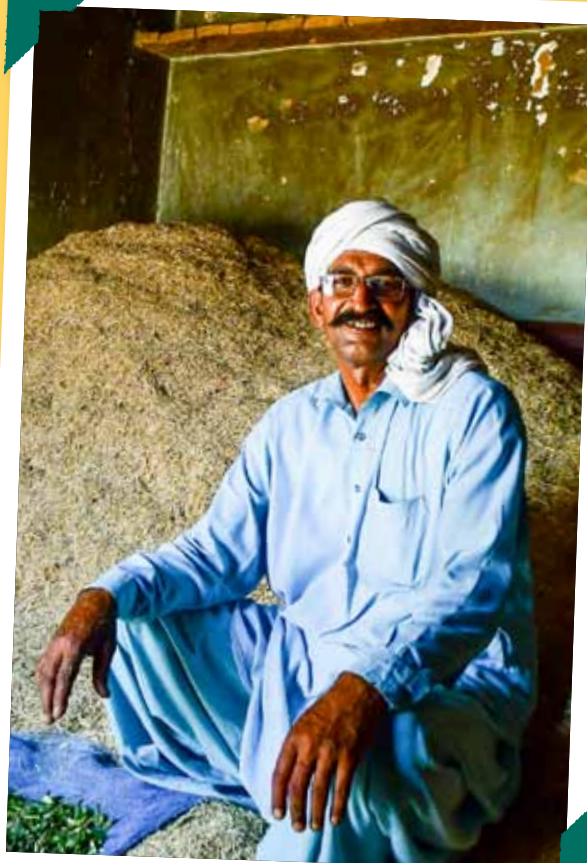


Annual report 2024



Sightsavers



On the cover: An Irish Aid and Sightsavers trained ophthalmic nurse, Hassanatu, conducts an eyesight examination at The China-Sierra Leone Friendship Hospital located in the outskirts of Freetown. The eye department at the hospital is supported by Sightsavers and Irish Aid.
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Message from our Chair

In a time of profound global uncertainty - marked by shifting geopolitical dynamics, climate disruption, and growing inequality - Sightsavers Ireland continues to stand as a force for equity, inclusion, and hope. Our mission to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities is more urgent than ever, and I am proud to say that the organisation continues to ensure that their work reaches the furthest behind first.

As we take this moment to pause and reflect on 2024, we must take stock of the positive impact the work of Sightsavers has made on people living in vulnerable situations globally. Over a half million surgeries were provided to people at risk of losing their sight, 9.9 million eye screenings were undertaken and now thanks to Sightsavers' support, the number of people no longer requiring treatment for at least one Neglected Tropical Disease now stands at 100,088,736.

Our work in West and Central Africa would not be possible without the support of our key partners, and I want to especially recognise Irish Aid.

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be deeply appreciative of the support generously provided by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through the continued partnership with Irish Aid. 2024 was the second year implementing Ireland's Civil Society Partnership Grant for a Better World (ICSP) building on the strong foundations laid in 2023 to support transformative change: across eye health, inclusive education, citizenship and political participation and climate action as well as global citizenship education (GCE) in these countries and in Ireland.

My heartfelt appreciation also extends to the European Union, whose continued collaboration and investment are central to our ability to deliver high-impact, inclusive programmes across Zambia, Uganda and Ghana.

These partnerships are the foundation of our success and a powerful reflection of shared values and vision.

Despite serious challenges in the fundraising environment across Ireland, Sightsavers Ireland delivered an excellent performance this year. This success is a testament to the extraordinary dedication of our team, whose innovation and resilience have been unwavering. It is also thanks to the incredible loyalty of our supporters, whose belief in our mission continues to inspire and sustain us. We are deeply grateful for their trust.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members for their strategic guidance and steadfast commitment. In particular, I want to acknowledge and thank Jim Miley and Chris Kinder, who stepped down after many years of valuable service. Their leadership and insight have been instrumental in shaping the organisation's direction and impact.

At the same time, I am delighted to welcome Adrian Harpur and Anne-Marie Walsh to the Board. Their experience and fresh perspectives will be invaluable as we continue to grow and adapt in a rapidly evolving global context.

I am delighted that Brian Dawson will succeed me as Chairperson of Sightsavers Ireland. Brian brings a wealth of experience and has shown strong commitment to the organisation during his time as vice-chair, I know he will do a wonderful job and I wish him every success in the role.

As we look ahead, we do so with ambition but with realism. The recent funding cuts across the development sector—including significant reductions from USAID—serve as a stark reminder of the current uncertainty in the global aid system. These shifts will continue to place immense pressure on organisations. However, they also reinforce

the importance of strategic partnerships, diversified funding, and a relentless focus on impact and accountability.

With the strength of the Sightsavers Ireland team, the guidance of the Board, the loyalty of our supporters, and the steadfast support of our partners, Sightsavers Ireland is well-positioned to navigate these headwinds. We remain committed to ensuring that no one is left behind, and that our work continues to bring opportunity to those who need it most.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission.



Joan Burton
Chair, Sightsavers Ireland

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Abubakar, OPD Leader and Youth Network Country Representative, at the Sightsavers citizenship and political participation workshop in Makeni, Sierra Leone which is supported by Irish Aid.

Message from our CEO

2024 was another challenging year for international development organisations working in some of the most difficult situations across the world. Ongoing conflicts in Palestine, Ukraine, regional political instability, the impact of geopolitical tensions and climatic shocks have added to an increasingly challenging environment in some of the countries where we work.

However in a world where domestic and global challenges unfold on a daily basis it can be all too easy to forget the positives and there were many in 2024 for Sightsavers.

Globally, Sightsavers, the global organisation continued to perform well across the portfolio of programmes in Africa and Asia and significantly exceeded 2023 targets set for cataract operations, NTD treatments, training for people with disabilities, training on education and inclusion topics and training for community volunteers including community drug distributors. And we continue to see an increase in the estimated population no longer requiring treatment for at least one NTD because of interventions by Sightsavers.

At Sightsavers, we work with local partners to ensure children with disabilities can learn alongside their peers, and our colleagues in Cameroon have been making huge strides in making this a reality. In October 2024 the country's first National Inclusive Education Policy was validated, and as a result, providing the opportunity for children with disabilities throughout the country to access quality education and have the chance to go to school like any other child.

And Sightsavers have been at the forefront of this development since 2017 with the support of Irish Aid and key partners advocating with ministries of education, government bodies and other stakeholders.

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be deeply appreciative of the continued support generously provided by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through the continued partnership with Irish Aid. And with the support of the Irish Civil Society Partnership grant there have been significant contributions to the 'A Better World' policy by ensuring the needs of those most at risk of being left furthest behind remain at the centre of the programme.

The fundraising environment the Sightsavers Ireland team faced in 2024 was a difficult one. The ongoing cost of living situation, continuous rises in fundraising costs and back-to-back emergency fundraising appeals created a very challenging landscape to operate within. Nevertheless the commitment of the team and their ability to innovate to mitigate against these challenges saw the organisation finish 2024 in a strong and stable footing fundraising performance for the organisation.

This would not have been possible without the loyalty of our wonderful supporters and the team in Sightsavers Ireland continues to be greatly appreciative for their ongoing support. Your generosity is transforming lives as we continue this journey together to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities.

I would like to also acknowledge the importance of the role of Ireland on the current global stage. The Irish government have committed to becoming a leader in disability inclusion and having recently acted as key contributors to the recent Amman Berlin Declaration at the Global Disability Summit ensuring that all development programmes be disability inclusive. This commitment is a beginning – not an end. It is critical that Ireland continues to lead from the front in this space.

As I reflect on the year that was 2024, I'm proud to say that, despite ongoing

uncertainty in the world, we've had a successful year which was further strengthened by the consistent counsel and unwavering support of the Sightsavers Ireland board, whose dedication to strong governance has been invaluable.

Finally, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to outgoing Chairperson Joan Burton for providing Sightsavers Ireland with her leadership and invaluable experience in the past four years of her term, and we are delighted that Joan will continue to remain on the board for another term.



Ciara Smullen
CEO, Sightsavers Ireland

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Alfred, a 12 year old boy living with albinism, attends a Sightsavers supported eye screening for persons with disabilities in Makeni, Sierra Leone. This programme is funded by Irish Aid.



Brothers Chabota (6) and Forgive (14) share a moment with their cousin Bubota (far left) at their home in Zimbabwe. Chabota, Forgive and Bubota have all been successfully treated for trachoma.

About

Sightsavers Ireland

Founded in 1950, the global organisation Sightsavers is dedicated to the elimination of avoidable blindness and the promotion of equal opportunities for people with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. The organisation also empowers people who are irreversibly blind or have other disabilities by providing education and training.

Sightsavers Ireland, established since 2003, works directly with the global Sightsavers organisation in the provision of hundreds of thousands of sight-saving treatments for people in low- and middle-income countries, as well as support for the inclusion of people with disabilities. The contribution of Sightsavers Ireland has been realised through the generous contributions of people, companies, trusts and foundations across Ireland who have supported the organisation through donations, fundraising initiatives and events.

Sightsavers Ireland also receives vital institutional funding for its programmes and projects from Irish Aid, the Irish Government's programme for overseas development, as well as the EU Commission.

All income generated and the assets of the company are applied towards the promotion of the objectives of the organisation and no portion can be paid or transferred by way of dividend, bonus or profit to Members of the company.

Programme work is implemented by the global organisation Sightsavers with input and oversight from all appropriate levels and departments of the organisation to ensure that maximum value is achieved from public donations and that money raised is used to improve the lives of our beneficiaries.



Our Vision

Sightsavers Ireland's vision is of a world in which 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.

Where We Work

Sightsavers works in more than 30 countries in Africa and Asia where we partner with local, regional, national and international organisations and governments.



Where we work

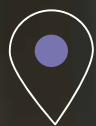
Sightsavers works in more than 30 countries in Africa and Asia, where we partner with local, regional, national and international organisations and governments. We also have nine regional and support offices around the world.

Evarista Mgaya,
a paediatric
ophthalmologist,
who works in Singida
Region, Tanzania

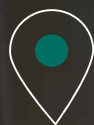




regional and support
offices around the world



30+ countries
where we work



Irish Aid countries
where we work



Our Organisation

Governance

Sightsavers Ireland was established in 2003 as an independent affiliate with the purpose of supporting the work of our global sister organisation, Sightsavers. We fundraise with the public, corporate partners, trusts, foundations and government donors. We raise the profile of issues related to our work with the Irish public, decision makers and policy makers. We have a team of 15 dedicated staff members, nine voluntary board members and 20,000 supporters.

Our patron is President Michael D Higgins.

Board of directors

At Sightsavers Ireland we are fortunate to be governed by a dedicated board of directors. In 2024 the board met four times to review the performance of the organisation and its adherence to statutory requirements and relevant industry standards and codes.

The board is supported by a Finance and Audit sub-committee which meets twice a year to ensure financial oversight, validate the organisation's compliance with relevant accounting standards and provide scrutiny of the audited annual accounts, which can be found on our website.

Committees

The board has appointed two standing committees:

- Finance and Audit, which monitors and reviews audit activities, the risk and control framework, the effectiveness of our processes and the statutory accounts and annual report
- Sightsavers Ireland Programme Board (SIPB), which monitors the activities and programmes of the Irish Aid grant and EU funded programmes

Committees may include non-board specialist members, who voluntarily offer their expertise to assist the committees.

There are distinctions between the roles of the board and of the CEO and senior management team, to whom day-to-day operational management is delegated. Policy and strategic plans are prepared by senior management for consideration and approval by the board.

Teams

The organisation comprises three core teams, whose leaders report to the CEO. A governance and compliance officer also reports directly to the CEO.

