

Annual Review 2010





“I give thanks to the doctors and to Sightsavers. I have no gift and I can't pay, but I give thanks to them from my heart”

A message to all our supporters

Aissettou Toure from Guinea, West Africa, who is pictured on the front cover, had a sight restoring cataract operation last year.

I started losing my sight gradually. One day I could no longer see.

I am a farmer. But when I lost my sight I couldn't do anything. I missed seeing my grandchildren and children.

I heard about the eye centre in Labe and wanted to go there. I refused to have traditional healers touch my eyes.

After my operation I shrieked with joy. I just couldn't believe my eyes. I could see everyone in front of me.

Now I have my sight back everything is OK for me. I will go back to my home and start my daily activities again. I will be able to grow my crops again.

Without your support we would not be able to bring you news of success stories like this, or any of the other wonderful life changing stories inside our annual review. Thank you.

Introduction



This year has been a time of great challenge for all organisations, with economic and environmental upheavals across the globe. Despite this, the work of Sightsavers has continued to grow, and thanks to our partners and supporters we have reached more people than ever before. We have significantly increased our work in the area of 'Neglected Tropical Diseases' – treating blinding diseases such as trachoma and river blindness alongside other horrific diseases

such as lymphatic filariasis (often known as elephantiasis). This is a very efficient way of delivering treatment and we have protected many millions of people this way. The numbers of people screened, given prescriptions for glasses and those trained to provide services all increased, as did the number of visually impaired children supported in school.

I am so proud of the amount we can do at Sightsavers with the money we are given. We don't just focus on short term goals, but ensure we are helping to build the health and education systems that will deliver for people well into the future. We measure our achievements, using our SIM card (see later) as well as output statistics, and share our successes and our disappointments openly with you.

2010 brought two really big pieces of good news for us – we were told we had become a strategic partner of the UK Department for International Development, which brings with it a substantial multi year grant, and that Comic Relief had decided to showcase our work on Red Nose Day – look out for more on this in our 2011 annual review. This has been a very good year – thank you to all who have helped us make it so.

Caroline Harper, Chief Executive

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Reaching our goals

Our vision is a world where nobody is blind from avoidable causes, and where people who are visually impaired participate equally in society. We wanted to tell you more about how our strategy is helping us achieve this vision.

“At the core of everything we do are the people who are at risk of losing their sight, and those whose sight is impaired or lost”

Caroline Harper, CEO



Afroza Hossain with her son eight-year-old Shahadat who had an operation to restore his sight two years ago, as part of the Bangladesh Childhood Cataract Campaign, supported by Sightsavers

Our strategy is a road map which sets out how we'll achieve our vision. It helps us to measure how well we are doing. It tells us if we are going wrong and helps us to get back on the right track.

In order to achieve our vision we've identified four change themes, around which all our work is based. These are health, education, social inclusion and community development. We based our annual review around these change themes. You'll find examples of our work in each area, and details of the progress we've made.

To help us achieve our change themes we developed a Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Card, or SIM Card. This guides our work and measures progress, like a SIM drives a phone. It comes in two parts, a strategy map (see opposite) and a scorecard.

The strategy map breaks down the strategy into key objectives we need to focus on.

The scorecard identifies indicators, with targets, for each of the objectives to monitor progress.

How have we done?

As well as measuring output statistics like the number of people treated, our SIM card allows us to measure the long term outcomes of our work. Are we really delivering on our strategy and having a long term impact, or just getting short term gain? Are we on the right track? If not, where are we going wrong?

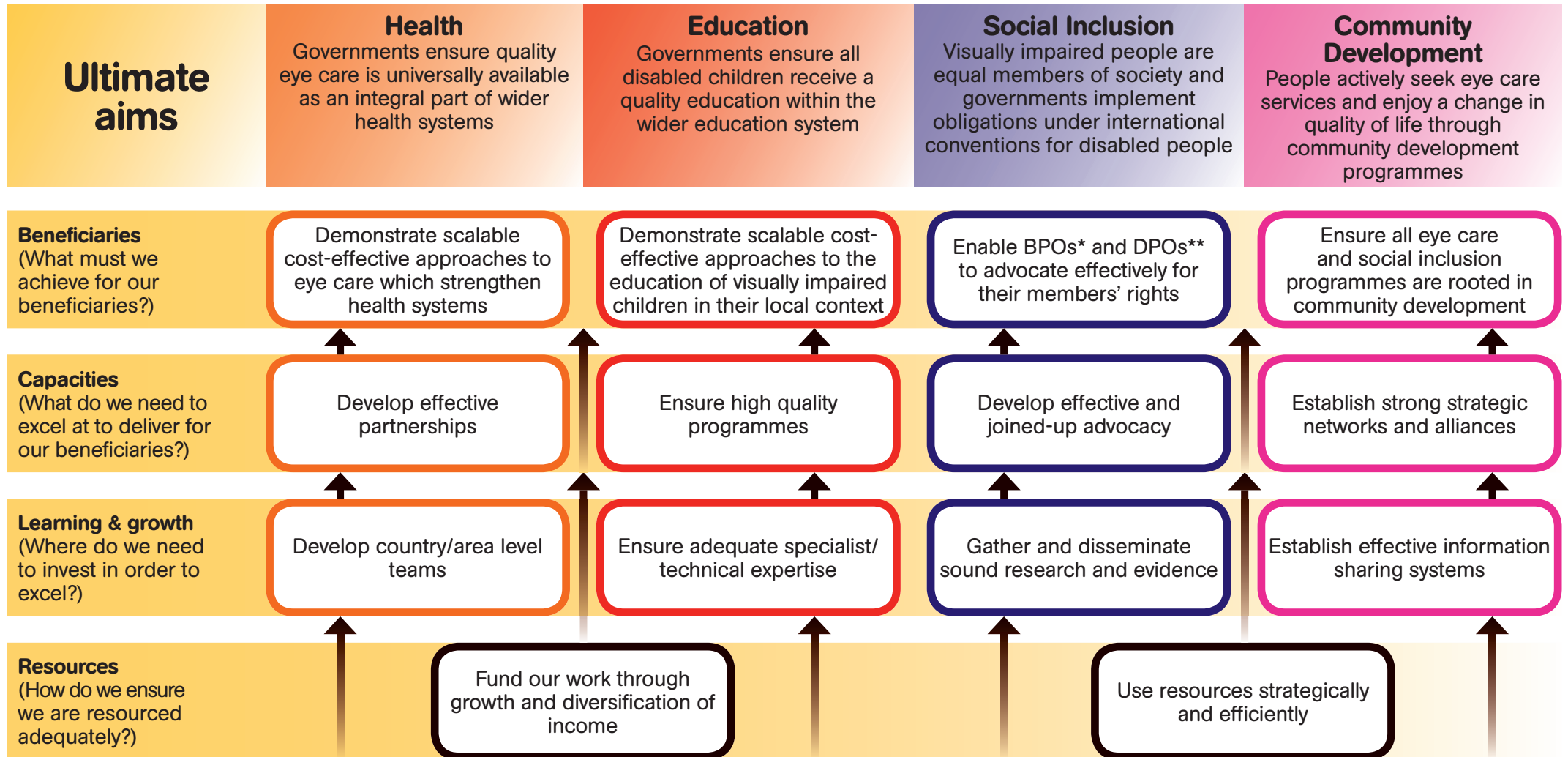
We've published results from some of our beneficiary indicators in this annual review. Look out for the 'How have we done' boxes!

