



# Eyeing a bright future



Eye Health



Inclusive Education



Social Inclusion



Sightsavers  
India



## About us

Sightsavers India also known as 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 collaborates 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 engage with the governments, and demonstrating best practices.

## Mission

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

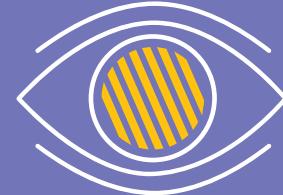
## Vision

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 1970,



**8.5 million**  
sight restoration surgeries  
were facilitated



**103.3 million**  
eye screenings have helped  
detect vision issues

# 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



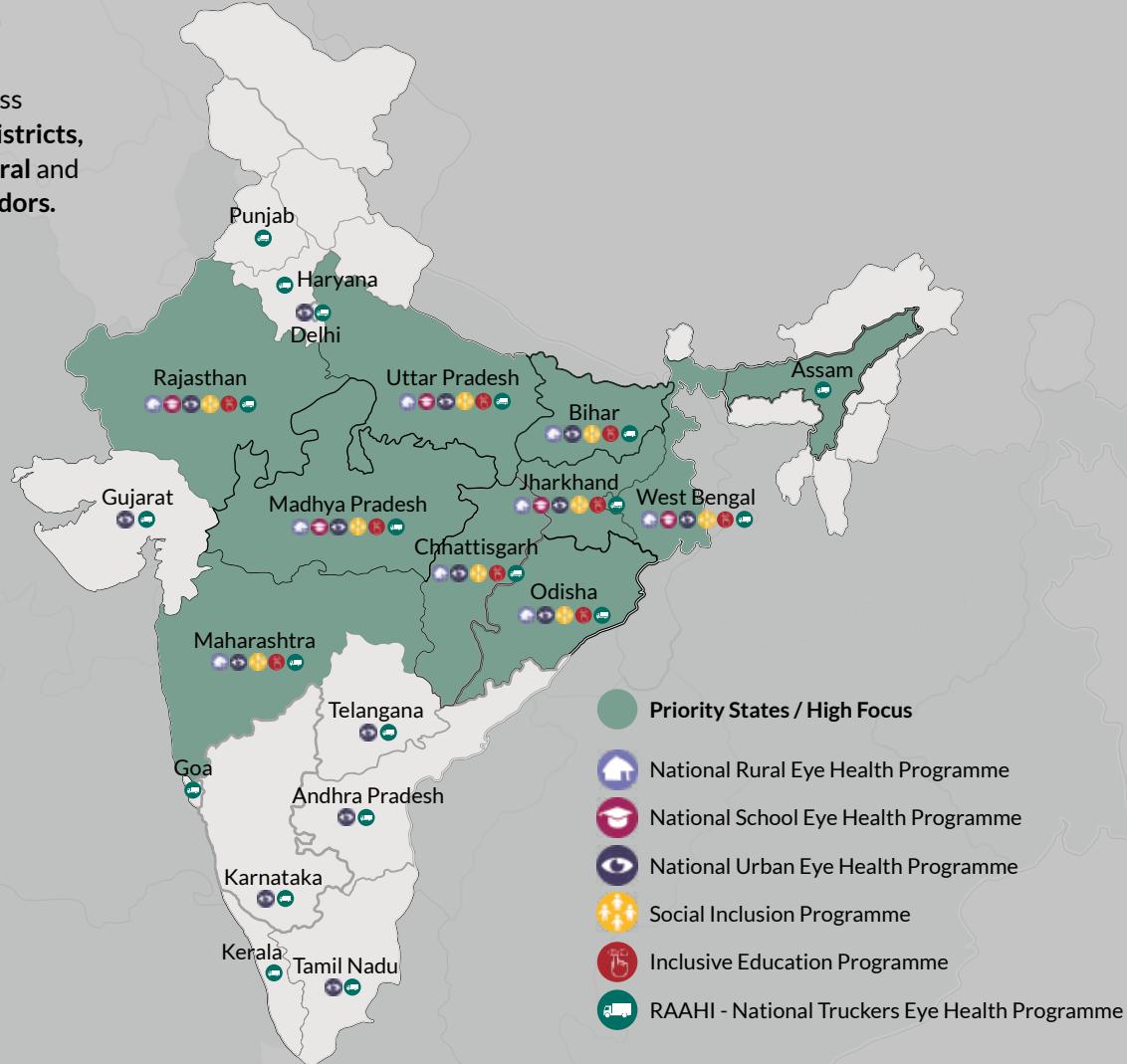
## SOCIAL INCLUSION



Our  
Work

# Geography

We are currently present across **10 states, 17 cities, and 100 districts**, and India's **Golden Quadrilateral** and **North-South-East-West** corridors.