The teams' responsibilities are:

- Individual Giving manages our fundraising and supporter care for the primary individual supporter base.
- Strategic Partnerships manages our major donors, trusts and foundations, corporate partnerships and institutional funding partners.
- Communications and Public Affairs manages our Global Citizenship Education programmes, policy, advocacy and public affairs, social media and website and communications and media.
- Governance and administration executive and CEO are responsible for governance, oversight of programme implementation, monitoring, operations, planning, finance, assurance and reporting.

Find out more about how we're run at www.sightsavers.ie/how-were-run

Accountability

Board of directors

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.

Throughout 2024, the board of directors completed an internal review of the organisation's compliance with all relevant codes of practice:

- The Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance
- The Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public
- The Dóchas Guide to Ethical Communications
- The Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- The Charities Regulatory Authority's Governance Code

Six-year-old Chabota outside his home in Binga District, Zimbabwe. Through Sightsavers, both Chabota and his older brother, Forgive, received treatment for active trachoma.

Globally, Sightsavers continued to maintain an open data policy, which ensures that all documentation on strategy, partner management, quality control and programme evaluations are available on the Sightsavers Ireland website.

Sightsavers also conforms to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and to Accountable Now (formerly the International NGO Charter of Accountability).

Governance Code

The principles of the Charities Regulatory Authority's Governance Code are central to the core values of Sightsavers Ireland. The board remains committed to maintaining our compliance with the code, which is reviewed annually and overseen by the audit committee.



© Sightsavers/Cynthia Matonhodze

Safeguarding

All Sightsavers Ireland representatives and partners must abide by a code of conduct, and all staff must complete a compulsory online safeguarding module. Our global head of safeguarding supports staff and partners to minimise risks and respond appropriately to concerns. More than 40 Sightsavers safeguarding leads also spearhead safeguarding training, risk management and incident response in the countries they represent. At Sightsavers Ireland, we have an obligation to protect children and at-risk adults from harm, whether from members of staff, partners, suppliers, contractors, consultants, or from involvement in our programme activities. Information on our approach to safeguarding can be found on our website.

Complaints and whistleblowing

In 2024, we continued to deliver an awareness raising campaign about our Speak Up platform for reporting misconduct. All new employees are required to attend a Speak Up induction session. We also identified additional means of communicating the system to our programme participants and partners, making use of existing practices such as programmatic kick-off meetings and feedback working groups.

The system complements our existing whistleblowing channels and our safeguarding and fraud reporting mechanisms.



© Sightsavers/Cynthia Matonhodze

Promotion washes dishes before preparing food at her home in Binga District, Zimbabwe. Promotion's three-year-old daughter was treated for active trachoma.

Sustainability and climate change activities

The global organisation has made significant progress against the three-year climate action goals launched in November 2023. This includes the launch of several new projects, research activities and new partnerships, the strengthening of our collection, analysis and reporting of climate data, and our organisational capacity.

As we continue to see the adverse effects of climate change on project performance, there is a concerted effort to integrate climate adaptation strategies into all new projects. Similarly, other newly designed programmes employed the same approach.

Several of the initiatives started in 2023 and 2024 have provided evidence on what works. We are consolidating these learnings and approaches, positioning Sightsavers to build on these foundations as we continue to focus on progressing with our climate action goals in 2025.

This work is guided by our global environmental policy and carbon reduction plan through our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Disability inclusion in the workplace

Sightsavers' vision is of a thriving network, where employees with disabilities have the same opportunities to contribute and excel as any other employee. Employees with disabilities should feel supported and empowered, and their lived experience should inform the inclusivity of our operations and programmes. In 2024, our Disabled Employees Network (DEN) set its 2025 objectives: to support and promote the wellbeing of employees with disabilities, and to be an expert resource for the wider organisation for anyone seeking support or information on disability inclusion.

Priorities include increased visibility of DEN by improving internal advertising and resources, improving the number and diversity of DEN's membership by conducting a survey with actionable recommendations, to normalise the experience of disability through storytelling campaigns, and to support the development of a more inclusive workplace.

The Sightsavers Ireland Equality and Diversity Policy was approved by the Sightsavers Ireland Board in 2023 as part of a benchmark under our MoU with Irish Aid.

Racial diversity

In 2024, the Racial Diversity Working Group (RDWG) held its annual away day to take stock of the work done and to review outstanding actions from the workplan. The group is now focusing on next steps to publish all achievements to date, including other work implemented in the wider organisation, to promote a racially-inclusive environment.

RDWG is also working to embed valuing racial diversity into everyday organisational practices. For 2025 actions, and taking inspiration from the work of the DEN, the group is looking forward to transitioning the RDWG to a safe space employee network.



© Sightsavers/Light Orlye

World Health Organization Global Report on Equity for Persons with Disabilities

In 2024, we continued our technical and financial support for the roll-out of the 2022 WHO report titled 'Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities'. We were extensively engaged in processes at national level in Nigeria (through our Disability Inclusive Development programme), Côte D'Ivoire, Kenya and Tanzania. Across this portfolio, we are supporting the roll-out at national level – which is at differing stages and rates of progression – but have committed to supporting the WHO and ministries of health with its roll-out. We plan to ensure the integration of organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) within this process.

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2024)

We continued to provide support to Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame in her role on the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), a body of independent experts which monitors the implementation by governments of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Sofia ploughing her garden in Otuke District, Uganda. Despite the challenges posed by lymphoedema, which caused irreversible swelling in her right leg, Sofia's resilience and determination shine through as she carries out her daily tasks.



Review of 2024

Following a strong previous year, we have continued to exhibit a strong performance in 2024. Overall, the global organisation significantly exceeded 2023 activity levels for cataract operations, NTD treatments, training for people with disabilities, training on education and inclusion topics and training for community volunteers including community drug distributors. For examinations and distribution of spectacles, whilst 2024 targets were exceeded, outputs were lower than in 2023. We continue to see an increase in the estimated population no longer requiring treatment for at least one NTD because of interventions by Sightsavers.

Irish Aid

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be deeply appreciative of the support generously provided by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through the continued partnership with Irish Aid. 2024 was the second year implementing Ireland's Civil Society Partnership Grant for a Better World (ICSP). This year, we have built on the strong foundations laid in 2023 to support transformative change: across eye health, inclusive education, citizenship and political participation and climate action in Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, as well as global citizenship education (GCE) in these countries and in Ireland.

In 2024, the Sightsavers' ICSP grant made significant contributions to the 'A Better World' policy by ensuring the needs of those most at risk of being left furthest behind remain at the centre of the programme. The ICSP grant has helped Sightsavers operationalise our global thematic strategies in eye health, inclusive education and social inclusion, the goals of which inspired the design of our ICSP programme. In eye health, 152,073 people were screened for debilitating eye conditions in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone to prevent avoidable blindness. In Sierra Leone, we contributed to increased sustainability of the eye health workforce by developing an ophthalmology

residency curriculum to address persistent gaps in the eye health workforce in the country and West Africa region - providing underserved communities with greater access to eye health services.

ICSP Key Achievements in 2024



320
(167 females, 153 males)

women, men and youth with disabilities trained at various levels to share learnings and knowledge on inclusive local development processes



2,213
(1,026 girls, 1,187 boys)

girls and boys with disabilities enrolled in 70 Sightsavers Ireland programme schools in Senegal



152,073
(78,271 females, 73,802 males)

people with and without disabilities screened for eye conditions



10,457
(5,391 females, 5,066 males)

cataract surgeries conducted

In inclusive education, Cameroon's inclusive education policy, validated in October 2024, will pave the way to improve access to education for children with disabilities with a focus on girls with disabilities. Our system strengthening work has led to the development of tools for school accessibility and a finalised teachers' guide for in-service inclusion training will be rolled out across all ten regions to support project implementation. In Senegal, we supported the Ministry of National Education to develop and adopt a gender module for teacher training. In citizenship and political participation, leadership training empowered women with disabilities to engage in local elections, fostering interest that was further reinforced by the election of three women with disabilities to the national assembly for the first time. We trained 320 people on inclusive local development processes in Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Senegal.

Sightsavers has piloted and scaled up climate action across programme countries. Renewable energy systems were successfully installed in four eye health facilities in Liberia and Sierra Leone, addressing the frequent blackouts in these regions. By providing a more stable and reliable energy source, this initiative ensures uninterrupted healthcare services in vulnerable areas.

In Ireland the results for our Global Citizenship Education programme have included increased digital engagement across all social media platforms and our digital technology work. Our increased public dialogue on global development issues is broadly recognised across the sector, through our front-facing public engagement at events nationwide and through the media.

Looking ahead to 2025, an ongoing challenge across the West and Central African countries where we operate is the allocation of sufficient government resources into health and education. We will continue to support national partners to advocate for sustainable, inclusive funding. In 2025, we are excited to integrate a strengthened gender perspective into our eye health programmes, so we can continue to improve women's and girls' access to services. In education, we will work with relevant Ministries in Cameroon and Senegal to implement the inclusive education policies. We will also continue to build resilience among communities most vulnerable to climate change.

ICSP Key Achievements in 2024



101

(58 females, 43 males)

teachers and social workers trained on climate change



13

councils with implementable plans to promote citizenship and active participation in OPDs, alliance with youth movements, local area committees and council meetings



332

head teachers and inclusion champions trained on gender responsive and/or disability inclusive education



1,500

members of the Irish public taking action to promote disability inclusive development

2024 Results: Impacting communities

Women's mentoring in Sierra Leone:

Established women-led mentoring networks, empowering young women with disabilities in leadership (TO1)

Gender in Senegal:

Ministry of Education adopted Sightsavers' gender module for teacher training on gender and disability (TO2)

School

Education For All:

Developed a policy with the Cameroonian government for inclusive education for people with disabilities (TO8)

Inclusive climate action

Trained people with disabilities in climate action, strengthening resilience in Sierra Leone and Senegal (TO6)

Strengthening eye health in Liberia:

Formed a national steering committee uniting Organisations of People with Disabilities and civil society to improve services (TO8)

Global citizenship education:

1,500 members of the Irish public taking action to promote disability inclusive development (T10)

Reaching The Furthest Behind First:

Developed advocacy tools for people with intellectual disabilities' political participation in Cameroon (PO1)

Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus

Ensuring disability inclusion in long-term development and humanitarian programmes through Cameroon's main education network (PO2)

Advancing National Eye Health:

Developed an ophthalmology residency curriculum in Sierra Leone to address workforce gaps (PO3)



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



Sightsavers

European Commission

Strengthening Civil Society Representation of Women with Disabilities in Ghana

Funded by the European Commission, this two-year project aims to enhance the capacity of two key Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by promoting gender equality and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

The selected CSOs are the Women with Disability Development and Advocacy Organisation (WODAO), the sole women's organization in Ghana dedicated to women with disabilities, and the Alliance for Better Advocacy and Knowledge Foundation (ABAK), a national-level CSO committed to advancing the rights of women, youth, and people with disabilities.

This project aims firstly, to support WODAO and the ABAK Foundation in strengthening their organizational governance, accountability mechanisms, and advocacy capacity to effectively participate in decision-making processes in Ghana and ensure alignment with EU programmes. Secondly, WODAO and the ABAK Foundation will cascade capacity-building initiatives to their 38 downstream partner organizations and 560 partner staff and/or community group members to reinforce the capacity of rights holders to advocate for themselves. Finally, the project aims to establish initial linkages between organizations of women with disabilities and the broader national women's rights movement to amplify the voice and specific concerns of women with disabilities.

Launched in May 2024, the project is in its first year of implementation. The first

quarter focused on (i) the inception period where Sightsavers delivered sessions on Advocacy, Programme Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation, and (ii) capacity assessments for each organization followed by the development of capacity building plans in the second quarter. The implementation of these capacity-building plans began in October.