Our vision is ambitious but throughout this review you will see that we are making progress. The proof is in the sheer number of people that we've reached, in our sustainable partnerships, and in the words of the people whose lives have been changed.

The strategy map

You can view an interactive version of our strategy map which links to tangible examples for each area of our work at www.sightsavers.org/interactivemap

Our vision: No one is blind from avoidable causes; visually impaired people participate equally in society
Our mission: To eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people



*BPO: Blind People's Organisation **DPO: Disabled People's Organisation

Our performance in 2010

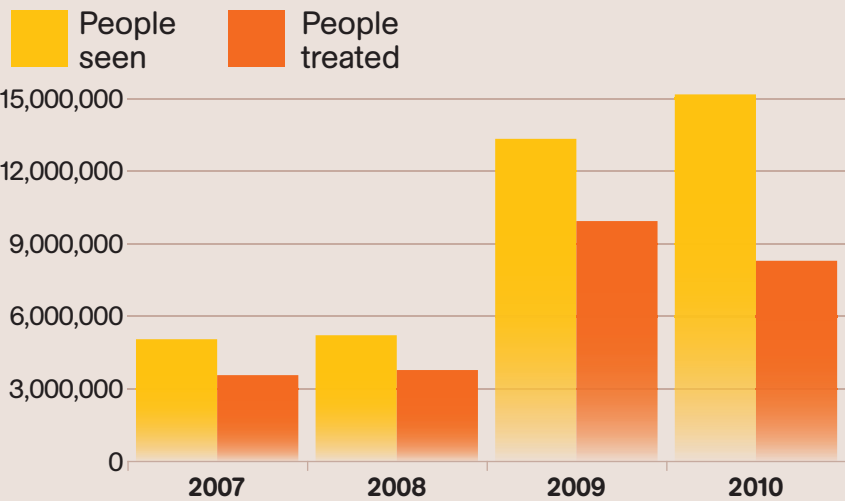
We have achieved a great deal this year and are extremely grateful to our supporters. Thank you for helping us to reach so many people in 2010.



In 2010 Sightsavers supported 486 projects that were implemented with 263 partners

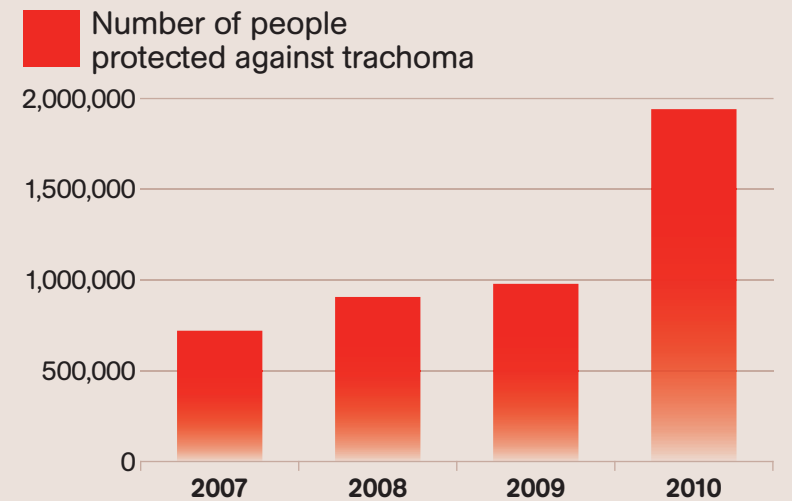


People seen and treated*



*The changes in the number of people seen and treated are related predominantly to the Lady Health Workers' project in Pakistan. This has resulted in a significant increase in screenings as the number of Lady Health Workers has grown in 2010. Many of those trained in 2009 are now being provided with essential medicines directly from the Government of Pakistan rather than through the project, hence the fall in treatment in 2010.

Protection against trachoma

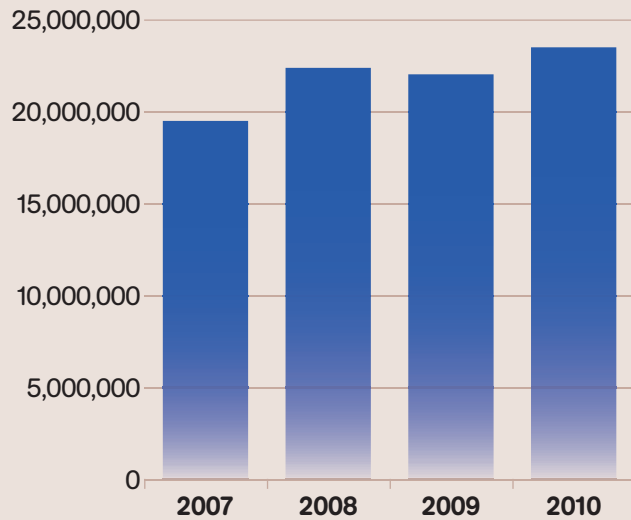


© Kate Holt/Sightsavers



River blindness protection

■ Number of people who were treated with Mectizan®

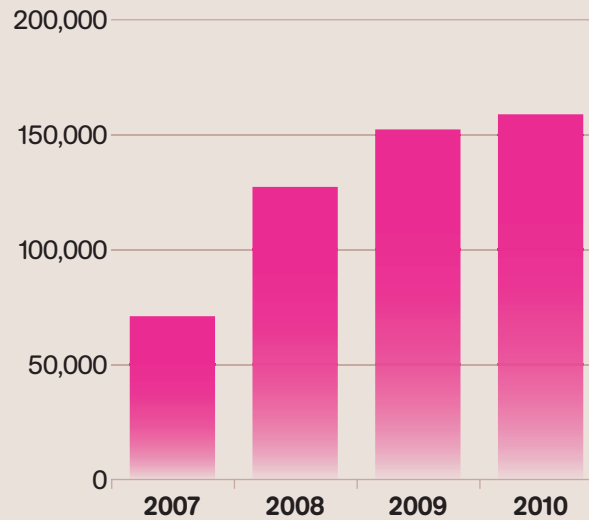


© Laura Crow/Sightsavers



Training

■ Number of medical personnel who were trained

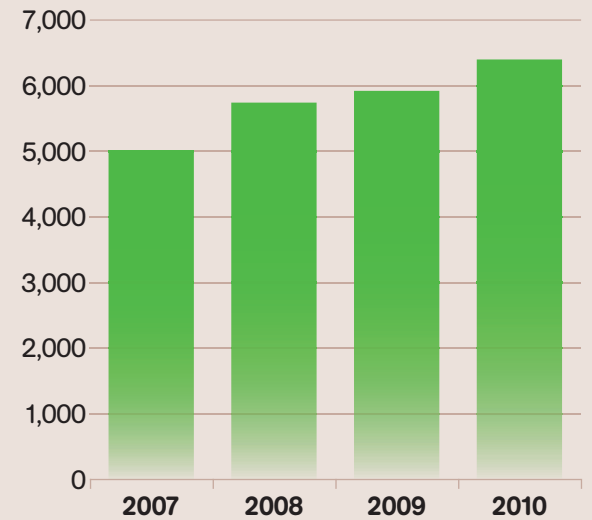


© Nikki Bayliss/Sightsavers



Education

■ Number of children receiving specialist support in mainstream schools



Preventing and curing blindness

90% of people who are blind or have low vision live in developing countries. With local partners we identify those most in need, and together develop sustainable solutions to prevent and cure blindness.



