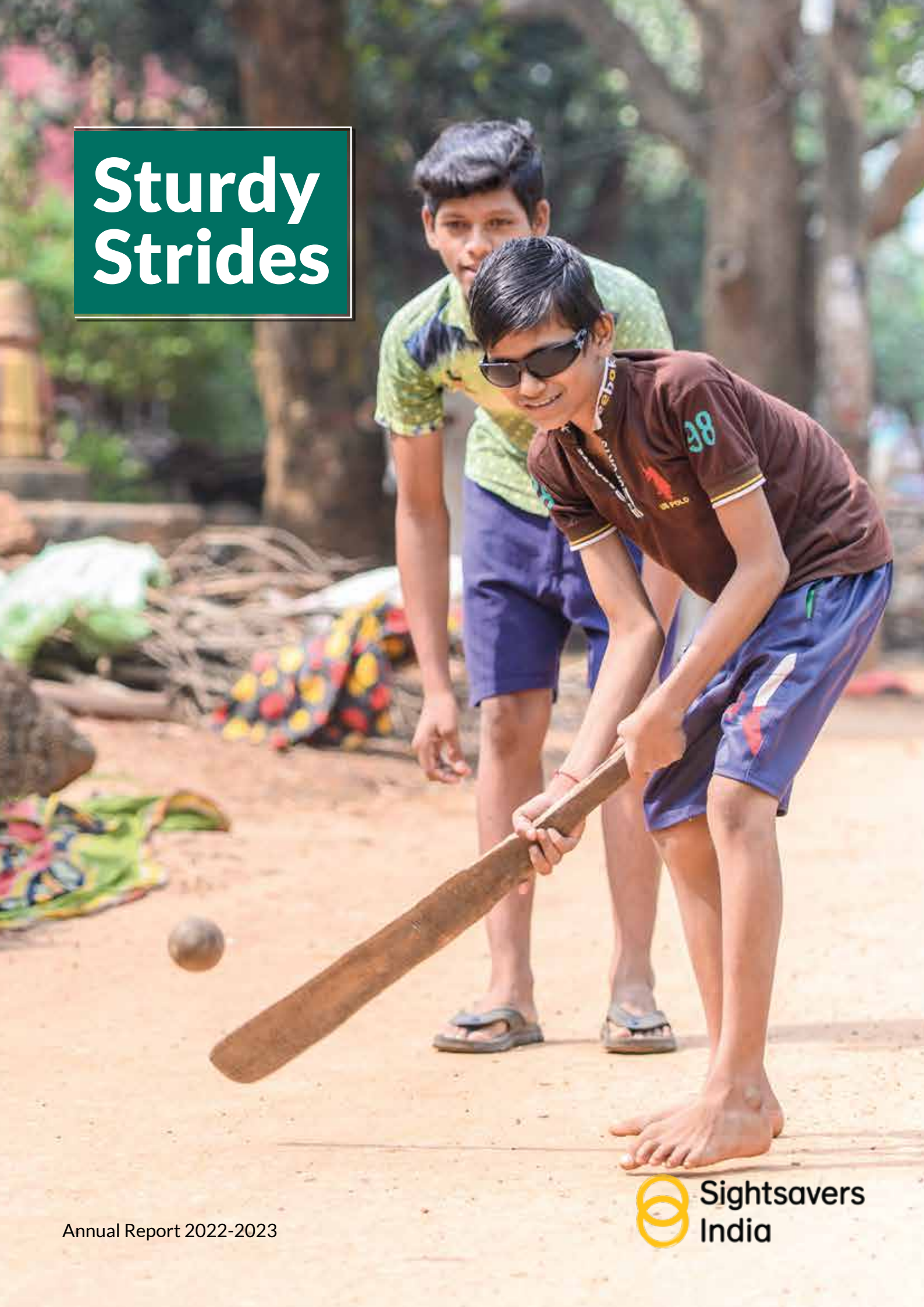


# Sturdy Strides





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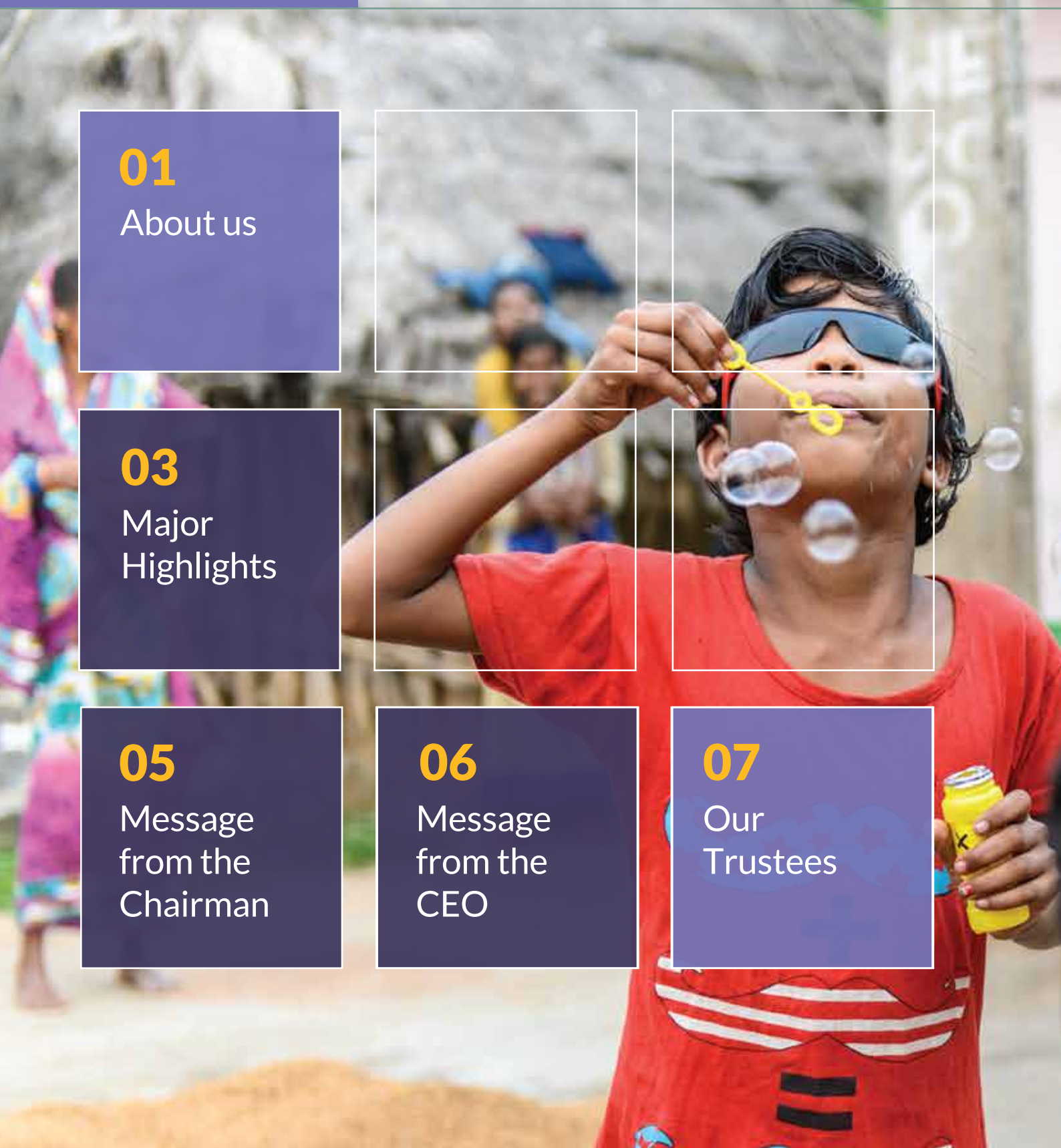
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## ABOUT US

Sightsavers India or Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, is a development organisation 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 scalable way to promote lasting change by strengthening existing health systems, seeking to work with government and local partners to strengthen organisations and communities by demonstrating best practices.

## MISSION

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

## VISION

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



# Major Highlights

## of the Year



### 01 CRISIL awarded Sightsavers India with a 1A rating

After a rigorous 4P framework review (Profile, Process, Programming and Proficiency), CRISIL awarded Sightsavers India with a 1A rating. 1A is the highest rating given to non-profits for delivering programmes successfully and adhering to the robust system and process.

### 02 Declaration of Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF)

04 Panchayats in Katkamsandi block of Hazaribagh district—Katkamsandi, Kanchanpur, Gadokhar and Bargadda.

04 blocks of the Alipurduar district— Alipurduar Block (I) and (II), Kumargram and Falakata Blocks.

### 03 Sightsavers India has completed five years of the RAAHI – National Truckers Eye Health Programme.

To celebrate this achievement, Sightsavers India released a report, “Eyes on the Highway”, that reflects on the recorded data, progress, and insights of the programme in the five years. Additionally, one more report was unveiled on the impact and effectiveness of Ready2Clip™ (R2C) spectacles among truck drivers over five years.