In Quarter 2, training plans were formulated for the downstream partners led by ABAK and WODAO, and a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Analysis was conducted in the project districts of each downstream partner. This analysis mapped trends that highlight risk factors impeding the participation of women with disabilities and aimed to understand the root causes of gender inequalities in Ghana.

Considering the disproportionate impact climate change has on people with disabilities, the training approach will include strategies to centre the voices of those who are most severely impacted by climate change and promote climate change resilience among people with disabilities. Also executed in Quarter 2, a consultant carried out a climate change situational analysis to understand the current state of disability and climate change in Ghana. This analysis will help design targeted interventions to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience among people with disabilities in the face of climate change.

The assessment also identified how government and other stakeholders are responding to the impact of climate change and how well persons with disabilities (particularly women) are involved in programmes or initiatives.

Tusambilile Chapamo – Lets Learn Together – Zambia

This four-year project closed on 31st January 2025 and is in the final stages of evaluation and reporting. The project aimed aims to empower children with disabilities in Zambia by increasing access to quality, equitable and inclusive education for 854 children and youth with disabilities through improved enrolment, retention and learning in 24 mainstream schools and Youth Resource Centres in Chinsali District, Muchinga Province of Zambia.

As it concluded the project has exceeded its core targets including enrolling a total of 1017 children and youth with disabilities into school far exceeding the original target of 615. In addition, over 600 received assistive technology or medical interventions (such as Refractive error assessment or corrective surgery for conditions such as clubbed foot) This was achieved in spite of the impact of Covid-19 at the start of the project, subsequent extreme weather events such as drought causing sever power shortages and heavy rainfall causing a major cholera outbreak in Lusaka.

The project was also able to scale up coverage of the project to the neighbouring Kapwepwe Zone in year 3, raising the total learning centres reached from 18 to 24. This was possible because of the exceptional progress made in the first two years whilst remaining under the planned budget.

Although the extension allowed the project to reach a further 71 children and youth with disabilities the full impact has not yet been seen as it has been running for less than 12 months. Nonetheless, the significant scale of

progress can be attributed to the excellent support received from provincial and district education and council authorities, teachers, parents and community leaders. For example, the project has helped catalyse a significant growth in community-based Organisations of People with Disabilities from three at the outset to 23 at project close. Along with broad based support from community leaders, people with disabilities have played a crucial role in tackling stigma and promoting the rights of children and youth with disabilities to an education.

Overall the project is estimated to have spent just over €1.2m. In order to continue the impact that is being delivered through this project, the global Sightsavers organisation has committed unrestricted funds to a second phase of activity which aims to scale up the intervention to the entire Muchinga province.



© Sightsavers/Jason Mulikita



Anyim Maber (Bright and Better Future): Enhanced opportunities for employment and employability for youth with disabilities - Uganda

Funded by the European Commission, the Anyim Maber ("Bright and Better Future") project is a three-year project aimed at enhancing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for youth with disabilities in four districts (Oyam, Nwoya, Gulu, and Amuru) in Uganda. This initiative emphasizes inclusivity, capacity building, and advocacy, targeting 600 youth with disabilities and their 2,760 family members, ultimately benefiting over 1.2 million community members in the region.

The project focuses on two primary objectives. First, it seeks to provide youth with disabilities with vocational and business development skills, coupled with access to extension services and financial products, to secure decent employment and grow their enterprises. Second, it works to amplify their voices in governance processes to ensure a more conducive business environment and stronger inclusion in decision-making structures such as Disability Councils and the Parish Development Model.

In its second year, the project recorded notable achievements in the progress towards its objectives. These included

- **Employment Outcomes:** 167 youth with disabilities (106F, 61M) secured employment, and 182 were linked to apprenticeship opportunities.
- **Entrepreneurship Impact:** Among the first cohort, 41 Micros, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) achieved growth in capital and profit, creating 146 jobs across the four districts. Additionally, 124 MSMEs received business development training, surpassing annual targets.
- **Inclusive Governance:** Youth representatives engaged in government-led budgeting processes, fostering broader recognition of their contributions to community planning.

To overcome systemic barriers, such as high interest rates and a lack of collateral for financial loans, the project linked MSMEs to Village Savings and Loan Associations as an alternative finance solution. These efforts are advancing financial inclusion and resilience.

Access to financial services remained a challenge due to structural barriers. To address this, the project refined its approach, introducing innovative financing mechanisms and building partnerships with microfinance institutions. Concurrently, safeguarding practices were strengthened to protect the rights and dignity of youth participants.

The project is now entering its final year and will aim to consolidate these gains by scaling financial inclusion strategies, fostering collaboration with district authorities, and empowering youth with disabilities to advocate for equitable development policies. The initiative underscores the importance of sustainable livelihoods and the pivotal role of inclusion in transformative change.

Fundraising



Strategic partnerships

The Strategic partnerships team at Sightsavers Ireland works with major donors, corporates, trusts and foundations to support our programmes. The team develops targeted appeals, coordinates events and campaigns, and collaborates with supporters to help communicate the impact of their contributions. By fostering these relationships, the team ensures continued support for our work and helps strengthen awareness of the change made possible through partnership.

First Light for Sight Arctic Campaign

The First Light for Sight campaign run by Sightsavers Ireland is a transformative fundraising challenge that invites participants to witness the Arctic's first sunrise of the year. Over five days in Kilpisjärvi, Finland, fundraisers trek across frozen terrain, learn survival skills, and embrace the stillness of the Arctic wilderness while awaiting the return of the sun.

The First Light for Sight campaign was created in 2023 to celebrate Sightsavers Ireland's 20th anniversary and was developed in partnership with adventure.ie. It celebrates the life-changing impacts of sight-saving treatments across Africa and Asia. Each participant raises funds to support vital services such as cataract surgeries, trachoma treatments, and child vision screenings.

In 2024, the campaign soared to new heights with €110,000 raised by 15 dedicated fundraisers—a record-breaking success. Stories of perseverance, wonder, and personal transformation continue to emerge from the experience, reminding us how the gift of sight can illuminate entire futures.

Caitríona Ní Threasaigh works in the creative arts in Dublin. She took part in the First Light for Sight challenge in January 2024 and raised more than €8,000.

“Being part of the challenge confirmed for me that Sightsavers Ireland is a very caring and robust organisation. After supporting Sightsavers for more than 20 years, I'm delighted to say that I've backed the right organisation! I really feel connected to Sightsavers Ireland, and I love having that connection in my life.

I would advise anyone thinking about this expedition to do it! You'll love the challenge and you'll be making such a difference in so many people's lives. Sight is a precious gift and being able to help another person to see again is beyond precious.”



World Sight Day - Abseil

To mark World Sight Day on October 10, 2024, Sightsavers Ireland hosted its annual high-impact fundraising event: a 150ft abseil from the roof of Dublin's Croke Park stadium. This exhilarating challenge brought together individuals and corporate teams to raise funds for sight-saving treatments in some of the world's most underserved regions.

Each participant raised enough to fund at least 10 sight-restoring operations, helping people regain independence and dignity. A team of four contributing €1,300 could protect the sight of over 26,000 people through medication for river blindness.

The event offered panoramic views of Dublin from the stadium roof, followed by a heart-pounding descent cheered on by friends and family. In 2024, 50 participants raised almost €30,000 for Sightsavers Ireland.

The 2024 Croke Park Abseil reaffirmed its status as a flagship event for Sightsavers Ireland—combining adventure, community, and purpose. This event is made possible through wonderful partners like adventure.ie and also through the support of An Post Insurance.



Trusts and Foundations

Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund

Sightsavers Ireland are grateful for the continued support and investment of the Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund for our work to deliver inclusive and accessible eye health care across Mozambique and Tanzania in 2024. The Bank of Ireland Staff Fund is one of the oldest payroll giving funds in Ireland has been supporting the alleviation of poverty since 1982. The fund has three aims; to help relieve poverty, support advances in education; and help improve the living conditions of the developing world. The fund has been a key partner of our work since 2007.

“The Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund continued to partner with Sightsavers Ireland in 2024 to alleviate poverty and work towards a shared vision of a more equal world. We are delighted to have supported Sightsavers projects across Africa, delivering life-changing eye health treatments and operations to some of the most vulnerable communities.”

Frank Ward, Hon Chair, Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund



© Sightsavers/Michael Duff

ElectricAid

ElectricAid is ESB and EirGrid Staff's social justice and development fund. As a special partner to ElectricAid, we continued to build on our long-term development projects to alleviate poverty and our joint efforts to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals across Africa and Asia. The fund has been supporting our work since 2012. In 2024, through the support of ElectricAid, we delivered eye health treatments and operations across Mozambique and Bangladesh, particularly for women and people with disabilities.

“ElectricAid is delighted to support Sightsavers Ireland's work to promote inclusion and transform lives through access to eye health and education across Africa and Asia.”

**Orla Gallagher,
ElectricAid Manager**

Mayibongwe and her cousin, Ayanda, walking with their children, Siphamandla and Takudzwa, in their village in Gweru, Zimbabwe.



Individual giving

At Sightsavers Ireland, our Individual giving team works together with thousands of compassionate donors across the country - each contributing up to €1,000 annually to help transform lives in the communities where we operate.

Through a dynamic mix of fundraising campaigns - spanning television, digital platforms, direct mail, and street outreach - we connect with people who believe in making a difference. Their support is not only generous; it's a powerful testament to the spirit of solidarity and kindness that defines Ireland.

Dublin City Marathon 2024

In 2024, a team representing Sightsavers Ireland officially entered the Dublin City Marathon team for the very first time. On the 27th of October, 18 inspiring individuals joined the annual 20,000 participants to take on the 42km route through the heart of the capital, and raise vital funds to prevent avoidable blindness and promote disability inclusion.

Some of these 18 fundraisers began their fundraising journey as early as May, training all the way through summer and into the autumn, rallying friends, family and colleagues for support. Motivations to run the marathon were varied as the participants themselves. Some ran to honour family members who have experienced sight loss, others to challenge their own limits and many to simply champion Sightsavers work.

Collectively the team of fundraisers raised an incredible €23,156, smashing the initial target of €1,000 per runner. Four fundraisers exceeded €2,000 with the highest individual reaching €2,287.

Events like the Dublin City Marathon that have 18 dedicated fundraisers in local communities around Ireland highlight the incredible power of people coming together in their own communities to make a difference far beyond them. Fundraisers in the Dublin City Marathon do more than raise vital funds, they raise awareness, inspire others and open the door to conversations about avoidable blindness and social inclusion. The inspiring efforts from one fundraiser can spur on friends, family and colleagues to get involved.



Individual giver – a personal story

Patricia Cooney

Patricia Cooney, from Ballyconnell in Co. Cavan, has been fundraising for Sightsavers since 2003. We asked Patricia why she supports Sightsavers and about her own very particular method of fundraising.

What motivated you to fundraise for Sightsavers?

The first time I saw an ad for Sightsavers and realised that just a few cents could save the sight of a child, I thought about my own son. When he was only six years old, he lost the sight in one of his eyes from toxocariasis [a rare infection caused by roundworm parasites], so the idea that I can make a difference to another little boy or girl's life – that I can help them to grow up with their sight – is very important to me.

How have you been fundraising?

I make St Brigid's crosses [traditional Irish crosses woven from rushes] and bring them to the churches in parishes all around Co Cavan, and sell them in time for St Brigid's Day, which falls on 1 February each year.

How long have you been making St Brigid's crosses?

A lovely nun called Sister Mary Fimber, long dead and gone now, taught me how to make them at the National School in Belturbet, Co. Cavan, many years ago. I'll continue making crosses to raise money for Sightsavers as long as my arthritis will let me.