Amina embraces her son-in-law after her sight-restoring operation

take care of me,” she says.

One day she was listening to a local radio station and heard that there was an eye clinic, supported by Sightsavers, happening nearby. She contacted her son-in-law, Omar, and he took her there on the back of his motorbike.

Amina was identified as having cataract and had a straightforward operation. When her bandage is removed she can see again. “I’m so delighted that the operation was a success,” she says. “Now, I can go home and work on the farm with my sister again.”

Looking to the future

We plan to build a dedicated eye department in the government-run hospital in the city of Nampula. As well as addressing the eye care needs of four million people in the Nampula Province, the new unit will serve as a referral centre for more complicated eye conditions for the whole of Northern Mozambique.

© Riccardo Gangale/Sightsavers

“I’m so delighted my operation was a success”
Amina Omar

Our fledgling eye care programme in Mozambique got off to a flying start thanks to Sightsavers’ support

Amina Omar has been blind for the last year, but with only one ophthalmologist serving the region of four million people in which she lives, it is not surprising she couldn’t get the help that she needed.

The 70-year-old widow from Nacala in Northern Mozambique found her life had changed drastically since losing her sight. “I’ve been unable to do any work on my farm and have had to rely on family members to

“Now I’m a tailor once again”
Abdul Salam

A cataract operation has enabled Abdul to work again

In Bangladesh, the Ministry of Health agreed to roll out our cataract surgical guidelines nationwide

© Zul Mukhida/Sightsavers



Did you know?

Over **50,000** Lady Health Workers were trained in primary eye care in a project funded by our partners Standard Chartered and Irish Aid in **Pakistan**. They’ll have the ability to reach over one million people in the next three years.

How have we done?

Our aim is for all health projects to support and strengthen national health systems

2010 target: **60%** of our eye health projects will be embedded in national and local government health plans

Result: **58%** of our projects meet this criteria

By ensuring health workers are able to spot and treat common eye problems (known as primary eye care) we are well on our way to preventing avoidable blindness. Abdul Salam, 49, from Bangladesh describes how a visit from a health worker transformed his life.

“I lost my sight three years ago. I’d been a tailor for 38 years but when I went blind I had to sell my sewing machine because I needed some money to look after my family.

A health worker came to visit me at my home and informed me that my sight could be saved. I was referred to the eye hospital and told that I had cataract in both of my eyes. When the bandages

were removed the first thing I saw was my wife and family.

Now I’m a tailor once again. I have made some clothes for people in my surrounding village and I’ve had an order from Bangladeshi people living in the UK. My hope for the future is that I can re-establish my business.”

The health worker that visited Abdul was part of Vision Bangladesh, an ambitious project between Sightsavers and our partner BRAC with the long term aim of eliminating avoidable blindness in the whole of the country by 2020. So far, a total of 715 BRAC health visitors have received primary eye care training, and already 11, 224 patients have been examined.

**In 2010,
we supported
270,924
cataract
operations**

Training

In Africa, on average one eye surgeon serves one million people. Without trained eye care workers, tens of thousands of people will lose their sight. Last year we trained a record breaking 281,600 people to become community volunteers, specialist teachers, nurses and cataract surgeons.



“I hope our eye care centre continues to go from strength to strength”

Mariama

Mariama trained to be an ophthalmic clinic officer at the Sightsavers supported Institute of African Tropical Ophthalmology in Mali. Back in her home country of Guinea, she now works at the regional eye care unit in Labe, also supported by Sightsavers. As well as dealing with eye patients, she trains health students in eye care, and works with teachers helping them to identify children with eye problems in their classes.

“Many of my students are from very rural areas. My hope is that they will represent us in regions that we cannot reach. They must protect the patients from traditional medicine practices and direct them here to the eye care centre.



Mariama with one of her students

The best thing about my job is that I am able to give back sight to patients who have confidence and trust in us. My hope for the future is that there are fewer problems with eye sight and we have more means to take care of everyone. I hope our eye care centre continues to go from strength to strength.”

“The severe shortage of trained eye care workers is one of the biggest challenges to providing eye care and preventing blindness in developing countries. Sightsavers is taking huge steps to tackle the shortage by training eye care workers at all levels”

Nigel Crisp, Chair of Sightsavers

In 2010,
we protected
nearly
two million
people against
trachoma

Tackling trachoma

Our work moving towards the elimination of the blinding disease trachoma has made huge progress this year.

Fati Sule from Ghana, who is around 40 years old, was one of the people to benefit from trichiasis surgery last year.

“For over three years I was in pain. It was like there were particles rubbing against my eyes – it was so uncomfortable. I could not concentrate on anything; flies would land on my eyes as they were always watering.

I consulted the herbalist who gave me some leaves to boil and use the juice to wash my face, however it did not work. A community volunteer visited me and encouraged me to go to the eye clinic. She came three times, but I was so scared. Eventually, I agreed to go.

After the operation I was so relieved. My eyes no longer water or itch. I am able to see the face of my grandson clearly once again. And my village looks more colourful and beautiful than before.”

Last year in Ghana, Sightsavers together with our partners operated on over 5,000 people with trichiasis. This means the country is well on its way to obtaining the World Health Certification to declare it free of the blinding disease.



© Sightsavers

“My village
looks more
beautiful than
before”

A new approach

Several countries, including **Mali, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Uganda** and **Ghana** now approach the control of trachoma via a mass distribution approach which is similar to how we control river blindness. An annual dose of the antibiotic tablet Zithromax is given to everyone in the community, which protects against infection, reduces the prevalence of the disease locally, and can eventually lead to its elimination. Free supplies of the drug are available from Pfizer, but only to countries that have signed up to the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI), use the SAFE strategy, and are undertaking a mass distribution approach.

Last year, **Malawi, Nigeria** and **Zambia** were approved by the ITI to distribute Zithromax. There is a desperate need for treatment



© Kate Holt/Sightsavers

A child drinks her antibiotics to prevent her from getting trachoma at a mass distribution centre for trachoma drugs supported by Sightsavers near Kijado, Kenya

in these three countries, so this approval is a real achievement and a great testament to the quality of our programmes.

Trachoma fact file

Trachoma is a disease of poverty, affecting mainly women and children. Trachoma causes trichiasis, where the infected eyelid turns inwards, scratching the cornea and leading to blindness.

We support the World Health Organization’s **SAFE** strategy to combat trachoma – combining **S**urgery, **A**ntibiotics, **F**ace washing and **E**nvironmental hygiene.

Education

Over 90% of children with disabilities in developing countries miss out on school. To reach these huge numbers we must persuade governments to provide education for all. We show them this is possible through our education work.