# Recognition & Awards

- 🏆 Jury mention in the Excellence in Enforcement category at 7th Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Road Safety Awards & Symposium 2025 for RAAHI - National Truckers Eye Health Programme & Drishti Kendras.
- 🏆 Zero Project Award 2024 winner for inclusive education using accessible ICT devices – selected from 523 global nominations across 97 countries.
- 🏆 Credibility Alliance Accredited under Desirable Norms for strong governance and transparency.
- 🏆 CRISIL Rating: 1A, reflecting high standards of performance and financial credibility.
- 🏆 Named one of India's 10 Best NGOs to Work For by Great Place to Work® Institute India (2020).
- 🏆 Winner of the Grant Thornton Sabera 2020 – Shiksha Award for impactful education efforts during the pandemic.
- 🏆 Honoured with the Mahatma Award for Social Good (2019) for outstanding work in eye health on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- 🏆 Received the prestigious HCL Grant 2018 for Education from Home Minister Hon'ble Sri Rajnath Singh.



# 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**



"I am thankful to Sightsavers India for enhancing my teaching skills and enabling me to educate children with visual impairment effectively."

**Sasmita, Teacher, Odisha**



"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'd like to thank Sightsavers India and its partners for setting up a vision centre in Salem, ensuring access to vision care. I now navigate the roads with newfound clarity, empowered to continue breaking barriers."

**Selvamani G, Truck Driver, Tamil Nadu**



"Without the support and guidance of the Sightsavers India team, my journey back to education and success in the 10th board exams would not have been possible."

**Manoranjan, Student, Jharkhand**



"I can now read all the product labels, note down credit entries properly and manage everything in the shop by myself. I don't need to depend on anyone anymore. The spectacles have brought me back my confidence. They are like a new light in my life. This work is a blessing. I pray that this continues, so that others like me, who suffer quietly can also get help and live with dignity again."

**Lalaram, shopkeeper, Rajasthan**

# 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**



## 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.



## 2020s

Sightsavers India adopted a high-impact district-focused rural eye health model, launched the RAAHI Truckers Programme, Mobile Eye Health Vans, and the Fellowship Programme—ushering in a decade of scalable innovations.



