



# Eyeing a **bright** future



Eye Health



Inclusive Education



Social Inclusion



Sightsavers  
India



## About us

Sightsavers India or Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, is a development organization working with partners to reduce avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

Sightsavers India is collaborating with various departments of the respective state governments to scale up operations for Social Inclusion, Eye Health and Inclusive Education— our three core areas of work.

We work in a sustainable way to promote lasting change by strengthening existing health systems, seeking to advocate with and influence governments, and by demonstrating best practices.

Sightsavers India believes in promoting technologies in eye healthcare enabling a wider reach of health services. Using innovation in education, we try and make classrooms more inclusive for children with visual impairment.

## Mission

We are a development organization working with partners in underserved areas of the country to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

## Vision

Sightsavers India's vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with disability participate equally in society.

## Our values

Protecting sight | Equal opportunities | Collaboration

# Since 1966,



**6 million**  
operations performed  
to treat conditions  
such as cataract



**36.4 million**  
eye treatments provided,  
including spectacles

# Our Work

## EYE HEALTH



### NETRA VASANT

RURAL EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (REH)



### AMRITA DRISHTI

URBAN EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (UEH)



### VIDYA JYOTI

SCHOOL EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (SEH)



### RAAHI

NATIONAL TRUCKERS  
EYE HEALTH PROGRAMME

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



## SOCIAL INCLUSION

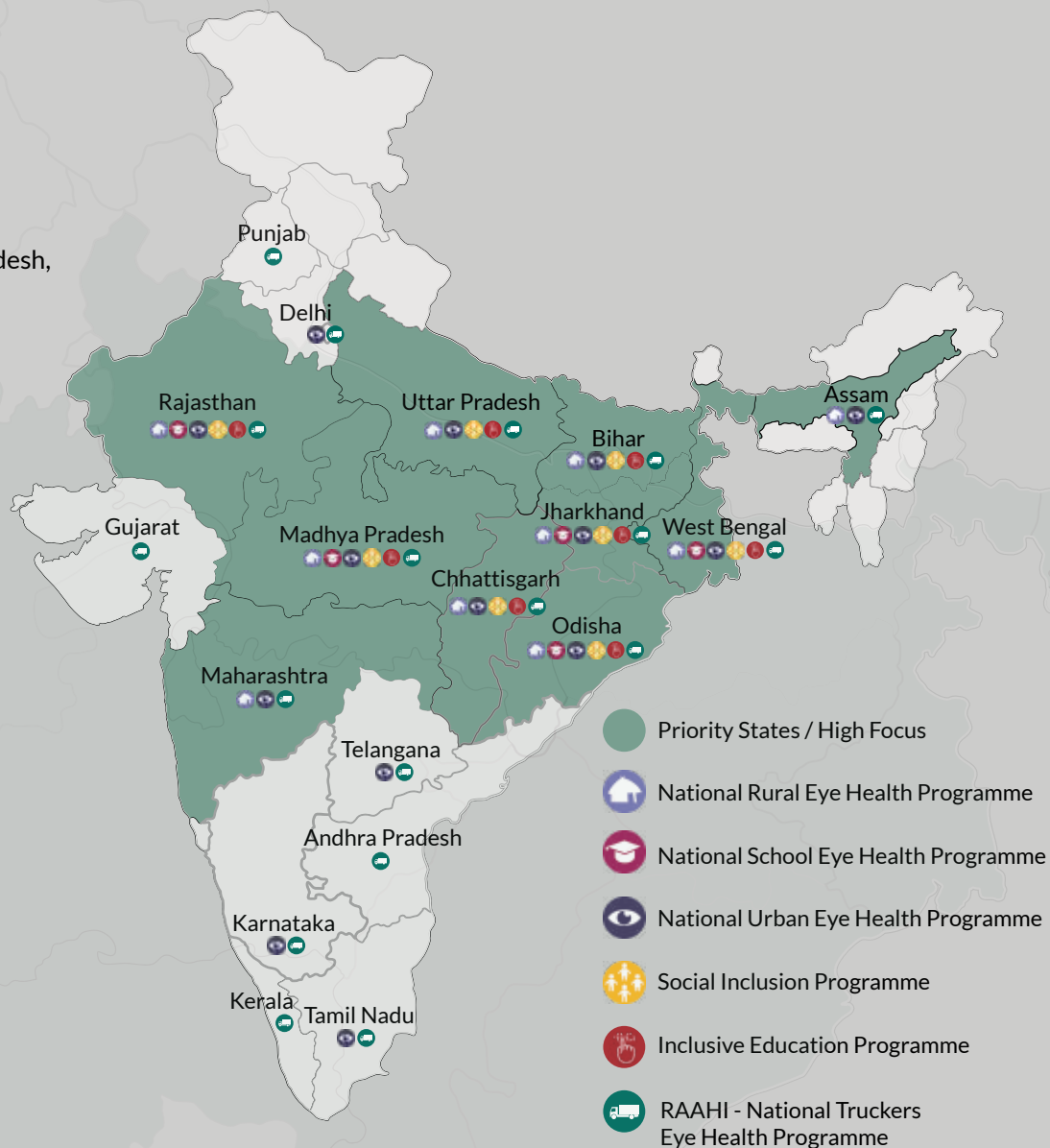


# Our Work



## Geography

We work in 116 districts of 10 states namely Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Maharashtra and Assam.



## Recognition & Awards

- 🏆 Sightsavers India received the award of 1A rating by CRISIL.
- 🏆 Sightsavers India was Great Place to Work Certified for two years in a row, awarded under the 'Non-Profit and Charity Organisations'. More than 10,000 organisations from over 62 countries apply for this award.
- 🏆 Sightsavers India received Grand Thornton Sabera 2020 Award in the 'Shiksha' category for its education efforts during the pandemic.
- 🏆 On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Sightsavers India won the Mahatma Award for Social Good 2019.
- 🏆 Sightsavers India won the prestigious ICC Social Impact award felicitated by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in 2019 in the Health Domain category for our Sundarbans Eye Health Service Strengthening Project.