Did you grow up in Belturbet?

Yes, it still holds a special place in my heart, even though I've been living in Ballyconnell for the past 53 years. Life was very simple when I was growing up. I dearly loved Belturbet and I have very happy memories of my childhood there.



Tell us more about the craft that goes into making St Brigid's crosses.

I'm not a very crafty person – St Brigid's Crosses are really all I make. Rushes grow locally around us – they like wet land, and we have lots of that! So, I can easily get my hands on the raw materials at no cost. I enjoy making use of the rushes, and making use of my time, all for the good cause of raising funds for Sightsavers. It costs so little to save the sight of a child, it really isn't much to ask.

Making a real difference

For 22 years, Patricia has been supporting Sightsavers vital work – helping those who need it most and changing lives for ever. There are no words to truly show our gratitude, but on behalf of all those people whose sight she has protected and restored, we would like to say a big heartfelt thank you. Patricia has made an incredible mark on this world, and we are very humbled to be one of her charities of choice. Thank you, Patricia!

Legacies

Legacies are a valuable and growing source of income for Sightsavers Ireland. In 2024 we received 28 gifts in wills totalling €424,961 and this accounted for 8% of our voluntary income. We are so grateful to all those who remember Sightsavers Ireland in this special way.

Research shows that only one in 3 Irish people have made a will and so, a core focus for Sightsavers Ireland is highlighting the value of will-making to both new and existing supporters. Once someone has ensured that their family and loved ones are fully taken care of, we would then ask them to consider a cause that they are passionate about and to remember Sightsavers Ireland in their will.

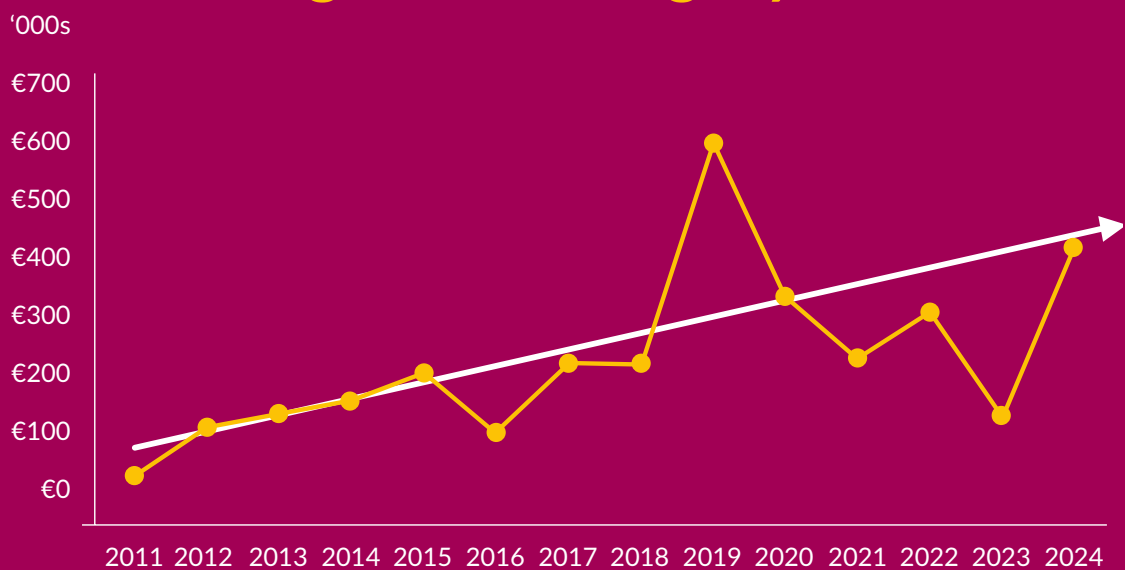
To help people make or update their will for free, Sightsavers Ireland has partnered with Lawonline to offer a free online will service

and with the Free Wills Network that allows you to meet directly with a local solicitor.

In July and August last year, we ran our legacy TV advert which highlights the story of 10 year-old Mary from Malawi. Mary received a sight-restoring cataract operation and was able to see her family again for the first time in years. The viewer is asked to consider making more ‘miracles’ happen after their lifetime with a gift in their will to Sightsavers and to receive our free will guide.

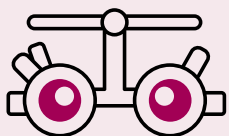
Last year our digital campaign helped deliver over 60,000 impressions to our legacy web pages which highlight the value of legacy giving with Sightsavers Ireland and also the support available through our free will writing services.

Sightsavers Legacy Income



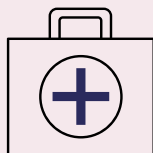
2024: highlights

You helped make 2024 another incredible year for saving sight, tackling blinding diseases and upholding disability rights.



9.87million

people received an eye health examination



134,239

volunteers and community members trained

you helped provide

515,443

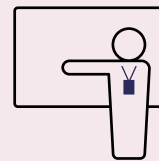
eye operations for cataracts and other eye conditions

you helped give
103.1 million
treatments against trachoma, river blindness and other NTDs



872,922

people received glasses following eye examinations, including Aasiya (above)



44,964

professionals supported on eye health short courses

© Sightsavers/Cynthia Matonhodze 2024



“I am feeling happy.”

With her sight restored thanks to you, Maria from Zimbabwe, can support her family again



Spotlight on 2024

From hurling with Galway's Pádraic Mannion to life-changing surgeries – how Sightsavers Ireland is transforming lives in Sierra Leone

My three companions* and I are standing in the corner of an operating theatre in the ophthalmic department of Jui hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Suitably scrubbed, gloved and gowned, we are there to witness the removal of a cataract. The middle-aged patient, Abibatu Sesay, needs more than a little help to mount the operating table. It isn't as if the table is too high for her, or that Abibatu is under general anaesthetic. No, her problem is much more profound. Living with diabetes since childhood, Abibatu's illness led to her having to have her right leg amputated three years ago. She has to be lifted gently from her wheelchair and laid down upon the table. Clearly nervous about the upcoming operation, no sooner has she settled herself on the table than the palms of her trembling hands came together, and her lips began to move in silent prayer. Abibatu had no cause to worry. The ophthalmic surgeon, Dr Alice Taylor, has rock-steady hands. After applying local anaesthetic, Dr Taylor embarked upon 20 minutes of extremely delicate work, which culminated in the successful removal of a cataract from Abibatu's left eye. The following day, in a post-operative review, Abibatu already had regained 6/9 vision in her left eye.

This was probably the first time in her life that lady luck had smiled upon her. A poor, woman with a disability such as she would never have been able to afford to have her eyes examined, much less pay for a cataract

to be removed. Lady luck in this instance came in the form of Sightsavers Ireland who covered every expense.

Nor did the organisation's involvement stop there. Dr Taylor, a native of Sierra Leone, underwent her training in Kenya thanks to support from an Irish Aid-funded Sightsavers Ireland programme. The doctor and her colleagues are able to perform around 20 operations a day. On the day we witnessed Abibatu's operation there was a conveyor belt sense to the hospital's ophthalmic department.



© Sightsavers/Michael Duff

Dr Alice Taylor, an ophthalmologist trained with funding from Irish Aid and Sightsavers, performs cataract surgery in Jui Hospital, Sierra Leone.



At any given time, around 30 people would be either waiting for or undergoing eye screening. In tandem with this, eye operations never stopped – and neither did the arrival of new patients. These included males and females of every age group, from the very young to the very old; people with and without disabilities; as well as people with albinism (Sierra Leone has a higher ratio of Albinism than most other countries). All of these people have more than eye problems in common. Virtually all are often isolated and discriminated against within their communities.

Mohamed, a disabled retiree, was waiting for his final screening before undergoing an operation the following week. Some seven years ago, Mohamed developed a large lump on the right side of his forehead. An operation to remove the lump left him not just penniless, but with no sight in his right eye. And worse was to come. Mohamed has developed glaucoma and a cataract in his

left eye. Hence his need for an operation. His daughter, who accompanied him to the hospital, told us: “Although he doesn’t like to show it, my father is very nervous of the operation. Afraid he might lose the sight in his remaining eye.”

Sightsavers is screening people across the five regions of Sierra Leone. Every person who is found to require eye treatment need have no worries about cost if they meet the criteria of having a disability, or are too poor to pay.

One could be forgiven for thinking that Sightsavers concentrates solely on eye problems. This is far from true. Working in association with partners, including the Sierra Leonian government, they have expanded their programming to include tackling neglected tropical diseases, and promoting social inclusion and inclusive education. Within each of these programmes, particular emphasis is given

to bettering the rights of persons with disabilities, and that of women and girls. Sightsavers knows only too well that societal attitudes need to change if their work is to bear fruit. And, slowly but surely, attitudes are indeed changing. This is thanks in no small part to public displays of support for the programmes, including active advocacy, by many local influencers (such as paramount chiefs, village and town elders, politicians, teachers, and so on). Overseeing and directing all of this work is Sightsavers Sierra Leone Country Director (CD), Tiangay Gondoe. I couldn't hope to do Tiangay justice here, so I will simply say that during my 15 years as an international aid worker (now retired) I interacted with innumerable

CDs across many countries and very few impressed me as much as Tiangay did.

I asked her how, after 16 years working with Sightsavers, she was able to maintain such drive and commitment: "It is very simple, really. I hate to see people suffer. To be deprived of the medical help that they need, and to be isolated or ignored - simply because of their age, their disability, or because they cannot afford to pay. That is a terrible situation. I want to make things better for as many people as possible. These are my people. They're our people. Thank God I have a wonderful, dedicated team to work with. We work together as a family."



© Sightsavers/Michael Duff

Hearing impaired school pupil, Sally Moigowah (8) attends an eye screening at the National Commission for Persons with Disability in Makeni, Sierra Leone. (November 2024).

Sightsavers is heavily involved, along with partners, in promoting its programmes within primary and secondary schools, including in schools specifically for children with sight or hearing impairments. On our visits to some of these schools, the children themselves (the upcoming generation) would explain how rights always come with responsibilities to other citizens. These responsibilities include respecting and treating everyone as equals, and not isolating or bullying anyone because of their gender or disability.

Sightsavers Ireland Ambassador, **Padraic Mannion (a teacher at St. Cuans College in Galway) took particular delight in visiting schools. After formalities and conversations were at an end, he would produce hurls and sliotars and distribute these amongst the children. Then spend at least an hour teaching them the basics of the game. As sliotars flew back and forth between Padraic and pupils, and between the children themselves, the sheer delight on young faces was matched by the delight on his own. Looking on, I was always struck by two thoughts: If hurling ever

becomes a national sport in Sierra Leone, then credit must surely lie with Padraic Mannion (incidentally, Sierra Leonians are as mad about sports as we Irish people are. So it is not beyond the bounds that hurling may indeed catch on). And, more selfishly, something along the lines of: I wish there had been more teachers like Padraic in my schooldays.

I asked him how he came to be involved with Sightsavers Ireland : "In 2019 they had a fundraising campaign in Galway called Missed Moments. I looked at their website and was blown away by the work they're doing. So I asked could I help with the campaign, and they said yes. I was delighted to help in any small way that I could. A little while later I was invited to become an ambassador, and agreed immediately. I am enormously proud of my connection to Sightsavers Ireland." It is typical of Padraic that he describes his contribution to the Galway fund-raising campaign in such a self-effacing manner. He and Sightsavers Ireland are a perfect fit.

David Adams



“Actions speak louder than words”

James Casserly

Equal World Youth Champion for Sightsavers Ireland

Sightsavers Ireland Equal World youth champion James Casserly participated at the UN Summit of the Future in New York in September 2024 where he engaged directly with global decision-makers and spoke to them about putting their promises into practice.