Mukonde with his classmates

“Mukonde is just like one of us, just that he can’t see”

Friend of Mukonde

He is top of his class, his favourite subjects are maths and science and his dream is to be a journalist. Mukonde Kafwimbi’s academic record is impressive, and the blind 14-year-old is outperforming his sighted fellow students.

Mukonde is one of 15 visually impaired children who go to

Mano Basic School in Mufulira District in Zambia. The school is part of the inclusive education programme, which is implemented by the Ministry of Education with support from Sightsavers.

With fifteen schools and a total of 36 visually impaired students, Mufulira District is a model for demonstrating

inclusive education.

When asked about his experiences learning in an inclusive class, Mukonde said that he enjoys interacting with his sighted friends. They help him read and write notes. One of Mukonde’s friends adds “Mukonde is just like one of us, just that he can’t see.”

According to Miriam Nyendwa, a teacher at the school, the performance of the visually impaired children is no different from their sighted counterparts. In fact out of the 15 visually impaired students seven are among the best students in their respective classes.

This programme in Mufulira is a pilot project, but it has demonstrated such success that Sightsavers is advocating to the government to adopt it as a national programme. This means it will be scaled up across the country so that more children like Mukonde can go to school.

© Sightsavers

How have we done?

Our aim is to demonstrate scalable, cost effective approaches to education.

2010 target: **10%** of our education projects to be suitable for replication by governments, such as the Zambia example.

Result: **33%** of our education projects meet this criteria.

Top of the class

Through our inclusive education projects we strive to ensure visually impaired children get a quality education. There's been some amazing performances in 2010.

Fourteen-year-old Manisha from North India is blind. She used to be confined to her house, until a special needs teacher, from a Sightsavers' inclusive education programme, visited and helped her to access her local school. Manisha is passionate about learning. In order to master Braille, she wrote out 300 Hindi film songs! She receives fortnightly newspapers in Braille and reads out the latest news to people in her village.

"If the teacher had not contacted me I would have always remained dependent on others for everything.

Last year, we supported over 6,000 blind children to go to school

Today I have gained confidence with the intervention of my teachers. I hope to be a district magistrate in the future," she says.

Manisha is an expert in Braille



© Andy Weekes/Sightsavers

Our expertise

In 2010, we used our expertise to help develop resources to ensure that visually impaired children go to school.

In **Malawi**, we worked with the Ministry of Education to develop guidelines on special needs education.

Hilda Machesco, 12, has albinism which means she has extremely low vision. She was not at school until Sightsavers' partners found her. They persuaded Hilda and her family that, with a bit of help, there was no reason for her not to study. Hilda was given glasses, and low vision aids. With the help of a specialist teacher she is doing well.



© Sightsavers

Hilda at school

"When I can't read the blackboard I use my telescope instead of my glasses, or I ask one of my friends to help me," she tells us.

Fact file

What is inclusive education?

Inclusive education means ensuring that mainstream schools and education systems meet the needs of all children, including disabled children.

Including everyone

We believe that visually impaired people should be equal members of society. Yet barriers to health, education and jobs mean that disabled people are some of the most excluded in the world.

By supporting blind and disabled people's groups to advocate for their rights we can achieve long lasting change for the maximum amount of people.

When Ganesha Ram failed to get a job after losing his sight he didn't know where to turn for help. 39-year-old Ganesha from Nagaur in North India went blind two years ago due

to a problem with his optical nerve and was unable to continue his previous work as a labourer and farmer. The pressure to provide for his four daughters and dependent mother was immense.

also supported by Urmul Khejri Sansthan, contacted Ganesha and offered to help. They took his case to court demanding that the local government employment scheme consider Ganesha again for the job he'd applied for. They were successful! Ganesha was reconsidered for the role and is now happily working as a caretaker at a building site, which includes looking after the children of the workers there.

Ganesha is happy in his new job



He applied for a job under a local government scheme that should guarantee employment for people in rural areas. He was turned down. Since losing his sight Ganesha has received lots of support and training from Sightsavers' local partner, Urmul Khejri Sansthan. "I'm now confident in getting around, and in everyday tasks such as identifying money," he told us. "So it was a real disappointment not to be accepted on the government scheme."

A local disabled people's group (DPO),

How have we done?

Our aim is to enable blind people and disabled people's groups to advocate effectively

2010 target: **45%** of countries in which we work to be supporting blind and disabled people's groups to make positive changes in their communities.

Result: **42%** of our countries are working in this way.

1 in 5 of the world's poorest people has a disability

Breaking down barriers

Limited access to education and job opportunities means that disabled people experience high levels of poverty in developing countries.

Career options are often frustratingly limited if they occur at all for the majority of visually impaired people. In **Ghana** and **Zambia** we took steps to change this by running the first ever careers fairs for people with disabilities, in partnership with Standard Chartered, one of our corporate partners.

Inspirational presentations were given by disabled people who are currently in employment, such as Mawuse Yakor from Ghana, who is partially sighted due to albinism. Mawuse is a qualified accountant, and works as an audit officer.

“Some people do not want to associate with you, and even discourage others from doing so,” she says. “Many people view albinos negatively, and are often afraid of this condition

that affects skin and sight. The colour of our skin should not, and must not, be an indictment on our professional abilities.”

Building on the success of the careers fair, Ghana has developed a new programme with our partners the Ghana Federation of the Disabled and Ghana Blind Union to enhance opportunities of employment for people with disabilities.

‘The colour of our skin should not be an indictment on our professional abilities’

Mawuse Yakor



Long lasting change

We've achieved a lot through supporting disabled people's groups to advocate for change, here are some highlights:

In **Bangladesh** the government now provides free ICT training to disabled people, and cybercafes across the country will employ disabled people, as well as making their facilities accessible.

In **Uganda**, pressure to be more inclusive has meant that all government sponsored workshops and conferences now have sign language interpreters and other assistants as a matter of official policy.

In **Cameroon**, disabled people and women will be specifically targeted in all election related matters. And in **Liberia**, ballot papers have been made available in Braille.



Disabled people are encouraged to vote in Cameroon

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Working with communities

In 2010, we continued to prove that by working with local communities we can ensure everyone has access to the eye care they need.

Sightsavers is using our wealth of experience in working with community volunteers to treat other diseases of poverty.

Forty-five-year-old Sarkin Mallamai has been a community Mectizan[®] distributor in Zamfara State, North Nigeria for over 16 years. “I agreed to do this work because it is a way of helping my people,” he says. “I am always included in any health intervention that needs community participation. People call me the health ambassador.”



In 2010, 23,146,596 people were protected against river blindness

Marthe Damina, project officer

© Sightsavers (2)



Marthe Damina, project officer for Sightsavers in Nigeria explains how working with local volunteers such as Sarkin is enabling us to lead the way in the prevention of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

“For the past year I’ve been working on a groundbreaking pilot programme in Zamfara State. Sightsavers has used its experience and links with the community to map out and treat three other NTDs, as well as river blindness and trachoma. The other diseases are schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths, and lymphatic filariasis (often known as elephantiasis). All of which can lead to chronic ill health, or serious life-long disability.

The mapping gave us an idea of the spread of the different NTDs, which will enable us to measure the success of the treatment in the future. With support from

Sightsavers, the state then set about delivering mass drug administration for these diseases. We did this by working with community volunteers, and through schools. Within a period of six weeks over a million people were treated.