## Honorary Brand Ambassador of Sightsavers India

“The cause of supporting the visually impaired is incredible and Sightsavers India embodies that cause. I consider it my great honour to be the brand ambassador of Sightsavers India that has made it its mission to eradicate avoidable blindness.”

Kabir Bedi, Honorary Brand Ambassador, Sightsavers India





## People's Voices



"Sightsavers India is an outstanding organisation championing disability inclusion in India. As the Disability Commissioner of Madhya Pradesh, I am impressed by Sightsavers India's commitment to involving people with disabilities in decision-making. They collaborate with state governments across India and the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), fostering an inclusive environment and transforming countless lives. Their self-defence training for visually impaired girls is commendable, equipping them with skills to navigate the world confidently, ensuring their safety".

**Shri Sandeep Rajak, State Disability Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh**



"Sightsavers India's endeavour to make education more accessible for children with visual impairment is commendable. The program is holistic and well thought out. The team has implemented the program successfully with a positive impact by ensuring that children stay in school and reduce the dropout rate. DXC India is proud to partner with Sightsavers India."

**Lokendra Sethi, Vice-President - Human Resources,  
India & Global Delivery Network, DXC Technology**



"Sightsavers India works for the welfare of people with disabilities. Their workshops, skilled trainers, & initiatives raise awareness about Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities(UNCRPD), & the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, promoting equality. APNO Sansthan values Sightsavers India's engagement & support towards capacity building, leading to improved disability pensions & electoral participation."

**Mohan Purohit, President of APNO, a State-Level Organisation of  
Persons with Disabilities, Rajasthan**





“Sightsavers India provided me with skills training, a smartphone, and books in an accessible format. I cleared my 10th board with 64%, all thanks to them. I am excited to continue my education further.”

**Sushma, Student, Hazaribagh.**



“The loveliest part of the work with Sightsavers India is when someone gets their sight back. Their happy faces make me incredibly happy.”

**Laboni, Community Health Worker, West Bengal**



“There came a time when I thought of quitting my job. But thanks to Sightsavers India, cataract in both my eyes were operated on, and now I can manage both my home and work.”

