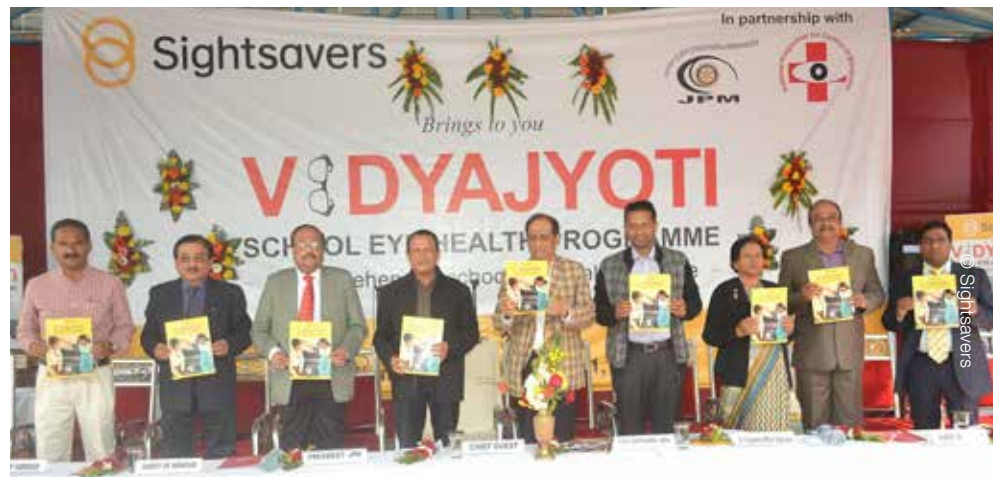


Conditions identified through screening



Vidyajyoti: Keeping Sight Safe in Schools

Sightsavers launched the first of its kind National School Eye Health Programme called Vidyajyoti in Cuttack and Bhopal. Since uncorrected refractive error is one of the leading causes of blindness and its incidence is extremely high among children in the school-going age group, the programme is an important step in checking avoidable blindness at an early stage. Vidyajyoti will introduce regular eye screening in 3300+ schools and directly impact 3,64,000 children in the two districts. Besides providing eye care services to students, it will also train teachers, local health staff and members of school management committees on various aspects of preventive eye care.



Amrita Drishti: A Unique Public-Private Partnership to Deliver Quality Eye Care

In partnership with Nayonika Eye Charitable Trust (NECT), Sightsavers launched Amrita Drishti - a unique eye health project targeting urban slums in Bangalore. The project includes a 'Screening On Wheels' initiative which employs the portable and low-cost 3nethra screening device by Forus Health on a motorbike to efficiently screen patients in far-flung communities and connect them through tele-medicine. Essilor Vision Foundation is supporting the project with free spectacles for children and adults in need. Amrita Drishti has brought comprehensive eye care services to 10 slums in East Bangalore, and will help redress sight-threatening conditions in approximately 24,000 people over the next two years.

PPP Model Successfully Replicated in Seven Bihar Districts

Further to the resounding success of the Kishanganj PPP model of using NGO Ophthalmic staff to deliver services in district hospitals, Sightsavers replicated the approach in seven other districts with support from the Bihar government. One of them - Bhagalpur - now has the second highest Cataract Surgery Rate in the state, right behind Kishanganj!



Sundarbans Eye Health Project

Partnering with Standard Chartered Bank, Sightsavers kickstarted an eye health project in one of the poorest regions and most difficult terrains in India - the Sundarbans Islands in West Bengal. The project will bring critical eye health services to over 4.7 million people in the region.