“Attending the Summit of the Future in New York was a really unique and exciting experience. I spoke to so many high-profile individuals and decision-makers, who have the power to make a difference for young people with disabilities.

“I had the opportunity to attend loads of events and I even spoke to the Taoiseach Simon Harris and Tánaiste Michéal Martin.”

“On Saturday 21 September, I participated in the ‘Equal World?’ film screening event and panel discussion. The film was so impactful. I also really enjoyed participating in the panel discussion and the opportunity to speak alongside Dr Felipe Paullier, the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs. This gave me the opportunity to ask him what can be done to improve access for young people with disabilities.

“The film toolkit really helped focus the discussion on the challenges that young people with disabilities face and kept the conversation on track. It would be great to use the toolkit in education environments like universities and schools and to connect young people with decision-makers so we



© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan

James met Ireland's Permanent Representative to the UN, Fergal Mythen (left) and Ireland's UN Youth Delegate Lauren Jones Brennan (2nd left) with the CEO of Sightsavers Ireland, Ciara Smullen (right).

can all participate in making change. Using it in more countries would also be very beneficial.

“Having met Dr Paullier at the film screening, he invited my fellow Equal World Champion Basiru Bah from Sierra Leone and I to speak at The Elders event the following day. I spoke about how inspiring Basiru’s story is and the importance of the work he’s doing in Sierra Leone.”

“We also attended the Goalkeepers event led by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Bill Gates talked about world hunger and

then world leaders and activists spoke about the impact of climate change. We then heard from people who were refugees about the challenges they face and lots of people had the chance to share their stories.

“During my time in New York, I was interviewed for RTÉ News from Ireland and stated that actions speak louder than words. World leaders need to start putting into practice the things they talk about. Only when this happens will there be equal opportunities for people with disabilities.”

© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan



James with Tánaiste Michéal Martin at the United Nations in New York.

All Together Now: Using virtual reality to open Irish eyes to inclusive development

At All Together Now Festival in Co. Waterford, Sightsavers Ireland used Virtual Reality (VR) headsets to increase the Irish public's awareness and understanding of disability inclusive development and Irish Aid.

The immersive experience, a 4-minute VR journey following Ndiambe, a 17-year-old Senegalese student with a visual impairment, captures the realities of his daily life. From the day starting in his mother's kitchen to his journey by motorbike taxi, a safer option in the absence of inclusive pedestrian crossings, the footage offers viewers a unique, first-person perspective on navigating the world with a visual impairment.

In the classroom, Ndiambe interacts with his friends and fellow students and uses a braille board, highlighting how inclusive education championed by Sightsavers through Irish Aid support, is gradually replacing historical exclusion as per Ndiambe's teacher. The VR experience underscores the critical role of Irish Aid funding, in partnership with Sightsavers Ireland, in supporting initiatives that transform the lives of people with disabilities. Technical features and modifications we have made to the VR headsets, such as built-in speakers, subtitles and compatibility with eyeglasses ensure that the experience is engaging and inclusive for all participants.



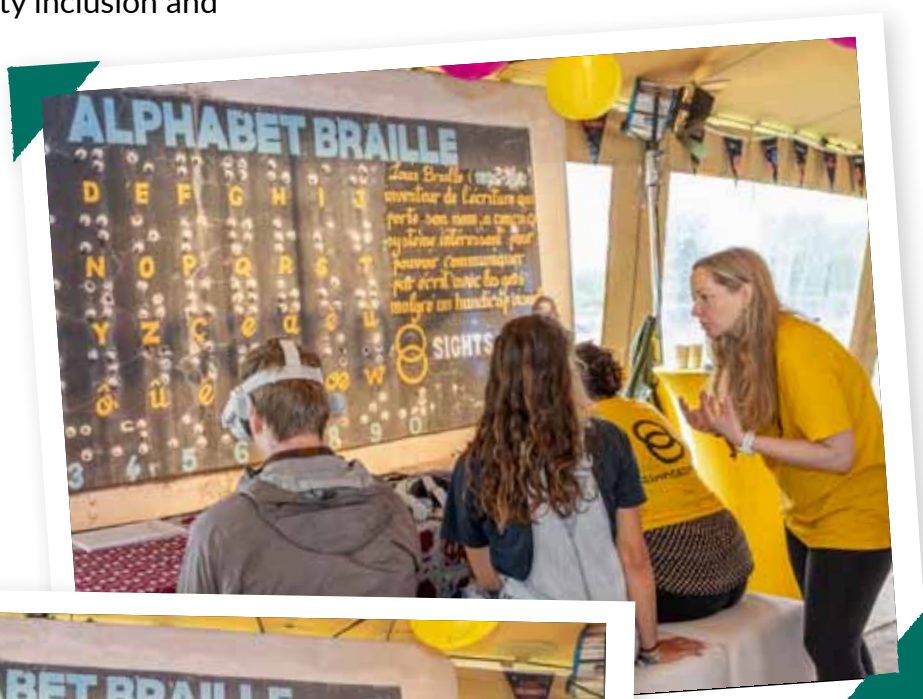
© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan

Meadhbh Mlowezi from Sightsavers Ireland fitting a member of the public with a VR headset at the All Together Now Festival

Designed to spark reflection and conversation, the experience is accompanied by prompts that encourage viewers to consider domestic and cultural details, sensory awareness, transportation challenges, and the profound impact of inclusive practices in education. These discussion points not only deepen the understanding of disability inclusive development of disability but also illustrated how strategic funding can lead to significant improvements in community inclusion and accessibility.

Overall, the VRs provided an innovative and empathetic way for the public to witness the tangible outcomes of Ireland's overseas development assistance. By bringing Ndiambe's story to life, the event fostered greater public awareness and appreciation for the transformative work being done to create a more inclusive and better world.

Sightsavers Ireland team member Emma Doyle engages in discussion with a festivalgoer to get their views and learnings after watching Ndiambe's day on the VR headsets.



© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan

© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan



Two festivalgoers watch footage of Ndiambe on VR headsets in front of a backdrop showing the braille alphabet in French.



Review of financial outcome 2024

Report of the directors

Officers and other information

Charity Number CHY 15437
Company Number 377692
CRA Number 20053246

Patron

Mr Michael D. Higgins
President of Ireland

Members

Joan Burton	Jim Miley (retired July 2024)
Daragh Fahey	Una Murray
Chris Kinder (retired July 2024)	Brian Dawson
Joyce Luma	Adrian Harpur
Barbara O'Reilly	Ann Marie Walsh (appointed September 2024)

Directors

Chairperson: Brian Dawson	Chris Kinder * ** (retired July 2024)
Joan Burton	Una Murray **
Daragh Fahey *	Joyce Luma**
Jim Miley (retired July 2024)	Adrian Harpur*
Barbara O'Reilly **	Ann Marie Walsh* (appointed September 2024)

* Members of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC)
** Members of the Sightsavers Ireland Programme Board (SIPB)



Company Secretary

Anthony Wadlow

Chief Executive Officer

Ciara Smullen

Senior Management Team

Ciara Smullen
CEO

Moira Horgan
Head of Strategic Partnerships

Wim Desmedt
Head of Individual Giving

Emma Murphy
Head of Communications & Public Affairs

Registered Office

Suite 305 The Capel Building
Mary's Abbey
Dublin 7
D07 RD25

Solicitors

Reddy Charlton
12 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2

Principal Bankers

Allied Irish Bank
7/12 Dame Street
Dublin 2

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

Auditors

Crowe Ireland
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
40 Mespil Road
Dublin 4



Report of the directors

The Directors present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

1. Objectives and activities

Founded in 1950, the global organisation Sightsavers is dedicated to the elimination of avoidable blindness and the promotion of equal opportunities for people with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. The organisation also empowers people who are irreversibly blind or have other disabilities by providing education and training.

Sightsavers Ireland, established since 2003, works directly with the global Sightsavers organisation in the provision of hundreds of thousands of sight-saving treatments for people in low- and middle-income countries, as well as support for the inclusion of people with disabilities. The contribution of Sightsavers Ireland has been realised through the generous contributions of people, companies, trusts and foundations across Ireland who have supported the organisation through donations, fundraising initiatives and events.

Sightsavers Ireland also receives vital institutional funding for its programmes and projects from Irish Aid, the Irish Government’s programme for overseas development, as well as the EU Commission.

All income generated and the assets of the company are applied towards the promotion of the objectives of the organisation and no portion can be paid or transferred by way of dividend, bonus or profit to Members of the company.

Programme work is implemented by the global organisation Sightsavers with input and oversight from all appropriate levels and departments of the organisation to ensure that maximum value is achieved from public donations and that money raised is used to improve the lives of our beneficiaries.

Our vision

Sightsavers Ireland’s vision is of a world in which 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.

Where we work

Sightsavers works in more than 30 countries in Africa and Asia where we partner with local, regional, national and international organisations and governments.

2. Review of 2024

Following a strong previous year, we have continued to exhibit a strong performance in 2024. Overall, the global organisation significantly exceeded 2023 activity levels for cataract operations, NTD treatments, training for people with disabilities, training on education and inclusion topics and training for community volunteers including community drug distributors. For examinations and distribution of spectacles, whilst 2024 targets were exceeded, outputs were lower than in 2023. We continue to see an increase in the estimated population no longer requiring treatment for at least one NTD because of interventions by Sightsavers.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Eye health				
People examined	6,444,117	8,816,597	10,119,070	9,866,607
Eye health operations (including cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy)	388,920	473,290	495,211	515,443
Cataract operations	370,786	451,873	473,270	497,182
Spectacles dispensed	585,927	782,037	920,667	872,922
Neglected tropical diseases				
NTD treatments	172,801,745	137,324,843	60,820,342	103,119,066
Treatments for trachoma	8,308,302	14,449,069	6,241,621	3,710,897
Treatments for river blindness	52,402,304	46,958,395	20,938,627	37,777,029
Treatments for lymphatic filariasis	74,465,405	53,669,105	16,043,423	28,963,274
Treatments for soil-transmitted helminths	11,407,199	14,430,770	5,584,249	15,443,497
Treatments for schistosomiasis	26,218,535	7,817,504	12,012,422	17,224,369
NTD operations (hydrocele and trichiasis)	25,211	29,857	18,539	14,386
Education and inclusion				
Children with disabilities being supported in school	19,788	14,058	5,863	5,480
People with disabilities who received training	4,413	24,366	29,288	36,254
Human resources				
Health workers trained to gain professional qualifications	32	12	3	11
Professionals supported on health short courses	124,737	60,220	56,448	44,964
Professionals supported on education, inclusion and climate short courses	50,824	19,401	8,819	19,029
Community support				
Volunteers and community members trained	460,825	246,228	120,695	134,239

Notes

Statistics in the table above and in the performance review below represent those of Sightsavers Global operations. Note the statistics from previous years may have changed from prior reporting due to updated information.

a. Eye health

Sightsavers, the global organisation, conducted 9.9 million eye examinations in 2024 in 51 projects spanning 15 countries across the regions; although this represented a 2% decrease from 2023, we exceeded our targets by 11%. More than half of the examinations were at the primary level – with project teams implementing programmes in schools, eye camps and other primary care settings - and the rest at secondary/ tertiary level. Just over 50% of beneficiaries were women.

In 2024, we again performed more than half a million surgeries, with over 90% for cataracts. The number of cataract surgeries represented a 5% increase from the previous year and exceeded our target by 2%. We reached 16 countries through 41 projects, with India contributing more than three quarters of the global cataract surgery performance. In Uganda, cataract surgeries resumed in Karamoja in the final quarter of 2024, after a pause since 2023; the project delivered 684 life-changing surgeries against a target of 500. Overall, we continued to reach a higher number of women than men with our cataract surgeries.