If we can use our experience of the community-directed approach to prevent more people dying or becoming disabled due to other NTDs, then we believe we should be part of this.”

River blindness fact file

River blindness is spread through the bite of the black simulium fly, which breeds near fast-flowing rivers. It can be prevented by a yearly dose of the drug Mectizan[®], over at least 20 years. This is donated by Merck and Co.

River blindness and trachoma are just two of 13 neglected tropical diseases that affect more than one billion people across Africa.

Local experts

By partnering with community groups with local knowledge and contacts we can reach more visually impaired people.

The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka has been working with community groups for years, but had little contact with people with disabilities. Sightsavers recognised that they could be central in helping us to support blind and visually impaired people living in the area, and a partnership was formed.

We ran training sessions to enable WDC members to provide relevant support to disabled people such as using a white cane, finding jobs, or helping visually impaired children access school.

Devika is a long-standing member. "We realised more than anything else that people who are blind or visually



"We realised more than anything else that people who are blind or visually impaired just wanted to be financially independent"

Devika, Women's Development Centre

impaired just wanted to be financially independent. Linking up with Sightsavers enabled us to take a more systematic approach to including people with disabilities in our work."

The partnership has been a great success. Mr Chadrarathne, who has extremely low vision, makes pots and grows mushrooms, but was struggling to get his business off the ground. He was given a microloan by the WDC as well as income making advice. "I really appreciate the

help I've been given," he says. "I can now buy supplies for both businesses."



A loan helped Mr Chadrarathne start his business

How have we done?

Our aim is to ensure our work is rooted in community development like the projects you've read about here.

2010 target: **30%** of all our projects to be designed, implemented and evaluated with the involvement of local communities, including people with disabilities.

Result: **42%** of our projects meet this criteria.

Long lasting change

We use the solid work we do in our programmes to advocate for long lasting change in the countries in which we work. Here's a taste of what we achieved last year.



2,577,000 people were screened for refractive error and low vision

Nine-year-old Joy Naomi Sahtu was struggling at school, until her father attended a workshop run by Sightsavers and realised that she needed to wear glasses

Highlights

- After a long period of neglect, eye health has finally been integrated into **Liberia's** health service. In the 2011-2021 National Health Plan, it will be prioritised in national planning, budgeting and spending.
- We're working with the Department for International Development (DFID) in **Nigeria** to ensure inclusion of eye health in national health plans.
- In **Uganda**, we successfully advocated for sight checks to be included in the Ministry of Health National Child Day screenings.

"I can see the blackboard clearly with my new glasses"
Joy Sahtu

Health

Last year, the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health established a budget line for eye health and absorbed eye health personnel previously paid for by

Sightsavers into the civil service. This means that more children like Joy will get better treatment for sight problems. If Sierra Leone can achieve this

sustainability as one of the poorest countries in the world, we have high hopes for it to be replicated elsewhere.



14-year-old Lawrence Momany goes to Kahuru Boys High School, Nairobi, Kenya

Education

The Ministry of Health in Kenya is now paying for the equipment needed for inclusive education, and copyright exceptions for the production of Braille and talking books, thanks to our advocacy work here.

Highlights

- Sightsavers in **Pakistan** used the success of our inclusive education projects to advocate for permanent changes in the education system. The education policy now states that inclusive education should be part of mainstream education policies.
- In **Tanzania**, inclusive education has been adopted by the entire Iringa region and regional and district authorities have committed support to the programme.
- In **Sierra Leone**, the government agreed to pay the salaries of all teaching staff involved in the education of blind and low vision children and provide learning and teaching materials for those who are attending mainstream schools.

Find all our policy briefs at www.sightsavers.org/policy

Including everyone

Imagine not being able to withdraw money, or open a bank account because you are blind. This is the reality for many blind people in the countries in which we work.

Dr Sam Taraporevala is the founder and director of the Xavier Resource Centre for the

visually challenged, one of Sightsavers' partners in Mumbai, South India. As well as running the centre, Dr Sam is also very active in advocacy.

Due to his efforts, the Reserve Bank of India has issued two directives: one ordering banks to make all their regular

banking facilities inclusive for persons with visual impairment, and the other one requiring one-third of all new cash machines to be accessible.



© Sightsavers

ATM testing by members of Xavier Resource Centre for the visually challenged

Highlights

- We influenced the UK's Millennium Development Goal positions on disability and neglected tropical diseases through a meeting between visually impaired Kenyan students and the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, Secretary of State for International Development. We also submitted policy briefs and consultation responses to DFID, and built relationships with local staff.
- We co-ordinated the global launch of the Community Based Rehabilitation Guidelines, which we helped produce, in partnership with the World Health Organization.

Where our money is spent

International Spending

West Africa

Benin	£49,000
Burkina Faso	£40,000
Cameroon	£577,000
Ghana	£1,095,000
Guinea	£79,000
Guinea Bissau	£184,000
Liberia	£252,000
Mali	£871,000
Nigeria	£1,093,000
Senegal	£711,000
Sierra Leone	£497,000
The Gambia	£181,000
Togo	£135,000
Health for Peace*	£1,054,000

