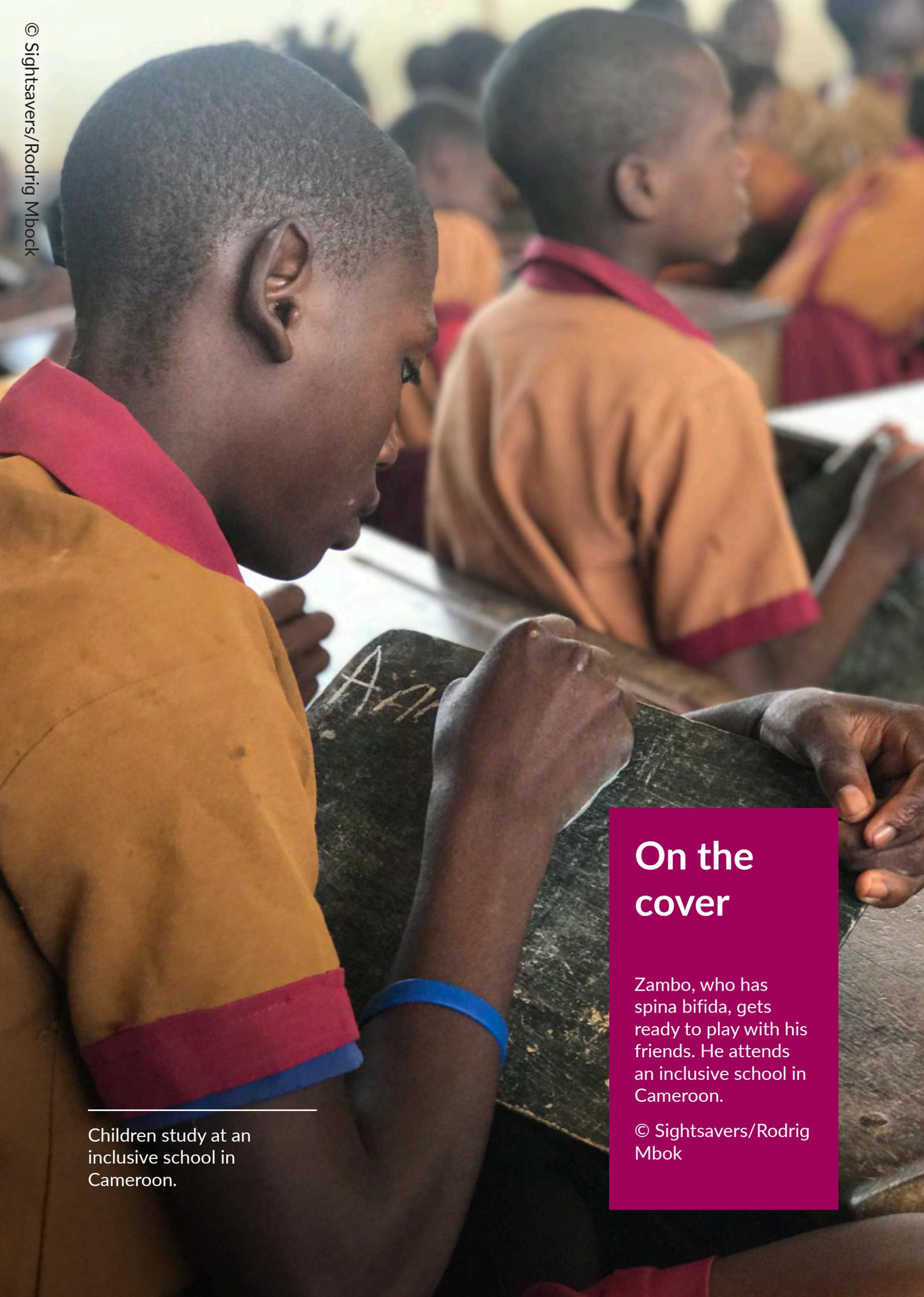


Annual report Ireland 2019



Sightsavers



Children study at an inclusive school in Cameroon.

On the cover

Zambo, who has spina bifida, gets ready to play with his friends. He attends an inclusive school in Cameroon.

© Sightsavers/Rodrig Mbok

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The context

The data on visual impairment below comes from the new world report on vision published by WHO in October 2019. Further data will be available later in 2020 as the Global Burden of Disease group provides updates.

- At least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment and at least 1 billion people have a vision impairment that could have been either prevented or addressed.
- 65 million people are needlessly blind or visually impaired because of cataracts.
- More than 800 million people with refractive error lack access to glasses.
- The prevalence of blindness in many low- and middle-income countries is more than eight times higher than in all high-income countries.
- More than a billion people, about 15% of the world's population, have some form of disability.
- Rates of disability are increasing because of the ageing population and a rise in chronic health conditions, among other causes. Without action, the number of people who are blind could rise to 115 million by 2050.

About



of the world's population has some form of disability



At least **2.2 billion** people have a visual impairment



At least **1 billion** people have a visual impairment that could have been either prevented or treated



65 million
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of cataracts



More than
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Without action, the
number of people
who are blind could
rise to **115 million**
by 2050

Our vision

Sightsavers' vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with visual impairments and other disabilities participate equally in society.

Our mission

We are an international organisation working with partners in low-and middle-income countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

© Sightsavers/Tommy Trenchard

Sources:

Bourne RRA, Flaxman SR, Braithwaite T, Cicinelli MV, Das A, Jonas JB, et al.; Vision Loss Expert Group. Magnitude, temporal trends, and projections of the global prevalence of blindness and distance and near vision impairment: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Global Health*. 2017 Sep;5(9):e888-97.

World Health Organization 'Disability and Health' fact sheet' January 2018, available at www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs352/en/

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Message from our Chair

As we continue to grapple with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019 now seems like a very long time ago. How the world has changed since the turn of the year! Sightsavers is meeting those COVID challenges in countries like Ireland where our supporters continue to generously sustain our work, but most importantly in the countries where our programmes make such a difference to the lives of so many people. We are reassured by the resilience and dedication of our staff, well used to working in tough conditions, who must now overcome even greater challenges in their everyday work.

As that work continues apace, we pause to reflect on the achievements of the year gone by. For Sightsavers Ireland, it was another very positive year. Thanks to our generous supporters, we surpassed our fundraising achievements of previous years, raising €4,611,512 towards the work on the front line.

Our programmes reached even more people in need of sight restoration and those who need assistance with visual impairments. A total of 142 million treatments were delivered by the Sightsavers global team in more than 30 countries. The drive to build awareness of disability rights, empowering people with visual and other disabilities to take control of their own destinies, was carried to thousands of communities in the countries where our programmes operate.

The Board of Sightsavers Ireland, charged with overseeing the governance of the organisation, is a key link between you – our supporters – and the life-changing work in our host countries. To our growing community of supporters, we simply say: 'Thank you!' Without your support, the great work done by our team simply wouldn't happen.

We also express our gratitude for the support and encouragement of our institutional donors, in particular the Irish government, which continues to underpin our activities through Irish Aid in four key countries in West Africa: Senegal, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Liberia. Ireland, despite its own challenges, has continued to generously support those in greater need through the Irish Aid programme, which is



Stella, who is 17, and her mother Maniapi near their home in Mbalmayo, Cameroon. Stella is able to go to school thanks to the Inclusive Education Programme.

recognised as among the most effective government development aid programmes in the world. Sightsavers is proud to be part of the Irish Aid network.

Our thanks too go to the European Union and our other institutional and corporate donors. We were pleased to build our partner network in 2019, welcoming new donors to the Sightsavers family and cherishing the continued support of our long-time supporters.

2019 saw the departure of two of our most experienced Board members: Howard Dalzell and Cathrine Burke. We extend our warm gratitude to them for the many hours of their time that they gave to the organisation over the last number of years. We welcomed three new Board members: Tony Ward, Una Murray and Lorraine Higgins, and we look forward to their contribution to the governance and

oversight of the organisation over the coming years.

Finally, a particular note of thanks to our hard-working team in the Dublin office who work day in, day out to tell the story of Sightsavers and to raise the income to support our work. To them, and to all of the extended Sightsavers 'family', we are grateful for all their hard work and proud of what they achieve.



Jim Miley, Chair
Board, Sightsavers
Ireland

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COVID-19 statement

As at the date of signature of this report, the world remains in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries are beginning to take tentative steps out of lockdown, but huge uncertainty remains. Aside from the public health questions, the impact on economies across the world is unknown, although all commentators agree there will be a severe recession. It is unclear how deep this will be or how long it will last.

Of all the impacts of COVID-19, the one that is probably of most concern to Sightsavers at this moment is the situation across Africa. There is very little data emerging about the extent of virus cases across most African countries, and there are differing views about what will happen. Will the relatively young age of populations in Africa reduce the death toll? On the other hand, will the relatively fragile health systems be overwhelmed? A grave concern is that other health interventions are being paused (including our own), and deaths from malaria, TB etc will increase.

Many programmes are currently suspended, and the uncertainty will make it difficult to plan for when programmes can restart. We remain very concerned that people with disabilities are being left behind, with health messaging and services often inaccessible, and stigma increasing.

Sightsavers has undertaken a range of activities to maximise its resilience during the pandemic.

- a. A comprehensive risk log tailored to COVID-19 has been created, including mitigation strategies, which are regularly reviewed.
- b. A business continuity team has been created to ensure we can function properly while offices are closed. This has worked well. The team is also planning for how we can return as lockdowns are lifted, ensuring that office environments will be COVID secure.
- c. A monitoring system has been created for our programmes so we are able to monitor activities more frequently – this will be particularly useful during the recovery period and will help us report to donors.
- d. A comprehensive engagement plan has been executed with all institutional and major donors. This has included ‘repurposing’ some of our Irish Aid grants/contracts to support COVID activities in programme countries. Globally our institutional donors have been very flexible, constructive and protective of the fixed costs associated with their grants while the programmes are suspended. We have received a

number of unexpected substantial one-off donations from people who have previously only given at a lower level.

- e. Our voluntary fundraising has continued with an emphasis on TV advertising and digital activity. We do very little face-to-face activity (only in India) and do not rely on events or retail activities to generate funds. This has meant our income has been much less impacted than many other charities. Indeed, we have benefited from the low media costs and increased audience reach of lockdown, and the number of new supporters joining us is significantly greater than at the same time last year in all European markets.
- f. We have kept a close eye on costs, deferring some staff recruitment. With programmes suspended and international travel impossible, these costs have been kept low. We have maintained a laser focus on liquidity, monitoring our cashflow at least weekly. We are confident that the combination of the reserves we carry (which were above target coming into the crisis), the funding that donors continue to provide, and our existing borrowing facilities will enable us to manage cashflow volatility through this period.

- g. We have undertaken scenario planning, looking at a variety of financial scenarios including some with pessimistic assumptions. We are confident that Sightsavers is financially robust even under these negative scenarios, although should the more dire assumptions come to pass, difficult decisions would need to be made. Our operating model is flexible, giving us a range of options should this be necessary. We are performing monthly organisation-wide financial reforecasting, which we are using to inform understanding and decision making.

Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements details a range of activities being undertaken to maximise our financial resilience during the pandemic and to mitigate the risks to our going concern status.

After full consideration the trustees have concluded that Sightsavers has a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and have continued to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

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Strategy, objectives and activities

We are in the process of reviewing our global strategy – having undertaken a ‘look back’ over the last 10 years during 2019. Last year we looked at a series of key ‘exam’ and programmatic questions, and are now undertaking ‘Programme Achievement Audits’ to feed into an overarching programme strategy. We plan to produce this in 2020, update a series of thematic strategies to complement this, and to ensure we are aligned with relevant and recent external thinking, eg the WHO world report on vision and the WHO Roadmap on NTDs, which was originally planned for June but has been delayed until late 2020. We expect to be in a position to publish a revised strategy in early 2021.

The current strategy is shown in our scorecard, or Strategy Implementation and Monitoring (SIM) card (see page 20). Each element has detailed sub-strategies and indicators that measure performance. We will be updating the objectives and indicators in the SIM card as part of the refresh.

There are four ultimate aims shown at the top of the SIM card, which link directly to our objects on health, education

and inclusion. The first two are about governments ensuring eye health and education services (the ‘supply side’) are available to all. The third is about securing equality for people with visual impairments, and governments implementing the agreed conventions. The fourth is the ‘demand side’, covering inclusion and health objectives, and is about people with disabilities being able to seek healthcare.

We then take these aims and look at what we want to achieve for our beneficiaries over the strategic period. At present we undertake demonstration programmes in eye health, education and social inclusion. We have a separate objective to eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which is tied to our object on advancing health.

Each of the objectives has ‘lead’ and ‘lag’ indicators, with data collected at least once a year (sometimes six-monthly). The results are set out and discussed later in this report.



Image: Aaron, from Petauke, Eastern Zambia, plays with friends after having his sight-restoring cataract operation.

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Our portfolio

Eye health

We believe affordable health coverage should be available to all. We strive to improve local health systems (defined by the WHO building blocks of health systems) by:

- Improving the delivery of eye health services
- Training health workers
- Distributing medication
- Providing health financing
- Improving health information systems, governance and leadership.

To achieve this, we work alongside organisations such as the WHO's Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO), the Africa Health Organisation, the West Africa College of Surgeons and the College of Ophthalmology of East Africa. We also strive to make sure universal eye health is included in national health policies.

In several countries, we work with ministries of health to develop and run district eye care programmes. In some of our larger programmes, we work with international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) such as The Fred Hollows Foundation, Helen Keller

International and Orbis. We also work with non-governmental organisation (NGO) hospitals, particularly in South Asia.

Our district eye care programmes continue to show how we can improve eye health coverage so it is inclusive (both in terms of gender and disability) and sustainable.



Sightsavers-trained ophthalmic clinician Lizzie Mututeka in her clinic at Lusaka Eye Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia.

© Sightsavers/Jason Mulikita

Education

We believe that quality education and lifelong learning opportunities should be inclusive, equitable and available to all. In each of the countries where we work, our education programmes aim to:

- Encourage community members to get involved
- Strengthen disabled people's organisations
- Develop education support systems
- Promote teaching and learning approaches for children and young people with disabilities that are contextually appropriate and focused on the students themselves.

We work with ministries of education, and sometimes other ministries. We also work with universities, community groups and disabled people's organisations.

Social inclusion

Our social inclusion strategy follows the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We focus on economic empowerment and political participation, while gender and advocacy are also a key part of all our programmes.

We work closely with disabled people's organisations (DPOs) in the countries where we work and have developed strong partnerships with International Disability Alliance (IDA), Action on Disability and Development (ADD International) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

Neglected tropical diseases

Our NTD work is in line with the current WHO roadmap on NTDs and will be updated to reflect the new roadmap to be launched in 2020:

- Integrate and coordinate NTD programmes in the countries where we work, to eliminate the diseases as part of national master plans.
- Directly fund or coordinate with other partners to fight the five NTDs that respond to preventive chemotherapy: trachoma, onchocerciasis (river blindness), lymphatic filariasis (LF), schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths (STH, or intestinal worms).
- Ensure that NTD projects promote gender equity and are inclusive of people with disabilities.
- Help to develop and improve health systems, such as by ensuring surveillance systems are in place.
- Develop new NTD partnerships, especially those that cross development sectors, such as between NTDs and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives.
- Improve what we learn from our programmes and make sure best practices are shared, both internally and externally.
- Coordinate between all Sightsavers' health programmes located in similar areas, to ensure they are efficient and to manage demands on and sustainable benefits to the local health system.