**Asha, Anganwadi Worker, Bhopal**



“I suffered from deteriorating vision for three years, which led to depression and lethargy. Thank you, Sightsavers India, for getting my cataract surgery done. You have made me and my wife happy.”

**Sundar, Farmer, Chittorgarh**

# Our journey of **50 years** and counting

**60s**

Sightsavers India started its operations in 1966. Established a robust outreach programme providing mobile eye care vans and equipment support to hospital-based in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

**70s**

Registered in 1970 and launched the Eyes of India Campaign, which restored sight for more than 400,000 people. Sightsavers India supported setting up the first permanent base hospitals to provide low-cost mass treatment.

**80s**

Launched our first national programme, The Xerophthalmia Programme to tackle nutritional blindness. Sightsavers India was one of the first eye-care organisations to respond to the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy by establishing eye-care hospitals and providing relief supplies.





## 2000s

Became one of the founding members of Vision 2020 India - The Right to Sight. Scaled up our work to 14 states and pioneered the integrated education IEDC, subsumed in 2009 with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan as Inclusive Education.

Partnered with various eye care centres to make high-quality cataract surgery affordable, advocated the shift from surgical camps to preventive diagnostic camps, and initiated comprehensive eye care services.

## 90s

## 2010s

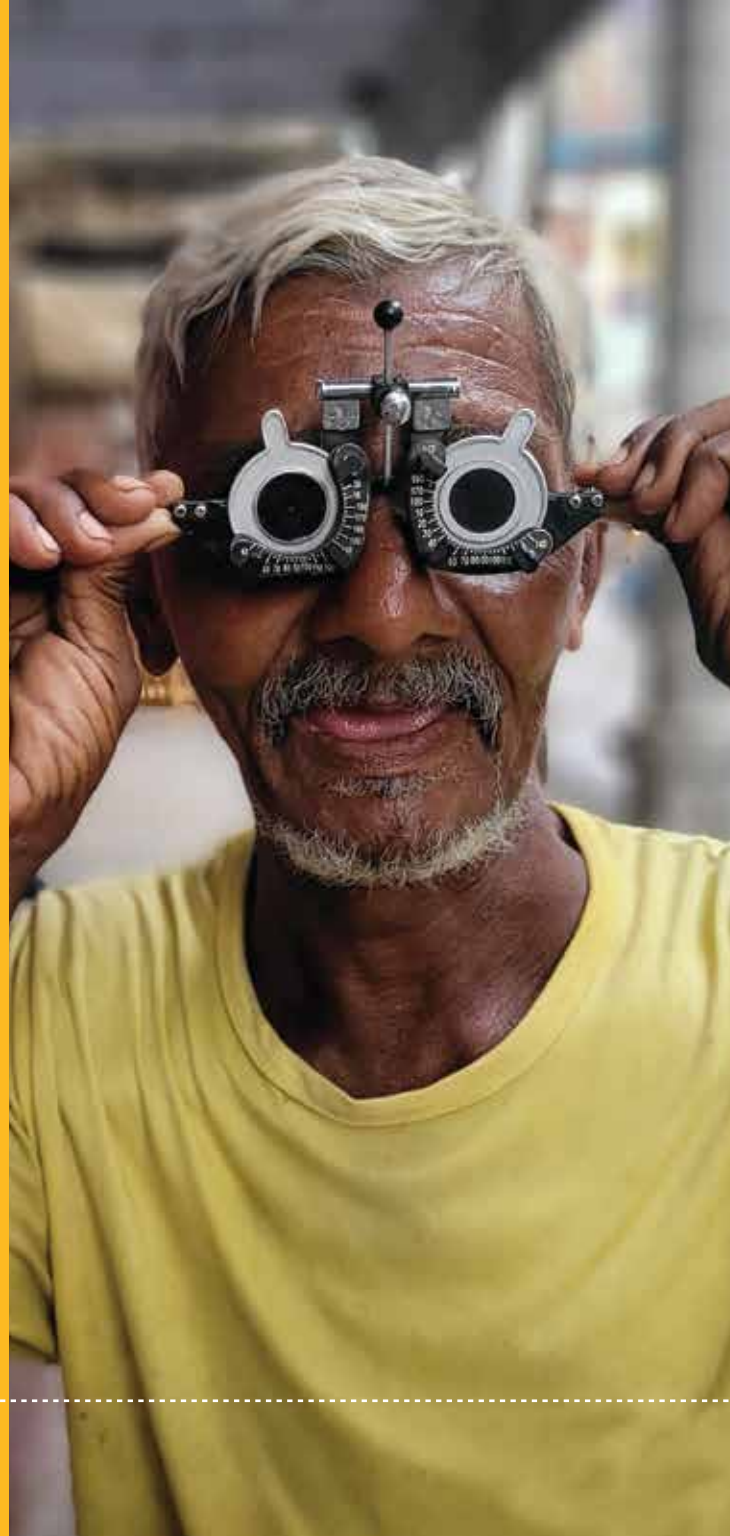
We strengthened accessibility with voice-enabled, braille banking services and developed strategic partnerships with State Governments. We were instrumental in making amendments to the India Copyright Act to enable information to be converted into an accessible format.