East Africa

Kenya	£2,159,000
Sudan	£123,000
Tanzania	£619,000
Uganda	£567,000

Southern Africa

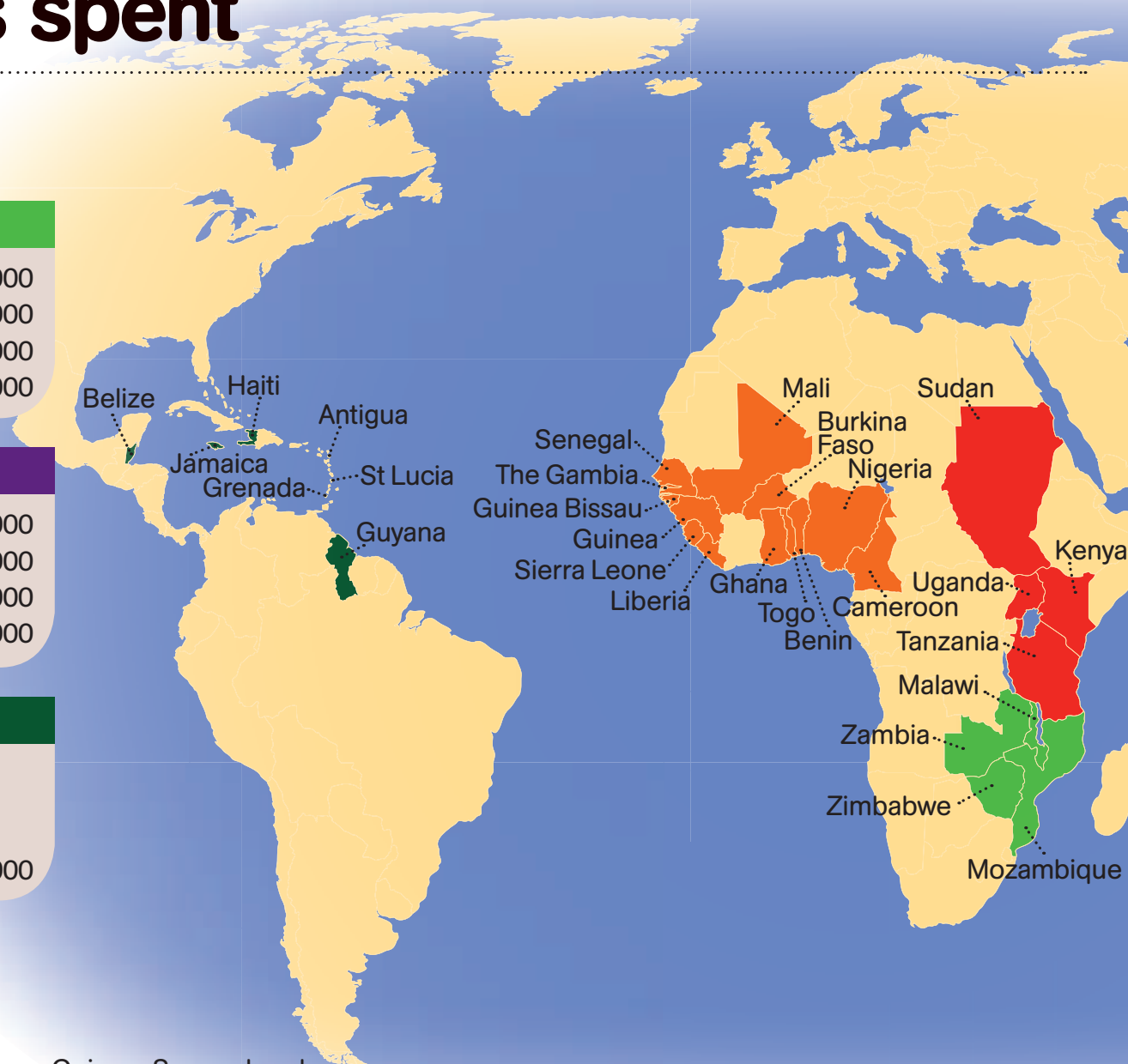
Malawi	£598,000
Mozambique	£193,000
Zambia	£603,000
Zimbabwe	£75,000

Asia

India	£2,931,000
Bangladesh	£1,571,000
Pakistan	£1,279,000
Sri Lanka	£409,000

Caribbean**

Antigua, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia	£886,000
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*Health for Peace is a regional initiative, whereby Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Senegal and The Gambia collaborate on a number of health issues, including eye care.

**For the purpose of reporting, Sightsavers groups Caribbean countries together as one region.



More highlights



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Campaigning from our partners in **Guyana** resulted in the University of Guyana launching the first ever Bachelor of Science Degree course in Optometry, supported by Sightsavers.



© SHAA/Sightsavers

In **Haiti** we supported our partner to provide emergency relief to visually impaired people affected by the earthquake. We responded to the floods in Pakistan, supported by Standard Chartered, by providing eye health services.



© Sightsavers

Work has started in **Burkina Faso**, where we now have an office with a new country director, Mariama Ouedraogo Barry. The country only has 22 ophthalmologists serving a population of around 13 million.



© LRET/Sightsavers

One of our biggest partners in **Pakistan**, the Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust, carried out their 17 millionth operation in 2010. Twelve-year-old Sana who needed a corneal transplant had her sight restored with a free operation.



© Sightsavers

We rebranded last year! Our new look has more impact and helps us stand out in a crowd. The rings in the logo represent partnership and come together in the middle to form a perfect eye.



© Sightsavers

In 2010, we celebrated 60 years of Sightsavers! Since we were set up back in 1950, we've treated over 200 million people for blinding and potentially blinding conditions.

Meet the experts

Our staff and partners are at the heart of our work allowing us to deliver services of the highest standard.



© Zul Mukhida/Sightsavers (2)

Eusef shows a school girl how to use his Braille Alphabet Learning Puzzle

Taking the initiative

The skill and expertise of our local partners allows us to deliver quality services to the people who need us most. Eusef, who is blind, is project officer for one of our partners in Bangladesh, Assistance for

Blind Children (ABC), is proof that we're working with the very best.

I have been working for ABC, a Sightsavers' supported partner for two years. My duty

is to visit and help clients with disabilities, such as blindness or low vision.

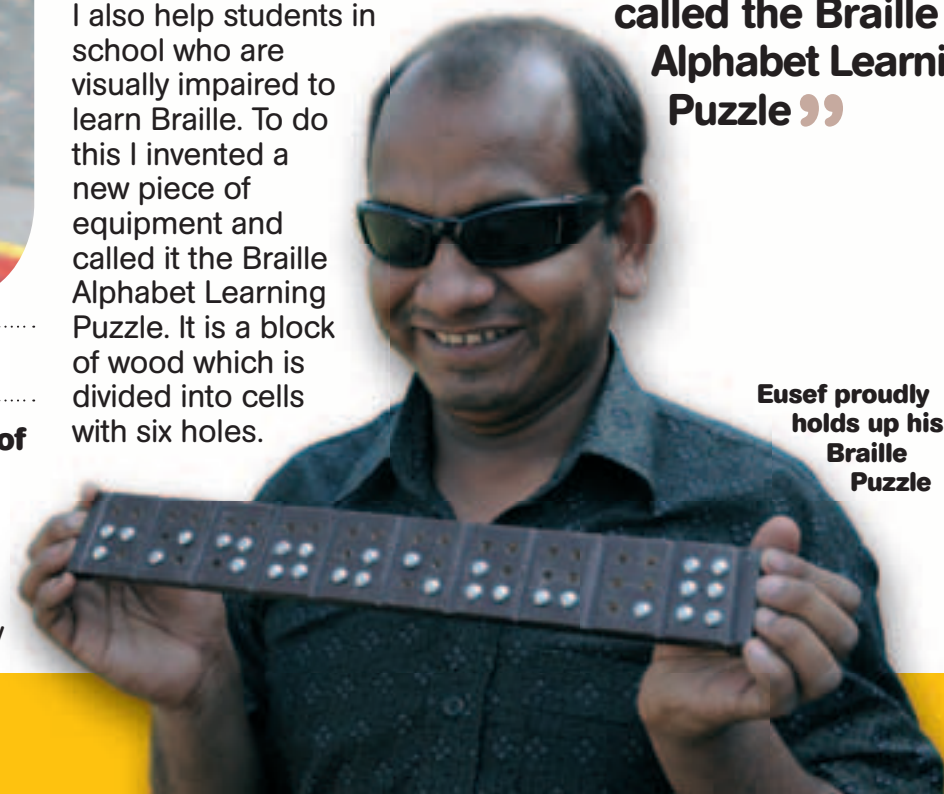
I have 1,000 clients in two districts of Araihasar and Narayanganj. I inform them about the facilities in their local area and teach them daily living skills such as how to use a white cane as well as providing counselling to increase their confidence.

I also help students in school who are visually impaired to learn Braille. To do this I invented a new piece of equipment and called it the Braille Alphabet Learning Puzzle. It is a block of wood which is divided into cells with six holes.

By inserting blunt screws into the holes I can teach children the alphabet in Braille.

I plan to let everyone know that ABC and Sightsavers are using this Braille puzzle. To my knowledge, it is the first kind of device that has been made to help children learn faster.

