



Sightsavers

Highlights of
2009

See what
you helped
us achieve
last year...

Last year, we received

€5,692,193

€4,570,844 from individuals

€153,794 in corporate donations

€100,795 from legacies

€819,807 in government grants

€24,517 from trusts

€22,436 from schools, churches and
community groups

Thank you for your support

2009 was a financially challenging year for most people in Ireland, yet Sightsavers were still able to provide medical treatment and practical help to many hundreds of thousands of blind and visually impaired people living in the developing world. This was thanks to the generosity and compassion of our Irish supporters.

This achievement also underlines yet again the high quality of our international development programmes. In a recent report assessing the work of Sightsavers in Mozambique, Irish Aid, the Irish Government's official aid agency, described our programme as "a model of development [with] the components of well thought through, systematic and consultative programme planning and management".

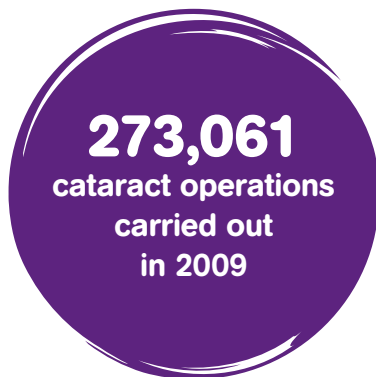
Last year Sightsavers Ireland supported projects and programmes in fifteen African, Asian and Caribbean countries, thanks to the generous donations of over 40,000 Irish supporters.

In this report you'll find details of just some of the amazing things that your support has enabled us to achieve.

On behalf of all the millions whose lives your contribution helps transform, thank you for your generosity.



Pat Farrell
Chairman, Sightsavers Ireland



Cataract


You helped Nizam from Bangladesh

Nizam is the second of three children. He was born with good sight, but from the age of two began to develop difficulties with his eyes. By the age of four his eyesight had deteriorated and he was no longer able to play with his friends or do things for himself around the home such as dressing himself or feeding himself.

His mother Alatun did not have enough money to take him to a clinic and feared her son would become a beggar in the community. His mother said 'It was very painful for me to think of this happening to my son'.

Nizam was identified as having cataract through a door-to-door survey carried out by ABC, a Sightsavers partner. After a full diagnosis he was referred for surgery.

Two days after his operation Nizam was back at home, recovering well and playing with his friends. He can now carry out all the same everyday activities as they can, including going to school. Thanks to your support, Nizam and his family can look forward to the future with hope.



21,800,000
people protected
against river blindness

River blindness

You helped Halleluiah from Nigeria

Nine-year-old Halleluiah and her family live beside a river. As the only source of water for drinking, washing and irrigation, the river is a vital resource for their village of 2,000 people. But it also presents a great danger to them owing to the prevalence of the blackfly that causes onchocerciasis, more commonly known as river blindness.

Halleluiah's grandfather Kungiya Kure, now aged 78, has been blind due to this cruel disease since he was 40. Kungiya has benefitted from a Sightsavers community-based rehabilitation project. Through this he has learned mobility and orientation skills which have enabled him to continue some farming duties and earn a small income for himself and his family. Many people of Kungiya's generation suffer similarly from river blindness.

Through a Sightsavers and Kaduna State Government initiative Halleluiah will be spared her grandfather's condition. She and her mother Blessing still go to the river every day to fetch water for the household and to wash dishes and clothes. Thanks to a tiny tablet called Mectizan®, which is donated by Merck & Co, and distributed at a cost of just six cent per person per year, they are protected from river blindness for an entire year.



Trachoma

You helped Hakim from Pakistan

Hakim is a 65-year-old woman living in Pakistan who suffered from the infection trachoma which gradually developed into trichiasis whereby the eyelid turns inwards and the eyelashes rub against the eyeball, causing pain, scarring and can eventually lead to blindness.