# Netra Vasant - The Rural Eye Health Programme

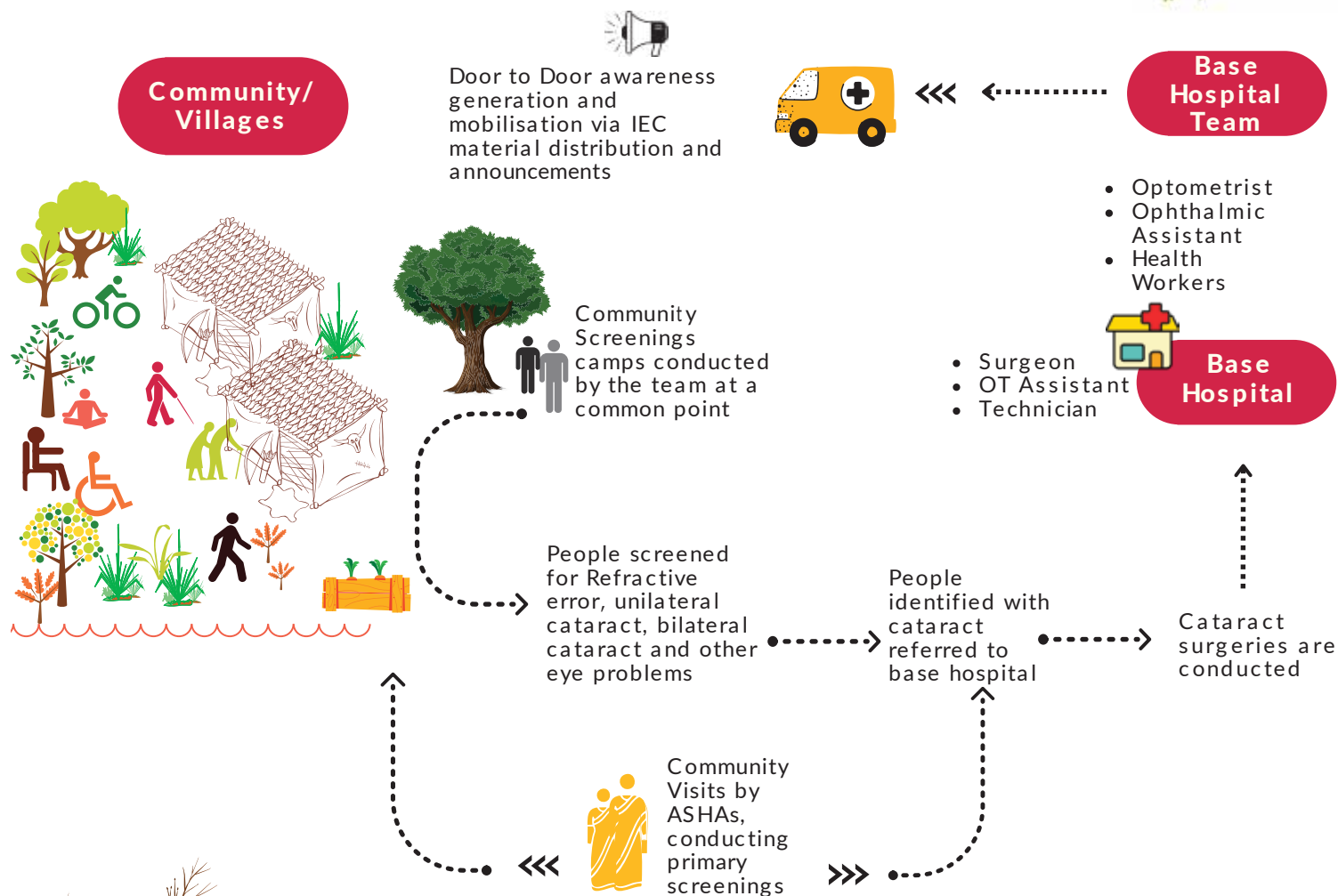
A large population of our country still resides in villages. Netra Vasant aims at improving vision-related quality of life through strengthened eye health systems in rural areas of India. The programme aims to achieve universal coverage vis-a-vis eye health services in rural communities of the 116 selected districts by reducing blindness prevalence, providing equitable coverage, and financial & programmatic sustainability.