National Inclusive Education Programme

Objectives:

Improve learning outcomes for Children with Visual Impairment (CVIs) within mainstream education

Fostering a positive and enabling environment in schools, families and communities to support holistic education of CVIs

Interventions:

Training teachers in managing the unique needs of CVIs

Pedagogic and assessment frameworks to maintain standards and improve learning

ICT tools for enhanced learning experiences

Sensitising school management and parents to encourage affirmative attitudes towards education of CVIs



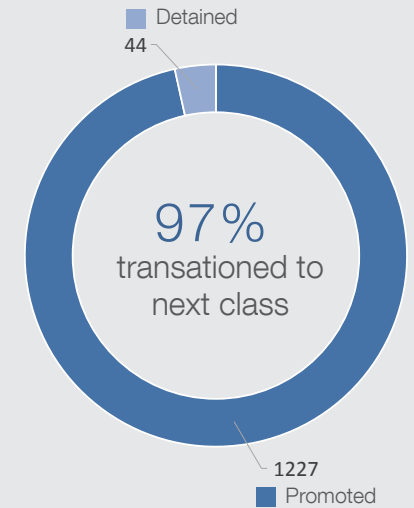
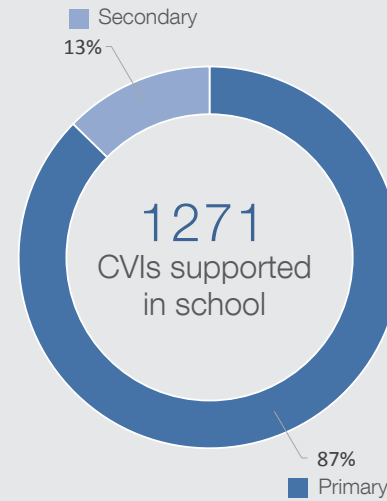


Top of the Class!

“I want to teach children like me when I grow up!”

Vandana Gaur lost her sight to measles at the age of three. Born into a poor family in Jabalpur, her prospects of receiving an education became even more bleak. However, her parents – both daily wage labourers – were determined to provide her a quality education. Their determination became shaky after Vandana failed to get promoted to the next class three years in a row.

Sightsavers identified Vandana during a project survey and immediately appointed an Inclusive Education teacher to assist her. She showed quick progress, and was supported with braille learning materials. She regained confidence by visiting the local airport, fossil park and museum with other visually impaired children. Today, she performs at the top of her class in school!



ICT for Inclusive Education

Sightsavers' pioneering project on introduction of ICT tools to support the education of visually impaired children in Rajasthan was approved for scale-up by the state government. 72 blind students had been trained on using laptops with screen-reading software, which is now being scaled up to in other districts.





National Social Inclusion Programme

Objectives:

Improve quality of life of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) through economic enablement and rehabilitation support

Empower PWDs to self-advocate for rights and demand equal opportunities

Interventions:

Skills training and employment support to boost social and economic independence of PWDs

Counselling and support to access government schemes, and assist rehabilitation and independent living

Facilitation and capacity building of Disabled Persons Organisations to undertake self-advocacy

Influencing national and state policies to support inclusion of PWDs



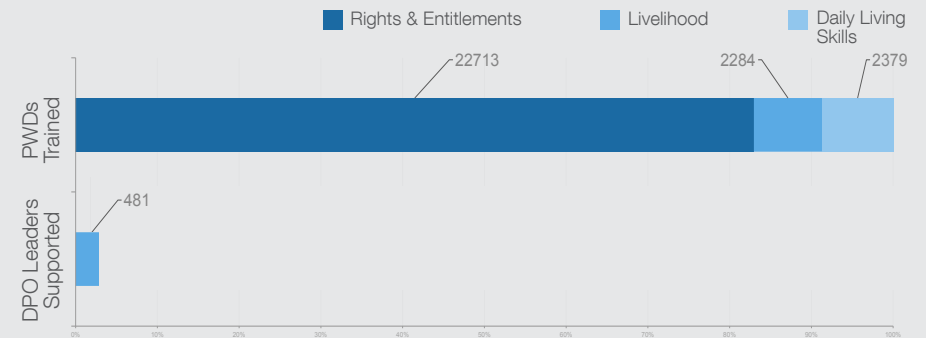
Success against all odds!

“Now I’m very confident and independently take care of my family”

Anuradha’s story is a perfect example of how empowerment can make all the difference. She was only a year old when she fell into a fire, badly burning her hands and face. Growing up, she was discriminated against at every possible level and it affected her confidence.

With Sightsavers’ help, she was able to join a Disabled Person’s Organisation (DPO) and meet other people living with disability. It instilled confidence in her, and she learned about her rights and the support available to her through various government schemes. To top it all, she contested the Panchayat elections and is now Director of the Bikaner Panchayat Samiti!