We delivered eye health solutions such as spectacles to almost 873,000 people in 13 countries. Although this represents a decrease of 5% from 2023, annual targets were exceeded by 5% overall and in all regions. Almost 80% of spectacles were distributed in India. Zimbabwe and Pakistan had the highest percentage of female beneficiaries this year (66% and 63% respectively), and ten out of thirteen countries reported more than half of their spectacle beneficiaries were female.

b. Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

We have made significant progress in providing operations for people affected by NTDs, trichiasis and hydrocele in 13 countries. Trachomatous trichiasis is a condition caused by repeated trachoma infections, which results in the eyelashes turning inward and scratching the eye. If left untreated, people with the condition can suffer permanent blindness. Hydrocele is a swelling in the scrotum caused by lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic infection.

We supported 2,021 hydrocele operations in 2024. Alongside this, we helped thousands of patients to manage the pain and swelling associated with lymphatic filariasis, giving them a better quality of life. We also facilitated 12,365 trichiasis operations, with 10,555 completed as part of the Accelerate programme.

In 2024, Sightsavers supported Ministries of Health in 11 countries to deliver preventive medication for five NTDs – onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma, schistosomiasis and intestinal worms. We contributed to the delivery of more than 100 million treatments, reaching an estimated 71 million people.

As in 2023, most of the treatments were for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis, including 45,158,976 treatments supported in Nigeria through the Reaching the Last Mile (RLM) programme, where 99% of the 148 treated implementation units met the WHO minimum treatment coverage threshold. We also helped to deliver almost 4 million treatments for trachoma, including the final mass drug administration (MDA) for trachoma required in Sightsavers-supported regions in Zimbabwe.

Thanks to Sightsavers' support, the number of people no longer requiring treatment for at least one NTD now stands at 100,088,736.

Note that outputs include all those supported by consortium partners.

c. Education

In 2024, children with disabilities were supported across 10 countries through schools-based support, provision of education materials, assessments and referrals for specialist support, support and training for parents, the equipping of schools to support learning for children with disabilities and the training of teachers and other education professionals on inclusive education.

In 2024, we provided formal support to 5,480 children with disabilities in Sightsavers' supported schools and learning centres in three countries (India, Zambia and Senegal). This represented 96% of the annual target. Looking at the gender breakdown, 46% of the children supported were girls, 54% were boys.

d. Social inclusion including economic empowerment

In 2024, we provided training to over 36,000 persons with disabilities, reaching 128% of our yearly target and achieving 24% increase from the trainings conducted in 2023. India contributed 93% of the global activity, with a focus on training on rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities.

Our economic empowerment projects continued to grow, with training and support provided to persons with disabilities, farmers, small business owners and entrepreneurs, women and girls in education and employers. Over 2,500 people with disabilities completed training or mentoring

programmes and over 900 secured new employment opportunities or started new businesses.

We also continued to support and engage with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) across our portfolio. As part of the Irish Aid funded citizenship and political participation projects in Sierra Leone and Cameroon, 320 people with disabilities including OPD leaders were trained on inclusive development.

e. Human resource development

In 2024, we continued our work to develop human resources for our health, inclusion and education programmes.

We trained almost 64,000 professionals on eye health, NTD, education, inclusion and climate action short courses, exceeding our annual target and comparable with training numbers in 2023. Most of the training was delivered to education and primary health care workers as part of Givewell projects in Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Tanzania, 31 health care professionals attended training on climate action.

Our training in 2024 also includes almost 1,000 other professionals, including media practitioners, business mentors, government officials and agriculture advisors, who completed training on disability inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities. For training on education and inclusion, 42% of participants were female.

Across our programmes, 134,229 community level volunteers were trained in 2024. Of the total number trained, 119,431 of them were Community Drug Distributors (CDDs), who are essential for our community-based interventions for NTDs. Projects supported included the Reaching

the Last Mile projects in Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Liberia and Givewell projects in Nigeria and Cameroon.

f. Environmental and climate change activities

The global organisation has made significant progress against the three-year climate action goals launched in November 2023.

This includes the launch of several new projects, research activities and new partnerships, the strengthening of our collection, analysis and reporting of climate data, and our organisational capacity.

As we continue to see the adverse effects of climate change on project performance, there is a concerted effort to integrate climate adaptation strategies into all new projects. Similarly, other newly designed programmes employed the same approach.

Several of the initiatives started in 2023 and 2024 have provided evidence on what works. We are consolidating these learnings and approaches, positioning Sightsavers to build on these foundations as we continue to focus on progressing with our climate action goals in 2025. This work is guided by our global environmental policy and carbon reduction plan through our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Irish Aid

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be deeply appreciative of the support generously provided by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through the continued partnership with Irish Aid. 2024 was the second year implementing Ireland's Civil Society Partnership Grant for

a Better World (ICSP). This year, we have built on the strong foundations laid in 2023 to support transformative change: across eye health, inclusive education, citizenship and political participation and climate action in Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, as well as global citizenship education (GCE) in these countries and in Ireland.

In 2024, the Sightsavers' ICSP grant made significant contributions to the 'A Better World' policy by ensuring the needs of those most at risk of being left furthest behind remain at the centre of the programme. The ICSP grant has helped Sightsavers operationalise our global thematic strategies in eye health, inclusive education and social inclusion, the goals of which inspired the design of our ICSP programme. In eye health, 152,073 people were screened for debilitating eye conditions in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone to prevent avoidable blindness. In Sierra Leone, we contributed to increased sustainability of the eye health workforce by developing an ophthalmology residency curriculum to address persistent gaps in the eye health workforce in the country and West Africa region - providing underserved communities with greater access to eye health services.

In inclusive education, Cameroon's inclusive education policy, validated in October 2024, will pave the way to improve access to education for children with disabilities with a focus on girls with disabilities. Our system strengthening work has led to the development of tools for school accessibility and a finalised teachers' guide for in-service inclusion training will be rolled out across all ten regions to support project implementation. In Senegal, we supported the Ministry of National Education to

develop and adopt a gender module for teacher training. In citizenship and political participation, leadership training empowered women with disabilities to engage in local elections, fostering interest that was further reinforced by the election of three women with disabilities to the national assembly for the first time. We trained 320 people on inclusive local development processes in Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Senegal.

Sightsavers has piloted and scaled up climate action across programme countries. Renewable energy systems were successfully installed in four eye health facilities in Liberia and Sierra Leone, addressing the frequent blackouts in these regions. By providing a more stable and reliable energy source, this initiative ensures uninterrupted healthcare services in vulnerable areas.

In Ireland the results for our Global Citizenship Education programme have included increased digital engagement across all social media platforms and our digital technology work. Our increased public dialogue on global development issues is broadly recognised across the sector, through our front-facing public engagement at events nationwide and through the media.

Looking ahead to 2025, an ongoing challenge across the West and Central African countries where we operate is the allocation of sufficient government resources into health and education. We will continue to support national partners to advocate for sustainable, inclusive funding. In 2025, we are excited to integrate a strengthened gender perspective into our eye health programmes, so we can continue to improve women's and girls' access to services. In education, we will

work with relevant Ministries in Cameroon and Senegal to implement the inclusive education policies. We will also continue to build resilience among communities most vulnerable to climate change.

European Commission

Strengthening Civil Society Representation of Women with Disabilities in Ghana.

Funded by the European Commission, this two-year project aims to enhance the capacity of two key Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by promoting gender equality and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

The selected CSOs are the Women with Disability Development and Advocacy Organisation (WODAO), the sole women's organization in Ghana dedicated to women with disabilities, and the Alliance for Better Advocacy and Knowledge Foundation (ABAK), a national-level CSO committed to advancing the rights of women, youth, and people with disabilities.

This project aims firstly, to support WODAO and the ABAK Foundation in strengthening their organizational governance, accountability mechanisms, and advocacy capacity to effectively participate in decision-making processes in Ghana and ensure alignment with EU programmes. Secondly, WODAO and the ABAK Foundation will cascade capacity-building initiatives to their 38 downstream partner organizations and 560 partner staff and/or community group members to reinforce the capacity of rights holders to advocate for themselves. Finally, the project aims to establish initial linkages between organizations of women with disabilities

and the broader national women's rights movement to amplify the voice and specific concerns of women with disabilities.

Launched in May 2024, the project is in its first year of implementation. The first quarter focused on (i) the inception period where Sightsavers delivered sessions on Advocacy, Programme Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation, and (ii) capacity assessments for each organization followed by the development of capacity building plans in the second quarter. The implementation of these capacity-building plans began in October.

In Quarter 2, training plans were formulated for the downstream partners led by ABAK and WODAO, and a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Analysis was conducted in the project districts of each downstream partner. This analysis mapped trends that highlight risk factors impeding the participation of women with disabilities and aimed to understand the root causes of gender inequalities in Ghana.

Considering the disproportionate impact climate change has on people with disabilities, the training approach will include strategies to centre the voices of those who are most severely impacted by climate change and promote climate change resilience among people with disabilities. Also executed in Quarter 2, a consultant carried out a climate change situational analysis to understand the current state of disability and climate change in Ghana. This analysis will help design targeted interventions to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience among people with disabilities in the face of climate change. The assessment also identified how government and other stakeholders are responding to

the impact of climate change and how well persons with disabilities (particularly women) are involved in programmes or initiatives.

Tusambilile Chapamo – Lets Learn Together – Zambia

This four-year project closed on 31st January 2025 and is in the final stages of evaluation and reporting. The project aimed aims to empower children with disabilities in Zambia by increasing access to quality, equitable and inclusive education for 854 children and youth with disabilities through improved enrolment, retention and learning in 24 mainstream schools and Youth Resource Centres in Chinsali District, Muchinga Province of Zambia.

As it concluded the project has exceeded its core targets including enrolling a total of 1017 children and youth with disabilities into school far exceeding the original target of 615. In addition, over 600 received assistive technology or medical interventions (such as Refractive error assessment or corrective surgery for conditions such as clubbed foot) This was achieved in spite of the impact of Covid-19 at the start of the project, subsequent extreme weather events such as drought causing sever power shortages and heavy rainfall causing a major cholera outbreak in Lusaka.

The project was also able to scale up coverage of the project to the neighbouring Kapwepwe Zone in year 3, raising the total learning centres reached from 18 to 24. This was possible because of the exceptional progress made in the first two years whilst remaining under the planned budget.

Although the extension allowed the project to reach a further 71 children and youth with

disabilities the full impact has not yet been seen as it has been running for less than 12 months. Nonetheless, the significant scale of progress can be attributed to the excellent support received from provincial and district education and council authorities, teachers, parents and community leaders. For example, the project has helped catalyse a significant growth in community-based Organisations of People with Disabilities from three at the outset to 23 at project close. Along with broad based support from community leaders, people with disabilities have played a crucial role in tackling stigma and promoting the rights of children and youth with disabilities to an education.

Overall the project is estimated to have spent just over €1.2m. In order to continue the impact that is being delivered through this project, the global Sightsavers organisation has committed unrestricted funds to a second phase of activity which aims to scale up the intervention to the entire Muchinga province.

Anyim Maber (Bright and Better Future): Enhanced opportunities for employment and employability for youth with disabilities - Uganda

Funded by the European Commission, the Anyim Maber ("Bright and Better Future") project is a three-year project aimed at enhancing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for youth with disabilities in four districts (Oyam, Nwoya, Gulu, and Amuru) in Uganda. This initiative emphasizes inclusivity, capacity building, and advocacy, targeting 600 youth with disabilities and their 2,760 family members, ultimately benefiting over 1.2 million community members in the region.