“I invented a new piece of equipment called the Braille Alphabet Learning Puzzle”



Eusef proudly holds up his Braille Alphabet Learning Puzzle



Ottou's skilled driving has helped reach people in remote areas

Driving our work

Drivers are essential to Sightsavers' work, without them many people would not be able to receive much needed eye care services. Ottou Joseph is the Sightsavers' driver in northwest Cameroon.

"I start work at 8 o'clock in the morning and finish at 6 o'clock. I have reached too many people to count. I travel a lot and sometimes to very remote places.

Sometimes the trips are very difficult because we have to abandon the car and trek the rest of the way. My work has impacted the beneficiaries by contributing to bringing them

services which they would otherwise not have had and for many, those services have been life changing.

The most difficult thing I have had to do in my work is trek on foot through the thick forest without a clear idea of the destination, and the fear of wild animals to reach people in rural areas.

But the joy and the happiness on the face of a patient who can see after many years of being visually impaired is reward for all the challenges I face to make it happen."

Last year, thanks to Ottou's passion and determination, for the first time our partners were able to reach and treat people living in incredibly remote areas with Mectizan® to prevent river blindness.

In 2010, 6,145 people were protected against river blindness throughout 18 communities in northwest Cameroon

A few words with... **Mercy Masoo**

Each of our country offices has a country director. Their job is to work with partners and strategically lead the country team to run high quality programmes. Mercy Masoo joined the Malawi office last year.

deliver on the strategy. I have great optimism about what we can achieve for the people of Malawi if we work together.

Achievements in Malawi

In 2010 in Malawi, we supported our partners in carrying out:

- The treatment of 122,112 people for sight related problems
- 2,535 cataract operations
- 38,455 antibiotic treatments for trachoma

I joined Sightsavers at a time when country offices were making the necessary strategic shifts to align our programmes with the organisational strategy. It was certainly hitting the ground running! We completed the Malawi strategy paper last year, which I'm really proud about. It presents new challenges to our programmes. However it also brings a greater sense of clarity about how we'll implement our work and have the most impact.

I'm driven by the desire to bring a positive difference to the lives of people through my work. I find every day with Sightsavers increasingly satisfying and I am always looking for opportunities to do more and better. Sightsavers provides the requisite space and support to foster creativity and innovation. I'm really looking forward to developing my staff to



Mercy joined as Malawi country director last year

Our supporters

Thanks to your generosity we've reached more people than ever before. We asked you to tell us why you support Sightsavers, and share some moments from 2010.



Patients leaving the hospital the day after their cataract operations

Over 1.5 million people were treated for eye problems last year in India

Changing people's lives

Mr Sanjay Jawa, who has generously supported our Vision India Appeal for the past three years, visited the Delhi slums and saw how he is helping to change people's lives.

"I was moved to hear how people's lives, and those of their families, improved following cataract surgeries. It was clear that without Sightsavers' support and outreach, these people would have continued to struggle with their eye problems while trying to make a living in one of the toughest environments in the world."

© Kaitie Cotton/Sightsavers

Our customers making a difference

Linda Barnard-Munday, Loyalty Marketing Manager for Bupa International who visited one of the projects they support in India last year.

"We are thrilled to be working with Sightsavers to help restore sight in India and to be able to see the difference our customers' support is making firsthand is an experience I'll never forget."

Sightsavers' excellent work

Wonderful support from the Evan Cornish Foundation is helping our childhood blindness work in Sri Lanka.

"Our aim is to promote and provide access to basic health services, through our current healthcare emphasis in the field of eye care.

Supporting Sightsavers' excellent work in eliminating avoidable blindness, in particular through the Sri Lankan National Childhood Blindness Programme, is one way in which we can achieve this."



A child has her eyes checked in Colombo, Sri Lanka

© Zui Mukhida/Sightsavers

Standing the test of time

"I like the way Sightsavers works with existing infrastructure and in partnership – this means its work is sustainable. Sir John Coles and now Lord Crisp have been excellent choice of chairmen, with very relevant backgrounds. Sightsavers has stood the test of time. It's my respect for the organisation, together with my firsthand experience of sight loss which is why I've decided to leave a gift in my Will."

Anonymous



© Georgina Cranston/Sightsavers

Forward thinking

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has been a great supporter of our work for many years. Rotarian, Les Hardy visited one of their supported projects in Malawi.

“To see partially sighted and blind children learning alongside sighted pupils shows how forward thinking Sightsavers is. There can be no doubt that Rotarians’ donations make the most incredible differences to people’s lives.”

Strong partnerships

John Gibb, DFID’s NTD lead, joined a Sightsavers monitoring visit to the Zamfara state neglected tropical disease programme last year (see page 14 for more on this project).

“The programme operates in difficult circumstances. Notwithstanding this it demonstrates clear state-level ownership and works because of the strong partnership between local authorities and Sightsavers.”

Kondawni, 21, reading Braille at Mortford School in Malawi

Impact of our support

Tim Hall is Chairman of the Martin Currie Charitable Foundation who supported our work in Malawi in 2010.

“Sightsavers is particularly good at helping us understand the impact of our support. They provide high-quality information on how funds are used and have demonstrated the effectiveness of our own partnership in transforming the lives of some of the world’s most disadvantaged people. We have no hesitation in recommending Sightsavers as a corporate charity partner.”

How to help

If you’d like to help support our work please call or email our friendly reception desk and they’ll put you through to the right team.

Phone: **01444 446600**

Email: **info@sightsavers.org**

Website: **www.sightsavers.org/support**

© Zul Mukhida/Sightsavers

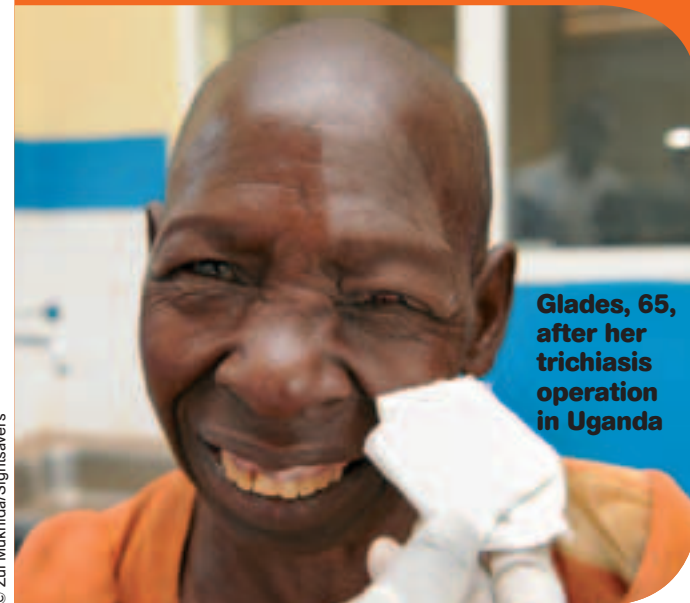
Thank you

The work that Sightsavers carries out would not have been possible without the companies, private trusts and foundations across the UK and Europe, governments and multinational organisations, and the individuals and groups who have supported our work this year. For this, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