24,997 PWDs supported with training



Self Defence Training for Visually Impaired Girls

Collaborating with Madhya Pradesh Police’s Department of Crime against Women, Sightsavers organised a self-defence training workshop for visually impaired girls to empower them with a sense of security and ability to defend themselves in emergency situations.



Ratification of WIPO Treaty by India

Following successful lobbying efforts by Sightsavers, our partners and other NGOs, India became the first country to ratify the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty at Geneva. The WIPO Copyright Treaty is an international treaty on copyright law adopted by WIPO member states that will enable free access to audio version of popular books and printed materials for visually impaired persons. It represents a major step forward in enabling access to information for people with disabilities.



Gold at Chhattisgarh Paralympic Games

Sightsavers' efforts in promoting social inclusion of persons with disabilities through sports met with great success in Chhattisgarh. Ms. Gayatri Yadu, a 30 year old woman with orthopedic disability, won the gold medal in the Tricycle Half Marathon in the State Paralympic Games at Raipur. Another participant, Mr. Prabhu Lal Nishad - also living with orthopedic disability - won the silver medal in the same competition.



RBI circular on accessible ATMs

In response to continued advocacy on part of various civil society institutions including Sightsavers, the Reserve Bank of India issued a circular on May 21, 2014 making it mandatory for all ATMs installed post July 1, 2014 to be equipped with voice commands and braille keypads to ensure ease of access for persons with visual impairment. The move will make play a major role in enabling greater financial access for the visually impaired in India.



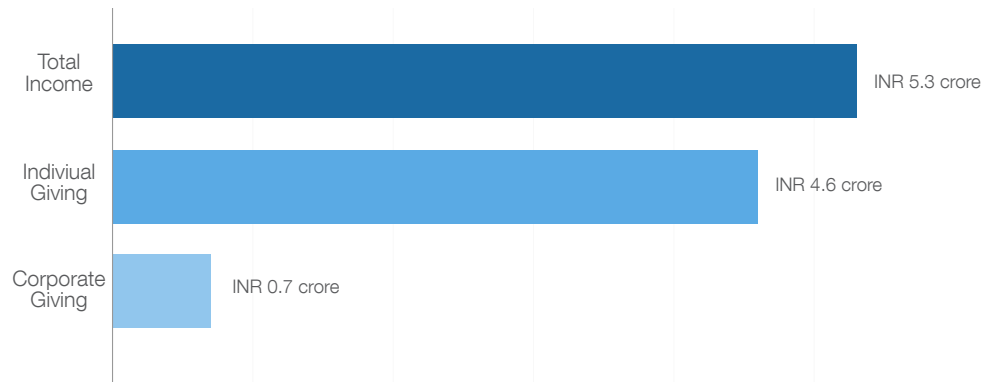
Antarchakshu - The Eye Within

In partnership with the Xaviers Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC), a mass scale disability sensitisation and awareness event called Antarchakshu - The Eye Within was organised in Mumbai. The event took participants through various blindfolded activities to explore the world of the visually impaired. The simulation exercises included walking around barriers, counting currency, playing football, etc.

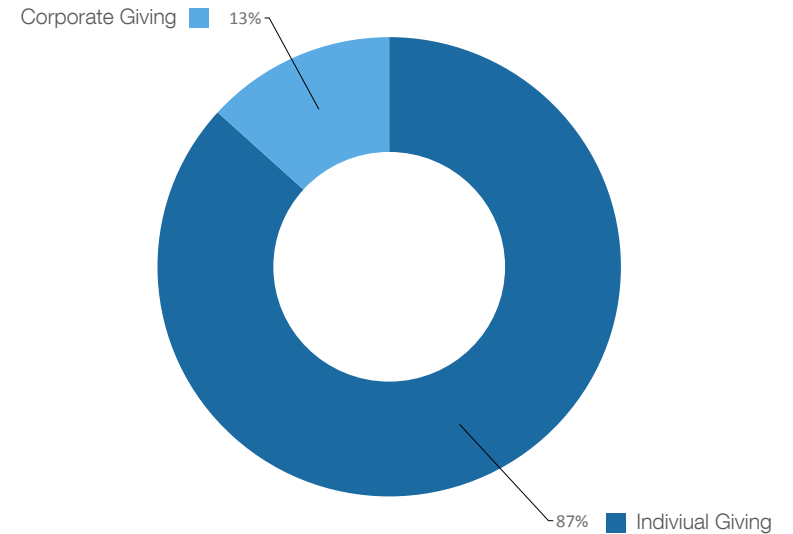
The simulation process was followed by an exhibition on assistive tools, technologies and aids used by persons with disabilities. The campaign aimed to sensitise people about blindness and help them empathise with the various difficulties faced by people with vision impairment in India.