She had to visit the local doctor every week to have her eyelashes removed but her sight continued to deteriorate and she became very dependent on her family.

Her son told her about doctors from Mayo Hospital, Lahore, who were in their village providing free eye examinations and information on how to prevent the spread of trachoma in their community. Hakim went along for an examination and was recommended for immediate eye surgery.

Initially she was afraid she would lose her sight as a result of the operation, but after some encouragement she went on to have successful surgery on both eyes. Hakim is now living a happy and independent life with her family.



5,919
children receiving
specialist support
in mainstream
schools in 2009

Education

You helped Alex from Uganda

Alex is 10 and suffers from a debilitating eye condition called posterior capsular. In June 2009 he was operated on in Mengo Missionary Hospital. Following his surgery he can see better, but his vision is still not perfect.

Alex attends Kamasurai Integrated Primary School in the Masindi District. He is one of twelve blind or visually impaired students who go there. Sightsavers have provided the school with Braille materials, four computers and also built a resource centre for teacher training and extra support for children with special needs.

Thanks to this support, and his own irrepressible confidence, Alex is making huge strides. He walks an hour to school each day, is an assistant prefect in the Scouts troop, and loves playing football. (He’s a big Manchester United fan!)

“Even after his operation, he still needs to sit close to the board and uses big print”, one of his teachers, Harriet, says. “But his reading has greatly improved. Teachers love him!” And no wonder, Alex recently came top in his class, and is determined to become a doctor.



Tim McDonnell/Sightsavers

7,274
people given
rehabilitation
training in 2009

Rehabilitation

You helped Mohammad from Sierra Leone

Mohammad is 37 years old, and worked for many years as a truck driver. He then became blind and lacking in family support he had no other choice but to beg on the streets of Freetown to survive.

One day he heard about a Sightsavers-supported training programme set up by the Sierra Leone Association for the Blind (SLAB) to help the many blind people begging on the streets learn a skill to enable them to become self-sufficient. The skills taught on this programme include baking, fabric-dyeing, soap-making and sewing. At the SLAB training centre Mohammad learned to make soap and then turned his new skill into a successful business. “Now I make a lot of soap which I sell to the market. I have my dignity.”

Mohammad has also learned to read Braille and transcribe, and is now saving for a dowry to get married. He is also employed by the Ministry of Education to train other blind people to make soap and thereby pull themselves out of poverty. As he says himself, “I am now a role model.”

Along with the Sightsavers global team,
last year we achieved...

13,358,000 People screened

9,845,421 People identified as needing treatment

273,061 Cataract operations

21,800,000 People treated to prevent
Onchocerciasis (river blindness)