Sightsavers India Fellowship Program through training of eye care professionals and encouraging them to work in rural areas aims at ensuring equitable and impactful eye healthcare services across the most underserved parts of the country.





# Netra Vasant - Community Outreach



## Amrita Drishti - The Urban Eye Health Programme

We work in metropolitan cities to ensure comprehensive and sustainable eye health mechanisms for the urban slums of India. Simultaneously, Sightsavers India is working closely with the Ministry of Health and the National Urban Health Mission. Amrita Drishti integrates its vision centres with the government's Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs).

In addition to providing direct services, this enables Sightsavers India to ease disadvantaged beneficiaries into the public health system through strengthened referral mechanisms, especially for cataracts. The Programme makes available healthcare Mobile Vans that offer various services – Teleconsultation, Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy screening, Portable perimeter, Ready to Clip (R2C) glasses and spectacle sale.



Cost Effective Screening  
Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)



Equitable Spectacle  
Dispensing



Community Demand  
Generation



Sensitization of Health  
Worker



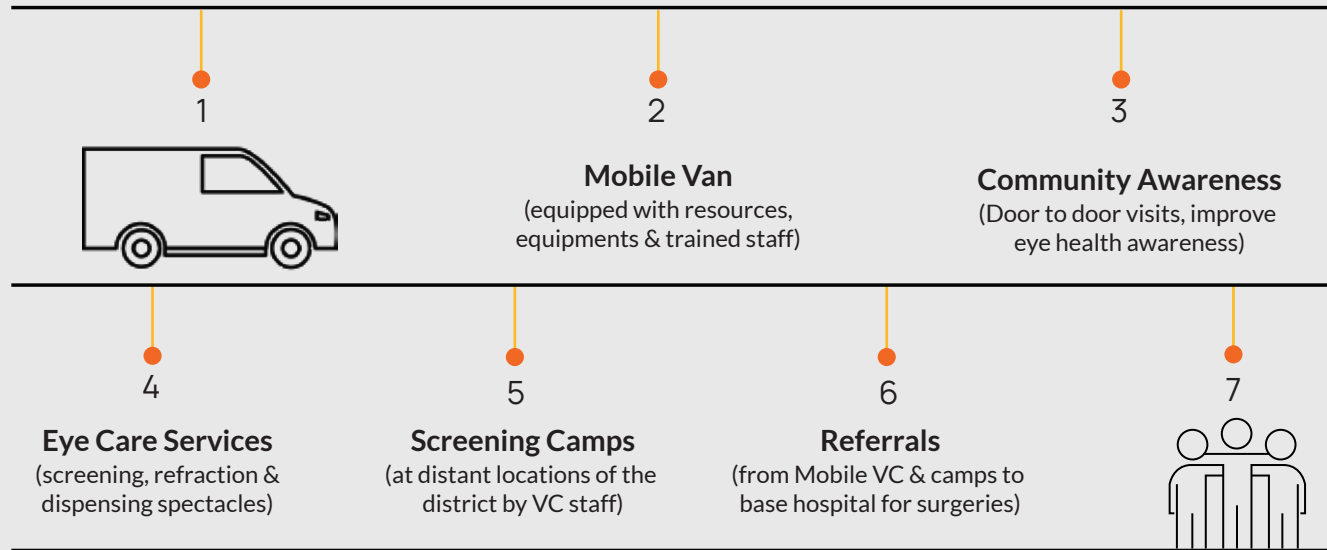
Effective Linkage with  
(Eye) Health Providers