For a list of our funders* please visit

www.sightsavers.org/funders

*Who wish to be acknowledged



Glades, 65, after her trichiasis operation in Uganda

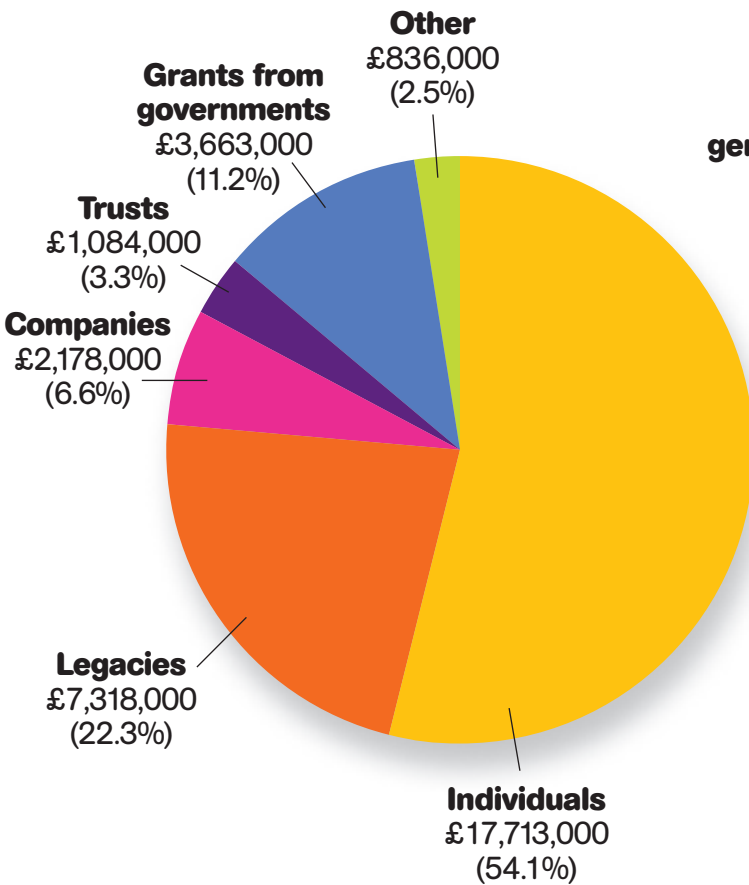
Income and expenditure

Full financial statements can be downloaded at www.sightsavers.org/downloads

Income 2010*

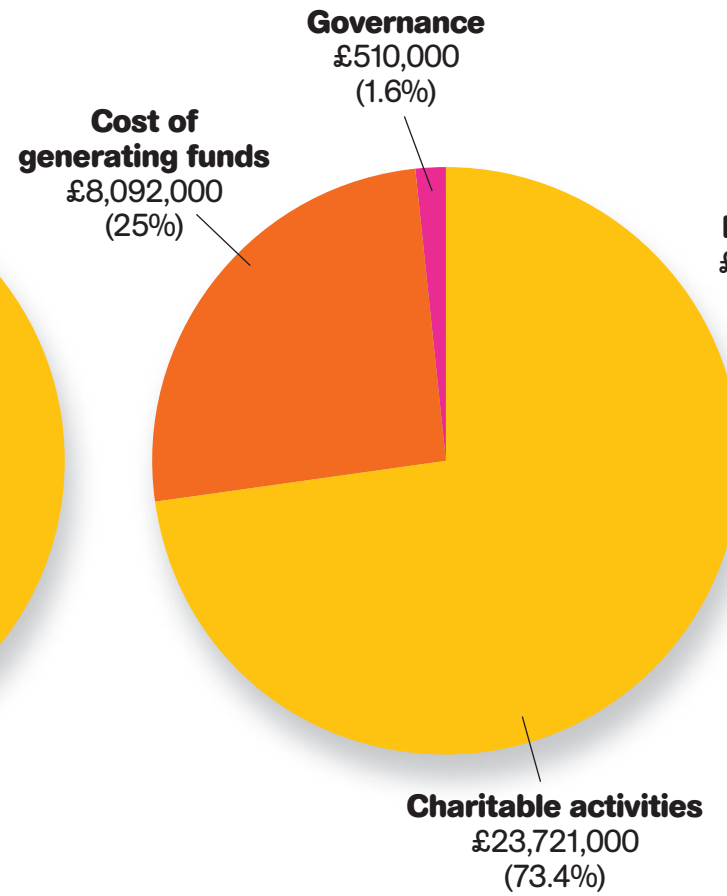
Expenditure 2010*

Charitable activities*

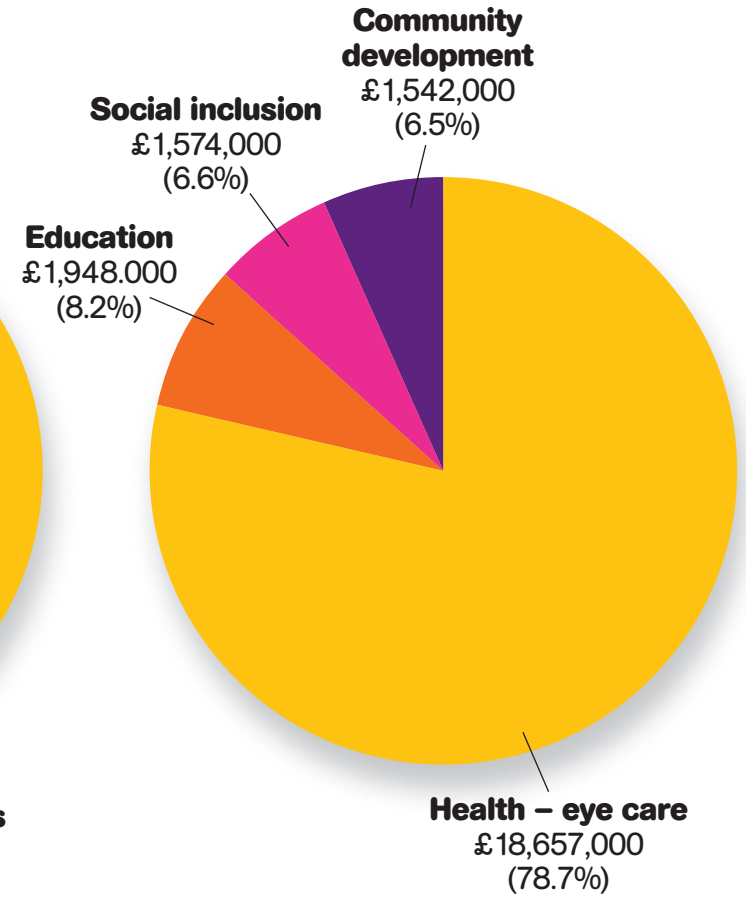


Total income: £32,792,000

*Excludes gifts in kind



Total expenditure: £32,323,000



Total expenditure: £23,721,000

Nine-year-old Devital has always been blind, but thanks to Sightsavers' support he can now go to his local school. His older brother also received training from our partner in North India so that he can help Devital with his studies.



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please visit our website: [**www.sightsavers.org**](http://www.sightsavers.org)

To request this annual review in Braille, large print or DAISY (audio), please
contact us at the address above.

Sightsavers is also known as The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

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