Fundraising



Income figures 2013-14



Income distribution 2013-14



RPG support for Project Netranjali

Sightsavers' urban eye care initiative in Mumbai - Netranjali - received grant support from the industrial conglomerate RPG Group. The grant will help extend the reach of primary eye care services in the urban slums of Mumbai.



FIS & Groupon support Holi campaign

Fidelity Information Services and Groupon India partnered with Sightsavers for the 'Donate a Colour' campaign on Holi. The campaign was aimed at raising funds to provide free spectacles to people in need.



© Sightsavers

Essilor Vision Foundation supports Amrita Drishti Project in Bangalore

The Essilor Vision Foundation supported the Amrita Drishti urban eye care initiative in Bangalore by agreeing to provide free spectacles to people in need identified with uncorrected refractive error through the project.

Junxion and Cvent run for Sightsavers at Airtel Delhi Half Marathon

Two teams from Junxion - an international strategy and branding consultancy based in Delhi - and Cvent - a leading global software company with an office in Gurgaon - participated in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on behalf of Sightsavers to raise funds for eliminating avoidable blindness and supporting people with irreversible visual impairments.

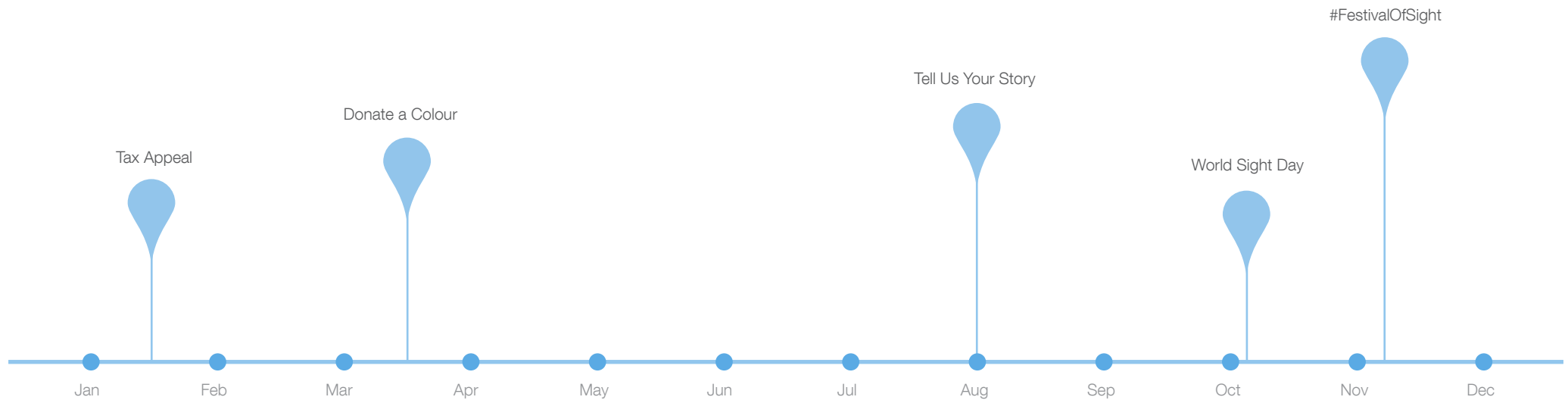


© Sightsavers



© Sightsavers

Campaigns + Communications



#FestivalOfSight Campaign on Diwali

Sightsavers launched a digital campaign called 'Festival of Sight' to raise awareness about asight loss and ask people to donate generously during the festive season to prevent avoidable blindness.