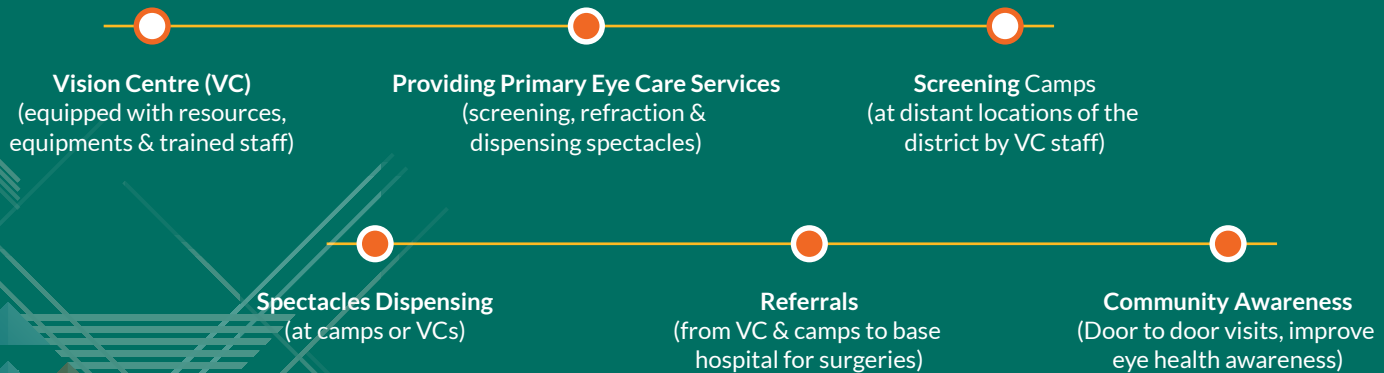
Integration with Urban Health  
Initiatives



## UEH through Mobile Vans



## UEH (Urban Eye Health Programme) through Pvt./Govt. Vision Centre



## Vidyajyoti - National School Eye Health Programme

Sightsavers India launched Vidyajyoti School Eye Health Programme with the goal that 'good and maintained eye health' is optimized in school children, so the improved learning outcomes in schools are evident. Vidyajyoti has achieved a historic scale by reaching out to more than 3.5 million students enrolled in government schools in the intervention districts while providing free spectacles to 50,000 children.

Under the programme, we provide eye health services for students of rural districts attending government, non-government semi-aided private schools in the age group 5-18 (up to class-12), improving learning outcomes and enabling early detection.



Screening  
(Eye Check-up)