We strive to ensure our plans take account of other activities by discussing with ministries and reaching out to other donors and partners to understand how their plans can fit with ours.

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Where we work



30+
countries
where we
work

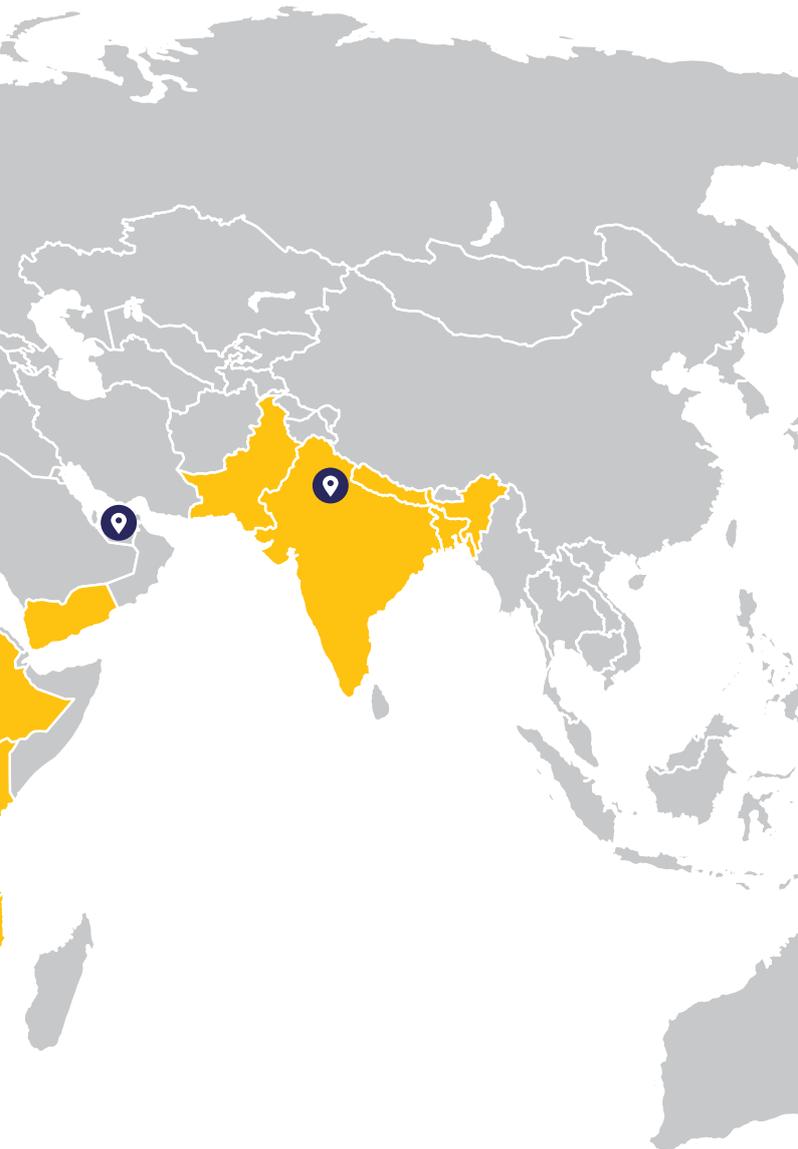
8
regional and
support
offices

Sightsavers and Irish Aid

In 2017, Sightsavers received a five-year development funding grant from Irish Aid to support our programmes in West Africa. The grant supports work in four countries – Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal

and Sierra Leone – to enable us to save sight and change lives while delivering measurable results and accountability.





-  Where we have programmes
-  Irish Aid-funded countries
-  Regional and support offices

Central Africa

- Cameroon
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Republic of Congo

Eastern Africa

- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Western Africa

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Togo

Asia

- Bangladesh
- India
- Jordan
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Yemen

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Highlights of 2019

Sightsavers has achieved some fantastic milestones in the past year. You can read about these in more detail throughout the report.



Programmes

- We managed a successful transition from a series of NTD contracts closing down to starting up and implementing the new programmes Ascend and Accelerate.
- We saw successful inception and start-up of our large disability initiative 'Inclusive Futures'.

Advocacy

- We supported the WHO's world report on vision which was launched in Geneva.
- We supported the UN in creating a disability inclusion strategy.

Income

- We recorded our highest ever global income in 2019: a total of €375 million, with our non-gift-in-kind income exceeding €100m for the first time.

Organisation

- We received Disability Confident level 3 (highest possible) in the UK.
- We received 'Great Place to Work' status in India.



Cataract patients are taken to the Marium Eye Hospital in Kurigram, Rangpur, Bangladesh.

A snapshot of what we achieved in 2019

Irish Aid

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be very appreciative of the support generously provided by the Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through the continued partnership with Irish Aid and Programme Grant II (PGII) funding. This vital collaboration which delivers programmes across the four West African countries of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cameroon is a significant part of enabling Sightsavers Ireland to deliver our mission.

The projects supported by PGII include improving access to quality eye health services for people living in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone and the treatment of neglected tropical diseases in Sierra Leone as we look to eliminate river blindness. In Senegal and Cameroon we continue to promote education for children with disabilities at primary school level, and support the national and local participation of people with disabilities in the political process with great success.

The third year of PGII saw us build on the successes achieved in the previous years.

In eye health, we supported the screening of 271,818 people, provided 7,910 cataract surgeries and prescribed 13,156 spectacles, all combining to make a significant impact on the lives of people with visual impairments. With our government partners, we are strengthening the health system by training eye health staff, supporting planning, and investing in improved infrastructure.

In education, we enabled 1,040 children with disabilities to go to school, receive a quality education adapted to their needs and most importantly achieve success at the end of the school year. With the ministries of education in Cameroon and Senegal, we are delighted to be establishing effective inclusive education policies – and putting our tried and tested approaches into practice across a wider network of schools.

Our political participation projects continue their dual approach of ensuring elections are accessible, that people with disabilities are registered and able to vote, and that disability issues are on the local development agenda. Perhaps more importantly, we are seeing the disabled people's organisations we are working with become more vocal and visible in the local and national development issues that affect their day to day lives.

The neglected tropical disease project in Sierra Leone continues to be a significant part of the story of the pathway to elimination of river blindness.

At the heart of Sightsavers' approach is a focus on strengthening national systems: from working in partnership with ministries of health, education and social affairs on policy and planning, to building capacity of health workers, teachers and local councillors, and supporting improvements in the quality of health facilities and schools.

In Ireland, our public engagement work is showcasing the integral support of Irish Aid for Sightsavers work in disability inclusive development across West Africa. Over 3,000 individuals participated in disability inclusive development-themed events across Ireland, which included BT Young Scientist Exhibition, Put us in the Picture Schools Programme, Junior Painter Competition and our exhibition at Electric Picnic Festival.

High profile media coverage has included an interview with our West Africa Regional Director Fatoumata Diouf in Image Magazine in March, as well as a front page feature of GAA All-Star hurler Pádraic Mannion's visit to Sierra Leone in the Sunday Independent's LIFE Magazine. Our public engagement and media presence this year have combined to make 2019 a successful year in highlighting the importance of disability-inclusive development as well as our Irish Aid partnership.

At the time of writing this report, Irish Aid have confirmed for Sightsavers Ireland to proceed with the repurposing of a selection of activities across three countries: Cameroon, Senegal and Sierra Leone in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The European Commission

Throughout 2019, the European Commission continued to support Sightsavers programmes in Uganda through 'The Economic Empowerment of Youth with Disabilities in Uganda' and the 'Connecting the Dots' training and employment programme in Western Uganda. The total funding received from the EU in 2019 was €90,742. This was a decrease against what was received in 2018 from this source of funding. The project is currently winding down, having entered its final year in 2020 with a completion date of June.

Fundraising

Sightsavers Ireland had a successful year in fundraising, and at the end of 2019, the team had secured €4.6 million through the various fundraising channels. A significant driver for the increase in fundraised income in 2019 was driven by an unprecedented increase in the value and volume of gifts from legacies.

Sightsavers Ireland continued to recruit new donors through Direct Response Television adverts as well as a newly established inserts programme. The four quarterly cash appeals continue to perform well in delivering key unrestricted income. The combination of this activity and the strong growth in legacies were key in the strong performance for the Individual Giving team.

Major Giving also went from strength to strength in 2019, with the two flagship corporate engagement campaigns, Bright for Sight and the inaugural World Sight Day Abseil in Croke Park, engaging with new and existing donors. The value of income secured through restricted grants from Trusts and Foundation partners also showed strong growth as key relationships strengthen with this set of supporters.

SIM card

Results of beneficiary indicators (for results of all indicators and more details please see website)

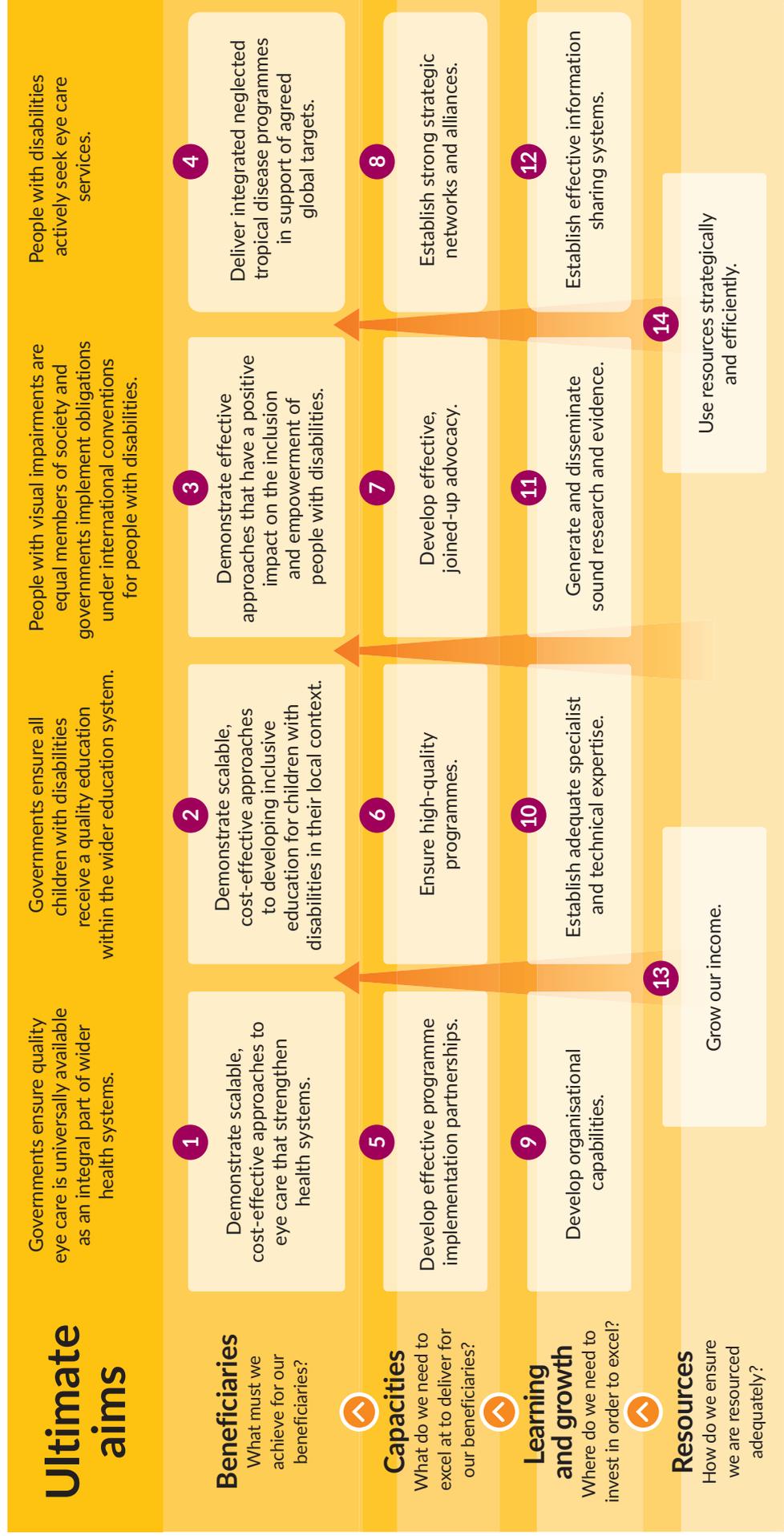
Objective	Indicator	Previous result	Target	Result	Status	Trend	Frequency	Performance notes
Demonstrate scalable cost-effective approaches to eye health	Lag - % of countries where Sightsavers has an eye health project that demonstrate improved access to eye care services that are integrated into health systems, where this can be measured (B01D)	20.00	60.00	25.00	Below Target		Annual	Although the results of this indicator have improved since last year this is still disappointing. However, that is not to suggest that eye health projects supported by Sightsavers are doing badly, or that we are doing less of them. This is a challenging indicator as it looks across the national eye health system as we want to achieve systems-level impact. The primary problem here remains the accurate collection of data, most notably, the national Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR), which is the number of cataract surgeries conducted per million population, per year. This is a crude indicator as it does not tell you about the quality of services provided, nor is it based on the proportion of those that need the service that are being provided that service. However, given the difficulty in getting accurate, year-on-year figures for the CSR, it would not yet be appropriate to move to the more complex Cataract Surgical Coverage indicator. One positive aspect to note is the number of countries where we have an eye health programme, which are actively working to improve data collection.
	Lead - % of countries, where Sightsavers has an eye health project that have contributed to identification of gaps/needs through an eye health system assessment (EHSA) in the last 10 years (B02B)	57.14	68.75	57.14	Below Target		Annual	The score for this indicator is the same as last year, reflecting the reality that as long-term processes, EHSA are only carried out infrequently. As a strategically focused indicator, this measures processes across the national system, rather than district- or project-level assessments, which are done as a matter of course in planning projects. So it should not be taken as an indicator of the evidence base used for Sightsavers projects, but as an indicator of the health system to which we contribute and should be working to support the ministry in improving. It is important that all countries where we work have this national-level perspective and our programmes should be addressing this in advocacy work.
	Lead - % of countries, where Sightsavers has an eye health project that has contributed to identification of gaps/needs through a prevalence survey in the last 10 years (B02C)	85.71	80.00	85.71	On Target		Annual	This is an indicator where we have achieved strong performance over the last two years in particular, but shows a strong trend of growth in ensuring we have a solid evidence base for our programmes.
	Lead - % of health projects with clearly defined strategies to improve access by people with disabilities (B02E)	36.11	30.00	45.45	On Target		Annual	The results shown demonstrate a continued increasing focus on ensuring our eye health programmes are designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.
	Lead - % of health projects that reach more females than males (B02G)	46.88	51.00	46.43	Approaching Target		Annual	This indicator has only been collected for the past two years, following a move from measuring strategies to improve gender equity in surgery access. Therefore, although there is a slight decline in numbers, it's clear there are plans in place to address this country by country and such changes do take time as they involve a range of cultural, political and financial barriers. In some projects, progress towards improving equity has been made, even though they have not yet reached parity or over-parity and therefore cannot be scored positively.