Tell Us Your Story

To engage young digital consumers and help them empathise with disability, Sightsavers' Tell Us Your Story campaign called on people on social media to share inspirational stories about how they assisted persons with disability.



© Sightsavers



© Sightsavers

Free Eye Screening in Delhi on World Sight Day

In partnership with the R P Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences at AIIMS, Sightsavers organised an awareness walk and free eye screening camp in Okhla to commemorate World Sight Day.

The initiative helped raise awareness about eye health and sight-threatening diseases, and engaged the community in taking proactive measures to prevent blindness. Over 400 people were screened during the day as part of the initiative.

© Sightsavers

Ask The Eye Doctor

Our popular free email service on eye health related medical advice got its Android and Windows app versions. Users can now download the app and get free and reliable medical advice from expert ophthalmologists from the comfort of their homes.



Available On



Digital Media in 2014

Sightopedia

The Sightsavers website now features fortnightly articles on common sight-threatening conditions and eye care tips to ensure healthy sight. You can browse through the Sightopedia section to find the latest and most useful in eye health.



Recognition



Finalist in the Times Social Impact Awards

Project Access - a Sightsavers and XRCVC advocacy initiative targeting improved access to financial services for the visually impaired - was nominated as one of three finalists under the Advocacy & Empowerment category of the Times Social Impact Awards 2014



Intel Award for Diabetic Retinopathy Tracking Tool

Sightsavers proposal for an advanced technological tracking tool for Diabetic Retinopathy management was the front-runner in the Intel awards for technological innovation in health. The IT giant is collaborating with Sightsavers in developing the tool



L M Foundation Award for Excellence

Ketan Kothari - Advocacy Manager at Sightsavers - won the L M Foundation Award for Excellence 2014 instituted by the National Society for Equal Opportunity for the Handicapped (NASEOH). The award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of persons with disabilities to the workplace.

Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind

(Formerly known as Royal Commonwealth Society For the Blind - Indian Branch)

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Balance Sheet - (Schedule VIII {Vide Rule 17 (I)})

as at 31 March 2015

Registration No. E- 4330 Mumbai

Funds and Liabilities	Note	As at 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2014	Property and Assets	Note	As at 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2014
Trust Funds	3	31,545,835	19,069,783	Immovable properties	4		
General Funds				Gross block		5,195,990	5,195,990
(Created under the provisions of the trust-deed or Scheme or out of the income)				Less : Accumulated depreciation		3,566,323	3,480,551
-Tata trust		-	6,455			1,629,667	1,715,439
-Gift reserves		1,575,515	448,530	Other fixed assets	5		
		1,575,515	454,985	Gross block		25,775,049	17,804,384
Liabilities				Less : Accumulated depreciation		17,633,850	13,213,021
- For expenses		2,712,528	4,510,726			8,141,199	4,591,363
- For advances		488	8,937	Current assets		9,770,866	6,306,802
- For payment to auditor		666,320	482,165	Prepaid expenses		870,158	853,733
- For grants		11,935,501	4,021,877	Deposits and advances:			
- For employee benefits				- To employees	6	166,913	91,539
- Provision for gratuity		5,345,866	2,323,495	- To others	7	4,925,265	2,255,707
- Provision for compensated absences		956,547	1,125,010				
- Provision for Rent Equalisation		807,834	-	Cash and bank balances	8	39,813,232	22,489,197
		22,425,084	12,472,210			45,775,568	25,690,176
TOTAL		55,546,434	31,996,978	TOTAL		55,546,434	31,996,978

Significant accounting policies 2

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the Financial Statements

The above Balance Sheet, to the best of our knowledge and belief, contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Society as at 31 March 2015.

As per our report of even date attached.