### 04 Sightsavers India signed the first one-of-its-kind formal Project Funding Agreement with ‘SAMARTH’ an Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) of Gajapati District in Odisha

The partnership's primary goal is that persons with disabilities are socially, economically, and politically empowered in an inclusive society. The partnership will empower PwDs to take leadership positions at District/ state level to influence and formulate favourable policies and guidelines.

## **05** Six ophthalmologists were onboarded for the Sightsavers India Fellowship Program

The Sightsavers India Fellowship Program witnessed the highest number of ophthalmologists being onboarded under the program in July-August 2022. A total of 85 applications were screened. Of the six fellows, four are women.

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## **06** Sightsavers India formed the Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE) Unit

The GRAPE Unit was formed to develop strategic alliances and networks. Under this, we partnered with United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) to work with NITI Aayog in making the National SDG Indicator Framework disability inclusive.

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## **07** Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) Survey in Bihar

RAAB Survey was conducted to enumerate the prevalence of blindness in the Samastipur and Gaya intervention districts under the Standard Chartered Bank programme. Fellow Ophthalmologists from Sightsavers India Fellowship Programme and Optometrists from the Sightsavers India team in Bihar conducted the study.

# Message from the Chairperson



## Rati Forbes

Honorary Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Sightsavers India;  
Director, Forbes Marshal Ltd

The last year has been an eventful one for Sightsavers India, with both eye health and disability inclusion being at the core of what we do. As I assume the responsibility of Honorary Chairperson, Sightsavers India Board, I would like to express my utmost appreciation to my predecessors, the board members, and the dedicated team at Sightsavers India for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to the cause.

Empowering women and ensuring their equal participation in every aspect of society is essential for sustainable development. Sightsavers India organised a State-level consultation on the Rajasthan State Policy for Women with Disabilities in collaboration with Samarthayam to develop a policy. The consultation reflected on various policy themes, including health, education, data, access to justice, independent living, and security. This is the first time such a policy has been conceptualised in India.

Sightsavers India actively engages in collaborative efforts with the government, exemplified by its support to the State Blindness Control Cell, State Health Society Bihar (SHSB), Government of Bihar's momentum of 1 lakh cataract surgeries to be conducted for the rural masses across 38 districts of Bihar.

The support of corporates is crucial to our programme delivery and execution. Bajaj Finserv and Sightsavers India are bridging the literacy gap, ushering capacity building and skill development across Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Standard Chartered Bank, India, through its 'Seeing is Believing' project, partnered with Sightsavers India to reduce the prevalence of blindness from the existing 0.7% to 0.3% in the district of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal by the end of December 2025. The 'High Impact Rural Eye Health Programme' will prioritise work in 20 rural blocks in the remote Sundarbans region.

Our greatest asset is our human resources, and by prioritising the well-being and professional growth of our team, we will strengthen our ability to deliver impactful and sustainable programmes. I am excited about the journey ahead and the potential for transformative change that lies within our grasp.



# Message from the CEO



**RN Mohanty**  
CEO, Sightsavers India

It gives me immense pleasure to have on board Ms Rati Forbes as the new Honorary Chairperson for Sightsavers India. We are confident that under the visionary guidance of Ms Forbes, we would scale heights and cultivate new frontiers concerning Sightsavers India's mission and values.

In other good news, we have completed 5 years of our RAAHI – National Truckers Eye Health Programme. I am very proud of this Programme and the principles it stands for. The Programme ensures that quality eye care services reach the truckers and commercial drivers' community, which is imperative to maintaining road safety. We are now operational in 54 locations across the Golden Quadrilateral and North South-East West (NSEW) network.

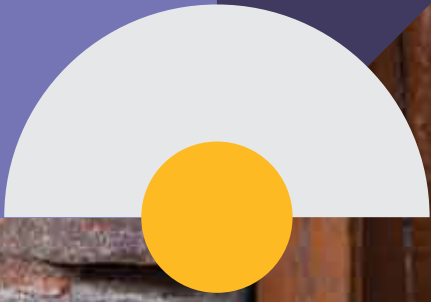
India has taken a solid initiative to address the issue of blindness through its National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI). The Programmes and initiatives introduced are laudable. Sightsavers India has adopted a GO-NGO Model through which we partner with State governments to increase our Programmes' efficacy.

MoU has been signed between the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal and Sightsavers India to collaborate and ensure the successful operationalisation of the Eye Health Programme in 12 districts in West Bengal.

We have also expanded to 2 new districts, Alwar and Pratapgarh in Rajasthan, which were added in the MoU with the Rajasthan Council of School Education, Rajasthan, under the Inclusive Education Programme.

The Uttar Pradesh Education Department has also acknowledged Sightsavers India's efforts in inclusive education, and as a result, the MoU has been extended through 2023.

The fundamental factor in all our achievements is a dedicated team, confluent partnerships, and collaborative state governments and organisations. I am confident that together, we can develop new strategies, leverage technology, and forge strategic alliances to expand the scope and effectiveness of our interventions.



# Our Trustees



### **Rati Forbes**

**Honorary Chairperson, Sightsavers India Board**

Rati Forbes is Director at Forbes Marshall Ltd – a company which has been, for over six decades, building steam engineering and control instrumentation solutions that work for the process industry. Rati is responsible for the Social Initiatives, which the company supports in the areas of community health, education and women’s issues.



### **Naheed T. Carrimjee**

**Senior Associate, Desai & Carrimjee,  
Advocates and Solicitors, Mumbai**

Naheed T. Carrimjee is a solicitor and a founding partner of Desai Carrimjee and Mulla, a firm specialising in corporate and civil law. Naheed is a conscious environmentalist and keenly interested in social & development issues. She supports and is closely involved with several charitable organisations.



### **Dr Hemachandran Karah**

**Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities  
and Social Sciences, IIT Madras**

Dr Hemachandran Karah teaches English Literature at the Humanities and Social sciences faculty at IIT Madras. Dr Karah works in the fields of disability studies and medical humanities. He is interested in researching on themes such as the language question, literary criticism, and musicology. A PhD in English Literature from the University of Cambridge, Dr Karah is also Member, Society for Disability Studies, USA and Member, Disability Studies Association, UK.



### **Dr Alka Barua**

**MBBS and MD in Paediatrics from Nagpur University  
and PhD in Sociology from Tata Institute of Social Sciences,  
Bombay**

Dr Alka Barua is a paediatrician, an independent consultant and a researcher whose primary areas of interest span women and adolescent health, training and capacity building, and action research. She has also worked as a resource person at training workshops organised by NGOs, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (ICMR-NIRRH) and the World Health Organisation.



# EYE HEALTH



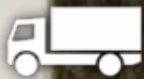
**NETRA VASANT**  
RURAL EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (REH)



**AMRITA DRISHTI**  
URBAN EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (UEH)



**VIDYA JYOTI**  
SCHOOL EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (SEH)



**RAAHI**  
NATIONAL TRUCKERS EYE  
HEALTH PROGRAMME





**69,51,167**  
Number of  
Eye Screenings



**28,18,462**  
Number of  
People  
Refracted



**7,93,328**  
Number of  
Spectacles  
Dispensed



**3,49,490**  
Number of  
Sight Restoration  
Surgeries



**April 2022 - March 2023**

# Netra Vasant

## Rural Eye Health Programme

A large part of our country still resides in villages. In most rural communities, eye health, even if available, is limited to cataract screening with little to no attention given to other eye ailments. Our Rural Eye Health Programme aims to prevent blindness by focusing on universal coverage of eye health services in rural communities across 100 select districts in India. It focuses on three areas: reducing the prevalence of blindness, ensuring equitable coverage, and ensuring financial and programmatic sustainability.



## Key Highlights

- ▶ Sightsavers India and Vision 2020 collaborated to hold a one-day State Universal Eye Health Network consultation in Bhubaneswar. Forty-two medical directors and governing body members from private and NGO hospitals attended, making it the first conference to unite the major players in eye care in Odisha.
- ▶ MoU has been signed between the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal & Sightsavers India to collaborate and ensure the successful operationalisation of the Eye Health Programme in 12 districts in West Bengal.
- ▶ Sightsavers India state team has been actively supporting the SPO- Blindness Control Cell, Bihar with clinical protocols, document preparation, and protocol documents to be adhered to for strengthening the secondary eye health services across 38 districts of Bihar.
- ▶ Sightsavers India's team conducted the Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) Survey in the Samastipur district, covering a sample of around 3140 people from 54 clusters of 6 identified high-priority Blocks. This survey was conducted in collaboration and support of the District Health Society, Samastipur and the State Blindness Control Cell of the State Health Society, Government of Bihar.
- ▶ With support from SBI Capital Markets Limited, Sightsavers India launched a mobile vision centre in Pune to prevent avoidable blindness among the urban slum population.
- ▶ The Universal Eye Health Portal in the State of West Bengal has been initiated to analyse state, district and even block-wise data for the cause of monitoring and strengthening our efforts in Rural eye health.
- ▶ Standard Chartered Bank has extended its support for the Rajanandagaon district in Chhattisgarh.
- ▶ A month-long campaign was organised in rural pockets of Jhabua, Alirajpur and Dhar. During this campaign, 23 outreach camps were organised, reaching 827 households. 229 cataract patients underwent surgeries; 519 persons were provided spectacles.
- ▶ Month-long awareness events were organised in Rajgarh, Ashok Nagar & Raisen districts to reach out to women in remote areas. During these events, 14 villages were covered, and 400 female members were made aware of primary eye health and significant eye diseases.
- ▶ Steps were undertaken in the Chouparan and Katkamsandi blocks to address the backlog of cataract cases and declare the districts Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF). The initiative involved training cadres, health workers, and volunteers.
- ▶ In the High-Intensity (HI) district of Nagaur, Rajasthan, 20 village-level volunteers have undergone training in the priority block for mapping cataract patients.