Objective	Indicator	Previous result	Target	Result	Status	Trend	Frequency	Performance notes
Demonstrate scalable approaches which promote inclusive education	Lag - % of countries, with education projects where government has an education policy in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (B03A)	30.00	30.00	37.50	On Target		Annual	Results in this area show a continued trend of growth in the policy environment in which we are operating, which is partly reflective of Sightsavers' programme implementation and influencing work, but is also due to the work of other organisations, which are much of the time working collaboratively or towards the same aims.
	Lead - % of education projects that are suitable for replication/adoption by government or other service providers (B04)	80.00	85.00	100.00	On Target		Annual	The continued trend of improving the quality of our education work and ensuring it is designed with replication in mind, alongside our strategic approach, is very positive. We will continue to work across programme and technical groups to ensure that we are doing all we can to ensure our approaches are evidence-based, positively impacting on education access and quality, and embedded at a national level.
	Lag - % of countries that meet at least four of the eight criteria on our social inclusion index (B05B)	53.85	69.00	80.00	On Target		Annual	This is a complex indicator and measures a range of aspects of social inclusion. It is also always going to be one where we are contributing to the wider social/political/economic environment and not responsible for it. Nonetheless, reaching the 80% threshold suggests much of what we, our partners and other agencies working in the sector are doing, often working alongside government, is heading in the right direction.
Demonstrate approaches that impact positively on inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities	Lead - % of countries (where we run social inclusion and/or education projects) that can demonstrate effective inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities (B06C)	75.00	80.00	90.00	On Target		Annual	These results show encouraging multi-annual improvement in the quality of our own programmes, throughout the planning and implementation cycle.
	Lead - % of health, education and NTD projects with clearly defined social inclusion strategies to include people with disabilities (B06D)	64.36	65.00	56.64	Approaching Target		Annual	This is a comprehensive indicator and as such is a good indicator overall of how clearly Sightsavers is embedding the concept of inclusion across more mainstream programmes. This has shown a slight decline this year, which is surprising given the new NTD programmes coming online have 'leave no one behind' strategies attached and that inclusive eye health is broadening as a concept. Some of this may be down to more stringent criteria being used to judge positive scores for each project. Overall, the decline is slight, and we will need to review again next year to see if we go back onto the trend of gradual improvement.

Objective	Indicator	Previous result	Target	Result	Status	Trend	Frequency	Performance notes
Deliver integrated NTD programmes in support of agreed global targets	Lag - % of countries, where Sightsavers supports specific NTD disease projects that are meeting national milestones to eliminate or control these specific NTDs (B08A)	91.67	90.00	92.59	On Target		Annual	Overall, the progress here is good and above target. The scope of work has increased with new countries coming online and in their inception as part of DFID's Ascend project (e.g. Central African Republic, Chad). These new countries are not currently meeting targets as treatment has not started - the first round of mass drug administration (MDA) is due in 2020. Some countries in conflict (e.g. Sudan, South Sudan) are unable to meet targets. Togo failed in its trachoma dossier submission - we are supporting the production of the second dossier, which we hope will be approved in 2020. The Gambia's trachoma elimination dossier is delayed and subject to re-drafting for presentation to the WHO in 2020.
	Lead - % of projects which meet or exceed their MDA targets for therapeutic and geographical coverage (B07B)	92.31	95.00	86.67	Approaching Target		Annual	While progress has been good in the majority of countries, a number of NTD programmes have been unable to provide services because of insecurity (Cameroon and South Sudan) while others have not conducted MDA because of delays by the Ascend East project (managed by Crown Agents) to contract for delivery partners (e.g. Sudan and Zambia). Ascend West countries are now operating as an integrated disease project which has increased the disease portfolio in those countries - MDA for that project was due to start in 2020 with preparation only in 2019.
	Lead - % of NTD projects with clearly defined strategies to improve access by people with disabilities (B07C)	80.00	80.00	57.69	Below Target		Annual	While the majority of countries do have a strategy as part of community-directed programming for NTDs to improve access by people with disabilities, we still have a long way to go before this is the case for all projects. We have further been more demanding in the evidence to show that this programming is in place. The Ascend project in West and Central Africa has this issue as a core element of the programme and with the learning from the UK Aid Match programme covering LF, we will see a marked improvement in this area of work in 2020.

SIM card: Strategy map

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.



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Output statistics

Global output statistics summary*		2016 totals	2017 totals	2018 totals	2019 totals
Eye health	People examined	12,052,091	14,093,230	16,364,038	11,542,420
	Operations performed (cataract, glaucoma surgery, diabetic retinopathy, trichiasis and other general eye operations)	344,313	389,490	425,165	473,373
	Operations for cataracts	260,930	316,243	355,630	403,346
	Spectacles dispensed	286,774	383,117	456,934	493,186
Neglected tropical diseases	Treatments for trachoma	24,690,187	27,604,538	17,663,974	28,538,035
	Treatments for river blindness	46,918,726	48,155,576	40,272,072	42,744,697
	Treatments for lymphatic filariasis	60,113,118	56,561,328	45,187,264	50,085,660
	Treatments for soil-transmitted helminths	16,728,965	11,873,445	3,913,216	5,890,582
	Treatments for schistosomiasis	5,773,756	13,039,523	6,521,477	15,332,416
	Total NTD treatments	154,224,752	157,234,410	113,558,003	142,591,390
Education/inclusion	Children who are blind, have low vision or other disabilities being supported in school	5,162	7,752	8,362	13,535
	People who are blind, have low vision or other disabilities who received training (eg daily living skills, mobility and orienteering, vocational training or rights and entitlements training)	13,124	13,359	22,716	20,927

Global output statistics summary*		2016 totals	2017 totals	2018 totals	2019 totals
Human resources	Health workers trained to gain initial professional qualification (includes ophthalmologists, cataract surgeons, ophthalmic clinical officers/ ophthalmic nurses, optometrists, low vision specialists and technicians)	67	39	25	12
	Professionals supported on eye health short courses	54,040	72,781	64,440	82,816
	Professionals supported on education or inclusion short courses	6,161	60,479	30,486	94,533
Volunteers	Total number of village-level volunteers trained (includes community distribution of treatment, primary eye care, education and inclusion courses)	259,670	267,972	248,885	269,241

*statistics from prior years may have changed from previous reporting due to updated information

Commentary

A Eye health

For many years the majority of eye health examinations undertaken by Sightsavers has been conducted under the Lady Health Workers (LHW) project in Pakistan. In 2019, this project underwent a strategic redesign and began reporting only examinations conducted by trained community-based medical professionals that are attached to rural health centres. This process has strengthened our data in Pakistan and facilitated an audit trail back to individual health facilities. Based on this change to the methodology, the project registered a drop of 4.9 million, which was expected, and accounts for the entire decline in this indicator from the 2018 figure.

Performance year on year has increased in Sierra Leone (55,112, +151 per cent) due to the continued improvement in eye care service delivery in the communities, strengthening the referral system through the National Eye Health Programme in collaboration with local partners. In Liberia there was a large increase (37,446, +148 per cent), as we have introduced, for the first time in the country, social mobilisation activities targeting school-aged children.



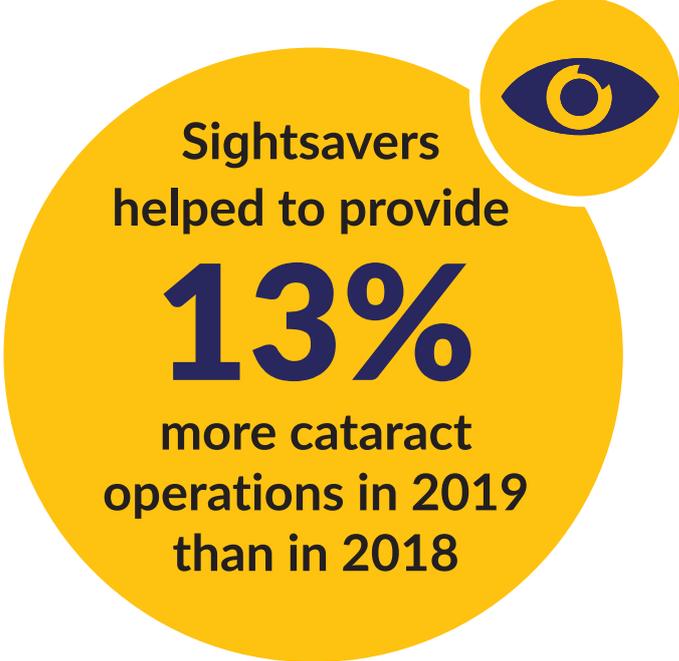
Kalpana Das gets her eyes checked at the vision centre on Sagar Island in Sundarbans, India, after being referred from a Sightsavers screening camp.

India saw major increases in the number of examinations. Notable increases were in West Bengal rural eye health (100,714, +93 per cent) and Odisha rural eye health (37,559, +103 per cent), where we provide support to 59 Governmental Community Health Centres.

The number of cataract surgeries supported increased by 13 per cent from 2018, taking the total to more than 400,000. Over 90 per cent of cataract operations were conducted in South Asia, with Uttar Pradesh the largest contributor. In Africa, 26,131 surgeries were performed, which is a 5 per cent reduction on 2018 surgical output. This reduction has been caused entirely by the ending of the CATCH programme, with almost 5,000 fewer cataract surgeries being conducted in East Africa than in 2018.

The number of non-surgical eye health treatments delivered in 2019 increased by 15 per cent. This rise was driven by an increase in treatments administered (covering treatments for minor conditions like conjunctivitis) primarily in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Spectacle distribution increased by 8 per cent, reaching close to half a million pairs in 2019, with India responsible for 95 per cent of all those distributed. Also notable are the number of pairs of spectacles distributed in West Africa, where Sierra Leone distributed 10,780 pairs (+63 per cent) and Liberia 4,445 (+92 per cent).



Sightsavers
helped to provide
13%
more cataract
operations in 2019
than in 2018

B NTDs

Our treatment delivery has increased by 26 per cent from 2018. This reflects an expansion of activities under the UK government-funded Ascend and GiveWell programmes, with treatments increasing year on year for all diseases. However, overall performance is projected to be lower than the original plans for each disease due to significant delivery challenges. For example, in Nigeria's Benue state, the Mectizan® for the 2019 treatment round for river blindness was not received in time. Some drugs were obtained from leftover supplies from neighbouring states to treat five local government areas (LGAs) of the 23 endemic LGAs. Benue received their Mectizan® in January 2020 and treatment for the other LGAs will be conducted in Q1 2020.

Trichiasis surgery totals have decreased slightly compared to 2018. Our DFID SAFE and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust trachoma programmes have now come to an end, but their work is continuing, in applicable countries, through our Accelerate programme, and in Chad and Nigeria through the Ascend programme. This was on target due to a concerted effort for delivery in the latter half of the year, notably in Nigeria. However, a delay in the training of surgeons and the procurement of necessary consumables impacted the provision of surgeries in Benin, Cameroon and Senegal.

C Education

India is responsible for 78 per cent of annual performance in this indicator, with an increase from 6,402 children in 2018 to 10,607 in 2019 (+60 per cent). In Jharkhand, the programme expanded into two additional districts beyond the initial plan, reaching 4,393 more children in 2019 than 2018.

In Sierra Leone, existing partnerships in Bombali District and community ownership led to an increase in enrolment and retention of children with disabilities across the project pilot schools. In 2019 we enrolled 826 children into mainstream schools, and we continued to see progress with a large number of children reaching their learning goals.

D Social inclusion

The majority of adults with disabilities receiving training are in India, with a small amount of vocational training also taking place in Uganda, Cameroon and Senegal.

E Human resource development

Newly qualified professional eye health workers include: three new ophthalmologists (two in Mali and one in Sierra Leone); two cataract surgeons and one ophthalmic clinical officer in Tanzania; and six ophthalmic nurses (three in Liberia and three in Zambia).

The number of professionals supported on education or inclusion short courses has increased by 210 per cent from 2018. The Inclusive Education Project in Bihar represents 66 per cent of the total for this indicator, with 60,023 people trained. The project almost tripled the number of classroom teachers and assistants receiving training. Our implementation partner, a government body, was very supportive and helped in identifying the large number of teachers.

In Odisha state, under their inclusive education programme, the entire cost of the district- and block-level training was met by the state government. This allowed the training to be scaled up and helped us exceed the targets for this indicator. In Odisha we planned to reach 5,000 classroom teachers and assistants, but in the end we were able to train 25,014 (+550 per cent).



Spotlight on... Neglected tropical diseases

Image: Suraju Dayyabu, an ophthalmic nurse, screens children's eyes in Kabin Keji, Sokoto State, Nigeria.

2019 was an exceptional year for Sightsavers and partners as the journey towards controlling, protecting against and eliminating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) from communities continued.

Ascend

DFID launched its ground-breaking disease prevention programme, Ascend, in August, with Sightsavers running one of two lots – covering West and Central Africa.

The three-year Ascend programme is Sightsavers' largest multiple disease project to date and aims to deliver more than 400 million treatments to treat five NTDs in 13 countries. Sightsavers is working closely with partners, including: the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation, Mott MacDonald and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. We are working alongside ministries of health, communities and partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) to deliver one of the most significant integrated NTD programmes in history. ➔



Image: Gani Dao, from Nikki region in Benin, had trachoma surgery as part of the Accelerate programme.



© Sightsavers/Rey Byhre

Accelerate

- ▶ The Accelerate programme (funded as a result of the Audacious prize, by donors including Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Childrens Investment Fund Foundation, ELMA Foundation and Virgin Unite) expanded from 12 African countries to 14. The first sight-saving trachoma operations under the Accelerate programme took place in Benin; in July, a TV crew from BBC Africa filmed the historic moment and the show aired on TV channels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Benin, Niger and Cameroon.

Through Accelerate, Zimbabwe undertook its largest-ever distribution of trachoma medication in 10 districts. In total, this protected 1.4 million people from trachoma in one week. This huge undertaking utilised technology to help rise to the challenge and achieve impressive results.

Four of Sightsavers' UK aid-funded programmes closed in 2019. UNITED in Nigeria, the Coordinated Approach to Community Health (CATCH), the UK Aid Match onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis programme, and the SAFE: trachoma control programme. A key learning from the programmes was that delivering integrated treatment on a large scale requires continuous adaptation. ▶

The Trust was a time-limited charitable foundation, which was established in 2012 to mark and celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In January 2020, the Trust successfully completed its programmes, including the Trachoma Initiative, and ceased operating as a grant-making organisation.

- Last year also saw The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust's Trachoma Initiative (see footnote) come to an end. Her Majesty the Queen hosted a reception for front-line workers and key staff at Buckingham Palace in the UK. The five-year initiative, which ran in seven commonwealth countries, was coordinated by Sightsavers on behalf of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control, distributed 26.6 million treatments and treated 102,000 patients for trichiasis. A key part of the Trachoma Initiative was making sure local healthcare providers have the skills, resources and staff to prevent trachoma in the future.

In June 2019, the WHO announced a 91 per cent reduction in trachoma, from 1.5 billion people at risk in 2002 to 142 million today. Media outlets such as The Telegraph and Global Citizen helped Sightsavers welcome the news of this huge step forward for the global efforts to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem.

Antibiotics to treat trachoma were given to nearly 300,000 people in Egypt in the country's first mass drug administration for trachoma, where more than 11 million people are believed to be at risk of the disease. This was a real milestone for public health in Egypt and, as it brought together the ministry of health, governments and other partners to make this happen, it proved that collaboration is key to overcoming challenges.