## Netra Vasant - The Rural Eye Health Programme

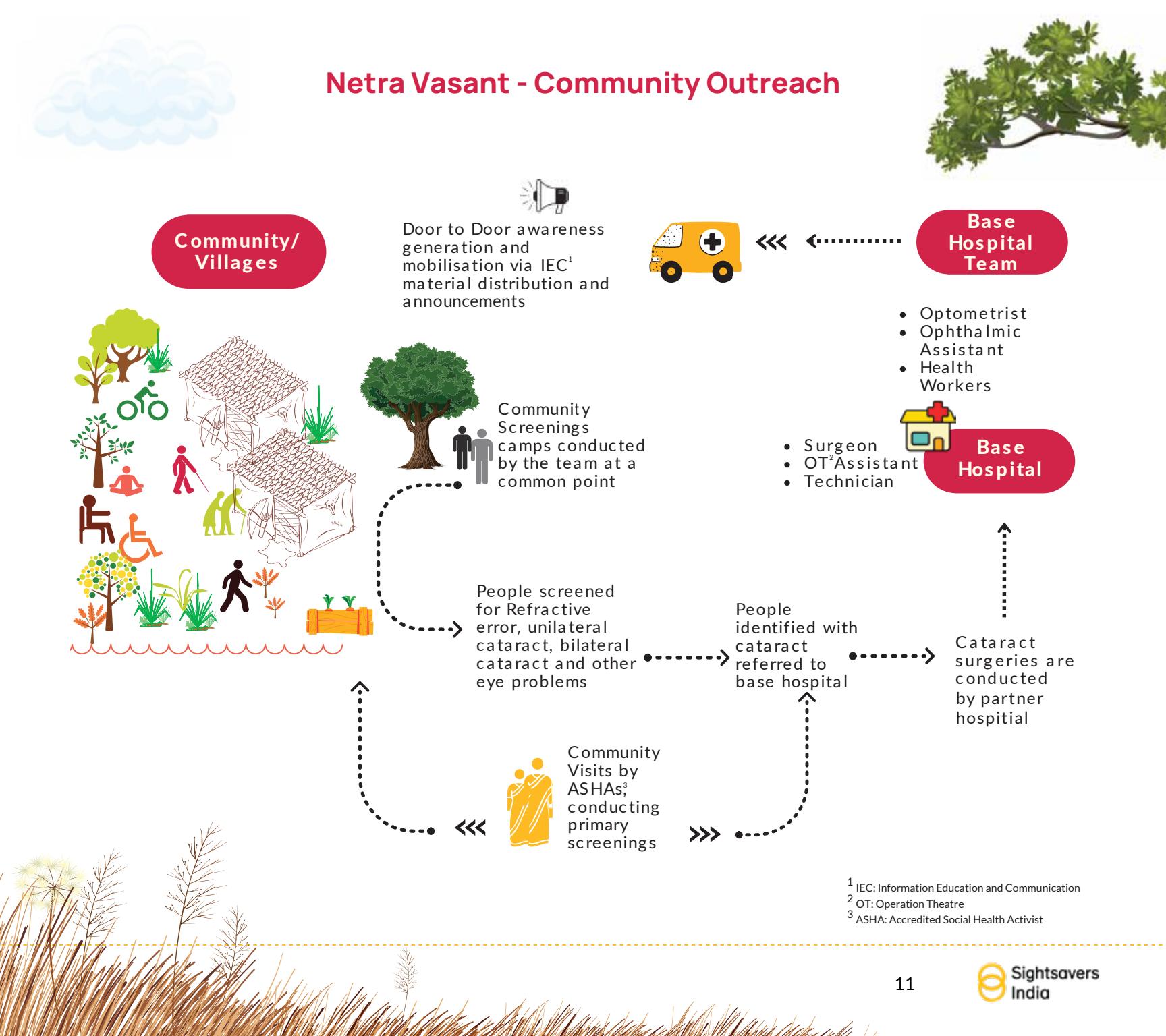
Sightsavers India launched the Netra Vasant - Rural Eye Health Programme, currently operational in **100 districts**, to improve vision-related quality of life by strengthening rural eye health systems in India. With **over 100 static vision centres across ten states**, the programme focuses on reducing blindness, increasing Cataract Surgical Rates (CSR), and ensuring equitable, sustainable eye care for underserved communities.

We aim to achieve universal coverage vis-a-vis eye health services by reducing blindness prevalence, providing equitable coverage, and financial and programmatic sustainability.

-  Screening for Common Blinding Eye Diseases
-  Refraction and Spectacles Provision
-  Referral to Higher Levels
-  High Quality Cataract Surgeries Through Referrals
-  Capacity Building of Health Workforce
-  Integration with Wider Health Systems



# Netra Vasant - Community Outreach





## Amrita Drishti - The Urban Eye Health Programme

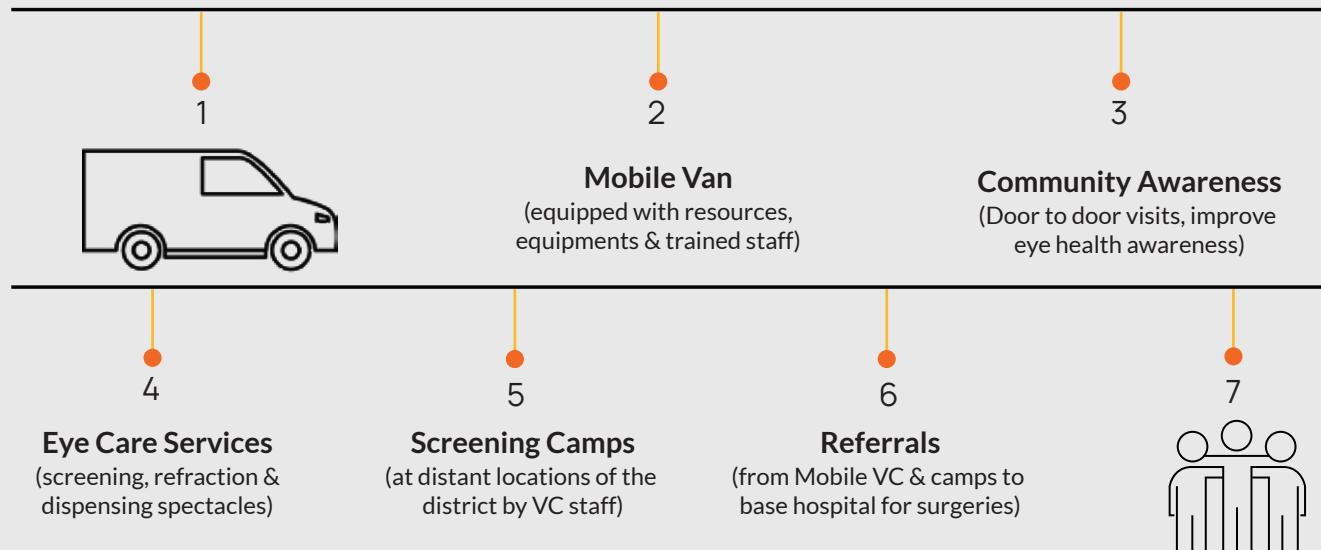
This programme enables eye care for low-income residents in **17 cities** by integrating its vision centres with Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs), establishing partner supported vision centres, building community resources and strengthening the National Health Mission.