## Chronicles from the Field

“Thanks to Sightsavers India, I am thrilled having got my eyesight back.”

The world of 70-year-old Gomti is small. A resident of Katni in Madhya Pradesh, Gomti Bai’s husband passed away a few years ago. Having no children, she adopted her sister’s son, who helps her with household chores and works as a labourer. She entirely depends on the government scheme's rations and old-age pension to sustain herself. It had been a couple of years since she could see clearly. She had gone blind in one eye owing to a cataract. An ASHA worker told her about Sightsavers India Netra Vasant camps for eye health check-ups.

On being checked at the eye health camp, she was referred to Sightsavers India hospital partner for cataract surgery. She got her sight restoration surgery done free of cost. Gomti Bai feels a zest of living and doing her daily chores are not a problem anymore.





# Amrita Drishti

## Urban Eye Health Programme

Sightsavers India works across selected cities to ensure comprehensive and sustainable eye health mechanisms for the urban slums of India. We work closely with the Ministry of Health and the National Urban Health Mission towards creating systems that provide access to quality eye health. Amrita Drishti integrates its vision centres with the government's Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and utilises Mobile Vision Centres to reach hard-to-access areas and provide on-spot eyecare services.



## Key Highlights

- ▶ Sightsavers India's 'It Takes Two- Us and You' campaign was launched in Jaipur to ensure that no one goes blind unnecessarily and that people with disabilities live a life of dignity and respect in society. Rajasthan is one of the greatest beneficiaries of corporate social responsibility investment in India, with many companies having a presence in the state. Through the 'It Takes Two' campaign, Sightsavers India had requested these corporations to step up and collaborate to ensure that the prevalence of blindness is reduced to 0.3 per cent in the state.
- ▶ We established linkages with HelpAge India in Madhya Pradesh to incorporate eye health services in their elderly helpline so that senior citizens with eye problems can be referred timely to vision centres for primary screening, spectacle distribution and cataract surgery.
- ▶ New strategies were adopted and levelled up with the mobile eye van providing eye check-up services in the wards of Patna. The UPHCs function on a roster basis, with the optometrist screening patients weekly in each UPHC. They are oriented on referring patients to the UPHC, which has significantly more women patients. The optometrists have also been trained on gender and eye health.
- ▶ Two government integrated vision centres under the Programme have been linked with the free spectacle dispensing unit established in a government health facility in collaboration with Essilor Luxottica Foundation.
- ▶ In collaboration with West Bengal State Rural Mission (WBSRLM), an integrated eye testing camp was organised where 212 government employees, along with the Chief Secretary and CEO of WBSRLM, were screened, refracted, and tested for Diabetic Retinopathy.
- ▶ The programme launched in Bangalore and Chennai, supported by Standard Chartered Global Business Services, will address the specific eye care needs of the estimated population of 2 lacs residing in the slum areas. Sightsavers India will play a significant role as a technical or knowledge partner and ensure quality control, monitoring, reporting, donor compliance, financial oversight, and advocacy with the government.

## Chronicles from the Field

“My eyesight has improved tremendously; I can see things much better now.”

Mr Khajanchi is a 61-year-old man living in the Kooda village of Katni. For the past few years, he has been having vision problems which have become detrimental to his job, which involves working in the field. He initially got his right eye operated on, and now his left eye was also losing sight. Doctors suggested operating on his left eye, to which he refused.

One day, he reached our vision centre, where he was diagnosed with a cataract and advised of surgery. Upon receiving counselling from the Sightsavers India team, he agreed to undergo surgery. He is happy to return to the field that helps him feed his family.



# Vidya Jyoti

## National School Eye Health Programme

Under this gamut, we provide eye health services for students of rural districts attending government, non-government semi-aided private schools aged 5-18 (up to class-12), improving learning outcomes and enabling early detection of vision-related problems. It has eight components – health education, health & nutritional services, counselling, healthy school environment, health promotion for staff, family/community involvement and impact assessment.

### Key Highlights

- ▶ The district administration of Pratapgarh adopted the Sightsavers India Vidya Jyoti School Eye Health Programme model and undertook its 'Mission Drishti' in campaign mode to reach out to the school-going children of Pratapgarh, extending eye health services. 1,46,038 children were screened in Pratapgarh with support from community health officers (CHOs), Teachers, ASHAs and Anganwadi workers.
- ▶ Thirty girl peer educators of 5 schools were trained on inclusive eye health and menstrual hygiene in the Alipurduar district.
- ▶ Almost 80 teachers have been trained in primary eye screening and WASH, West Bengal.
- ▶ IEC activities were organised in schools to sensitise people on eye health issues. Wall paintings were completed in 9 schools of Block, Kalahandi, Odisha.
- ▶ A special effort was made to sensitise the School Management Committee (SMC) members on school eye health components and spectacle compliances at Block Resource Centre, Gola, Odisha, where 53 SMC members were sensitised.
- ▶ Post hiatus due to Covid-19 and reopening of schools, the Vidya Jyoti was School Eye Health Programme was restarted in Raisen district to reach out to children in schools within the age group (5-18 years) in government primary, middle & higher secondary schools. This programme will cater to the eye health needs of approx. 1.5 lakh student population in the district. Under the programme, 60 Master Trainers (MT) (MRCs, DIET faculty & teachers) were trained, followed by 1,100 teachers training at the block level. These trained teachers will screen 60,000 children in the first year. School screening kits were developed & distributed to the MTs.

## Chronicles from the Field

“My daughter was afraid to undergo surgery for the juvenile cataract detected in her eye during a screening camp conducted by Sightsavers India. But with counselling from the dedicated team, we went ahead with the surgery they conducted for free, and now my daughter can see clearly. I am immensely thankful.”

– Aysha’s Father, West Bengal.

Aysha, a High School student, is on a journey of hope and transformation. Her father, Asadul Haque, toils as a daily wage earner, striving to provide for their modest livelihood.

Uncertainty shrouded her vision as she pursued her studies in Class XI. During a camp organised by Sightsavers India under its School Eye Health Programme, her hidden trouble was exposed – a juvenile cataract. Overwhelmed, she shed tears of fear and hesitated at the prospect of surgery.

In this crucial moment, a united front emerged to guide Aysha. Her parents, teachers, and health educators from Sightsavers India rallied around her, emphasising the importance of the surgery and assuring her that an everyday life awaited her beyond the operation theatre.

At no cost to her family, Aysha's surgery was skilfully performed at Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital's base hospital, Sightsavers India clinical partner.

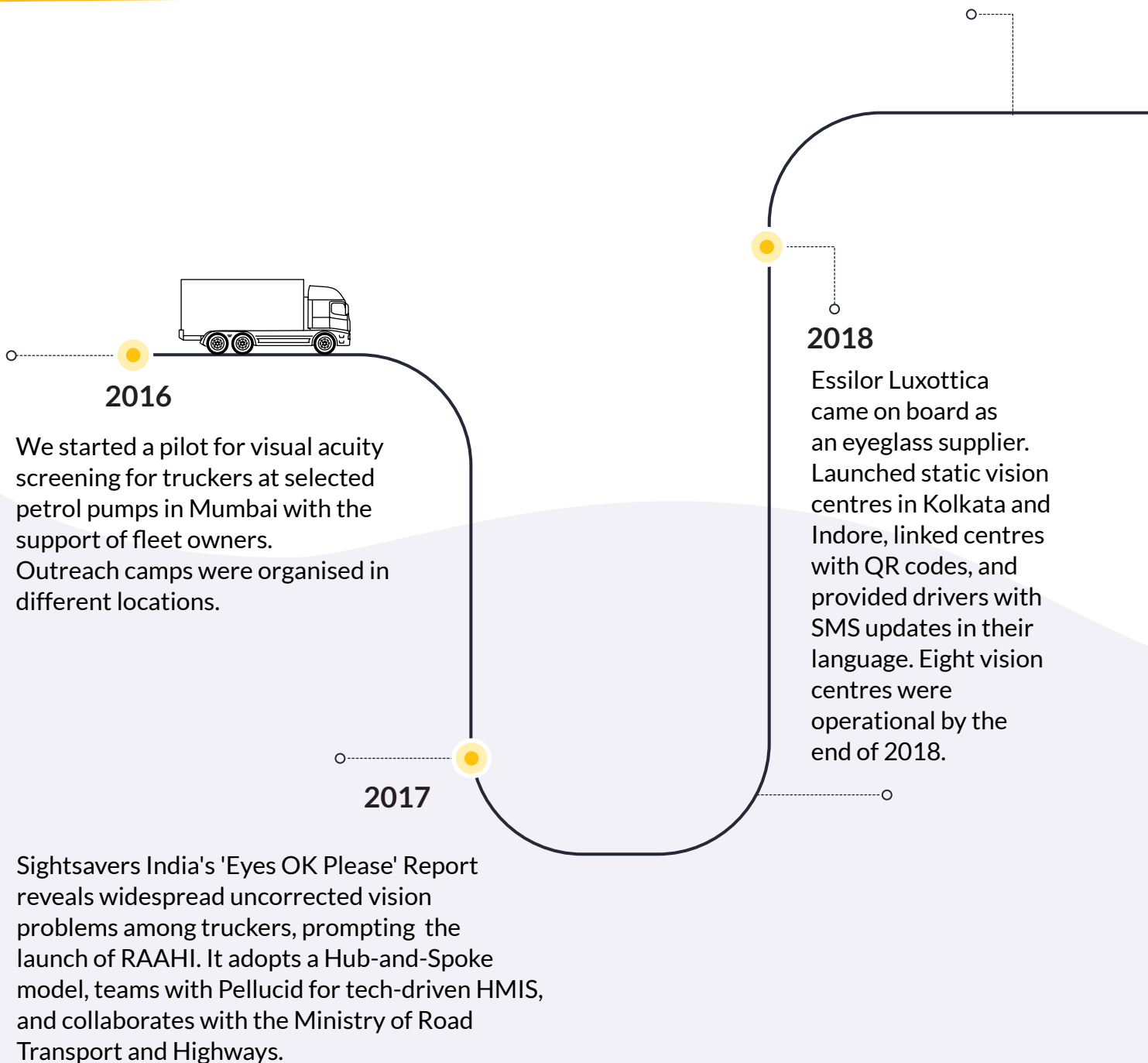
Post-surgery, her vision was clear, empowering her to concentrate on her studies without the struggles of an impending eye-related problem. With newfound clarity, Aysha's vision blossomed, empowering her to focus on her studies and enabling her to unleash her potential and educational pursuits.