Trachoma elimination milestones were not the only NTD elimination efforts celebrated in 2019. In August, three Nigerian hotspots were declared free from river blindness. Nigeria's ministry of health announced that more than 4.2 million people have been freed from the threat of the disease in Plateau, Nasarawa and Kaduna states. This showed that elimination efforts are working and if river blindness can be removed from these hotspots, we should be able to remove it anywhere.

Charity evaluator GiveWell has, for the fourth time, named Sightsavers one of its top charities for our work to treat children for intestinal worms and schistosomiasis (a process known as deworming). GiveWell has judged Sightsavers' deworming work an outstanding opportunity for donors to make a difference with their contributions.

Samson Lokele, a Sightsavers-supported travelling eye surgeon in Kenya, features in the Science Museum's permanent exhibition dedicated to medicine, based in London, UK. Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries, the largest medical collection in the world, opened in November 2019 and will be in place for the next 30 years. The galleries feature replicas of the surgical equipment that Samson uses to carry out eye operations in the field in remote regions.

Elimination is possible: the number of people at risk of trachoma has fallen by 91%



Spotlight on...

Eye health

Image: Sandhya Das, from the Sundarbans, got her independence back after receiving glasses.

Evaluation of Sundarbans project

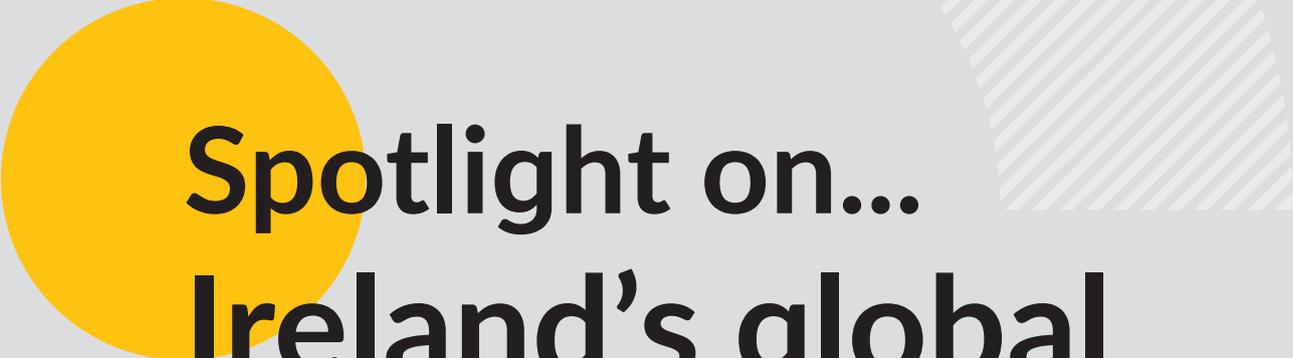
In 2019, we evaluated the impact of our five-year eye health strengthening project in the Indian Sundarbans, a remote area of 102 islands in West Bengal, where more than 40 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

Funded by Standard Chartered Bank, the project overhauled the region's eye care, helping to create 17 eye health centres and screening more than 450,000 children and 400,000 adults for eye problems. The project supported 32,000 life-changing cataract operations and provided more than 13,000 pairs of glasses.

Results of our impact evaluation research show that in the project period, the prevalence of blindness among people aged 50 years and above halved, from 2.4 per cent to 1.3 per cent. It means that before the project started, one in every 40 people over the age of 50 in the area was blind. By the end of the project, that number dropped to one in 80. At the end of the project, nearly 70% of people participating in the study described eye care services available to them as accessible, affordable and of good quality.

In 2019, our work in the Indian Sundarbans was independently assessed by US charity evaluator Impact Matters, which rates thousands of not-for-profit organisations working on health, poverty and welfare. To make its evaluations, Impact Matters gathers data and calculates their cost-effectiveness in terms of making the best use of resources and having the most impact on people's lives. Our achievements in the Indian Sundarbans were awarded with the maximum five out of five stars and we were named the top, most cost-effective health charity.





Spotlight on... Ireland's global movement for equality



Highlights from a year of disability rights campaigning

In February, Sightsavers launched the Put Us in the Picture campaign. This called on the Irish government to prioritise people with disabilities in its global development policy, A Better World, as well as calling on leaders to use Ireland's influence as a member state of the United Nations to uphold the rights of people with disabilities.

In June, we launched our campaign petition, which was aimed at the Irish government as a national-level call under our global petition to the UN. We also had national calls in 13 other countries, pushing for progress on the passing and implementation of disability legislation. We collected signatures online, but also wanted to make sure people in developing countries who might not have access to the internet could take part. To achieve this, Sightsavers' technical team developed an innovative app that allowed campaigners to gather signatures using mobile devices, which could then be transmitted to our head office once 

- the collector was back online. This made a huge difference in reaching people who would ordinarily be excluded from participating in this type of campaigning.

More than 5,000 people signed the petition, and it was handed in to Maureen O’Sullivan TD on behalf of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence. Sightsavers Ireland also helped to secure statements in the Seanad to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), during which our campaign was highlighted. Our campaign also led to a commitment from the Tánaiste to make Ireland’s A Better World development policy disability inclusive.

A global movement for equality

On the same day (3 December) at the UN headquarters in New York, our global petition with 50,455 signatures was handed in to UN under-secretary-general Ana Maria Menéndez.

In Sierra Leone, we called on the government to approve and implement the National Inclusive Education Policy, to ensure meaningful participation and equal opportunities for all children, regardless of their needs. Almost 2,000 people signed the petition.

In Cameroon, we campaigned for the government to fully implement the national law on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities and its decree. In Cameroon, people with disabilities are legally entitled to vote, yet many who want to do so find they are unable to exercise this right as they are excluded by a series of obstacles, practical and social. Since 2011, with funding support from Irish Aid, Sightsavers has been working with a number of organisations, including Cameroon’s official election body, to raise awareness of this situation and to support people with disabilities in engaging with the democratic process in their country.

And in Senegal, our petition calling on the government to ratify the Marrakesh treaty (which requires reading materials to be made available in accessible versions) was signed by 3,788 people. We also worked across four regions to encourage people with disabilities to vote in local elections and take part in community decision-making.



© Sightsavers

Image: Ross Gilligan and Alison Bough outside Dáil Éireann marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December) by handing in a petition signed by more than 5,000 people in Ireland.



Spotlight on...

Political participation in Cameroon and Senegal

Throughout 2019, Sightsavers has continued to advocate for people with disabilities to participate in political processes, from being able to vote in elections to influencing the agendas of political parties and standing as candidates. We have worked extensively with disabled people's organisations in Cameroon and Senegal to amplify their voices and enable their members to participate in local development.

A major part of our work this year was providing technical assistance to our partners to register people with disabilities on electoral lists. As a result, 393 people with disabilities (152 women and 241 men) are now newly registered to vote. Our awareness-raising strategies promoted the participation of people with disabilities in local development plans. In Cameroon, we worked with partners to broadcast a video featuring people with disabilities to promote their inclusion as candidates in forthcoming elections. [▶](#)



Image: Zeinab Mentoupou, aka Nanny Powers, is president of Cameroon's National Association of Persons with Short Stature. She campaigns for people with disabilities to take part in voting.

- We have supported women with disabilities by offering them training in citizenship, leadership and political participation. A user-friendly guide, which was developed in 2018 and enhances women's citizenship, leadership and political participation, has been widely distributed and utilised. As a result, with the help of individual coaching and financial support, 16 people with disabilities (including women) were listed as candidates on council lists in Cameroon for the next elections (in February 2020) and in Senegal, 30 people with disabilities (including 15 women) are putting themselves forward as candidates on the electoral lists for the local elections in March 2021.

Although it is early days, we now have concrete examples that demonstrate local and national governments are beginning to take disability inclusion seriously. For the first time ever in Cameroon, mayors invited people with disabilities to speak during local council sessions. In Senegal, we began to collect evidence of progress towards disability inclusion within political parties, media and local governance initiatives. Due to critical political tensions, governments in Cameroon and Senegal organised national consultations, where people with disabilities were represented and visible and laid down clear recommendations to relevant ministers. In Senegal, local councils and disabled people's organisations worked together on the development of disability action plans; in Cameroon, the ministry of decentralisation is introducing community-based rehabilitation approaches which enhance the lives of people with disabilities within their community.

A change in knowledge, attitudes and practices takes time and Sightsavers will continue to not only advocate for inclusion, but also to practically demonstrate it.

Spotlight on...

Our ambassadors

© Sightsavers/Thomas Triebel



Image: Abdul Koroma and Pádraic Mannion play hurling outside an inclusive education school in Bombali, Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone, All-Star Galway hurler and teacher Pádraic Mannion saw the impact of inclusive education first hand.

“When Abdul and I met, he was wearing his smart school uniform and looking forward to maths, his favourite lesson. It was just an ordinary day for this 13-year-old boy, yet it was extraordinary too. Abdul was born with cataracts in both eyes and he could easily have missed out on an education. Sadly, in Sierra Leone and many other countries, there is stigma and misconception around people with disabilities. All too often, children like Abdul can be written off and considered not worth educating.

“Even if families decide to send their visually impaired children to school, teachers often lack the skills and resources to address their needs. As I found out for myself, it doesn’t have to be this way. I visited Sierra Leone to see how Sightsavers is training teachers to include children with visual impairments and other disabilities in mainstream schools. Teachers and students are also becoming disability champions, helping to change people’s negative perceptions. Abdul is a prime example. As a disability champion in his school, he draws on his own experience to help other kids with disabilities and prove that they, like him, are as capable of learning as anyone else.”



Image: All-Star hurler Pádraic Mannion visits Abdul at his inclusive school. Abdul now teaches others about disability inclusion.





Spotlight on... Connecting the Dots

How the European Commission has empowered young people with disabilities in Uganda

Our Connecting the Dots training and employment programme has transformed the lives of hundreds of young people with disabilities in western Uganda. The European Commission has funded the economic empowerment programme since 2012, with additional funding awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Over the last few years, the project has delivered vocational training and transformed attitudes about disability by showing that people with disabilities can be valued, productive employees and strengthening the work of organisations working with people with disabilities.

Charles, who is partially sighted and was born with vision in only one eye, is living his childhood dream, working as an electrical engineer for a technical services company in Kampala, Uganda. He secured the job after receiving training and an internship as part of Sightsavers' Connecting the Dots programme.

"I came to Kampala last year when I was employed by Muttico Technical Company," he explains. "We work in maintenance, replacing broken poles, that kind of thing. >



- ▶ “I enjoy my work. In fact, I’m really proud of it! From childhood, I grew up wanting to be an electrician, so I couldn’t allow anything to divert me from my chosen career. I get good feedback from my customers – they report that I’m a good electrician.

“I have had no sight in one of my eyes since childhood. I asked my mother and she said I had it from the womb, that I was born like this,” he adds.

But he was determined not to let his limited sight hold him back. “Since I knew I was like this, I had to have courage and do what other people were doing anyway.”

Sightsavers’ Connecting the Dots programme offered Charles a year’s study at a vocational institute, which helped start him out on his chosen career path and begin gaining the qualifications he needed. As his knowledge grew, he began taking on casual jobs in his neighbourhood, helping people to solve electrical issues in their homes. This enabled him to put his knowledge into practice and prove to potential customers – and himself – that he was capable.

At the time, he was living at home with his mother and two younger sisters, and he remembers how his work made an immediate, significant impact on his family’s standard of living.

“People would call me and say: ‘You come and help me find a fault in my house!’” he recalls. “Money from those small jobs sustained me. And Sightsavers helped me to push ahead with my studies. It was my starting point, and how I managed to begin my career, so I appreciate that.

“My internship was also good – I had an interest to learn more. It’s different from what you learn at school; an internship enabled me to get real experience.”

“

Sightsavers helped me to push ahead with my studies. It was how I managed to begin my career.



Image: Charles works as an electrician thanks to support from the Connecting the Dots Programme.

Fundraising

The relationships we have with our supporters, and the kind donations they give, are vital to the work we do and the people that benefit from them. It is this support that is front and centre when we develop our fundraising programmes. We aim to be transparent in everything we do, ethical in our approach and efficient with our fundraising budgets. We are always conscious of the responsibility we hold towards our supporters, alongside our beneficiaries, and do our best to make those relationships as meaningful and positive as possible.

With efficiency in mind, we regularly update our return-on-investment analysis, allowing us to see which channels are performing best across our global fundraising markets. This allows us to be flexible with our investment and make quick decisions, optimising our activity. This agility enables us to maximise the return on our spend, in turn allowing us to raise more money and deliver more support for our beneficiaries.

While most of our work is done in house, there are occasions where it is cheaper and more effective to work alongside professional fundraisers and commercial organisations. All contracts and partnerships that we enter into are subject to due diligence and close management. External partners are subject to regular visits and training from the fundraising team and are expected to deliver against closely monitored service level agreements. We require third-party organisations that we may use to perform or support fundraising activities on our behalf to sign and adhere to our organisation supplier code of conduct.

Sightsavers is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and the Direct Marketing Association and abides by the direct marketing code of practice and the fundraising code of practice.

In our international offices, Sightsavers is registered with the fundraising regulators in their respective countries, where there is one.

In 2019, Sightsavers received 24 fundraising complaints from members of the public. These were all received and resolved by us; none were received from the regulator. We continue to put significant effort into supporter care and take all feedback seriously. We undertake to respond to questions and complaints in a timely manner and in 2019, we responded to most complaints received via email or telephone within 24 hours, and those received via letter within a week.

We also take our responsibility to protect vulnerable people seriously. We follow guidance issued by the Institute of Fundraising about treating donors fairly, and we make sure all our agency partners are fully aware of this. We also have a Safeguarding policy, which includes a copy of our Code of Conduct; and a Supporter Promise, which set out our approach to protecting our beneficiaries and supporters and are publicly available on our website.



To see our animation explaining our safeguarding policy please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAa4oc31Vgo

Environment

Sightsavers is continuing to strengthen its environmental management system and policy. We are conducting a range of environmental impact assessments across our countries. These assessments feed into Country Environmental Plans, which are being developed by country offices, and a network of environmental leads are being established to implement these plans. Globally, environmental reporting is underway with an emphasis on calculating our impact from travel and energy usage. In addition, an Environmental Working Group has been established in the UK office to address areas such as waste management and recycling.



44 /

Progress towards planned objectives

Delivering for our beneficiaries

Ensure the major contracts (Accelerate, Ascend, Disability Inclusive Development and Inclusion Works) all pass smoothly through the inception phase to start-up, meeting their agreed milestones. This will need to include expanded capacity within the various teams and countries.

Ascend and Accelerate, with total combined project budgets of £172 million, work in 19 African countries. We also have trachoma work in Pakistan and the Pacific islands as part of the Commonwealth Summit Fund. Completing inception planning activities for both these programmes was a massive undertaking. During 2019, Accelerate moved from inception into implementation with comprehensive plans for the upcoming period approved by the donors and the international team in place based in the UK and 12 other countries.

Ascend is a consortium programme with partners including Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Mott MacDonald and the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation. This added a further layer to the planning process as we learned from

each other and established the frameworks to collaborate effectively together. 150 inception deliverables were developed and submitted to DFID after an inception period of just over three months. The payment-by-results programme has also moved rapidly to implementation now that the plans have been approved.