Refraction



Spectacles/  
Spectacles Compliance



Learning Outcome  
Assessment



Eye Health  
Education



Integration with  
Larger School Health







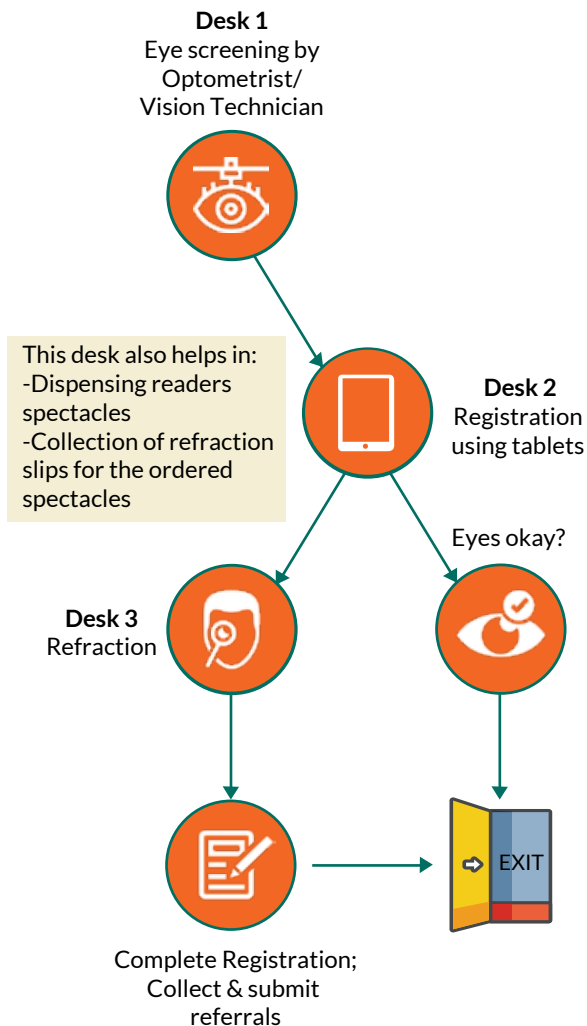
## RAAHI - National Truckers Eye Health Programme

One of India's most extensive eye health programmes, RAAHI, focuses on ensuring road safety by providing eye care services to the truckers' community. The programme is spread across 54 locations across the golden quadrilateral and North South-East West (NSEW) network. The Programme is designed so that eye care services reach overworked truck drivers and commercial drivers at their convenience. We have permanent vision centres and pop-up outreach camps in locations where drivers stop as part of their usual route to rest or unload cargo.

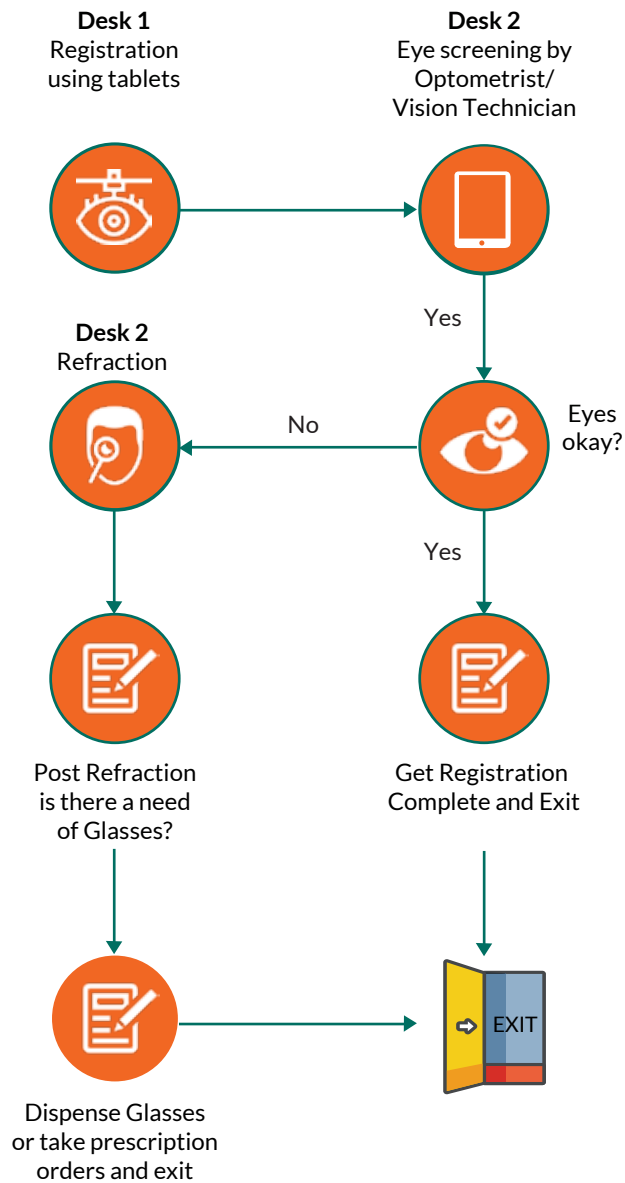
The use of fully equipped mobile ophthalmology van under the programme makes eye health more accessible for the commercial driving community.