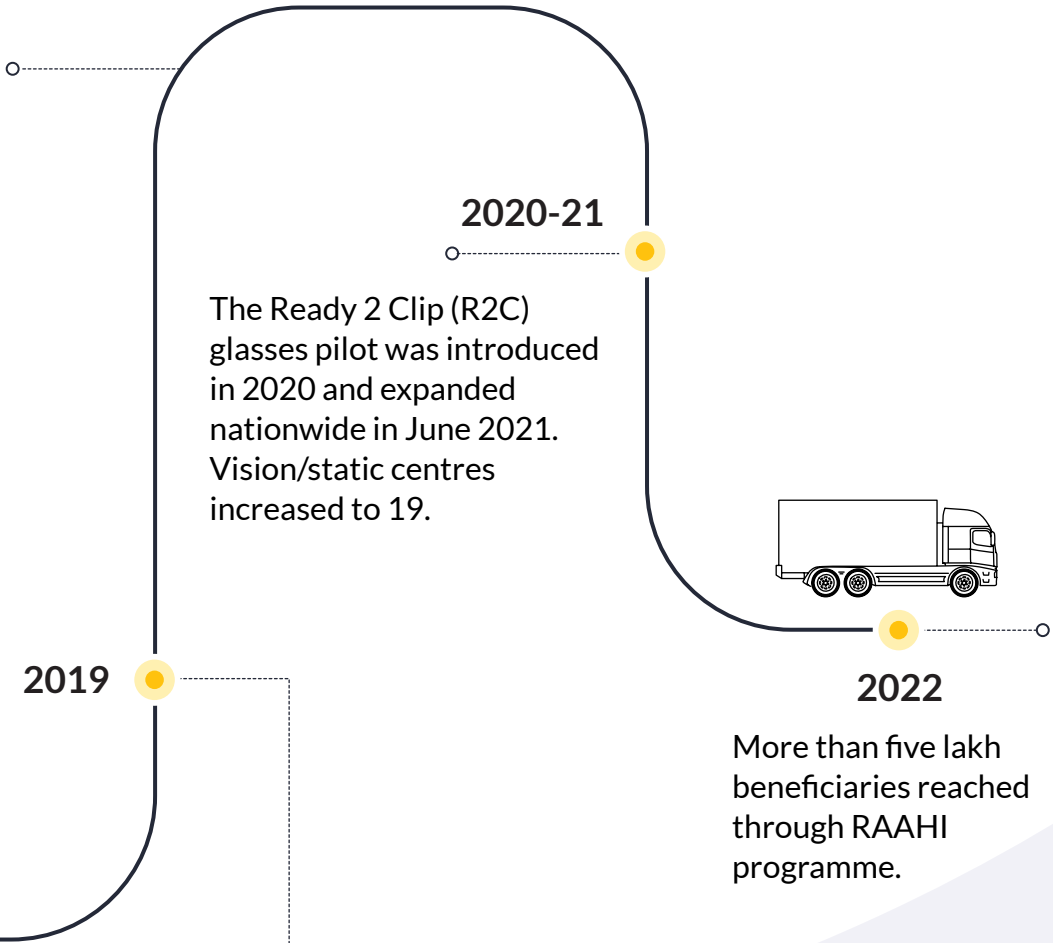


# RAAHI – National Truckers Eye Health Programme

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 and commercial drivers at their convenience.

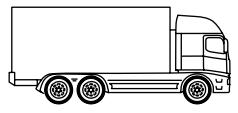
## RAAHI completes five years – a look into the Programme's journey





**2020-21**

The Ready 2 Clip (R2C) glasses pilot was introduced in 2020 and expanded nationwide in June 2021. Vision/static centres increased to 19.



**2022**

More than five lakh beneficiaries reached through RAAHI programme.

**2019**

Screened more than 1 lakh truckers and extended RAAHI to include bus drivers and ancillary workers in its ambit. Tele-calling system was introduced. 10 vision centres were operational by the end of 2019.



## Key Highlights

▶ Thank You Truckers' event was organised in vision centres in 5 locations as part of national celebrations to mark the 5th Anniversary of the National Truckers Eye Health Programme RAAHI. During the event, Ophthalmologists and Eye Health experts sensitised the truckers on Eye Health and Road Safety. A photography competition was also organised; three winners from each location received prizes. Key stakeholders that supported the successful implementation of the RAAHI programme in each area were felicitated. The event drew the participation of truckers in large numbers.

▶ Indore VC initiated a creative way of publicity. The mobilisation of drivers was done by using the handheld megaphone. This led to improving daily OPD mobilisation of more drivers. From now on, this method will also share pre-recorded eye health information.

▶ In partnership with Lepra Society, the RAAHI programme was initiated in Patna Urban to screen the autorickshaw drivers and the helpers in the union. Regular camps were organised, creating awareness for primary eye health and delivering services at no extra cost of earning hours for the targeted community. Those identified with cataracts were referred to a base partner hospital.

▶ Eye screening was organised by Sightsavers India and the LNJP Eye Hospital team for Truckers at the Choradha check post at Jharkhand & Bihar Border. Free spectacle were distributed to the patients.

▶ Two new vision centres were launched under RAAHI Programme in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand and Mangalore, Karnataka, in partnership with Allergan, now, AbbVie.

## Chronicles from the Field

“I recognised the demand for truck drivers in a rapidly developing nation like ours, but I was also acutely aware of the societal gaze that accompanied my unconventional choice. I want to thank Sightsavers India and India Vision Institute for setting up a vision centre in Salem and ensuring access to vision care. I now navigate the roads with newfound clarity, empowered to continue breaking barriers.”