The first half of 2019 was a particularly busy time. We had to complete four significant programmes funded by DFID and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, with a total funding of over £96 million. At the same time, we were navigating through inception for our two new flagship NTD programmes: DFID Ascend and Accelerate (as well as new disability programmes funded by DFID).

Ensure the contracts coming to an end (UNITED, DFID SAFE, the QEDJT Trachoma Initiative) all end well, with satisfied donors and programme targets met.

The older programmes completed to schedule with ambitious targets achieved and some excellent scores. The award-winning DFID-funded Integrated Programme Approach to Control a range

of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Nigeria (also called UNITED) and the UK Aid Match-funded 'Reducing prevalence of river blindness and elephantiasis and improving the lives of poor people in DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Uganda' both scored A+, having exceeded DFID's expectations. The UNITED programme delivered 158 million treatments altogether. We also received the following feedback from the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust:

“

To see such a well-managed and coordinated programme at this scale is truly inspiring.

Develop and strengthen our eye health programmes, using the various new funds that have become available.

Through new sources of funding we have been able to further support our ministry of health partners in Africa to strengthen the eye health system to deliver services to those who need it the most, including people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Through support from DFID under a new UK Aid Match grant, we started a new inclusive eye health programme in the Singida and Morogoro regions of Tanzania, and new programmes in underserved areas of Uganda and Malawi supported by the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL) fund. We were also successful in securing further UK Aid Match funding for

a new and expanded inclusive eye health programme in Uganda and Malawi, and were able to maximise this funding through a successful Christmas fundraising appeal.

We have stepped up our school health integrated programmes (SHIP) to ensure children do not miss out on learning because of poor vision. Through these programmes, we work with teachers to screen children in schools and provide referrals for a mobile team of optometrists to dispense glasses and treat eye conditions. In 2019, we started a new programme in Pakistan, building on learning from existing programmes in India, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania.

On World Sight Day in 2019, we launched 'Keep Sight,' an exciting new initiative to address glaucoma, in partnership with Allergan and IAPB. Despite being a leading cause of avoidable blindness, glaucoma goes largely unaddressed in low- and middle-resource settings. Keep Sight has started in two countries with some of the highest unmet need for glaucoma treatment: India and Nigeria.

A significant donation from an individual donor has underpinned a major part of our eye care work in South Asia and is also being used to support the construction of an improved eye health facility in Uganda.



Ferdoshi was given free glasses after a school screening in Kurigram, Rangpur, Bangladesh.

© Sightsavers/Reza Shahriar Rahman

Increasing our capacities: areas where we need to excel

Work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its consultants to relaunch the Uniting to Combat NTDs partnership and associated secretariat (formerly Support Centre).

Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases successfully established a new governance structure for the partnership. A new Board and advisory group, called the Consultative Forum, are now in place and publicly announced. As the host organisation for the partnership, Sightsavers is an observer on the new board. The partnership is working on a new strategy and operational plan in support of the new WHO Roadmap on NTDs and on the successor to the London Declaration on NTDs.

Develop our evidence base and put evidence into practice in programmatic decision-making and quality improvement.

We received an additional grant from DFID and five new grants from the Task Force for Global Health to support a range of studies towards elimination of NTDs, with a total value of over \$1 million. In Liberia we worked with the ministry of health to collect evidence on transmission of lymphatic filariasis in urban areas to help the country to develop strategies for treating populations in this context. In Cameroon, we used innovative GIS methods to map and treat nomadic communities shown to be at high risk of

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Local entomologist Njikam Soulé investigates the river Nja, in Cameroon, for larvae, in order to map the transmission of river blindness.

transmission of river blindness. In Nigeria, we started exploring new approaches to prevention and treatment of female genital schistosomiasis and care for patients suffering from the devastating impacts of lymphatic filariasis.

We also continued to invest in building evidence on disability in low- and middle-income contexts. In Pakistan, we supported the national government to conduct surveys on visual impairment across the country. The surveys integrated new tools to measure relative wealth and disability and to assess how blindness and visual impairment affect people with disabilities and those living in the poorest households.

Our randomised controlled trial in southern Malawi evaluated the impact of disability-inclusive education programmes and showed that training of caregivers in disability-inclusive practices has a positive effect on psycho-social development of young children and can potentially reduce the risk of developmental delays. The study also collected previously unknown data on the prevalence of disability among pre-school children aged two to six. Such evidence is of critical importance to guide national and international efforts on disability-inclusive development.

In 2019, our research has been disseminated through 21 publications in peer-reviewed journals and over 30 presentations and posters at international scientific fora.

Support the new leadership at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), working with the WHO to deliver the world report on vision.

In addition to our governing role on the Board of Trustees, Sightsavers provided technical and financial support to IAPB to help further its objectives and ensure access to eye care for all.

The world report on vision, published in October 2019 by the World Health Organization, was a critical area of engagement for Sightsavers. Working with other IAPB members, including Fred Hollows Foundation, we provided significant policy and technical inputs to the draft Report, the first ever global report on the global magnitude and impact of eye conditions and vision impairment. We worked with governments to secure a Resolution on the Report, due to be agreed at the World Health Assembly in 2020.

Work closely with the UN to support the development and launch of a system-wide Action Plan on Disability.

In June 2019, the UN launched its first disability inclusion strategy. The UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) outlines the UN's commitment to disability-inclusive development, and is accompanied by a clear accountability framework. Given the level of ambition set out in the strategy and the scale of the UN's work, this initiative has the potential to transform the rights of people with disabilities globally. As members of the International Disability and Development Consortium, Sightsavers fed into the development of the UNDIS and the technical guidance notes that accompany it. We have also supported effective implementation, including by ensuring that the UNDIS is included in a UN Resolution and that the UN Secretary General will be required to report against progress. We will continue to work closely with a range of partners to ensure that the UNDIS is implemented effectively.

Ensure large contracts we manage are optimised financially and programmatically to maximise cross-learning. We will involve other organisations leading similar consortia to ensure coherence across the NTD sector.

We strengthened the global support team responsible for supporting monitoring across our core programmes to ensure that we can implement more structured and joined-up learning from the implementation of our programmes. We did this by merging the previously separate monitoring and evaluation teams into a single monitoring, evaluation and learning team that is able to look at performance across the full programme cycle to draw out key learnings from each programme. The team aims to develop clear consolidation of the lessons that we are learning thematically and geographically, ensuring this understanding is available across the organisation and is fed back into new programme design.

We also increased overall capacity in the team, bringing on new staff members and creating two elements to the team – one focusing on operational monitoring oversight and the other focused specifically on evidence and learning. This latter part of the team looks to ensure that learning processes and opportunities are built into our monitoring work across the lifetime of our projects. The team works closely with technical leads and the research team to ensure that there is a comprehensive and joined-up approach to learning. The team has had a key input into the 'learning into practice' review group that was set up as part of the overall strategic review. The team is working to strengthen the programme oversight reporting process, so that it remains fit for purpose despite the pressures of our growing portfolio, and is working to generate more meta analyses of our projects so that common themes can be shared and understood better.

We are working in close collaboration with organisations leading the parallel USAID NTD programmes (Act to End East and West) to ensure synergies, particularly in the delivery of activities to strengthen national health systems. With ESPEN, we are supporting development of the ESPEN portal, ESPEN Survey Support Services and regional training and workshops. Our Ascend programme is organising learning webinars to ensure cross-programme learning – for example on national NTD data systems – and in 2020 is launching a learning and innovation fund to help turn innovative ideas into reality and accelerate progress towards control and elimination.



David and Odame from the Ghana country office talk about their work.

© Sight Savers/Ruth McDowell

Obedoyah poses for a photo after being screened for river blindness in Gorzohn, River Cess, Liberia.



Learning and growth: areas where we need to invest to achieve excellence

Provide further professional development for staff taking on the role of designated safeguarding lead (DSL) across the organisation.

Sightsavers has continued to upskill and support the 24 designated safeguarding leads who manage partner compliance on safeguarding and run safeguarding training with key stakeholders and implementing partners.

Since July 2019, the safeguarding leads have been consolidating their confidence, skills and expertise by running safeguarding training events with partners, using a suite of materials developed for this purpose. We refreshed and rebranded our safeguarding video, which was developed originally by Sightsavers India. All safeguarding leads are using this as a core training resource, not only for themselves, but also for other finance and programme staff, who use it during visits with partners. We began to develop and make more use of visual aids, such as posters and leaflets, which can be shared with partners and displayed at programme and project sites.

There are annual face-to-face trainings for the designated safeguarding leads and quarterly calls with each of them. These calls and training allow the country office teams to feed back on their experience. The aim is to provide a forum for continuous learning and development across the business, while ensuring that systems and procedures are effectively maintained.

Introduce a wellbeing package for staff to help alleviate stress and promote mental health.

A global wellbeing taskforce was launched in 2019, led by the global CEO. This group reviewed and promoted various initiatives that had been in place but were not well publicised (e.g. occupational health services). Various new initiatives were put in place such as discounted gym membership, a meditation app, increased numbers of mental health first aiders (including a number who can help internationally) and the creation of a Wellbeing Hub so that all employees can access a lot of useful information about wellbeing. We will be looking to expand this as COVID-19 leads to more and more of our staff working from home.

Review the current strategy, looking back on lessons from the past 10 years, the current situation and trends affecting our sector, and developing answers to key questions. We will produce an updated SIM card, programme strategy and a number of revamped processes.

In 2019 Sightsavers launched its Strategy Refresh process. Last year we assessed our progress over the last 10 years to identify what could have been done better, calibrate where we stand as an organisation against evolving sector trends, and determine the implications going forward. The process involved three activities: the 'lookback', horizon scan, and ten exam question

working groups. The working groups helped answer a set of key questions for the organisation and surface new ideas and opportunities. The questions addressed a range of topics, from how we can maximise the use and learning of evidence collected and what the optimal working model is for us and our consortia partners, to how we can effectively engage in challenging operating environments. The findings from all three components of the refresh helped us prioritise and inform the strategic initiatives now being taken forward in 2020. We will need to assess whether we need to make any changes in strategy as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We decided to take more than one year to finalise the strategy, so we could involve a larger group of employees – especially as many people were not at Sightsavers when the last strategy was devised – and to allow us properly to consider the changing external landscape.

We have begun work to map out the data that helps us measure programme achievement and identify where we have gaps and how we can best fill them. Findings from this exercise will also inform the review of the Sightsavers SIM Card. We will fine-tune our strategic objectives and related indicators, ensuring they continue to be fit for purpose. In 2020 we will also see the development of an overarching programme strategy. This will bring together the key aspects of the five thematic areas in which we work: uncorrected refractive error, eye health, social inclusion, education and NTDs. It will be used as an external communications tool to easily explain why we do what we do at a programmatic level to a variety of our partners. From this programme strategy will then flow the review of our thematic strategies, the more detailed roadmaps of each of the key areas in which we work.

Develop the next-level treasury management system to support the liquidity and financing of the organisation through the new contracts. Update the treasury and reserves policies.

Work has continued apace to improve the resilience of treasury management activities across our operations. We have invested in building capacity within the treasury function itself in response to business growth and increased compliance and regulatory complexity surrounding international payment processing. Systems development is now underway and an integrated treasury management system linking directly to our banking platforms is expected to be in place during 2020.

The treasury policy was updated and approved by the board in October. Major changes included the introduction of a liquidity risk management section, and the description of management and reporting of a borrowing facility which is now in place to support finance of working capital required for some UK government contracts where payment is made by government in arrears.

Liquidity reserve requirements were captured in the updated treasury management policy and as such, the reserves policy did not need to be amended in 2019.

Resources: funding our work and ensuring efficient and strategic use of resources

Sightsavers fundraises in Ireland, India, Italy, Norway, Sweden, the UAE, UK and USA. This section summarises key fundraising activities undertaken in the year.

Continue to improve fundraising performance, monitoring returns across all our markets and fundraising channels.

Individual giving continued to grow across all our markets except Sweden. Our regular reporting and monitoring has enabled us to be agile in our approach to investment and optimise our activity throughout the year. This agility will be a critical factor as we tackle the COVID crisis.

Income from major giving channels was over £16 million, representing a 93% increase on our 2018 performance, and our most successful year across these income streams ever. Significant contributions came from GiveWell, People's Postcode Lottery as well as an individual donor giving us a substantial personal donation.

Implement a category-management approach to purchasing and supplier management.

Ensuring we have accurate and complete demand planning data for our programmes has been a key focus for the programme supply chain team, and to this aim we rolled out Programme Procurement Planner (PPP) late 2018. This has enabled us to gather 2019 demand for programmes early in the year and to develop more of a category-management approach to purchasing. This entails streamlining our suppliers and investing in relationships and partnerships with only key selected ones, negotiating better deals, fixing prices for the medium term and ultimately signing

long-term agreements (LTAs) to ensure the goods our programmes need are available when required for the best price. Through implementing this approach, we are also seeking demand aggregation opportunities to achieve economies of scale, achieving better value for money across the board.

We have achieved some tangible savings through this new approach. For example, we were able to purchase vehicles needed in 2019 in bulk, achieving a discount of 3%. For spectacles, we also benefited from discounts through bulk buying with our leading spectacles suppliers Vision Springs and Essilor for the whole year (10% saving across the category in 2019).

There were also some indirect benefits in shifting to this new purchasing approach. Prices for medical products were negotiated and frozen for 12 months with a few of our key medical suppliers based on estimated 2019 demand data, which helped minimise turnaround times. We also have benefited from economies of scale on shipment/freight costs by consolidating shipments to countries.



Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, health workers like Mai Mai are able to screen whole communities for eye conditions and refer people for cataract surgery.

Develop our digital fundraising skills and resources to enable us to optimise our growing digital activity across all fundraising markets.

Our digital fundraising team expanded in 2019, enabling us to have dedicated focus for all markets and provide global support to fundraising teams. The number of donations made online increased by 35% in 2019, with several new types of activity and initiatives tested in different markets, and improvements made to the donation experience on our websites. Established digital activities also benefited from more focus and expertise, including email marketing, where we saw an increase in directly attributable income of 50%.

Continue to establish our presence in Nordic countries while ensuring we manage our relationships with regulators.

Our fundraising efforts in Norway are bearing fruit and activities are increasing. We now have a full-time Norwegian staff member based in Oslo. Unfortunately results in Sweden were not so good, and returns were not meeting our internal thresholds. We took the difficult decision to close down the operation, which we will be doing over the course of 2020.

Increase philanthropic income for our eye health programmes from trusts, major donors and corporate partners, and deliver best-in-class stewardship of our existing major donors and account management of our corporate partners in the UK, US and Middle East.

We secured significantly more funding for our eye health programmes from trusts, major donors and corporate partners in 2019, including a number of multi-year grants. Highlights included: a commitment of £1.9 million from People's Postcode Lottery to various eye health programmes; \$1 million from an individual major donor for work in Asia and Africa; and six-figure funding from new foundation donors in Switzerland and the US for programmes in India. We also secured a new partnership with Allergan, supporting our glaucoma work in Nigeria and India. We continued to perform well in stewardship, as evidenced by a number of existing donors choosing to increase their level of giving, and our corporate account management was recognised by People's Postcode Lottery, who marked out Sightsavers as a partner delivering excellent communications to their players.

Diversify our institutional income base, focusing on building relationships outside DFID, as well as within it.