For **B S R & Associates**

Chartered Accountants

Firm's Registration No: 116231W/W/-100024

Sandeep Batra

Partner

Membership No. : 093320

Place: Gurgaon

Date: 04 August, 2015



For **Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind**

(Formerly known as Royal Commonwealth Society For the Blind - Indian Branch)

RN Mohanty

Chief Executive Officer

Place: Delhi

Date: 04 August, 2015

R N MOHANTY, CEO INDIA

Authorized Signatory
Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind

Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind

(Formerly known as Royal Commonwealth Society For the Blind - Indian Branch)

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Income and Expenditure Account - (Schedule - IX {Vide Rule 17(1)})

for the year ended 31 March 2015

Registration No. E- 4330 Mumbai

Expenditure	Note	For the year ended 31 March 2015	For the year ended 31 March 2014	INCOME	Note	For the year ended 31 March 2015	For the year ended 31 March 2014
To Expenses in respect of properties:				By Interest (accrued / realised)			
- Rates, taxes and cesses		31,864	48,199	- on bank accounts		1,461,484	947,578
- Repairs and maintenance		127,607	115,983	By Donations in cash			
- Insurance		3,251	3,251	- from individuals	9	42,334,216	18,701,978
- Depreciation	4	85,772	90,286	- from corporates		14,155,733	10,939,374
To Establishment expenses	11	54,991,793	56,050,233	By Grants from Sightsavers, UK		300,637,316	218,435,864
To Remuneration to CEO		4,557,424	4,202,001	By Miscellaneous income	10	6,769	678,502
To Legal expenses		289,142	275,000				
To Audit fees	12	773,952	672,207				
To Miscellaneous expenses							
- Consultation charges		4,537,030	4,299,967				
- Fund raising charges		38,151,391	14,579,625				
- Rent		5,638,401	3,853,261				
- Travelling and conveyance		6,666,474	8,735,952				
- Other expenses	13	8,629,354	5,506,283				
To Depreciation							
- on other fixed assets	5	3,449,930	1,291,289				
To Expenditure on objects of the Society	14						
(classification is as certified by trustees)							
(a) Religious							
(b) Educational		6,788,641	15,943,740				
(c) Medical and poverty relief		203,210,144	109,035,767				
To Surplus transferred to Trust Funds		20,663,347	24,999,702				
		358,595,518	249,703,296			358,595,518	249,703,296

Significant accounting policies

2

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the Financial Statements

As per our report of even date attached

For **B S R & Associates**

Chartered Accountants

Firm's Registration No: 116231W/W-100024

Sandeep Batra

Partner

Membership No. : 099320

Place: Gurgaon

Date: 04 August, 2015



For **Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind**

(Formerly known as Royal Commonwealth Society For the Blind - Indian Branch)