- Selvamani G





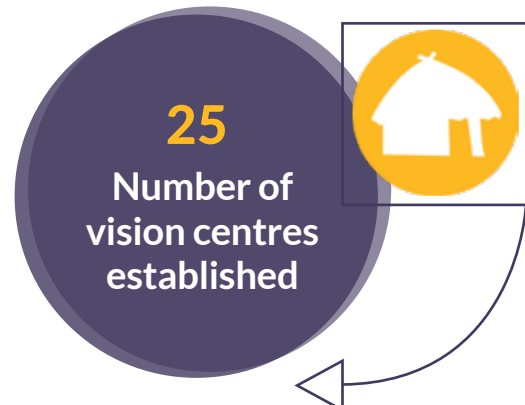
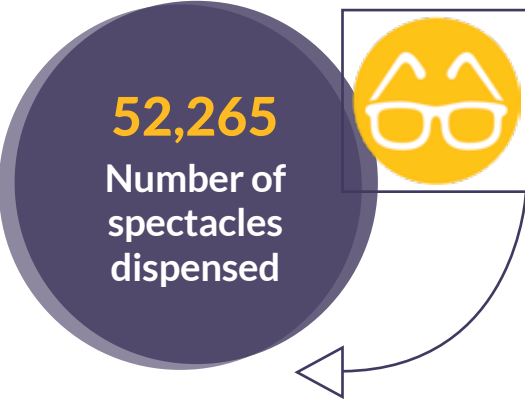
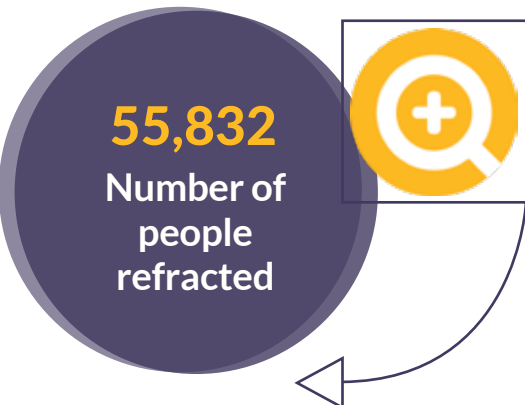
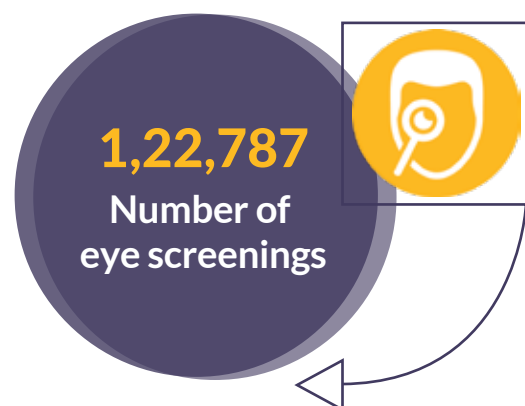
Meet Selvamani G, a remarkable 56-year-old woman defying stereotypes in the male-dominated truck driving industry. Hailing from the scenic Salem district in Tamil Nadu, Selvamani has fearlessly manoeuvred heavy vehicles for over 15 years, undeterred by the challenges that came her way.

For Selvamani, truck driving became more than just a profession—it was a gateway to financial stability and instant wages. Breaking free from the shackles of gender norms, she charted her path, determined to create a brighter future for herself and her family.

As her driving career flourished, Selvamani began encountering challenges stemming from her vision impairment. The very act of seeing distant objects became a struggle, leading her to squint her eyes. During this time, she learned about the truckers' vision screening centre under Sightsavers India's RAAHI Programme.

The vision centre is a collaborative effort between Sightsavers India and India Vision Institute in the vibrant town of Sankagiri, Salem.

Filled with hope, Selvamani eagerly visited the screening centre to have her vision assessed. The experience was a revelation, as her distance vision impairment was identified. She was informed that she would receive a pair of free spectacles within 20 days at the static centre. After the allotted time, Selvamani collected her spectacles, her eyes sparkling with gratitude.



# Sightsavers India's Fellowship Program

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



# Chronicles from the Field

Dr Saif, a dedicated professional with roots in a small town in Uttar Pradesh, realised his childhood dream of becoming a doctor to impact society positively. After obtaining an M.S. in Ophthalmology from Aligarh Muslim University in 2023, he aspired to become an eye surgeon and joined the Sightsavers India Fellowship program.

Selected based on a recommendation from a senior fellow, Dr. Saif underwent four months of intensive training at I Care Noida, honing his skills as a confident cataract surgeon and compassionate ophthalmologist. Post-training, he was assigned to The Christian Fellowship Hospital in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, an institution serving the rural and tribal population for over 50 years.

Under the supportive administration, Dr. Saif's journey as an ophthalmologist began in January 2024, marked by continuous improvement in eye surgeries.

Engaging with the local population through camps and field activities, he found deep satisfaction in alleviating patients' anxieties, counselling them for surgery, and witnessing their improved vision outcomes.

During his tenure, Dr. Saif encountered patients who had suffered from near-blindness due to poverty and limited healthcare access. In collaboration with Sightsavers India, the hospital organised camps in villages and tribal areas, identifying patients and ensuring they received cataract surgery. Dr Saif personally performed surgeries on about a thousand eyes.

Dr Saif acknowledges their role in his professional evolution by expressing gratitude to Sightsavers India and the host organisation. One such success story is Shukham Bai, a 60-year-old widow from Chhuria village in Rajnandgaon.

Struggling with deteriorating eyesight for two years, Shukham Bai's daily life became challenging. After several failed attempts by her daughters to persuade her to have surgery, she was introduced to Sightsavers India's Chhuria Vision Centre, supported by Standard Chartered Bank. Dr Saif, during a counselling session, diagnosed her with bilateral cataracts, emphasising the risk of complete eyesight loss without surgery.

Realising the urgency, Shukham Bai was referred to the base hospital in Rajnandgaon. Pre-surgery, her vision was severely impaired, but after the successful procedure in her right eye, it improved significantly to 6/18. Overjoyed with the results, Shukham Bai expressed her excitement about celebrating Diwali and experiencing the festival lights properly for the first time in years.

This success story exemplifies Dr Saif's commitment to change lives through surgical interventions and the collaborative efforts of Sightsavers India.



# Inclusive Education

Sightsavers India is working in close collaboration with mainstream education systems in 8 intervention States to strengthen Inclusive Education (IE) Programme. We provide or facilitate:

- ✓ Educational support to children with visual impairment
- ✓ Technical support to state governments in strengthening the programme enablement through the availability of assistive devices
- ✓ Accessible educational material
- ✓ Compensatory skills training
- ✓ Infrastructure accessibility and building education management
- ✓ Training the teachers and leadership

**1,404**

Visually impaired children who received assistive devices



**13,048**

Number of teachers trained



**13,556**

Visually impaired children who received education materials



## Key Highlights

- ▶ 2 new districts, Alwar and Pratapgarh in Rajasthan, were added in the MoU with the Rajasthan Council of School Education, Rajasthan.
- ▶ Student Tracking and Assessment Report (STAR) app developed by Sightsavers India to track the progress and learning outcomes of children with visual impairment was piloted in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The training was provided to the District Project Coordinators (DPCs) and IE facilitators on using the App from the States of Jharkhand, M.P. and Rajasthan. A practice session was organised at the Bloc Resource Centre, and children with visual impairment were registered in the form. Post the training; Tablets were provided to the facilitators to register 10 to 15 children in this App as a demo and give feedback.
- ▶ More than a thousand children with visual impairment have been registered in the Sugamaya Pustakalaya portal in the Howrah district.
- ▶ The MoU with Jharkhand Education Project Council has been signed and renewed for three years until 2025.
- ▶ The development of 2 Resource Centres at BRC Balodabazar and Bhatapara, Chhattisgarh, has been completed.
- ▶ Low vision assessment was undertaken jointly with the Education Dept in all seven blocks of district Raisen and nine blocks of district Mandla, Madhya Pradesh. A total of 138 children were assessed in Raisen and 98 children in Mandla. Of these, 57 children have been prescribed Low Vision Devices.
- ▶ Access audit of 67 private schools conducted on request from District Collector Katni, Madhya Pradesh. The team of Sightsavers India prepared the outline of the program jointly with District Education officials for all the blocks.
- ▶ In the Alwar district in Rajasthan, the team provided technical support to SMSA in the government's Plus curriculum training programme.

## Chronicles from the Field

“I am excited to continue my education; thank you, Sightsavers India team.”—Sushma.

Sushma has suffered from deteriorating vision since birth because of albinism. She was admitted to a residential school, but her academic performance suffered due to insufficient awareness and peer support. She was identified and connected with the Inclusive Education Project team. After the clinical and functional assessment, she was supported with compensatory skill training, Smart Phone, and class-appropriate books in an accessible format. The classroom teachers were also given training to provide learning solutions to Sushma.

At 14, she appeared in the 10th Board exam in 2022 and passed with 64%.



# Social Inclusion

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. With a comprehensive approach to gender, we also provide adolescent girls with self-defence training and health and hygiene sessions.

To enable the social inclusion of people with disabilities, Sightsavers India has concentrated its focus on three core areas:

- ✓ Economic empowerment
- ✓ Strengthening Organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs)
- ✓ Creating an enabling environment



## Key Highlights

- ▶ State Level MoU with Department of Social Welfare Department of Chhattisgarh signed. Under this MoU, Sightsavers India will provide technical support to the department for the Socioeconomic Development of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ Under Bajaj Supported SI programme in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, four inclusive SHGs formed in the Sanchi block comprising 12 PwDs.
- ▶ Sightsavers India signed an MoU with Rajasthan State Livelihood Mission (RGAVP) for the socioeconomic development of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ With the support of Madison Resource Foundation and Tanya Computer Centre, computer courses were conducted for students with visual impairment in the districts; Mahasammund, Balodabazar and Baghera, Chhattisgarh; Katni and Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh; Gaya, Bihar; Bhawani-patna and Kalahandi, Odisha; Hazaribagh and Dumka, Jharkhand.
- ▶ As a result of our constant advocacy with the Assistant Director of Bihar Employment Service, a letter was issued directing agencies like Jeevika, MSME, and RSETI to support Sightsavers India in ensuring employment for the PwDs in Bihar.
- ▶ Livelihood training was conducted in West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh of 294 people with disabilities to enable them to become economically empowered.
- ▶ Sightsavers India Rajasthan's initiated Rajasthan's APNO Sansthan, a state-level organisation of persons with disabilities, presented suggestions to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, the Secretary to Government Social Justice and Empowerment Department and Disability Commissioner of Rajasthan and as a result of the continuous advocacy efforts, orders were released in the state –
  - ✓ Increased disability pension to INR 1000 (from INR 750) for each person with disabilities
  - ✓ Annual 15% hike in disability pension based on inflation.
  - ✓ The extended age limit for Scooty Yojna to 60 years (from 45 years)
- ▶ The Sightsavers India team facilitated the registration of 1703 PwDs in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for assistive devices.
- ▶ In 2022, a total of 46,619 People with Disability (PwDs) received UDID certificates, and 34,733 people with disabilities received pension benefits.
- ▶ Preeti Taneja, Treasurer of APNO, has been appointed as a member of the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee, which will put forth issues faced by People with Disability (PwDs) related to Indian railways.