990,798 People treated for trachoma

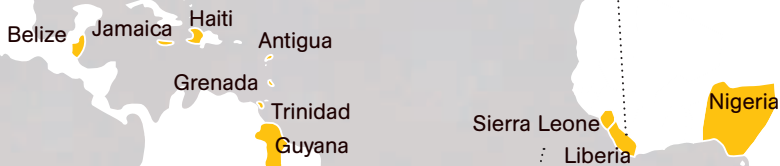
150,000 People trained

7,274 Children received rehabilitation training

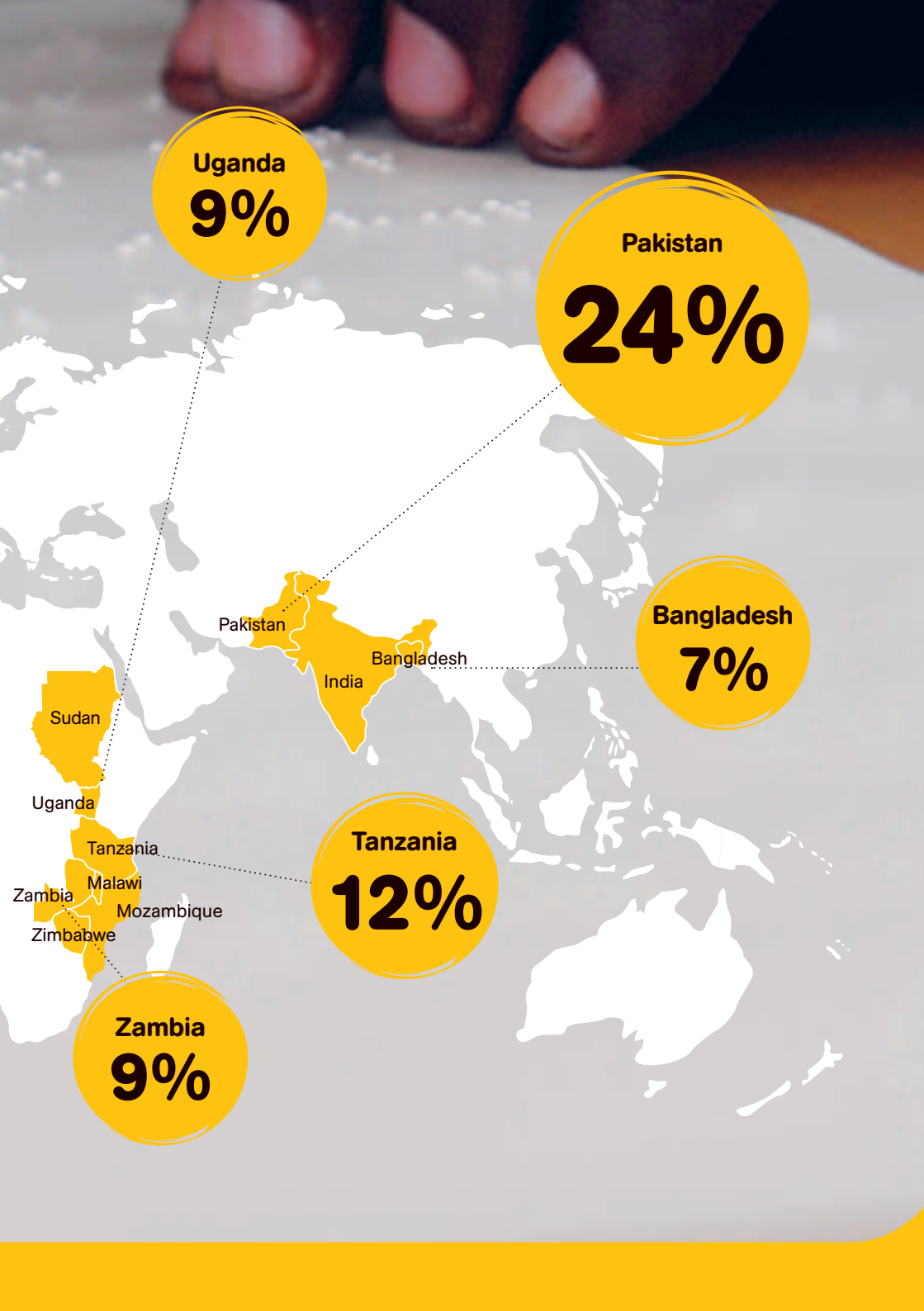
5,919 Children received specialist support in
mainstream schools

Last year your donations helped many hundreds of thousands of visually impaired people in the developing world

The map highlights the % of funds allocated.



Belize, the Caribbean, India, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan and Zimbabwe also benefited from your generosity, receiving 14% of your money.



Uganda
9%

Pakistan
24%

Bangladesh
7%

Tanzania
12%

Zambia
9%

Sudan
Uganda
Tanzania
Zambia
Malawi
Mozambique
Zimbabwe

Pakistan
India
Bangladesh

You can contact us

Sightsavers

70 Upper George's Street
Dún Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

Call us: 01 663 7666

Donation Line: 1850 50 20 20

Email us: info@sightsavers.ie

Look us up: www.sightsavers.ie



® Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.