It also deploys healthcare **Mobile Vans** offering teleconsultation, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy screening, portable perimetry, and spectacles. We aim to establish robust primary eye care systems in urban areas lacking essential support.

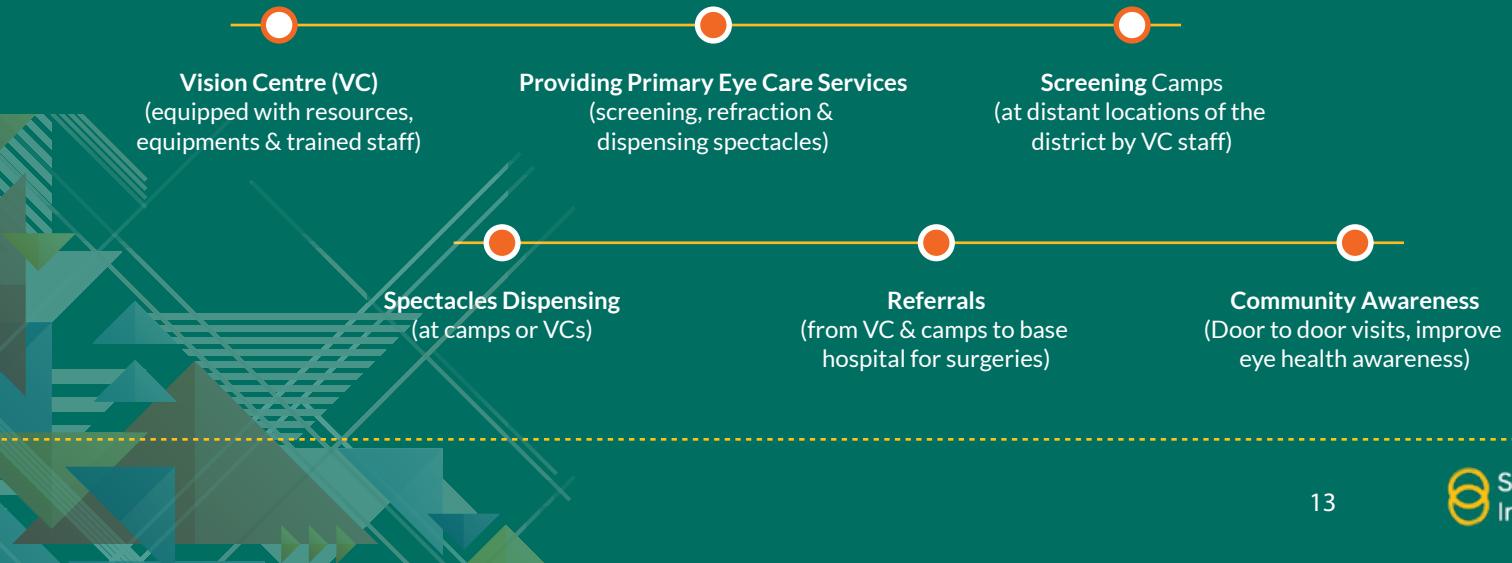
-  Cost Effective Screening Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)
-  Equitable Spectacle Dispensing
-  Community Demand Generation
-  Sensitization of Health Worker
-  Effective Linkage with (Eye) Health Providers
-  Integration with Urban Health Initiatives