We have been working together with other leading global eye health agencies to prepare joint funding applications for large scale multi-country programmes. We have submitted proposals to a range of donors from development banks to prize funds. Developing large-scale funding proposals in partnership with other organisations takes time, but is bringing the benefits of stronger strategic partnerships across our sector.

We are building new relationships with several government agencies in Europe and North America. Many of those conversations have been a result of our increased profile in the disability inclusion space.

Our relationship within DFID has broadened further through the International Multi-Disciplinary Programme. We are a partner within six consortia who are pre-selected to bid for work under this framework, across a range of thematic areas. We have already won two sub awards under this programme, and we expect to continue submitting applications through this mechanism.

We have also been investing our efforts to become the inclusion partner in mainstream development programmes and have made good headway in our relationship building work with potential lead contractors. We have been invited into consortia across health, education and social inclusion with bids going into DFID and USAID.

Continue to ensure our value-for-money approach feeds into our programme design, and further strengthen our programme financial oversight processes in the countries where we work.

We undertook a cross-organisational review of our approach to value for money within our 2019 strategy review process. We looked back 10 years to assess what drove value for money in programme design and implementation. We need to document our approaches, successes and challenges more systematically and ensure that they are available for all staff to better understand our approaches but also to ensure that learnings are more easily fed into programme design. Examples of this in 2019 included strengthening of supply chain understanding within our NTD and eye care programmes, ensuring that activities and costs around logistics and bulk purchasing were taken into account in initial and annual planning.

We have strengthened our risk-based approach to country office capacity-building support, identifying countries that would benefit from targeted support from our central programme finance team. We have created a cross-Africa finance team to ensure that country office and partner control frameworks are working effectively, and that best practice from around the continent is shared across all programmes.

Organisational Effectiveness Assessment – ReD Associates

Towards the end of 2019, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offered to fund an assessment by ReD Associates, a consultancy with social anthropological expertise.

ReD reviewed a wealth of documentation and then spent a week with us interviewing a wide range of staff members, partners and donors. They looked at us from a range of perspectives: strategy, ambition, leadership, processes, talent, governance, learning and resources.

We were very pleased with the results – ReD found that we were fundamentally sound with a very positive staff culture. Our systems, processes and financial base were all seen to be strong. The areas for improvement were primarily around communication, both internally and externally, particularly in relation to our strategy, goals and positioning. We will be hiring an internal communications staff member to work with us as we develop our strategy, which when formulated, will examine better ways to disseminate it and ensure Sightsavers' aims, approaches and added value are better understood by a range of stakeholders.

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Risks and key challenges

Risks

Risk identification and management is a key process within the organisation at all levels. All major programmes have their own risk mitigation logs, and the larger ones have their own governance processes. At the organisational level we have a risk log of the top risks, and a bespoke risk register covering all aspects of the impact of COVID-19. Apart from COVID-19 the primary risks we face are similar to those in 2018.

The log is reviewed by the management team regularly. The Audit Committee reviews the risk log at every meeting, and the Council discusses risk at least once a year. Trustees are satisfied that adequate systems are in place to monitor, manage and, where appropriate, mitigate Sightsavers' exposure to the major risks.

The risks and risk management comments around mitigating strategies are as below:

Recruitment and retention of key employees and contractors

Attrition among our technical and specialist staff, including project managers, has been low. Our concerns that there might be poaching from other organisations awarded large contracts has not materialised.

Safeguarding of beneficiaries, supporters and external contacts

Significant amounts of training of staff and partners has taken place, including the production of video materials to support smaller partners. Developing further support packages for them will be a key focus into the future.

We are developing our expertise in the specialist requirements of safeguarding for people with disabilities.



A Sightsavers vehicle crosses the bridge leading out of River Cess County to Grand Bassa County, Liberia, after conducting a river blindness screening.

Health, safety and security events and other safeguarding issues concerning employees

We have maintained our comprehensive reporting approach and have increased our resilience team. We have particularly focused on Nigeria, countries in the Sahel, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.

We have strengthened our capability to undertake remote working, initially aimed at supporting staff in countries where offices have to be closed for periods due to conflict. This will stand us in good stead now during the COVID-19 crisis.

Safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff and trustees.

Poor quality or strategic alignment of programmes

We are in the middle of a Programme Achievement Assessment, as part of our strategy refresh. This is a rigorous assessment of what programmes have achieved to help us develop our new programme strategy.

We have identified the need to undertake a meta analysis of our quality standards assessment tool (QSAT) findings to identify systematic/global areas of strength and weakness. This work is to be progressed in 2020, enabled by the use of Power BI.

Inability to manage consortia to deliver on contracts and secure new opportunities

We have significantly expanded our teams to manage the substantial consortia in NTDs and disability work.

We have dedicated technical experts to support the programmes, including those who understand factors such as behavioural change and water/sanitation. Each programme has its own governance arrangements to ensure oversight.

We have ensured that all our contractual obligations to donors flow through the consortia with partner contracts reflecting these, and we undertake regular financial capacity checks as required.

We have revamped our supply chain processes and brought in dedicated supply chain staff.

Inability to raise adequate voluntary income in mature and new markets

We have completed our work on establishing return on investment reporting for every channel and every market to enable us to optimise investment globally. We undertake monthly reforecasting and six-monthly ROI analysis.

2020 will be an extraordinary year for voluntary income due to the impact of COVID-19 – we have instituted daily reporting on direct debit cancellations and will be adopting a highly dynamic approach to our fundraising activity as we receive data. Outside India we do very little face-to-face fundraising.

Poor quality of implementation of programmes leading to failures in services to beneficiaries or delivering expected programme outputs and outcomes

We have focused on developing monitoring systems – this has included enabling country dashboards to feed into central oversight systems. This is being extended to include cost information to help with the value for money agenda. We have standardised start-up, inception and due diligence processes for partners and comprehensive supply chain reporting.

We are in the middle of a two-year Power BI project to enhance the ability of country offices to make data driven implementation decisions.

We have added a significant number of country staff particularly to our West African cohort, where major contracts are ramping up.

Media crisis in core markets

Safeguarding issues continued to be covered in the press although at a lower level than the previous year. Issues of bullying and sexual harassment in some organisations meant charities were still in the public eye. Because of this there is increasing Charity Commission intervention alongside press coverage and interest.

We continue to strengthen our own whistleblowing and reporting measures, and take comfort from the positive findings of the ReD Associates review, which showed a strong and supportive culture.

Inability to replace or grow institutional income

Our relationship with DFID continues to be strong as we work closely with them on disability and NTDs. As at time of writing this report we are exploring how these programmes might be adapted to help tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are continuing to build our relationship with the Accelerate funders and a range of other foundation funders such as GiveWell. Our non-UK offices are continuing to apply to the European Commission for funds.

Inappropriate controls

We have had positive reports from the various audits undertaken and the independent review panel of Accountable Now. The African finance team has been a useful addition and we have been able to coordinate our financial capacity building of country teams.

We have strengthened our controls around invoice processing following a cyber-attack in the fourth quarter 2019, and are undertaking a review of our business systems as part of the strategy refresh.

Governance and organisational-level regulatory challenges, such as forced federation, new regulatory hurdles and strategic misalignment of boards

Sir Clive Jones took over as chair of the international board in July, and we appointed a new trustee with the development experience to replace the skills of Martin Dinham. All chairs of Sightsavers entities, plus the international board, attend a meeting annually in January to review strategic matters.

A new board has been established in Nigeria, in line with changing local legislative requirements.

Financial loss, disruption or damage to our reputation as a result of data loss, a failure of ICT, or in information security process controls

Following the cyber-attack we undertook a cyber remediation audit using our independent security vendors. A variety of mitigation strategies were developed including additional controls, more rigorous contracting and onboarding protocols. We undertook significant training and awareness-raising activities with our staff and appointed business security representatives in our regional offices.

We have developed an Information Asset Register which is now being rolled out and embedded.

Financial loss or operational constraints as a result of treasury activities, including credit loss, foreign exchange movement, liquidity or inability to transfer funds internationally

We increased the capacity in our treasury function and are looking at further additions. We have introduced enhanced cashflow reporting (now weekly). We continue to hedge currency to mitigate our exposure to currencies which move with the US dollar.



Dr Lansana Sherriff in his operating theatre in Kenema, Sierra Leone.

COVID-19

We have implemented a comprehensive, evolving enterprise-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including business continuity measures. To support those efforts we have established a comprehensive risk register around the impact of COVID-19. There is a taskforce chaired by the CEO that oversees this. The register includes:

- Business continuity – both for ourselves and our key suppliers
- Income monitoring – in real time where possible
- Regular communications to staff from the global CEO, with an emphasis on wellbeing and transparency
- Security and travel – all staff in country of origin from end of March
- Dynamic assessment of fundraising activities based on data
- Programme monitoring – enhanced systems created to enable more rapid assessment, which should be especially useful as we move into recovery phase. We are assessing the financial impact of suspension of programme activities, including dialogue with key donors to maintain funding for core programme capacity costs during suspension.
- Review of major contracts to establish potential to divert activities to COVID-19 supporting actions (eg behavioural change).

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Particular challenges through 2019, and ongoing

The challenging environment for international development organisations continued through 2019, and in to 2020.



Safeguarding remained a major issue for the sector, both in terms of protecting beneficiaries (and external stakeholders) and staff. Our focus has been on supporting partner capacity in this area as there have been two safeguarding incidents involving our partner organisations.



Natural disasters and diverse climate change events such as the cyclone in southern Africa at the beginning of 2019 also had an impact. At the time of writing we are concerned about the locust swarms in Eastern Africa.



Security and conflict affected our ability to work in several countries, and the threat level in some has increased (such as in Cameroon and Mozambique).



At the time of writing the world is convulsed by COVID-19. It is not yet possible to foresee the impact this will have on our programmes or our staff and supporters. We are conducting scenario planning and analysis, have mitigations in place and are carefully monitoring the effects and impacts.

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Our plans for 2020

All of these objectives must be caveated by the extent to which the COVID-19 epidemic will impact upon our ability to deliver and on our income. At time of writing we do not know this – we do however anticipate that all activities will be affected to some degree.



Delivering for our beneficiaries

- Sightsavers Ireland will continue to maintain focus on the global organisation's mission to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities in this new and challenging environment, following the guidelines from WHO and national governments
- We will continue our ongoing collaboration with local and international partners to improve eye health, restore sight, eliminate NTDs and promote the rights of people with disabilities
- We will work with the global organisation in the review of thematic strategies, ensuring these are aligned with new WHO documents (world report on vision and Roadmap for NTDs 2030) and adhere to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Increasing our capacities

- Deliver on all contracts and grants – ensuring that impact is delivered for beneficiaries and donors are happy with progress
- Strengthen and deepen our relationships with our key partners, notably Irish Aid and the European Commission
- Ensure that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's policy, A Better World, launched in 2019, underpins the approach to our core work across the Programme Grant II partnership.
- Support the roll out and embedding of the world report on vision through launches in relevant countries and regions
- Review the Sightsavers Ireland SIM card objectives and indicators to reflect new programme and thematic strategies.



Ensuring a high standard of governance

- Sightsavers Ireland will continue to focus on maintaining best practice in all aspects of governance, including compliance with all relevant internal and external codes of practice (with a specific focus on the Charities Governance Code)
- The Finance and Audit committee (FAC) will provide oversight of financial planning and management through quarterly meetings
- The Sightsavers Irish Aid Programme Board (SIAPB) will continue to deliver effective governance oversight of the Irish Aid Programme Grant II (PGII).



Resources (funding our work, ensuring efficient and strategic use of resources)

- Deliver voluntary income targets with a clear focus on return on investment
- Sightsavers Ireland will positively and appropriately engage with our many public donors, upon whose generous support we depend.
- Develop and deepen relationships with various corporate partners and foundations to increase and diversify income
- Ensure that the reserves of Sightsavers Ireland are at a level that is aligned with policy of the global organisation
- Sightsavers Ireland will focus on building public awareness for our work as well as our collaboration with Irish Aid.

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Structure, governance and accountability

Sightsavers Ireland, a Public Benefit Entity, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 5 November 2003, for the purpose of establishing a permanent presence in Ireland of Sightsavers¹, a non-governmental organisation that operates programmes in over 30 countries in the developing world to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness and to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Sightsavers Ireland and Sightsavers are separate legal entities and are affiliated through a deed of affiliation.

Sightsavers Ireland is the registered company name. The company number is 377692. Sightsavers Ireland is recognised by the Revenue Commissioners as having registered charity status and has a tax exemption number of CHY 15437. Sightsavers Ireland is also registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, the national statutory regulatory agency for charitable organisations and the Registered Charity Number is 20053246.

Organisation and governance

Sightsavers Ireland is based in Spencer House, Spencer Row, Dublin 1. The organisation is led by a governing authority called the Members. A Board of Directors reports to the Members. Each Director is also a Member of the organisation. The Chief Executive reports to the Board of Directors at its meetings, which are held at least quarterly. There is a clear distinction between the roles of the Board and the chief executive, to whom the day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated.

The Governance Manual of the organisation sets out the duties, responsibilities, and the expectations of the Members, Board, Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), Sightsavers Irish Aid Programme Board (SIAPB) and the Chairperson. The Board of Directors has collective responsibility for the vision and mission of Sightsavers Ireland and for ensuring the effective performance of the organisation in achieving maximum value and impact with the contributions of its donors and partners.

¹ This report shall refer to the global organisation as 'Sightsavers' and the Irish organisation as 'Sightsavers Ireland'.

The principal responsibilities of the Directors for the organisation include, but are not limited to:

- Approval of its long-term objectives and strategy;
- Approval of annual operating and capital expenditure budgets;
- Monitoring its performance in light of its strategy, objectives, business plans and budgets;
- Oversight of its operations, ensuring competent management and service delivery;
- Reviewing of its Risk Register, ensuring sound internal controls and risk management processes;
- Appointment of its Chairperson and chief executive;
- Determining the remuneration of the chief executive and arrangements for performance evaluation;
- Ensuring adequate succession planning for the Board and senior management;
- Approval of annual accounts and relevant resolutions to be presented to the Members at AGM;
- Undertaking periodic formal review of corporate governance and Board performance.

A statement of the Directors' responsibilities in relation to the preparation of financial statements is set out in section 5 of this report. The Board is supported by the FAC, which meets at least twice per year to review income and expenditure, to review annual financial statements and the external auditor's report before submission to the Board and to agree the operating and capital expenditure budgets for the organisation. The Committee is responsible to the Board of Directors for ensuring there is a framework for accountability, sound financial systems and controls, and compliance with relevant

financial regulations and best practice.

Members and Board Directors are non-executive appointments, serve on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration for their services. Members and Directors are drawn from diverse backgrounds and bring a broad range of skills, expertise and experience to ensure the effective performance, oversight and accountability of the organisation.

A record of attendance at 2019 Board meetings is provided below.

Board Member	Attendance 2019
Cathrine Burke	1/3
Bernadette Carr	3/5
Howard Dalzell	3/3
Daragh Fahey	4/5
Lorraine Higgins	2/2
Chris Kinder	4/5
Jim Miley	5/5
Brenda Moriarty	5/5
Una Murray	3/3
Tony Ward	3/3

Compliance statements

Sightsavers Ireland is committed to the highest standards of transparency, governance and accountability in ensuring that it delivers the maximum value and impact with the donations it receives from supporters and partners. The organisation therefore complies with the following Codes of Practice:

- The Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance;
- The Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public;

- The Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images & Messages; and
- The Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The Board of Sightsavers Ireland employs the Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance as a guide and measures compliance against the seven key areas of the code. Specific examples of this include periodic audits of the skill sets of Board members and regular reviews of organisational income, expenditure and progress towards programme targets and objectives.