The project focuses on two primary objectives. First, it seeks to provide youth with disabilities with vocational and business development skills, coupled with access to extension services and financial products, to secure decent employment and grow their enterprises. Second, it works to amplify their voices in governance processes to ensure a more conducive business environment and stronger inclusion in decision-making structures such as Disability Councils and the Parish Development Model.

In its second year, the project recorded notable achievements in the progress towards its objectives. These included

- **Employment Outcomes:** 167 youth with disabilities (106F, 61M) secured employment, and 182 were linked to apprenticeship opportunities.
- **Entrepreneurship Impact:** Among the first cohort, 41 Micros, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) achieved growth in capital and profit, creating 146 jobs across the four districts. Additionally, 124 MSMEs received business development training, surpassing annual targets.
- **Inclusive Governance:** Youth representatives engaged in government-led budgeting processes, fostering broader recognition of their contributions to community planning.

To overcome systemic barriers, such as high interest rates and a lack of collateral for financial loans, the project linked MSMEs to Village Savings and Loan Associations as an alternative finance solution. These efforts are advancing financial inclusion and resilience.

Access to financial services remained a challenge due to structural barriers. To address this, the project refined its approach, introducing innovative financing mechanisms and building partnerships with microfinance institutions. Concurrently, safeguarding practices were strengthened to protect the rights and dignity of youth participants.

The project is now entering its final year and will aim to consolidate these gains by scaling financial inclusion strategies, fostering collaboration with district authorities, and empowering youth with disabilities to advocate for equitable development policies. The initiative underscores the importance of sustainable livelihoods and the pivotal role of inclusion in transformative change.



Financial review of 2024

The team in Sightsavers Ireland continues to be greatly appreciative for the ongoing support from our loyal supporters, as well as the new supporters that joined us in 2024, particularly in these challenging times.

In 2024, Sightsavers Ireland's overall income which is made up of both voluntary and institutional funding combined, totalled €8.2 million (2023: €7.8 million) - representing a 4.5% increase on 2023 for the overall income of the organisation. There was a 2.8% growth in the voluntary income (€ 5.2 million vs € 5.1 million in 2023). The other contributing factor in the growth of organisational income was the increase of 7.2% in grants received from institutional partners. This growth was due to the Irish Aid grant remaining stable at €2.2 million, the EU grants for Zambia and Uganda remaining unchanged at just under €700 thousand combined, and a new EU grant was awarded for a new project in Ghana.

The fundraising environment the Sightsavers Ireland team faced in 2024 was a difficult one. The ongoing cost of living crisis, continuous rises in fundraising costs and back-to-back emergency fundraising appeals created a very challenging landscape to operate in.

Nevertheless, the individual giving program raised €4.4 million compared to €3.9 million the year before. A significant contribution to this growth came from our Legacy fundraising campaign. The income from legacies grew from €130 thousand in 2023 to €425 thousand in 2024, in total receiving 29 legacy gifts, which is the highest number received in recent years.

The Strategic Partnerships team (corporates, major donors, trusts and foundations) also had a successful 2024 with €810 thousand generated in income (€1 million in 2023). The team developed numerous engagement opportunities for supporters throughout the year and focussed on communicating the impact of their support through this engagement.

Spending on charitable activities was at €6.3 million (€5.19 million in 2024). This amount was allocated as follows: 43% to Eye Health; 15% to Neglected Tropical Diseases; 19% to Education; and 23% to Social Inclusion. At a country level, charitable spending was highest in Senegal (€1.2 million) (€716 thousand in 2023) Sierra Leone (€831 thousand) (€633 thousand in 2023), Cameroon (€645 thousand) (€530 thousand in 2023), and Liberia (€636 thousand) (€504 thousand in 2023). The charitable expenditure split across the thematic areas is dependent 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, and to ensure funds are going where the need is greatest.

Outlook 2025

Despite the difficult fundraising environment, Sightsavers Ireland finished 2024 in a solid position across all major pillars of the organisation. The organisation continued to demonstrate its resilience as it adapts to an era where various crises in economics, geopolitics and the environment, continue to exacerbate already difficult circumstances and negatively impact charitable giving in Ireland and impact the delivery of our programming in West and Central Africa.

In Ireland in 2024, the individual giving team piloted a successful face-to-face acquisition campaign. 500 new regular giving (RG) donors were recruited and began to make monthly donations. Unfortunately, we were unable to roll out a long-term campaign as there was a very limited number of suppliers in this fundraising channel available to us in the market. We relaunched the campaign again in Quarter 2 of 2025 and plan recruit between 1,000 and 1,500 new RG donors. This will provide a solid boost to our sustainable RG income for future years. New activities will also be added to our fundraising mix to grow the intake potential of new cash and RG donors, and to reactivate donors who have not supported us in recent years.

Our legacy campaign is an important channel in our long-term fundraising strategy, and we plan to continue to invest in our legacy activities. In recent years we have worked in a strategic manner to find people, both donors and non-donors, so they can avail of our free services that help them set up a will. We will continue to do so in 2025, and increase our communications investments, so we can grow our legacy pipeline and secure income for future years.

In 2024, the Strategic Partnerships Team appointed a new relationship manager to

work with major donors and create a new stewardship plan in place for the years ahead.

This additional recruitment will take time to provide immediate results given the nature of major donor fundraising however it resulted in Sightsavers Ireland having a full complement of staff in place for the first time in recent years.

Whilst Irish Aid income is expected to remain steady, there is an expected growth in the number of EU grants in the Sightsavers Ireland portfolio, and as a result institutional income is anticipated to grow in 2025.

On a programmatic level, with concerns alleviating slightly on the political situation in West Africa, specifically in Senegal, Liberia and Sierra Leone, we look to the delivery of the third year of the Irish Aid funded ICSP grant with great optimism.

The early months of 2025 have seen significant adverse global economic developments and also in the funding environment for international development organisations, including the withdrawal of funding from and termination of programmes by USAID and a further staged reduction in the level of UK government funding through the FCDO. Whilst neither of these events is expected to have a material direct adverse impact on the financial position of both Sightsavers Ireland and the global organisation the much changing external economic and funding environment is being factored into our financial planning and risk management work. At the time of this report the uncertainties are weighing on the downside.

The Board of Directors are of the opinion that Sightsavers Ireland is a going concern and further details are outlined in Note 2.

Overall, there are a number of solid tenets that underpin the positive outlook for Sightsavers Ireland in 2025.

- Reserves are within the levels set out in our reserves policy, set out below.
- Continued strategic and operational alignment with the global organisation which continues to maintain a strong financial position
- Strong leadership and established senior management team working alongside dedicated and effective personnel, governed by a committed and professional board of directors.
- Increased focus on diversifying acquisition income channels whilst maintaining a loyal supporter base of individual donors that comprised 76% of fundraised income in 2024
- Enduring and effective relationships across the strategic partnerships team that are increasingly providing important support from the trusts and foundations, corporate partners and the major donor portfolio
- Strong partnerships with our institutional funding partners that deliver robust programmes across four countries in West and Central Africa, as well as Zambia, Uganda and Ghana.

The Sightsavers Ireland Strategic Plan 2022-2026 continues to guide the team through these challenging times, providing a clear vision and purpose to support the organisation towards achieving its goals and objectives for this period.

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 management team. Oversight of financial planning and management will be monitored by the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) while oversight of the new Irish Aid ICSP Grant (ICSP) will be maintained by the Sightsavers Ireland Programme Board (SIPB), which provides effective governance oversight of the Irish Aid funded ICSP Grant and the European Commission funded projects.

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 to ensure that sufficient funds are available to allow for spending on essential activities 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 four to six months.

The Reserves Policy was reviewed, refreshed and approved by the board in 2024. Following a monetary assessment of the current risks, the reserves level has been set at €700k +/- €150k.

This reflects the level of income in Sightsavers Ireland and consideration to hold reserves to manage the risk of an unplanned decline in voluntary income.

3. Organisation and status

Legal status

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 Sightsavers, a non-governmental organisation that operates programmes in over 30 low and middle-income countries to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness and to promote equality of opportunity for people with disability. Sightsavers Ireland and Sightsavers are separate legal entities and are affiliated through a deed of affiliation.

Sightsavers Ireland is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, the national statutory regulatory agency for charitable organisations and the Registered Charity Number is 20053246. 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.

Organisation and Governance

The Board of Sightsavers Ireland continued to focus on consistent and active engagement with the management team. In this capacity, the Board of Directors convened on four occasions to assess 2024 organisational performance and 2025 business planning. Risk management and the maintenance of the risk register for Sightsavers Ireland continued to be managed by the Chief Executive who reported to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis.

Sightsavers Ireland submitted timely returns to the Lobbying Register in line with established deadlines and continued to maintain an Open Data Policy, which ensures that all documentation on

Programme Strategy, Partner Management, Quality Control, and Programme Evaluations are made available on the Sightsavers Ireland website. Sightsavers also conforms to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and to the NGO Accountable Now.

Sightsavers Ireland is based in Suite 305 The Capel Building, Marys' Abbey, Dublin 7. 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.

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; and
- 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 Finance and Audit Committee (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 sectoral 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 2024 Board meetings is provided below.

Board member attendance 2024	
Jim Miley (retired July 2024)	2/2
Chris Kinder (retired July 2024)	1/2
Daragh Fahey	2/4
Una Murray	4/4
Joan Burton	4/4
Brian Dawson	3/4
Barbara O'Reilly	3/4
Joyce Luma	3/4
Adrian Harpur	4/4
Ann Marie Walsh (appointed September 2024)	1/2



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Community members attending a mass drug administration session for trachoma at a school in Gweru, Zimbabwe.

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 Guide to Ethical Communications;
- The Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities;
- The Charities' Governance Code;
- The IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education

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

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 Guide to Ethical Communications. The organisation strives to conduct its public communications in the most transparent, truthful, representative, and respectful manner possible.

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 financial statements online. These contain required disclosures 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 from public donations, recruit and retain high-calibre people and that staff are paid fairly.

The Board continues its engagement with the management team, jointly reviewing the organisation's performance in 2024 and its business plans and strategy for 2025. 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.

4. Directors

The list of Directors and the members is shown on page 2. There were two directors' resignations and one appointment in 2024.

Neither members, nor directors, of Sightsavers Ireland received any remuneration for their work on the Board of Directors or its Sub-Committees in 2024. Declarations were made at all Board meetings by the directors to ensure that no conflicts of interest arose within the organisation.

5. 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.

6. 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 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 and mitigation 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 appropriate systems are in place to monitor, manage and, where appropriate, mitigate Sightsavers Ireland's exposure to major risks.

7. Lobbying and political donations

There were no political donations in 2024, 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.

8. 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.

The organisation has been shown to be resilient in recent years and has adapted accordingly and grew voluntary income while successfully managing institutional funding.

There were no significant events up to the date of signing the report that require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements.

9. 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.

10. 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 Suite 305, The Capel Building, Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7, D07 RD25.

11. 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



Brian Dawson

Adrian Harpur

Date: 3 June 2025



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Community members attending a mass drug administration session for trachoma at a school in Gweru, Zimbabwe.