## Outreach Camp Model



## Static Centre Model





# Inclusive Education Programme

Sightsavers India aims to promote a positive and enabling environment in schools, families as well as communities to support the holistic education of children with visual impairment. Enablement is facilitated by availability of assistive devices and accessible educational material, provision of compensatory skills training, infrastructure accessibility and building education management and leadership among others.

Under the Inclusive Education Programme, we ensure that children who are blind or visually impaired are included in mainstream education. This is crucial to lifting people out of poverty.

## Improved learning outcomes

### System-centric

- ★ Teacher Training
- ★ Strengthen Primary Education
- ★ Online Education Training

### Child-centric

- ★ Age-appropriate assistive devices
- ★ Performance evaluation of intervention
- ★ Strengthen government aided Special Training Courses
- ★ Standardise low-vision intervention

## Enabling Environment



Grassroot Network



Strategic Partnerships



Human Resource



Inclusive MIS



Enrollment Drives



Internal Trainings





# Social Inclusion Programme

We work to equip people with disabilities with the skills (daily living, vocational training, etc.), tools and assistance they need to earn a living and lead an independent life. To enable the Social Inclusion of people with disabilities, we focus on three core areas: Institution Building, Economic Empowerment, and Enabling Environment. Sightsavers India advocates for all 21 disabilities as outlined under the RPwD Act 2016, with a focus on the eight prominent disabilities. With a comprehensive approach to gender, we also provide adolescent girls with self-defense training and health and hygiene sessions.



# Sightsavers India Fellowship Programme

Sightsavers India is committed to grooming young ophthalmologists into promising and skilled professionals. The Fellowship, an innovative course of mentoring and surgical exposure, is designed to give an opportunity to master the craft of a clinician and a surgeon and expand their perspectives on rural eye health.

Sightsavers India's Fellowship is a promising career opportunity for ophthalmologists. It aims to take selected fellows through an exciting journey of 24 months.

The fellows experience a structured skill enhancement and mentoring process covering not only clinical and surgical ophthalmology but also managerial and holistic life skills. After a rapid four-month training on SICs, the fellows are placed in the peripheral centres of one of the 8 states – Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. The process involves skills up-gradation components and personal interactions with eminent leaders in the eye care and development sector.









## Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE)



The Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE) Unit is responsible for building strong external relationships and networks to advance Sightsavers India's initiative against avoidable blindness and to promote equality of opportunity amongst people with disabilities.

The GRAPE unit works to strengthen Government relations and develop strategic alliances, networks, partnerships, and circles of influence to positively impact people-centred policy changes in eye healthcare, disability-inclusive development, and inclusive education in India.



### Policy promotion

Contributing to policy development & planning; providing policy recommendations; and engaging in the development of policy positions and announcements.

### Influencing policy implementation

Strengthening the equity of existing policies; guiding appropriate funding allocation to policy implementation; and promoting gender & disability inclusive indicator framework for monitoring policy performance.

### Generating policy

Awareness and sensitization; promoting effective stakeholder networks for policy dissemination & information; strengthening institutions & OPDs for policy outreach and evidence-based monitoring.



## Programme Performance Research and Learning (PPRL) Unit: Driving Evidence-Based Action

The Programme Performance Research and Learning (PPRL) unit is at the core of our commitment to organisational-based action across all our thematic programs. This team diligently gathers analyses, and interprets data from various program activities, offering invaluable insights into program performance through robust monitoring and evaluation. By continually tracking Key Performance Indicators and conducting comprehensive assessments, the PPRL unit empowers us to make real-time, informed decisions, adapt strategies as required, and ensure our program remains aligned with its goals.

Moreover, the PPRL unit nurtures a culture of continual learning and adaptation within our organization. We remain abreast of best practices and emerging trends in intervention districts through research and evaluation, enabling us to respond effectively to changing circumstances and innovate when necessary. Ultimately, the PPRL unit's role is pivotal in translating data into actionable insights, enabling us to deliver top-quality programs and leave a lasting impact on the communities we serve.







[www.sightsaversindia.org](http://www.sightsaversindia.org)



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Sightsavers India is registered as “Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind”  
under Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 vide registration number E4330.