Sightsavers Ireland is committed to conducting its fundraising activities in an open, honest, respectful, transparent and accountable manner. The organisation is therefore fully compliant with the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public. In order to demonstrate its compliance, Sightsavers publishes a Public Compliance Statement, Supporter Promise and Privacy Policy and Complaints Policy on its website.

Sightsavers Ireland also commits to producing all of its public communications in compliance with the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. In this way, the organisation strives to conduct its public communications in the most truthful, representative and respectful manner possible. For example, all of the images used, including those displayed in the Dublin office, are accurately captioned to identify both the subject and context of the image.

Finally, Sightsavers Ireland has voluntarily adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP), as recommended by the UK Charities Commission, in the absence of there being a similar code in Ireland.

Sightsavers Ireland publishes its independently audited Annual Accounts online. These Accounts contain details of staff salaries and pension arrangements, with the salary levels of senior management outlined within bands of €10,000 for all positions where remuneration is at €60,000 or above. The salary level of all staff is externally benchmarked and it is the policy of Sightsavers Ireland to set salaries at the median level compared to similar jobs in the charity sector. This policy was established to ensure that the maximum value is obtained public donations, recruit and retain high-calibre people and that staff are paid fairly.

The Board continues to deepen its engagement with the management team, jointly reviewing the organisation's performance in 2019 and its business plans and strategy for 2020. Annually, it reviews with management the organisation's compliance with various codes of practice and its risk register. The Board also regularly undertakes a self-evaluation of its performance and an assessment of the organisation's adherence to the highest standards of transparency, governance and accountability.

In 2019, the Board used its annual governance review to assess the organisation's compliance with the newly published Charities Regulatory Authority Governance Code. This review was externally facilitated by Gerry Egan Consulting and found a high level of existing compliance with the Code: 91 per cent compliance with the core standards (29/32) and 71 per cent compliance with the additional standards (12/17) giving a total compliance rating of 84 per cent. Work is ongoing to complete the actions identified during the review as necessary to bridge the relatively small gap to achieving 100% compliance and the organisation is on track to report full compliance with the Code for the first reporting cycle in 2021.

Cecile Alougou, a teacher who works in an inclusive school in Cameroon.



Outlook for 2020



At the turn of the decade, Sightsavers Ireland looked to the year ahead with great enthusiasm and positivity. The organisation planned to continue to grow and extend its programmatic impact throughout 2020.

However, the world has become a very different place since COVID-19 started to dominate in February 2020. As at the date of signature of this report, the world remains in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries are beginning to take tentative steps out of lockdown, but huge uncertainty remains. Aside from the public health questions, the impact on economies across the world is unknown, although all commentators agree there will be a severe recession. It is unclear how deep this will be or how long it will last.

In 2020, the effects of the spread of COVID-19 will impact our ability to implement our programmes across the low-income countries where we operate, some already disadvantaged by poor healthcare systems, as the virus continues to spread across Africa and Asia. The organisation continues to engage actively with governments and sister agencies in many of the countries we operate.

At the time of writing this report, many of our programmes are temporarily paused as we adhere to advice provided by the World Health Organisation and national governments.

That said, Sightsavers Ireland will continue to maintain focus on the global organisation's mission to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities in this new and challenging environment, following the guidelines from WHO and national governments. Sightsavers Ireland will

continue its dedicated support of the organisation's ongoing collaboration with local and international partners to improve eye health, restore sight, eliminate NTDs and promote the rights of people with disability.

However Sightsavers Ireland is currently in a financially strong position.

- Reserves are at a level that is aligned with policy of the global organisation.
- Sightsavers Ireland has a loyal supporter base that gives regularly, accounting for approximately 60 per cent of our income, towards our strong cash appeals that deliver significant income on a quarterly basis, and legacy gifts that continue to grow.
- We have a number of strong relationships across the Trusts and Foundations and corporate partners portfolio that continue to provide important support.
- Our vital collaboration with Irish Aid, which delivers programmes across four West African countries through Programme Grant II (PGII), is entering its fourth year and continues to be a significant part of enabling Sightsavers Ireland to deliver its mission.

As the situation develops this year, Sightsavers Ireland will ensure that its donors are kept informed of the progress and impact of their support throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Sightsavers Ireland will focus on building public awareness for our work as well as our collaboration with Irish Aid, throughout the second half of the year as we aim to engage with the public through events and exhibitions.

Finally, Sightsavers Ireland will continue to apply the highest standards of Governance and Compliance throughout the organisation. This will be accomplished through the leadership of the Sightsavers

Ireland Board of Directors working closely with the interim chief executive and the management team. Oversight of financial planning and management will be monitored by the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) while oversight of the Irish Aid PGII will be maintained by the Sightsavers Irish Aid Programme Board (SIAPB), which was established to ensure effective governance oversight of the PGII grant agreement.



© Sightsavers/John Healey

Fourteen-year-old Doris takes some medication during an eye screening and deworming treatment in Greenville, Liberia.

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Financial review of 2019

Sightsavers Ireland remains deeply grateful for the loyal support of our donors and the progress described in this report is a testament to their generosity. With this in mind, we offer our sincere gratitude to all of those who support our work. Their contribution has helped us to ensure that millions of people throughout the world have the chance of a better future.

In 2019, Sightsavers Ireland income totalled €6.51 million – representing a six per cent increase on 2018 combined voluntary and institutional support for the organisation. Within this total, 2019 voluntary income increased by 11 per cent to €4.61 million which comprised a 6.4 per cent increase in individual giving support totalling €3.46 million. Major giving income totalled €533,000 – increasing by nine per cent through our loyal Trust donor base. As in previous years, the organisation received significant legacy support which totalled €616,133 – a 173 per cent increase over 2018. Income from Irish Aid remained steady at €1.80 million, while EU funding decreased by 59 per cent to €90,742 as the activities in the 2016 programme entitled ‘The Economic Empowerment of youth with disabilities in Uganda’ reduced, as it is due to conclude in 2020.

Spending on charitable activities was at €5.06 million, which represents a seven per cent increase when compared to 2018.

This amount was allocated as follows: 43 per cent to eye health; 12 per cent to neglected tropical diseases; 13 per cent to social inclusion and 32 per cent to education. Charitable spending was highest in Sierra Leone at €667,054; then Senegal at €531,898; India at €410,032; Cameroon at €316,898 and Liberia at €208,752. The charitable expenditure split across the thematic areas is dependant on the restricted funds that are allocated to each of these programmes. On the completion of allocating restricted funds, the unrestricted funds are allocated to thematic areas that are required to meet the funding gaps. This explains the increase in charitable expenditure on education and the decrease in social inclusion. In 2019 the area of social inclusion was funded significantly by restricted funding.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of Sightsavers Ireland to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing

commitments and operations. The Board reviews reserves on an annual basis in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available to allow for spending on programmes and fundraising activity to continue, without disruption, in the case of a fall in income. All reserves are currently held in current assets. The objective of the existing policy is to ensure that the organisation can draw on the resources required to operate for a minimum of three months.

In November 2017, the Board approved a reserves policy for Sightsavers Ireland, which had been prepared to bring Sightsavers Ireland's reserves policy into line with the policy of the global organisation. The intention of this decision was to retain sufficient reserves in Ireland to safeguard the continued functioning of the organisation, while at the same time ensuring the efficient and timely transfer of funds to the global organisation so that maximum benefit could be efficiently delivered to our beneficiaries.

Directors

The list of Directors and the Members is shown on page 74.

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, two Directors, Howard Dalzell and Cathrine Burke, resigned from the Board of Directors. Both had served two productive and successful terms on the Board and are thanked sincerely by the Chairperson for their commitment and contribution to the organisation.

At the June 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Tony Ward and Una Murray to the Board of Directors. Tony Ward is a chartered accountant and director of finance at the Wheel, the national representative body for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. Tony has also held a number of fundraising and finance roles at charity and non-profit organisations. Una Murray is an international consultant with

wide-ranging experience in development aid, policy and evaluation. She works with many of the key UN agencies (UNDP, FAO, ILO) and has worked with DFID, Irish Aid and the EU. Una has also lectured extensively, most recently in NUI Galway.

At the July 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Lorraine Higgins to the Board of Directors. Lorraine is a qualified barrister, former senator and a public affairs professional. She is currently executive director at MKC Communications, a leading public relations and public affairs consultancy in Dublin.

In July 2019, Chris Kinder joined the Finance and Audit Committee as Chair. Both Una Murray and Bernadette Carr joined the Sightsavers Irish Aid Programme Board in July 2019, with Una Murray taking up the role of Chair of the Committee.

Neither Members, nor Directors, of Sightsavers Ireland received any remuneration for their work on the Board of Directors or its sub-committees in 2019. Declarations were made at all Board meetings by the Directors to ensure that no conflicts of interest arose within the organisation.



Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and Irish law.

Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company for the financial year end date of the surplus or deficit of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps, or causes to be kept, adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

Risk management

The Directors have responsibility for, and are aware of, the risks associated with the operating activities of Sightsavers Ireland. The Directors are required to identify and review the strategic, operational, regulatory, people, political and environmental risks to which Sightsavers Ireland is exposed; and to assess the likelihood of such risks and possible level of impact they would have.

As part of the risk management process, the Board, to review identified and potential risks of the organisation, undertakes an annual risk review. The major risks identified by the Board are detailed in the company's Risk Register, together with mitigating actions agreed. These risks are also ranked by likelihood and impact. Management undertakes ongoing monitoring of the level of risk and reports on this to the Board.

Appropriate control systems are in place to manage the risks of the organisation and to ensure compliance with laws and policies,

ensure efficient and effective use of Sightsavers Ireland resources, safeguard the assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced.

Financial information is subject to detailed review allowing for continuous monitoring of Sightsavers Ireland operations and financial status.

The Board is satisfied that the systems are in place to monitor, manage and, where appropriate, mitigate Sightsavers' exposure to major risks, including that of the unprecedented pandemic – COVID-19.

The risk register has highlighted COVID-19 as a significant risk to face Sightsavers Ireland and has put in place appropriate measures and controls to monitor income and expenditure on a monthly basis, as the situation evolves.

Lobbying and political donations

There were no political donations in 2019, and as a result, no disclosures are required under the Electoral Act, 1997.

As required under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015, Sightsavers Ireland records all lobbying activity and communications with designated public officials.

State of affairs and events after the balance sheet date

In the opinion of the Directors, the state of the company's affairs is satisfactory.

As at the date of signature of this report, the world remains in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries are beginning to take tentative steps out of lockdown, but huge uncertainty remains. Aside from the public health questions, the impact on economies across the world is unknown, although all commentators agree there will be a severe recession. It is unclear how deep this will be or how long it will last.

However, as noted above, the Directors are confident in the current financial strength of the organisation. There were no other significant events up to the date of signing the report that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- that Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Books of account

To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 281-285 of the Companies Act 2014, the Directors have engaged appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The books of account are located at the company's premises at First Floor, Spencer House, Spencer Row, Dublin 1.

Auditors

Crowe Ireland is eligible and has expressed its willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

On behalf of the Directors



Jim Miley



Chris Kinder

Date: 2 June 2020

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Key people and suppliers

Charity Number

CHY 15437

Company Number

377692

CRA Number

20053246

Patron

Mr Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland

Members

Ms Joan Burton TD

Dr Bernadette Carr

Ms Caroline Casey

Dr Daragh Fahey

Mr Fintan Glynn

Ms Patricia Hallahan

Ms Lorraine Higgins
(appointed July 2019)

Mr Chris Kinder

Mr Jim Miley

Ms Mary Moorhead

Ms Brenda Moriarty

Ms Una Murray
(appointed June 2019)

Mr Michael Murphy

Ms Fiona O'Malley

Ms Mary O'Rourke

Mr Gerry O'Sullivan

Mr Tony Ward

(appointed June 2019)

Directors

Chairperson: Mr Jim Miley

Dr Bernadette Carr **

Dr Daragh Fahey *

Ms Lorraine Higgins
(appointed July 2019)

Mr Chris Kinder * **

Ms Brenda Moriarty *

Ms Una Murray **
(appointed June 2019)

Mr Tony Ward

(appointed June 2019)

* Members of the Finance and Audit
Committee (FAC)

** Members of the Sightsavers Irish Aid
Programme Board (SIAPB)

Company Secretary

Mr Ken Moon

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Charlie Lamson
(resigned February 2020)

Ms Ciara Smullen
(interim CEO, appointed
March 2020)

Registered Office

1st Floor
Spencer House
Spencer Row
Dublin 1

Solicitors

Reddy Charlton
12 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2

Auditors

Crowe Ireland
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Audit Firm
Marine House
Clanwilliam Place
Dublin 2

Key Staff

Mr Charlie Lamson, CEO
(resigned February 2020)

**Ms Ciara Smullen, Head of Major Giving
and Interim CEO**

**Ms Emma Kilkenny Wilson, Head of
Individual Giving**
(on maternity leave; resigned
November 2019)

**Mr Wim Desmedt, Head of
Individual Giving**
(appointed January 2020)

**Mr Declan White, Interim Head
of Individual Giving**

**Ms Ali Bough, Communications and Public
Engagement Manager**

Principal Bankers

Allied Irish Bank
7/12 Dame Street
Dublin 2

HSBC Bank plc
62-76 Park Street
London SE1 9SW

Independent Auditors Report to the members of Sightsavers Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sightsavers Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019, which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2015.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2015;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material

misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-(Ireland)). The description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Signed by:



Roseanna O'Hanlon

Date: 15 July 2020

for and on behalf of

Crowe Ireland
Chartered Accountants and Statutory
Audit Firm
Marine House
Clanwilliam Place
Dublin 2

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2019 €	Restricted funds 2019 €	Total 2019 €	Unrestricted funds 2018 €	Restricted funds 2018 €	Total 2018 €
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	4,327,797	2,089,333	6,417,130	3,949,610	1,945,134	5,894,744
Income from charitable activities	4	-	90,742	90,742	-	218,824	218,824
Total income		4,327,797	2,180,075	6,507,872	3,949,610	2,163,958	6,113,568
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	1,395,153	-	1,395,153	1,679,717	-	1,679,717
Charitable activities							
Health – eye care	5/6	1,086,949	1,092,303	2,179,252	1,094,904	799,879	1,894,783
Neglected tropical diseases	5/6	390,702	190,670	581,372	200,598	238,658	439,256
Education	5/6	1,233,041	385,156	1,618,197	643,371	377,197	1,020,568
Social inclusion	5/6	242,362	439,169	681,531	576,329	589,520	1,165,849
Policy and research	5/6	-	-	-	183,821	29,719	213,540
Total charitable activities		2,953,054	2,107,298	5,060,352	2,699,023	2,034,973	4,733,996
Total expenditure		4,348,207	2,107,298	6,455,505	4,378,740	2,034,973	6,413,713
Net income / (expenditure)		(20,410)	72,777	52,367	(429,130)	128,985	(300,145)
Transfer between funds	15	110,750	(110,750)	-	136,486	(136,486)	-
Net movement in funds		90,340	(37,973)	52,367	(292,644)	(7,501)	(300,145)
Total funds brought forward		673,102	90,999	764,101	965,746	98,500	1,064,246
Total funds carried forward	15	763,442	53,026	816,468	673,102	90,999	764,101

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the net income / (expenditure) for the year. All the above results are derived from continuing activities.