## Chronicles from the Field

Before learning judo, I was scared to go on the streets. My parents wouldn't allow me to go to school alone. I am more confident in my capabilities after joining self-defence classes organised by Sightsavers India. I am now also a certified self-defence instructor.”

– Sudama, Madhya Pradesh.

Sudama was born with visual impairment, which her family believed meant she could never lead an independent life. Identified by Sightsavers India, she began attending self-defence and judo training project run by Sightsavers India and its local partner.

After joining the training programme, Sudama quickly excelled at judo and soon started competing at national championships in India. Sudama won 5 medals between 2017 and 2021 for Para Judo National Championship. Sudama is now a certified self-defence instructor.

At 21 years of age, Sudama was given the opportunity to become a one-day District Collector of Katni, Madhya Pradesh, on International Women's Day. Sudama is also a member of the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) supported under Sightsavers India's Social Inclusion Programme.



# Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE)

The 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 for people with disabilities.

The Unit supports taking cognisance of the national and state policy environment around Sightsavers India thematic verticals to inform the Organisation's programme strategy and policy engagement initiatives.



## Objectives of the GRAPE Unit

### Eye Health

Improve policy and organisation position in India's Eye Healthcare developments.

### Inclusive Education

Strengthen policy and quality dimensions of the Inclusive Education Programme.

### Social Inclusion

Strengthen social inclusion advocacy pockets and policy engagement.

## Key Highlights

- ▶ Sightsavers India organised National Global Disability Summit in consultation with the representatives from NITI Aayog.
- ▶ We have partnered with United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) to work with NITI AAYOG in making the National SDG Indicator Framework disability inclusive. Under this, Sightsavers India & UNRCO have submitted their recommendations for inclusion of 153 disability-inclusive indicators in the framework.
- ▶ Sightsavers India is working closely with the C20 Chair appointed by the Government of India, an official engagement group of the G20 summit. Under this, a Disability Core Committee has been developed to work with the C20 secretariat to deliberate on the issues and concerns of the disability sector.
- ▶ In collaboration with the National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP), Sightsavers India organised a national consultation, wherein more than 100 OPD leaders and disability experts participated, along with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), Gol, to submit the recommendations on the themes of capacity building of Organization of People with Disabilities (OPDs), inclusive education, inclusive health and inclusive employment and livelihood for the Global Disability Summit.
- ▶ The further the discourse of Universal Eye Health, Sightsavers India organised a consultation on the state universal eye health network of NGOs & private eye hospitals in Odisha. Such consultations will be conducted in other Sightsavers India states as well. Piloted in Odisha with 100+ eye health leaders/ practitioners from 67 Eye Health Organisations and developed State Eye Health ToR for the Network.
- ▶ In collaboration with Vision Spring and IVI, Sightsavers India organised a Vision and Road Safety Conference.



# Programme Performance, Learning and Research Department

## Advancing Healthcare Impact through Evidence Bases Research

Sightsavers India's Programme Performance, Learning, and Research Department conducted crucial studies for project evaluation and community outreach. Key studies include:

- ✓ **Blindness Prevalence Studies:**  
A Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) Surveys were conducted in Gaya and Samastipur Districts. Gaya survey revealed a 1.4% prevalence of blindness among individuals aged 50+, with 1.1% for males and 1.6% for females. Samastipur survey showed a 1.6% prevalence, with 1.2% for males and 2.0% for females.
- ✓ **Formative Behavioural Analysis of Glaucoma:**  
Sightsavers India and Allergan launched a community-based glaucoma screening programme called "Keep Sight India" in Ganjam District, Odisha. A formative analysis was conducted in the Ganjam district among the target audience to gather evidence and develop activities and messages crucial for changing behaviours related to glaucoma within the community.
- ✓ **Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan:**  
A study was conducted with support from Accenture to identify barriers hindering women's access to Sightsavers India programme related to Eye Health, Inclusive Education, and Social Inclusion.
- ✓ **A cross-section study was conducted to assess the effectiveness and compliance of R2C (Ready to Clip) glasses under the RAAHI Programme:**  
A cross-sectional study assessed the effectiveness and compliance of Ready2Clip (R2C) glasses in five selected locations: Ballabgarh (Delhi), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), and Kisangarh and Udaipur (Rajasthan) states of India.
- ✓ **RAAHI - National Truckers Eye Health Programme Learnings and Reflections:**  
Sightsavers India undertook an in-depth examination of the National Truckers Eye Health Programme, RAAHI, covering the five-year period from 2017 to 2022 to assess the accomplishments, challenges, and insights, examining key innovations and design components to extract best practices and lessons.

# Programme Outreach & Resource Mobilisation

- ✓ **Hincol** – supporting Rural Eye Health Programme in two districts, Mahasamund and West Midnapur.
- ✓ **JSPL** – renewed the Angul truckers’ programme
- ✓ **Cholamandalam** – has supported two new locations in Cochin and Durg. In Durg, a mobile vanis operational.
- ✓ **Standard Chartered Global Business Services (GBS)** – supported Urban Eye Health in 2 cities of, Chennai and Bangalore.
- ✓ **Standard Chartered Bank (SCB)** – supported the Bihar REH Programme in 2 districts of Samastipur and Gaya
- ✓ **Bajaj** – extended support for Social Inclusion and Inclusive Education Programmes in 4 districts: Pratapgarh, Kasganj, Raisen and Khagaria.
- ✓ **Oracle** – supported Inclusive Education programmes in 6 districts of 6 different states.
- ✓ **DXC Technologies** – supported Inclusive Education Programme in Alwar District, Rajasthan.
- ✓ **Allergan** - supported RAAHI- National Trucker’s Eye Health Programme in seven locations. Face-to-Face resource mobilisation expanded to two new locations, Pune and Coimbatore. Launched a corporate-focused marketing campaign - ‘It takes Two - Us and You’.

## Corporate Partner Retentions

- ✓ JSPL
- ✓ Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
- ✓ Standard Chartered Bank
- ✓ ABB
- ✓ Baxter
- ✓ Uber
- ✓ Fullerton
- ✓ Emtec



# Brand & Communications

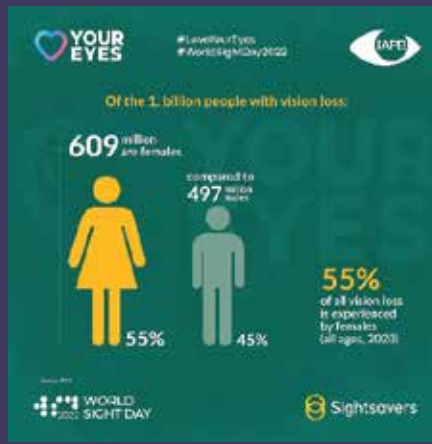


World Sight Day 2022



Mr. Kabir Bedi in conversation with ET Now

## Videos



## Posters



## International Day of Persons with Disabilities

# Sightsavers India | News & Media

**CSR**

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#Trending Stories #PressReleases

## Sightsavers India Announces Rati Forbes As The New Chairperson

Sightsavers India, the leading development organisation that works towards eliminating avoidable blindness and promoting the rights of people with disabilities, announces the appointment of Rati Forbes as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

**arrive**

19 Jan 2022 | 2:08pm

### Sightsavers launches mobile vision centre in Pune to prevent avoidable blindness

LASHI BHASKAR | PUNE | JAN 30, 2022, 10:27 AM

ARTICLES

As part of its urban eye health programme also known as Amrit Chakra, Sightsavers India established a mobile vision centre in Pune to improve the city's primary eye care services.

The programme is being implemented by H V Desai Eye Hospital and is supported by (M) Capital Markets Limited.

The intervention aims to boost demand for eye health treatments among the people living in the urban slums of the city.

Sightsavers India's honorary chairman and a former chief economist/commissioner, Dr B J Quinlan and the Rajeev Director of Public Health (R), and honorary vice chairman, Sightsavers India Sood joined at the flag bearing for the mobile unit's launch. Dr Hiranmayi, CEO of Sightsavers India and the full board of trustees were present for the flag-off of the eye health mobile van.