RN Mohanty

Chief Executive Officer

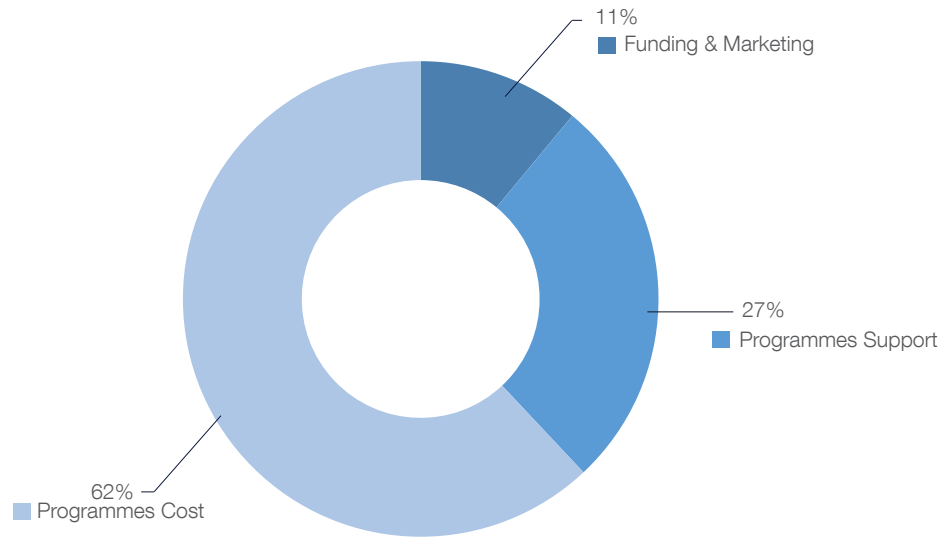
Place: Delhi

Date: 04 August, 2015

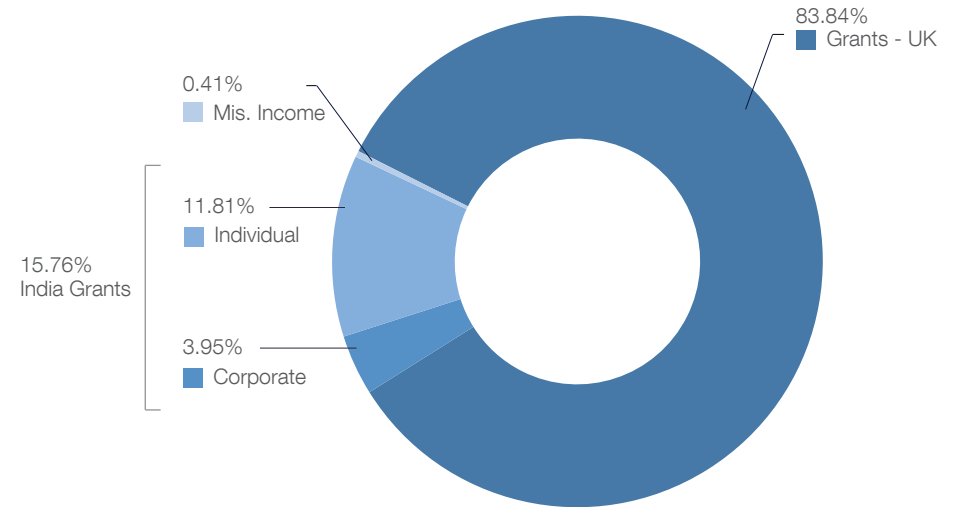
R N MOHANTY, CEO INDIA

Authorized Signatory
Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind

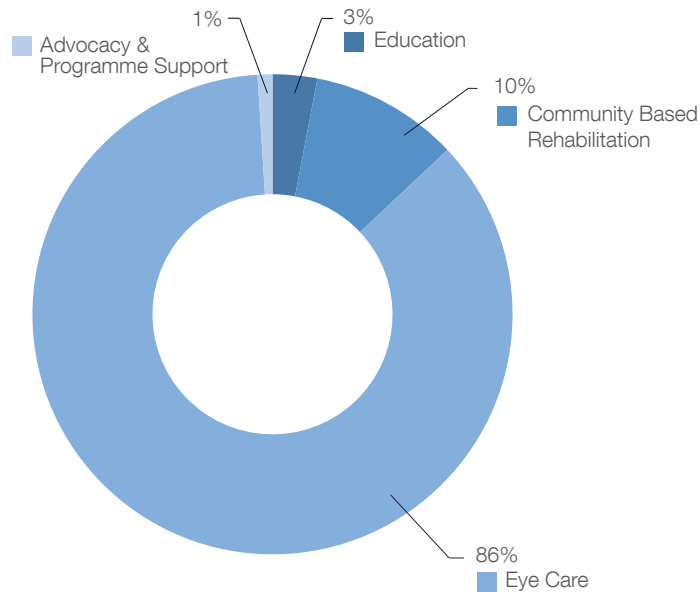
Total Expenditure : FY 2014-15



Sources and % Funding



Thematic Utilisation



100% of the funds generated in India are spent on programmes

Contact

Registered office

A-3, Shivdham, New Link Road,
Kanchpada, Malad (west)
Mumbai – 400 064
Phone: +91 22 28820808/ 1919

Country office

45, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III
New Delhi – 110 020
Phone: +91 11 65955511/ 33

Other offices

No. 92/1, Mosque Road,
Frazer Town, Bangalore - 560 005

GC 104, Sector III, Salt Lake
Kolkata – 700 106
Phone: +91 33 40086225

E -1/136, Arera Colony Bhopal – 462016
Phone: +91 755 4292807

You can follow us:

 /sightsaversindia

 /sightsaversin

Website: www.sightsaversindia.in

Email: indiaweb@sightsavers.org

This publication is available in accessible format upon request. Please contact any of our offices for a copy.
We would like to thank our partners who have shared information for this publication.