The notes on page 82 to 94 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 €	2018 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	12	431,111	459,693
Cash at bank and in hand	13	1,005,774	1,347,517
Total		1,436,885	1,807,210
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(620,417)	(1,043,109)
Net current assets		816,468	764,101
Total net assets		816,468	764,101
The funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted funds	16	763,442	673,102
Restricted funds	16	53,026	90,999
Total funds		816,468	764,101

The notes on pages 82 to 94 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Directors



Jim Miley



Chris Kinder

Date: 2 June 2020

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 €	2018 €
Cash flows from operating activities:	Table A	(341,743)	371,296
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(341,743)	371,296
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(341,743)	371,296
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,347,517	976,221
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	Table B	1,005,774	1,347,517

Table A

Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	52,367	(300,145)
Adjustments for:		
Decrease in debtors	28,582	225,512
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(422,692)	445,929
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(341,743)	371,296

Table B

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	1,005,774	1,347,517
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Notes to the financial statements for the Year ended 31 December 2019

1 General information

Sightsavers Ireland is an Irish charity registered in 2003 as a company limited by guarantee. It's engaged in preventing and eliminating avoidable blindness and promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people. The company's registered office is First Floor, Spencer House, Spencer Row, Dublin 1.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2014. Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and the Financial Reporting Council. The financial statements are drawn up to reflect the format of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) – and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the current and previous year.

Connected organisations

Sightsavers Ireland, a public benefit entity, was registered in November 2003, with the purpose of expanding the operations of Sightsavers and establishing a permanent presence in Ireland. The organisations are legally separate but co-ordinate activities based on legal agreements.

Fund accounting

General Funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the members in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and that have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated Funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the members for particular purposes. The use of each Designated Fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. Details of restricted funds are set out in note 16.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when Sightsavers Ireland is legally entitled to them; it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Grants from Governments are recognised on a receivable basis. Unspent balances are carried forward within the relevant restricted fund.

Legacies are recognised at the earlier of estate accounts being finalised and Sightsavers Ireland being notified that a payment will be made.

Charitable expenditure

Sightsavers work in developing countries with partner organisations. Expenditure by partners on overseas projects is charged when remitted. Other direct charitable expenditure is charged on an accruals basis. Expenditure is incurred on the continued support of medical projects, including the provision of surgical instruments and medical supplies, the rehabilitation, training and resettlement of blind adults, the education of blind children and the payment of bursaries to overseas students studying outside their home countries. All direct charitable expenditure is channelled through Sightsavers on a contract basis with Sightsavers Ireland.

All other expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT. Salaries are allocated according to the nature of the work performed by each member of staff. Other costs are allocated on a direct basis where possible or proportionate to departmental activity.

Going concern

The Directors have assessed whether there are any significant doubts regarding the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

As at the date of signature of this report, the world remains in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries are beginning to take tentative steps out of lockdown, but huge uncertainty remains. Aside from the public health questions, the impact on economies across the world is unknown, although all commentators agree there will be a severe recession. It is unclear how deep this will be or how long it will last.

However Sightsavers Ireland is currently in a financially strong position.

- Reserves are at a level that is aligned with policy of the global organisation
- Sightsavers Ireland has a loyal supporter

base giving regularly, accounting for approximately 60 per cent of our income, to strong cash appeals that deliver significant income on a quarterly basis, and legacy gifts that continue to grow.

- We have a number of strong relationships across the Trusts and Foundations and corporate partners portfolio that continue to provide important support.
- Our vital collaboration with Irish Aid which delivers programmes across four West African countries through Programme Grant II (PGII) is entering its fourth year and continues to be a significant part of enabling Sightsavers Ireland to deliver its mission.

Outside of the COVID-19 pandemic the Directors are unaware of any other material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than €1,500 are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets in use at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Tangible fixed asset	Depreciation
Computer equipment	33%
Office fixtures and fittings	25%

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Debtors

Debtors are measured in the accounts at their recoverable amount.

Creditors

Creditors are measured in the accounts at their settlement amount.

Financial Instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Foreign exchange

1. Functional / Presentational currency

The company's functional and presentational currency is the euro.

2. Transactions and Balances

Income or expenditure arising from a transaction denominated in a foreign currency is translated at the exchange rate in operation on the date the transaction was incurred.

The balance sheet accounts are translated at the prevailing year end rates.

Pension

The company does not operate a pension scheme. The company contributes to the personal pension plans taken out by eligible contracted employees. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

Employee holiday pay benefit accrual

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the Balance Sheet date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the Balance Sheet date.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There were no estimates and assumptions, with the exception of the recovery of debtors, that are considered to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

3 Taxation Status

The Company is exempt from taxation due to its charitable status in Ireland (Revenue Commissioners Registration no. CHY 15437).

4 Income

	2019 €	2018 €
Donations and legacies		
Individuals and Major Donors	3,591,849	3,582,222
Trusts	180,393	132,608
Companies	210,146	197,587
Other organisations e.g. churches, schools	14,671	18,053
Legacies	616,133	226,017
Irish Aid	1,803,938	1,738,257
Total	6,417,130	5,894,744
Income from charitable activities		
European Commission	90,742	218,824
Total	90,742	218,824



(Left to right) Ing'oya Lorot, Ipo Nabur, Aboni Ekale and Akai Ekiru, who all suffered from trachoma trichiasis, in their village in Turkana, Kenya, the day before eye surgery.

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5 Direct charitable expenditure

	Health eye care €	Neglected tropical diseases €	Education €	Social inclusion €	2019 €	2018 €
Bangladesh	76,806	-	-	-	76,806	170,200
Benin	-	4,378	-	-	4,378	-
Cameroon	121,203	30,785	128,210	36,700	316,898	517,688
Cote D'Ivoire	-	11,635	-	-	11,635	-
Guinea Bissau	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
India	227,908	17,663	94,312	70,149	410,032	212,740
Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	113,466
Liberia	98,966	25,540	57,836	26,410	208,752	461,624
Malawi	26,798	38,127	22,572	6,026	93,523	-
Mali	24,362	59,828	30,888	5,478	120,556	129,359
Mozambique	27,645	10,022	23,285	6,217	67,169	209,706
Nigeria	75,644	6,182	14,364	3,835	100,025	-
Pakistan	42,677	8,832	20,520	5,478	77,507	30,968
Senegal	226,767	57,396	170,680	77,055	531,898	671,238
Sierra Leone	324,586	60,894	189,364	92,210	667,054	424,281
Sudan	65,675	-	-	-	65,675	-
Tanzania	-	2,144	-	-	2,144	181,546
Togo	24,362	8,832	20,520	90,284	143,998	-
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	270,719
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	45,388
Regional: East, Central and Southern Africa	26,784	-	-	-	26,784	-
West Africa	52,470	18,501	42,826	12,600	126,397	73,738
Global programmes	-	7,890	-	-	7,890	-
Central support	24,364	8,832	11,317	5,478	49,991	-
Programme technical support	712,235	203,891	457,040	243,611	1,616,777	959,124
Advocacy communication and education programmes	-	-	334,463	-	334,463	247,211
Direct charitable expenditure	2,179,252	581,372	1,618,197	681,531	5,060,352	4,733,996

Expenditure charged to the projects includes grants paid to partner organisations, representing an integral part of the company's programme work. The work of these local organisations is closely monitored.

Administration with regards funding of partner organisations is carried out through Sightsavers on a contract basis with Sightsavers Ireland.

A full list of grants made to partner organisations by Sightsavers is included on their website www.sightsavers.org.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides support to Sightsavers Ireland via Irish Aid Programme Grant II. This programme is focused on the support of projects based in four countries in West Africa - including eye health projects in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone; the treatment of NTDs in Sierra Leone and; the encouragement of inclusive education and political participation in Cameroon and Senegal.

6 Total expenditure

	Grants payable €	Other Direct costs €	Allocation of support costs €	Total 2019 €	Total 2018 €
Raising funds	-	1,176,602	218,551	1,395,153	1,679,717
Charitable activities					
Health - eye care	2,179,252	-	-	2,179,252	1,894,783
Neglected tropical disease	581,372	-	-	581,372	439,256
Education	1,292,937	306,260	19,000	1,618,197	1,020,568
Social inclusion	681,531	-	-	681,531	1,165,849
Policy and research	-	-	-	-	213,540
Total	4,735,092	1,482,862	237,551	6,455,505	6,413,713

Support costs

	2019 €	2018 €
Directorate	95,000	95,000
Governance:		
External audit	8,702	9,622
Staff costs	62,972	81,029
Operational costs	70,877	97,402
Total	237,551	283,053

Directorate represents an apportionment of support and administration costs from Sightsavers based on the proportion of time spent on Irish activities.

7 Net income/(expenditure)

	2019 €	2018 €
This is stated after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration	8,702	9,622
Operating lease – building	42,955	43,300

8 Staff costs

The average monthly number of Sightsavers Ireland employees during the year was:

	2019 No.	2018 No.
Chief executive	1	1
Operations, programme and institutional fundraising	3	3
Policy and campaigns	1	1
Fundraising and communications	6	5
Total	11	10

Total employee remuneration for the year was:

	2019 €	2018 €
Wages and salaries	477,340	492,132
Social welfare costs	52,084	53,085
Pension costs	24,178	18,998
Total Sightsavers Ireland	553,602	564,215
Allocation of staff costs from Sightsavers	95,000	95,000
Total	648,602	659,215

The number of employees whose emoluments were greater than €60,000 was as follows:

	2019 €	2018 €
€ 60,001 to € 70,000	2	3
€ 70,001 to € 80,000	-	-
€ 80,001 to €90,000	-	-
€90,001 to €100,000	1	1
Total	3	4

Yahaya, from Kebbi province in Nigeria, smiles following lymphoedema treatment.



Key management personnel

Key management personnel include the chief executive and the senior management team for whom the total remuneration cost was €326,572 (2018: €430,677) including pension contributions of €20,235 (2018: €18,428).

The chief executive's remuneration amounts to €95,949. The full disclosure of the chief executive's salary is available on the organisation's website.

9 Members/Directors' expenses

During the year there were no expenses to either Members or Directors.

No emoluments are paid directly to the Directors. Directors can be reimbursed for their travel and subsistence expenses for attending board, executive committee and team review meetings. Additionally, Directors may occasionally visit Sightsavers Ireland partners and programmes overseas with costs of such trips being met by the company.

10 Pension costs

The company does not operate a pension scheme but contributes to the personal pension plans taken out by our contracted employees, at a rate double the employee contributions up to a maximum of 10% of pensionable pay. The pension cost charge for 2019 was €24,178 (2018: €18,998). The outstanding payable amount due at year end for 2019 was €4,444 (2018: €2,668).

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office fixtures and fittings €	Computer equipment €	Total €
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2019	-	4,750	4,750
Disposals	-	(4,750)	(4,750)
At 31 December 2019	-	-	-
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2019	-	4,750	4,750
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(4,750)	(4,750)
At 31 December 2019	-	-	-
Net book value			
At 31 December 2019	-	-	-
At 1 January 2019	-	-	-

All fixed assets are held by the charity for use in meeting charitable objectives.

12 Debtors

	2019 €	2018 €
(Amounts falling due within one year)		
Prepayments and accrued income	430,468	459,051
Other debtors	643	642
Total	431,111	459,693

13 Cash at bank and in hand

	2019 €	2018 €
Restricted funds	150,221	347,403
Unrestricted funds	855,553	1,000,114
Total	1,005,774	1,347,517

14 Creditors

(Amounts falling due within one year)

	2019 €	2018 €
Accruals and deferred Income	60,073	21,735
Sightsavers (note 18)	505,316	983,684
Payroll taxes	17,595	15,734
Other creditors	37,433	21,956
Total	620,417	1,043,109

When cash is received in advance on performance related grants, income is deferred until the performance conditions have been met.

15 Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 January 2019 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers €	Balance at 31 December 2019 €
General reserve:	673,102	4,327,797	(4,348,207)	110,750	763,442
Designated funds:					
Fixed assets fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	673,102	4,327,797	(4,348,207)	110,750	763,442
Restricted funds:					
European Commission funds	-	90,742	(84,806)	(5,936)	-
Irish Aid funds	-	1,803,938	(1,719,124)	(84,814)	-
Other donations and legacies	90,999	285,395	(303,368)	(20,000)	53,026
Total restricted funds	90,999	2,180,075	(2,107,298)	(110,750)	53,026
Total funds	764,101	6,507,872	(6,455,505)	-	816,468

Designated funds: the balance on the fixed asset fund represents the net book value of tangible assets at the balance sheet date. These are operational assets required for the day-to-day operations of the charity.

Unrestricted funds: the balance on the unrestricted fund represents the funds that have been raised by Sightsavers Ireland and which may be used at the discretion of the company in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds: the transfer to unrestricted funds of €110,750 relates mainly to funds received as part of restricted funding agreements that are provided for Sightsavers Ireland indirect costs. Restricted funds do not include any material funds subject to trust law restrictions.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

2019	Tangible fixed assets €	Net current assets €	Net assets €
Unrestricted funds:			
General	-	763,442	763,442
Designated	-	-	-
Restricted funds	-	53,026	53,026
Total	-	816,468	816,468

17 Leasing commitments

Sightsavers Ireland has a commitment to make future minimum lease payments under an operating lease expiring in June 2032 (with the option to terminate after 5 and 10 years). The obligation to make these lease payments falls due as follows:

	2019 €	2018 €
Land and buildings		
Within 1 year	38,000	38,000
Within 2-5 years	57,000	95,000
Total	95,000	133,000

18 Related party transactions

In order to achieve its mission, Sightsavers Ireland supports the overseas programmes of Sightsavers on a contract basis. At the end of the year, there was a related party balance owing to Sightsavers of €505,316 (2018: a balance owing to Sightsavers of €983,684).

	€
Amount owing 2018	(983,684)
Advanced	-
Repaid	478,368
Total	(505,316)

19 Post balance sheet events

The global pandemic of COVID-19 that occurred after the balance sheet date is an unprecedented situation that will undoubtedly have a devastating and far reaching effect on everyone across the globe. It is a health crisis and an economic crisis that will have a long term impact on both our beneficiaries in the countries where we work and our supporters here in Ireland. At the time of writing this report, Sightsavers Ireland is in a healthy financial position, despite the ongoing pandemic with a sustainable fundraising base and strong reserves should they be required.

An event that must be noted in the report, its implications that this pandemic will have on the organisation in the long term are largely still unknown. There were no other significant events up to the date of signing the report that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements.

20 Controlling party

The Member of Sightsavers Ireland are considered to be the ultimate controlling party.

21 Approval of financial statements

The Board of Directors approved these financial statements for issue on 2 June 2020.

Image: Khadijah, from Sokoto, Nigeria, was struggling at school due to a cataract. But thanks to Sightsavers support she was able to be screened and have an operation.



We work with partners in low and middle income countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities

www.sightsavers.ie

 **SightsaversIreland**

 **@SightsaversIE**

 **@sightsaversie**

 **SightsaversTV**

Sightsavers Ireland
First Floor
Spencer House
Spencer Row
Dublin 1

+353 (0)1 663 7666

info@sightsavers.ie

 **Sightsavers**