Sightsavers National Programme on Urban Eye Health (Amrit Chakra) works in metropolitan cities with the objective to ensure comprehensive and sustainable eye health mechanisms for the urban slums of India. It is working towards providing avoidable eye health services to the urban-poor migrants and the

**THE WEEK** MAGAZINE

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Home > India > Health

## The obstacles behind making truckers wear prescription glasses

One in two truck drivers in India will most likely need glasses

By Sneha Sharma | Updated: September 16, 2022 14:51 IST

**About 45 to 47 per cent truck drivers in India are suffering from vision-related problems | Report: drive.innogy.com**

"Why do some truck drivers not see prescribed spectacles?" is one of the questions raised in the latest report "Eyes of the Highway" prepared by a Delhi-based NGO called Sightsavers India.

Among the reasons include discomfort around adjusting to new glasses. Or how the floating, migratory population of truck drivers do not appreciate or have little time for feedback calls from tele-callers while driving. Or they have either lost or misplaced or broken their glasses. They also do not have the opportunity or time to get it repaired or buy a new pair. Their perceived need for the glasses were questionable too.

Since 2015, the BAAHI initiative under Sightsavers has inspected some 5,40,000 truck drivers for eye-related issues. Some 2,12,000 truck drivers were dispensed with glasses. These truckers mostly suffered from refractive error—a very common eye disorder progressing to degrees of blurred vision. That roughly amounts to 45 to 47 per cent drivers suffering from vision-related problems. Or nearly one in two truck drivers in India today will most likely need glasses.

Publication: **Dainik Bhaskar**

संज्ञासौम्यं दृष्टिः नै मेवमप्यं दुर्गमं ज्ञानं रोषमभ्यस्य - वृत्तिं के पथं ज्ञानं सारसामुद्रिकं पूरे ज्ञेयं परं ज्ञानस्य ज्ञानस्य

संज्ञासौम्यं दृष्टिः नै मेवमप्यं दुर्गमं ज्ञानं रोषमभ्यस्य - वृत्तिं के पथं ज्ञानं सारसामुद्रिकं पूरे ज्ञेयं परं ज्ञानस्य ज्ञानस्य

Publication: **Hindustan Times**

Link: [New Year resolutions for eyes: Watch out for these risks post cataract surgery](#)

### New Year resolutions for eyes: Watch out for these risks post cataract surgery

Cataract surgery is one of the most commonly carried out surgeries in the world as it is one of the most effective ways to cure a common eye condition and to treat vision. It helps to clear a person's sight, relieve eye irritation, glare and to prevent blindness. More than 90 percent of people who undergo cataract surgery have no complications but though it is a very safe procedure, complications do occur. If any individual has other health issues, additional eye problems or are over 60, they are more likely to have complications during or after cataract surgery. Following up with your ophthalmologist and taking care of any problems will help you heal well and enjoy watching a beautiful world this New Year 2023.

As we enter the New Year 2023, there are certain resolutions that eye experts want us to make to ensure eye health. It is advised with Dr. I. Gokul, Dr. Sandeep Butani, Technical Lead at Eye Health and Health System Strengthening at Sightsavers India, shared, "Unilateral Cataract is the most common cause of avoidable blindness in the world. Almost 70% of blindness in India is due to people not getting access to good quality eye care services. Cataract surgery is one of the most cost-effective health interventions that, if performed at the right time using standard protocols, can lead to complete restoration of vision in the majority of cases."

It is advised, "Only a presentation for surgery can lead to certain complications such as lens-induced glaucoma that may prevent recovery of vision after surgery. Certain operative complications either due to improper technique or individual's pre-operative and/or post-operative management of the operated eye can also lead to reduced vision after the surgery. These complications include corneal opacity, intraocular inflammation, uveitis, post-surgical infection, etc."

**Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (All amounts are in Indian Rupees unless otherwise stated)**  
**Balance Sheet - (Schedule VIII {Vide Rule 17 (I)}) as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**  
**Registration No. E- 4330 Mumbai**

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	Note	As at 31 March 2023	As at 31 March 2022	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Note	As at 31 March 2023	As at 31 March 2022
<b>Trust Fund</b>	3	2,95,18,432	7,81,56,982	<b>Immovable properties</b>	5(A)		
				Gross block		37,85,188	37,85,188
<b>Retained Fund</b>		2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	Less : Accumulated depreciation		30,09,367	29,68,534
						<u>7,75,821</u>	<u>8,16,654</u>
<b>Earmarked Fund</b>		2,84,26,529	4,41,00,208	<b>Other fixed assets</b>	5(B)		
Deferred Income				Gross block		3,67,46,978	3,71,37,380
				Less : Accumulated depreciation		2,94,67,870	2,98,65,445
<b>General Fund</b>		-	-			<u>72,79,108</u>	<u>72,71,936</u>
(Created under the provisions of the trust-deed or Scheme or out of the income)				<b>Other Project fixed assets</b>	5(C)		
<b>Project Fixed Assets Fund</b>		55,41,085	41,52,208	Gross block		1,06,39,397	72,94,046
				Less : Accumulated depreciation		50,98,312	31,41,839
- Gift reserves		-	47,444			<u>55,41,085</u>	<u>41,52,207</u>
		<u>8,34,86,046</u>	<u>14,64,56,842</u>				
<b>Liabilities</b>						<u>1,35,96,014</u>	<u>1,22,40,796</u>
- For expenses	4	1,02,46,148	31,75,734				
				<b>Advances</b>			
-For statutory dues		53,72,600	43,85,905				
- For payment to auditor		8,26,000	7,37,500	Prepaid expenses		39,85,285	20,05,292
				Grant receivable		1,05,75,486	39,97,620
				Deposits and advances:			
<b>- For programme expenses payable</b>		2,62,51,266	1,97,26,826	- To employees	6	2,71,066	1,00,302
				- To others	7	1,77,69,720	1,73,79,828
- For employee benefits							
- Provision for gratuity		1,13,48,389	81,91,765	<b>Cash and bank balances</b>	8	9,24,92,499	14,81,58,185
- Provision for compensated absences		11,59,621	11,97,451			<u>12,50,94,056</u>	<u>17,16,41,227</u>
		<u>5,52,04,024</u>	<u>3,74,25,181</u>				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,86,90,070</b>	<b>18,38,82,023</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,86,90,070</b>	<b>18,38,82,023</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes forming part of the financial statements 2

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

For **Walker Chandlok & Co LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Registration No: 001076N/N500013

**Nalini Jain**  
Partner  
Membership No : 503498  
Place: Gurugram  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023



For **Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind**

**Rati Farhad Forbes**  
Chair person

Place: **New Delhi**  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

**R N Mohanty**  
Chief Executive Officer

Place: **New Delhi**  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023




**Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (All amounts are in Indian Rupees unless otherwise stated)**  
**Income and Expenditure Account - (Schedule - IX {Vide Rule 17(1)}) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**  
**Registration No. E- 4330 Mumbai**

EXPENDITURE	Note	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022	INCOME	Note	For the year ended 31 March 2023	For the year ended 31 March 2022
<b>To Expenses in respect of properties:</b>				<b>By Interest</b>			
- Rates, taxes and cesses		186	744	- On bank accounts		29,09,413	31,02,100
- Repairs and maintenance		77,587	82,212	- On Tax Refund		30,758	-
- Insurance		-	-	<b>By Donations</b>			
- Depreciation	5	40,833	42,982	- From individuals	9	21,72,00,227	23,83,00,087
				- From corporates		20,19,72,813	15,28,19,486
<b>To Establishment expenses</b>	11	6,15,48,206	3,78,92,000	<b>By Grants from Sightsavers, UK</b>		23,34,41,759	15,78,35,109
				<b>By Miscellaneous income</b>	10	5,43,076	95,488
<b>To Legal expenses</b>		4,32,590	3,71,300	<b>By Excess of Expenditure over income transfer to Surplus Fund</b>		4,86,38,550	-
<b>To Audit fees</b>	12	8,49,600	7,37,500				
<b>To Miscellaneous expenses</b>							
- Consultation charges		34,71,655	23,16,288				
- Rent		1,17,54,352	87,07,965				
- Travelling and conveyance		72,83,398	11,74,952				
- Other expenses	13	1,40,40,983	72,82,354				
<b>To Depreciation</b>							
- on other fixed assets	5	31,06,909	33,14,677				
<b>To Expenditure on objects of the Society</b>	14						
(classification is as certified by trustees)							
(a) Religious		-	-				
(b) Educational		7,44,15,786	2,61,78,873				
(c) Medical and poverty relief		52,77,14,511	42,15,25,938				
<b>To Surplus transferred to Trust Funds</b>		-	4,25,24,485				
		<b>70,47,36,596</b>	<b>55,21,52,270</b>			<b>70,47,36,596</b>	<b>55,21,52,270</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes forming part of the financial statements 2


The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

For **Walker Chandlok & Co LLP**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm's Registration No: 001076N/N500013

  
**Nalini Jain**  
 Partner  
 Membership No : 503498  
 Place: Gurugram  
 Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023