## UEH through Mobile Vans



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

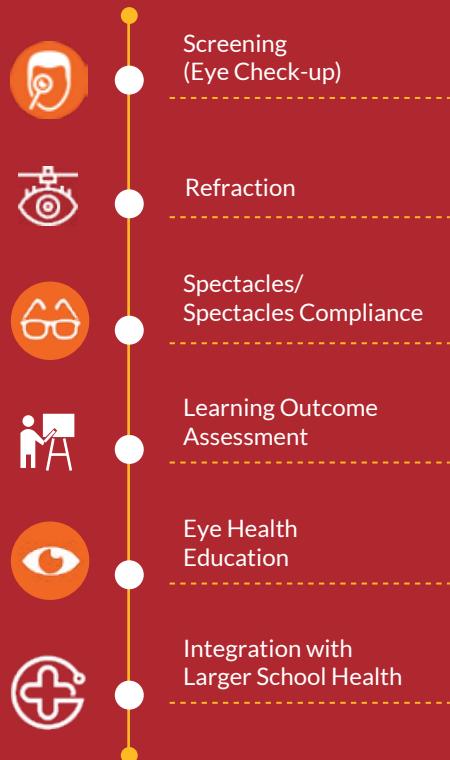




## Vidya Jyoti - National School Eye Health Programme

This programme is dedicated to enhancing eye health among school children. Currently operational in **5 districts**. Over the past five years, the programme has **screened 4 million students**.

We aim to integrate eye health into broader school health efforts, with key components including teacher training, service delivery, and eye health awareness, to screen, identify, and prevent vision issues from Grades I to XII.