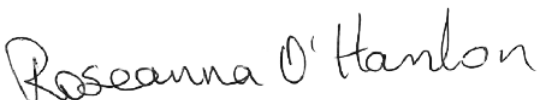
Independent auditors report to the members of Sightsavers Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2024

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: [https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-(Ireland)). The description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Signed by: 
Roseanna O'Hanlon

for and on behalf of

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
40 Mespil Road
Dublin 4

Date: 10 June 2025

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Restricted funds 2024 €	Total 2024 €	Unrestricted funds 2023 €	Restricted funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	5,042,105	2,399,434	7,441,539	4,820,188	2,479,619	7,299,807
Income from charitable activities	4	-	699,203	699,203	-	503,371	503,371
Other	4	10,766	-	10,766	-	-	-
Total income		5,052,871	3,098,637	8,151,508	4,820,188	2,982,990	7,803,178
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	2,468,460	-	2,468,460	2,306,151	-	2,306,151
Charitable activities							
Health – eye care	5/6	1,265,176	1,417,542	2,682,718	1,243,473	968,393	2,211,866
Neglected tropical diseases	5/6	822,560	143,318	965,878	801,334	102,808	904,142
Education	5/6	409,487	782,595	1,192,082	471,594	645,998	1,117,592
Social inclusion	5/6	513,057	906,381	1,419,438	183,143	760,430	943,573
Policy and research	5/6	(1)	1,613	1,612	-	10,044	10,044
Total charitable activities		3,010,279	3,251,449	6,261,728	2,699,544	2,487,673	5,187,217
Total expenditure		5,478,739	3,251,449	8,730,188	5,005,695	2,487,673	7,493,368
Net (expenditure)/ income		(425,868)	(152,812)	(578,680)	(185,507)	495,317	309,810
Transfer between funds	14	147,712	(147,712)	-	175,916	(175,916)	-
Net movement in Funds		(278,156)	(300,524)	(578,680)	(9,591)	319,401	309,810
Total funds brought forward		944,063	338,872	1,282,935	953,654	19,471	973,125
Total funds carried forward	14	665,907	38,348	704,255	944,063	338,872	1,282,935

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 68 to 78 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Current assets			
Debtors	11	638,467	816,295
Cash at bank and in hand	12	1,406,401	1,069,723
		2,044,868	1,886,018
Creditors: amounts falling due	13	(1,340,613)	(603,083)
Net current assets		704,255	1,282,935
Total net assets		704,255	1,282,935
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	14	665,907	944,063
Restricted funds	14	38,348	338,872
		704,255	1,282,935

The notes on pages 64 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the directors



Brian Dawson



Adrian Harpur

Date: 3 June 2025

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from operating activities	Table A	336,679	543,068
Net cash from operating activities		336,677	543,068
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		336,678	543,068
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,069,723	526,655
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	Table B	1,406,401	1,069,723

Table A	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(578,680)	309,810
Adjustments for:		336,678	543,068
Increase/(decrease) in debtors		1,069,723	526,655
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		737,531	446,650
Net cash from / (used) in operating activities		336,678	543,068

Table B	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	12	1,406,401	1,069,723

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The company's registered office is Suite 305 The Capel Building, Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7, D07 RD25.

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 2019) – (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 15.

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.

The economic uncertainty exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, conflict in the Middle East and other ongoing geopolitical crises across the globe, could have far reaching consequences for macroeconomic stability. The board and management are aware of the risks these developments pose to all facets of our operations and are taking necessary mitigating action.

Despite these challenging external circumstances Sightsavers Ireland is in a financially strong position.

- Reserves are within the level set in the Reserves policy following a board-approved drawdown.

- Sightsavers Ireland has a loyal supporter base giving regularly, accounting for approximately 60%

of our voluntary income, 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 Central and West African countries through the new Irish Civil Society Partnership Grant (ICSP) continues to be a significant part of enabling Sightsavers Ireland to deliver its mission.

EU Funding has increased with an increase in the number of EU-funded programmes coming online in 2024 and into 2025

The Directors are unaware of any 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:

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

(i) Functional / Presentational currency

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

(ii) 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. The key sources of estimates and assumptions recognised in the financial statements are:

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.

Accrued income, the company makes an estimate of the recoverable value of accrued income, which relates to tax amounts recoverable under the charitable donations scheme.

The company uses estimates, based on historical experience, in determining the level of accrued income which the company believes will be collected.

Deferred income, in applying the income recognition principles of the Charities SORP, judgements are occasionally required to ascertain whether a grant agreement is performance or non-performance based. This is done using established criteria that are applied consistently across all funding instruments and from one period to the next. Furthermore, where grant agreements

are found to be performance based, judgements are required as to the level of income that should be recognised for the year. The company typically uses incurred expenditure as the most appropriate basis to measure progress on grant agreements and to recognise the related income. This is done in conjunction with a qualitative assessment of the status of the underlying projects in order to ensure this represents the most appropriate basis of recognition. All judgements are made at the individual grant level and are subject to appropriate review and approval process.

3 Taxation status

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

4 Income

		2024 €	2023 €
Donations and legacies			
Individuals and Major Donors		4,272,331	4,079,258
Trusts		174,773	222,138
Companies		354,242	656,451
Other organisations e.g. churches, schools		15,371	12,121
Legacies		424,822	129,839
Irish Aid		2,200,000	2,200,000
		7,441,539	7,299,807

		2024 €	2023 €
Other			
Rental income		10,766	-

5 Direct charitable expenditure

	Health Eye Care €	Neglected Tropical Diseases €	Education €	Social Inclusion €	Policy & Research €	2024 €	2023 €
Bangladesh	409,870	-	-	-	-	409,870	238,916
Cameroon	2,797	223,843	188,047	229,867	-	644,554	529,581
Ghana	-	-	-	104,745	-	104,745	-
Guinea	49,217	-	-	-	-	49,217	-
India	232,488	-	-	-	-	232,488	228,363
Kenya	-	-	-	40,182	-	40,182	500
Liberia	528,926	104,263	-	3,208	-	636,397	503,674
Malawi	-	-	-	77,543	-	77,543	-
Nigeria	22,556	(36)	-	38,086	-	60,606	-
Mozambique	102,427	1,548	-	-	-	103,975	316,816
Pakistan	51,776	-	-	-	-	51,776	250,055
Senegal	396,595	125,346	240,630	397,062	-	1,159,633	715,850
Sierra Leone	539,345	44,909	59,870	186,876	-	831,000	632,676
Tanzania	110,787	21	-	8	-	110,816	-
Uganda	13,453	117,976	-	253,943	-	385,372	303,967
Zambia	(1,122)	379	340,833	174	-	340,264	322,530
Regional							
West Africa	15,208	118,543	4,502	12,004	-	150,257	179,741
Central Support Programme	866	1,217	425	410	1	2,919	3,046
Technical Support	115,794	219,892	79,158	72,292	572	487,708	572,326
Communication and Education Programmes	91,735	7,977	278,617	3,038	1,039	382,406	303,904
Direct Charitable Expenditure	2,682,718	965,878	1,192,082	1,419,438	1,612	6,261,728	5,187,217

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's Irish Civil Society Partnership Grant for A Better World (ICSP). This programme is focused on the support of projects based in four countries in West and Central Africa - including eye health projects in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone; the promotion of inclusive education in Cameroon and Senegal and the promotion of civic political participation in Cameroon, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Whilst in Ireland, our team is delivering a high-quality Global Citizenship Education programme to build further awareness, understanding and solidarity with disability inclusion.

6 Total expenditure

	Grants Payable €	Other Direct Costs €	Allocation of Support Costs €	2024 €	2023 €
Raising funds	-	2,221,803	246,658	2,468,460	2,306,151
Charitable activities					
Health- Eye Care	2,682,718	-	-	2,682,718	2,211,866
Neglected Tropical Diseases	965,878	-	-	965,878	904,142
Education	920,882	252,200	19,000	1,192,082	1,117,592
Social Inclusion	1,419,438	-	-	1,419,438	943,573
Policy and Research	1,612	-	-	1,612	10,044
Direct Charitable Expenditure	5,990,528	2,474,001	265,658	8,730,188	7,493,368

Support costs

	2024 €	2023 €
Directorate	95,000	95,000
Governance		
External audit	12,331	12,657
Strategic review	3,186	5,319
Staff costs	77,345	77,412
Operational costs	77,796	67,131
	265,658	257,519

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

Sightsavers Ireland also has a level of resources and incurs some costs directly in the administration, application and oversight of the programmes for which it receives funding.

7 Net income / (expenditure)

This is stated after charging:

	2024 €	2023 €
Auditors' remuneration	12,331	12,657
Operating lease – building	67,466	41,995

8 Staff costs

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Chief Executive	1	1
Fundraising and Communications	13	10
	14	11

Total employee remuneration for the year was:

	2024 €	2023 €
Wages and salaries	861,790	672,762
Social welfare costs	95,180	69,501
Pension costs	65,582	28,054
Other employee benefits	699	599
Total Sightsavers Ireland	1,023,251	770,916
Allocation of staff costs from Sightsavers	95,000	95,000
	1,118,251	865,916

8 Staff costs (continued)

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
€60,001 to €70,000	1	1
€70,001 to €80,000	2	-
€80,001 to €90,000	1	1
€90,001 to €100,000	0	2
€100,001 to €110,000	1	0
€110,001 to €120,000	1	0
	6	4

Key management personnel

Key management personnel include the Chief Executive and the Head of Individual Giving for whom the total remuneration cost was €249,419 (2023: €253,243) including pension contributions of €11,280 (2023: €12,273).

The Chief Executive's total remuneration paid in 2024 amounted to €114,050 (2023: €105,745).

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 2024 was €65,582 (2023: €28,054). The outstanding payable amount due at year end for 2024 was €NIL (2023: €9,061).

11 Debtors

(Amounts falling due within one year)	2024 €	2023 €
Prepayments and accrued income	635,855	815,864
Other debtors	2,612	431
	638,467	816,295

12 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 €	2023 €
Restricted funds	210,787	685,987
Unrestricted funds	1,195,614	383,736
	1,406,401	1,069,723

13 Creditors

(Amounts falling due within one year)	2024 €	2023 €
Accruals and deferred Income	215,235	68,193
Sightsavers (note 18)	1,053,740	461,316
Payroll taxes	29,022	24,554
Other creditors	42,616	49,020
	1,340,613	603,083

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

14 Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers €	Balance at 31 December 2024 €
General Reserve	944,063	5,052,871	(5,478,739)	147,712	665,907
Total Unrestricted Funds	944,063	5,052,871	(5,478,739)	147,712	665,907
Restricted funds					
European Commission funds	-	699,203	(664,781)	(34,422)	-
Irish Aid funds	302,172	2,200,000	(2,388,014)	(114,158)	-
Other donations and legacies	36,700	199,434	(198,654)	868	38,348
Total restricted funds	338,872	3,098,637	(3,251,449)	(147,712)	38,348
Total Funds	1,282,935	8,151,508	(8,730,188)	-	704,255

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 €147,712 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.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets €	Net current assets €	Net assets €
Unrestricted funds	-		
General	-	665,907	665,907
Restricted funds		38,348	38,348
	-	704,255	704,255

16 Leasing commitments

Sightsavers Ireland moved to a new premises in April 2024, Suite 305, The Capel Building, Mary’s Abbey, Dublin 7, D07RD25, under a Caretaker Agreement until a new lease is signed and therefore doesn’t have any commitments related to the new premises as at 31st December 2024. As at 31st December 2024 there was a commitment relating to the old lease of Spencer House, Spencer Row, Dublin1, which was being met by a sub-tenant. Following execution of a deed of surrender effective from 31st December 2024 no further commitments remain:

Land and buildings	2024 €	2023 €
Within 1 year	-	38,000
Within 2 – 5 years	-	93,178
	-	131,178

17 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 €1,053,739 (2023: a balance owing to Sightsavers of €461,315).

	€
Amount owing 2023	(461,315)
Advanced	(6,302,132)
Repaid	5,709,708
Amount owing 2024	(1,053,739)

18 Post balance sheet events

There have been no events subsequent to the year-end that require any adjustment to, or additional disclosure in, the 2024 financial statements.

19 Controlling party

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

20 Approval of financial statements

The Board of Directors approved these financial statements for issue on the3/06/25.....



A happy Amina sitting on her wheelchair.

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

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Company number: 377692. CHY number: 15437