For **Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind**

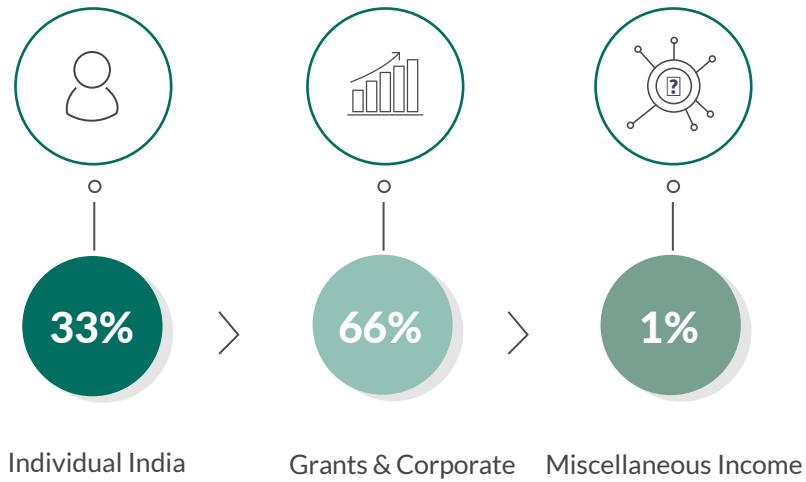
  
**Rati Farhad Forbes**  
 Chair person

Place: **New Delhi**  
 Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

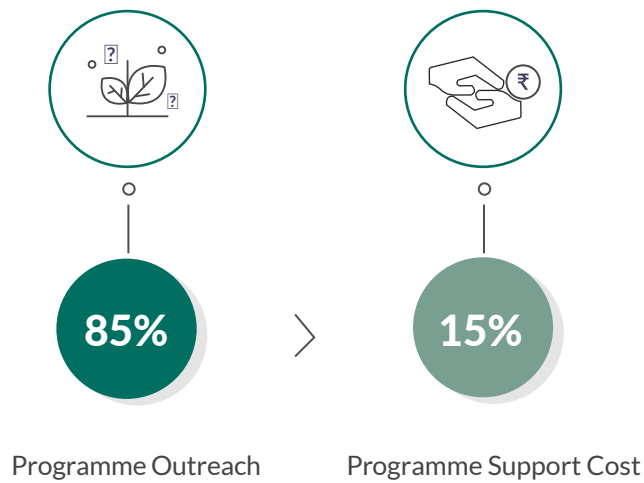
  
**R N Mohanty**  
 Chief Executive Officer

Place: **New Delhi**  
 Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

## Income FY 23-24

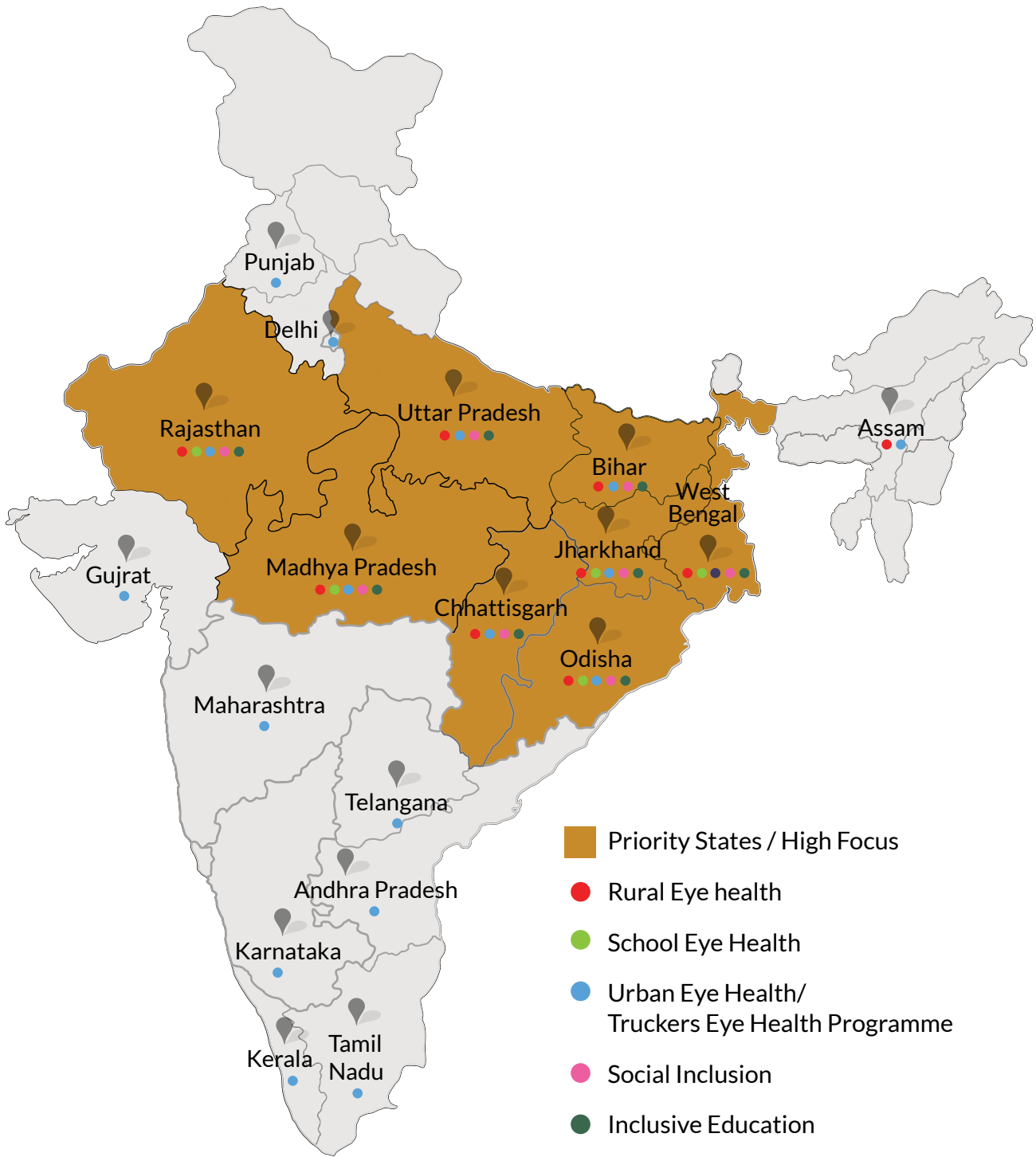


## Total Expenditure FY 23-24

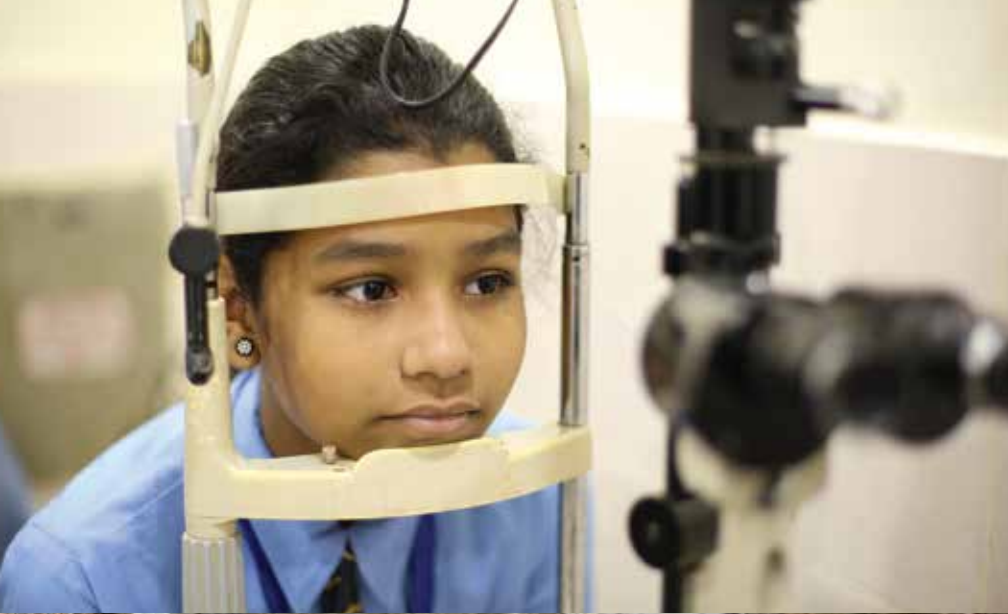


## Thematic Utilisation









## List of Abbreviations

- ASHA: Accredited Social Health Worker
- BRC: Block Resource Centre
- CHO: Community Health Officers
- CVI: Children with Visual Impairment
- CwSN: Children with Special Needs
- DPC: District Project Coordinator
- MSME: Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- MT: Master Trainers
- RSETI: Rural Self Employment Training Institutes
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
- SmSA: Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
- UDID: Unique Disability ID
- UPHC: Urban Primary Health Centre
- WASH: Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene
- CRC: Cluster Resource Centre
- CWD: Children with Disabilities
- DDRC: District Disability Rehabilitation Centres
- DPG: Disabled People Group
- DR: Diabetic Retinopathy
- ICT: Information and Communications Technology
- LV: Low Vision
- NHM: National Health Mission
- NUHM: National Urban Health Mission
- OPDs : Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
- PwD: Persons with Disabilities
- SHG: Self-Help Group
- SMC: School Management Committee
- SSA: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- UEHP: Urban Eye Health Programme
- XRCVC: The Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged

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



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Bhopal – 462016  
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