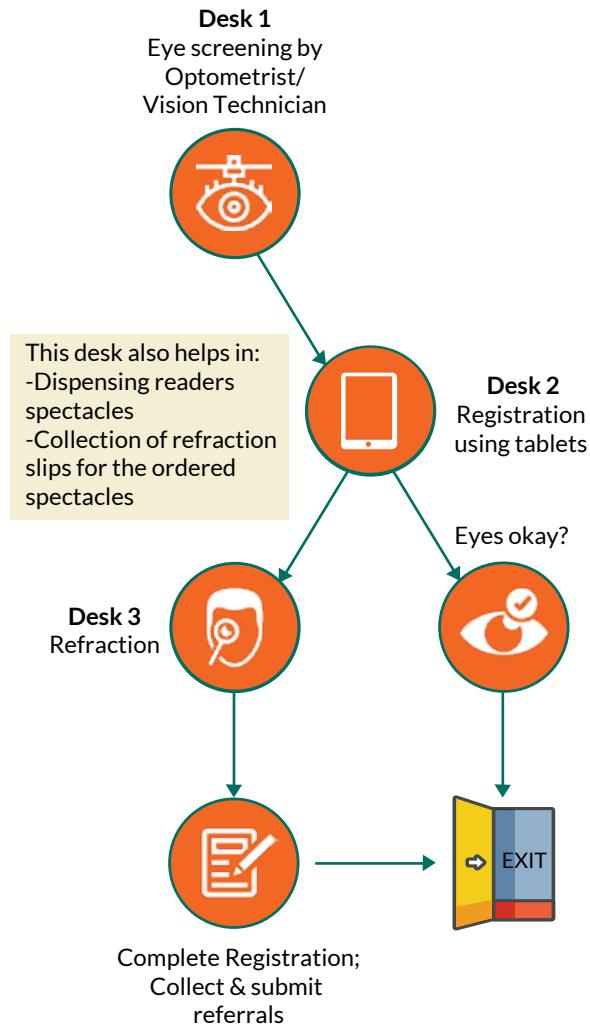


## RAAHI - National Truckers Eye Health Programme

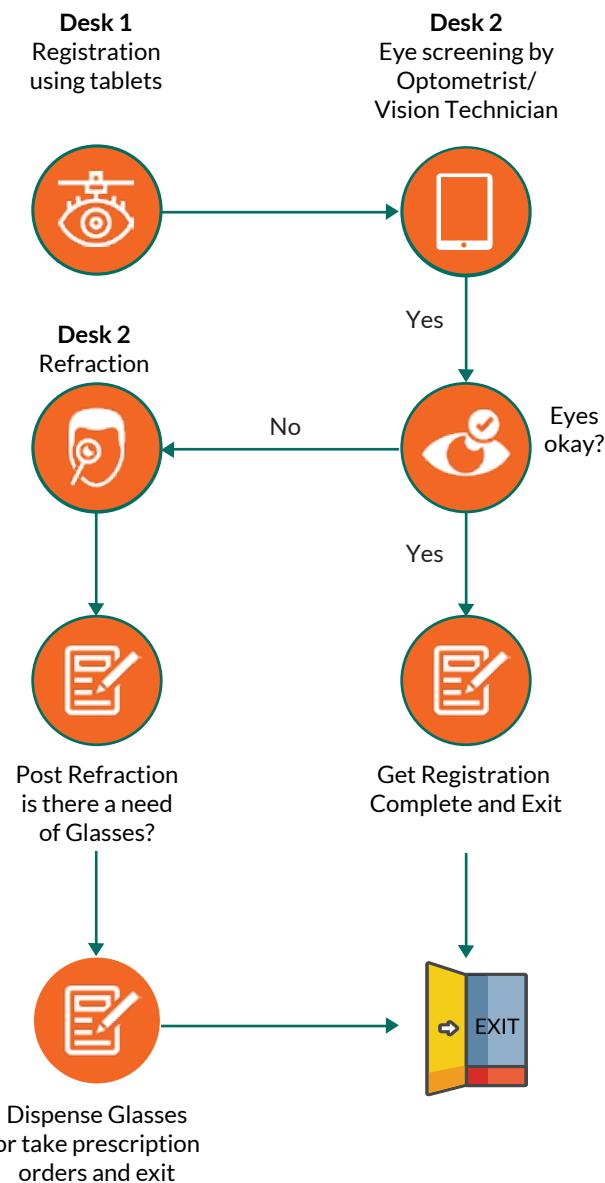
As one of the largest eye health programmes in the country, RAAHI delivers essential eye care services directly to truckers. With presence in **67 locations** along India's major haulage routes, including the **Golden Quadrilateral** and **North-South-East-West (NSEW) Corridor**, the programme features static centres in transport hubs, outreach camps at key locations and mobile vision centres. We also have a cloud-based technology called the **RAAHI App** that enhances the delivery of eyecare services to truckers on the move.



## Outreach Camp Model



## Static Centre Model





## Inclusive Education Programme

Sightsavers India promotes an inclusive environment for children with visual impairments in **13 districts**. It supports **children** by providing assistive devices, accessible materials, and skills training to both teachers and students while ensuring infrastructure accessibility. Focused on children aged 5–18 in government schools under **Samagra Shiksha**, particularly in rural districts, we work closely with families, schools, and communities to ensure every child receives a quality and holistic education.

**The Student Tracking Assessment and Reporting (STAR) App** tracks the progress of children with visual impairments to strengthen the programme and aims to integrate them into mainstream education and ensure equal opportunities for all.

### 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

Through this programme, Sightsavers India is committed to empowering people with disabilities by providing essential skills, tools, and support to help them **achieve financial independence** and lead fulfilling lives.

With a presence in **12 districts**, the programme has **engaged 2,58,471 people with disabilities (PwDs)** so far. Our Social Inclusion efforts focus on three core areas: Institution Building, Economic Empowerment, and Creating an Enabling Environment. We also adopt a comprehensive gender approach, offering adolescent girls self-defence training and health and hygiene education.



# 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- Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattigarh and Odisha. The process involves skills up-gradation components and personal interactions with eminent leaders in the eye care and development sector.

The fellowship also offers opportunities for field exposure through participation in outreach camps, Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) surveys and clinical audits to fellows.





## The Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE) Unit

The Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE) Unit is responsible for developing sustainable Govt and external stakeholder relationships taking national and state level policy contexts. The unit fosters and develops strategic alliance, partnerships and circles of influence to positively impact evidence-based policy changes and its effective implementation in the areas of eye healthcare, disability inclusive development and inclusive education in India.

GRAPE unit supports Sightsavers Programme Operations in strengthening Govt. partnerships and provide insights to organizational strategy to remain relevant in the changing policy landscape.



## GRAPE unit aims to achieve:

### 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 sensitisation

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.



With the support of government bodies, corporate allies, and community partners, we've changed lives - one step, one skill, one smile at a time. **Thank you for being an integral part of our mission.**



## Meet our Eye Health Mascot - **Kaki**



**"Do not delay  
your eye  
check-up!"**



West Bengal



Odisha



Chhattisgarh



## List of Abbreviations

- ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activists
- CVI: Children with Visual Impairment
- CWD: Children with Disabilities
- DR: Diabetic Retinopathy
- OPDs: Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
- PwD: Persons with Disabilities
- RAAB: Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
- SHG: Self-Help Group
- UPHC: Urban Primary Health Centre
- VARS: Vision & Road Safety
- VC: Vision Centre
- IEC: Information Education and Communication
- OT: Operation Theatre



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