Annual report 2025



Sightsavers

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Portrait of team leader Mariam after a lymphatic filariasis survey in the Asa local government educational area.

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Cover image
Dr Alice, an ophthalmologist trained with support from Irish Aid and Sightsavers Ireland, performing cataract surgeries at a hospital in Sierra Leone.
© Sightsavers/Michael Duff

Message from our chair

Hope is one of the most fundamental parts of who we are. We all hope for happy and healthy lives, for our families to be safe and secure, for our futures to be full of opportunities and promise.

But hope can be distant if your sight is diminished, if pain related to a preventable disease is chronic, or your disability means you simply can't access services or opportunities that others in your community can.

This is where the work Sightsavers Ireland does is so powerful, because with your support we have an ability to bring back hope to people's lives; by restoring sight; by tackling neglected tropical diseases, and by working in countries across the globe to promote a rights-based equality of access and opportunity for people with disabilities.

I was honoured to take on the role of Chair of the Sightsavers Ireland Board from Joan Burton in 2025. What has motivated me to take on this voluntary role is seeing how effective Sightsavers Ireland is, how strong the focus is on delivery, and how conscientious our team are about using donations effectively and efficiently to see funds used where the impacts change people's lives.

Your individual support when put alongside support received from the Irish Government's Civil Society Partnership Grant for a Better World (ICSP) means that we have been able to deliver transformations in areas across eye health, inclusive education, citizenship and political participation, and climate, as well as global citizenship education in Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and global citizenship education (GCE) in Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Ireland.

To put some figures to what your support helps us to achieve, globally in 2025 we have seen Sightsavers conduct a massive 9.8 million eye examinations across 16 countries, with over 500,000 cataract surgeries delivered. Allied to that work on eye health, we helped to deliver over 97 million neglected tropical disease treatments across 15 countries. These figures represent just the tip of the iceberg of our 2025 achievements as you'll see from this report.

Irish Aid, Ireland's development aid mechanism, must be lauded for standing strong in a time of international turmoil and headwinds. Where others globally made swingeing cuts to their development aid budgets, clawed back funds from those most in need, and resiled from promises,



Ireland has been an international leader in holding to our commitments, and standing proudly alongside communities and individuals in developing countries.

We also offer our thanks to the European Union's programmatic support and partnership with us which has seen us deliver life-changing projects in Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Ghana. The Anyim Maber (Bright and Better Future) project in Uganda alone has seen 372 young people with disabilities secure jobs after their involvement, which will help them build their own potential and widen their horizons.

I'll take this opportunity to thank again Joan Burton who as the previous Chair dedicated her time, experience, and expertise to Sightsavers Ireland, and I am delighted that she has continued to serve on the Sightsavers Ireland Board. I also welcome new board members Vicki Casserly, who is a passionate disability rights advocate, and former Ambassador David Donoghue. Both are bringing new insights and huge experience to how we oversee and plan the work and direction of Sightsavers Ireland. My thanks also to all of the current board members who are so vital to the oversight and governance of Sightsavers Ireland, and to Dr. Daragh Fahey who has finished his term on our board having given his time and insight over several years.

It is my privilege as Chair to work alongside the Sightsavers Ireland executive team led by CEO Ciara Smullen. Their enthusiasm, determination, and passion as a team ensures the highest levels of delivery, impact, and accountability.

Without people who proactively support the work of Sightsavers Ireland, the work simply could not be done. Through 2025 we saw people abseil, run, and walk, to raise money for Sightsavers, others dipped into their pockets to donate directly or added Sightsavers Ireland to their Will as a lasting legacy.

As Chair of the Sightsavers Ireland Board I offer my personal thanks to those individuals, businesses, organisations, and institutional partners who make Sightsavers Ireland what it is today and offer our thanks on behalf of all of those many tens of thousands of people supported by our work across the globe.

Brian Dawson
Chairperson, Sightsavers Ireland

Message from our CEO

As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by the stark contrasts that have defined the year. Globally, it has been a tumultuous period for international development. Widespread and significant reductions in overseas development assistance (ODA) by governments across the world have created profound challenges, particularly for the communities where we work. These cuts have had devastating consequences for vulnerable people living in low-income countries, coming at a time when progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals is critically off track.

Yet, amid this challenging global landscape, Ireland has demonstrated steadfast leadership and values-driven commitment. The Government's decision to increase ODA in the October 2025 budget was both welcome and commendable. It reinforces Ireland's long-standing pledge to leave no one behind and to work towards ending extreme poverty in all its forms. This continued support provides a vital foundation for organisations like Sightsavers Ireland to deliver meaningful, lasting change.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the ongoing partnership with Irish Aid and the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Civil Society Partnership for a Better World (ICSP). This programme continues to deliver positive transformative outcomes across Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Through this work, we are strengthening eye health services, advancing inclusive education, supporting active citizenship and political participation for people with disabilities, and addressing the growing impacts of climate change. Our efforts in 2025 focused on embedding disability and gender inclusion within national systems, ensuring that women, girls, and people with disabilities are not only reached, but meaningfully included in decision-making processes.

Our collaboration with the European Commission has also remained an important pillar of our work, enabling us to extend our reach outside of West Africa and deepen our impact in partnership with others committed to disability inclusive development across Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

My role as CEO has provided me with the privilege of visiting many countries to experience our work in person and a personal highlight of the year for me was visiting Gulu City and Oyam District in Northern Uganda. There I met a number of young women with disabilities whose lives have been completely transformed through vocational training and business development skills in our economic empowerment programme. The young women I met with took these opportunities with energy, passion, and enthusiasm, and are running successful businesses in their communities, communities that had given up on them previously.



Despite a particularly challenging fundraising environment in Ireland, our supporters have once again demonstrated extraordinary generosity and solidarity. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, which looks to potentially worsen in the months ahead, has made this a difficult context in which to fundraise. Nevertheless, our income channels remained stable throughout the year, an achievement that speaks volumes about the dedication and compassion of our incredible Sightsavers community. Whether running the Dublin Marathon, taking part in the Arctic Challenge, or contributing to our appeals, our supporters continue to inspire us every day. To each and every one of you, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

A standout moment this year was the receipt of a significant grant from the Tom Cunningham Trust. This landmark contribution will enable the delivery of 1.2 million treatments for river blindness and 900,000 treatments for lymphatic filariasis in the Republic of Congo. With over two million people at risk of these devastating diseases, this support will play a critical role in helping to consign them to history. It is a powerful example of how strategic philanthropy can drive large-scale, life-changing impact.

Advocacy and global engagement have also been central to our work in 2025. In September, we hosted a high-level breakfast roundtable at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, bringing together ministers, policymakers, young advocates, and civil society representatives. The discussion focused on breaking down barriers to meaningful engagement for young people with disabilities, a conversation that is essential if we are to build truly inclusive societies.

I was particularly proud to see James Casserly, our Sightsavers Equal World Youth Champion, represent Ireland on the world stage at the United Nations, where he delivered opening remarks at the United Nations General Assembly marking the 30th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth. Sharing a platform with global leaders, his powerful contribution highlighted both the progress made and the work still required to ensure that young people with disabilities are heard, valued, and included.

As we look ahead, the challenges remain significant. However, so too does our determination. At Sightsavers Ireland, we remain committed to working in partnership, advocating for inclusion and eye health, and delivering impactful programmes that improve lives. Together, with our supporters, partners, and the communities we serve, we will continue striving for a world where everyone, everywhere, can achieve their full potential.

Ciara Smullen
CEO, Sightsavers Ireland

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

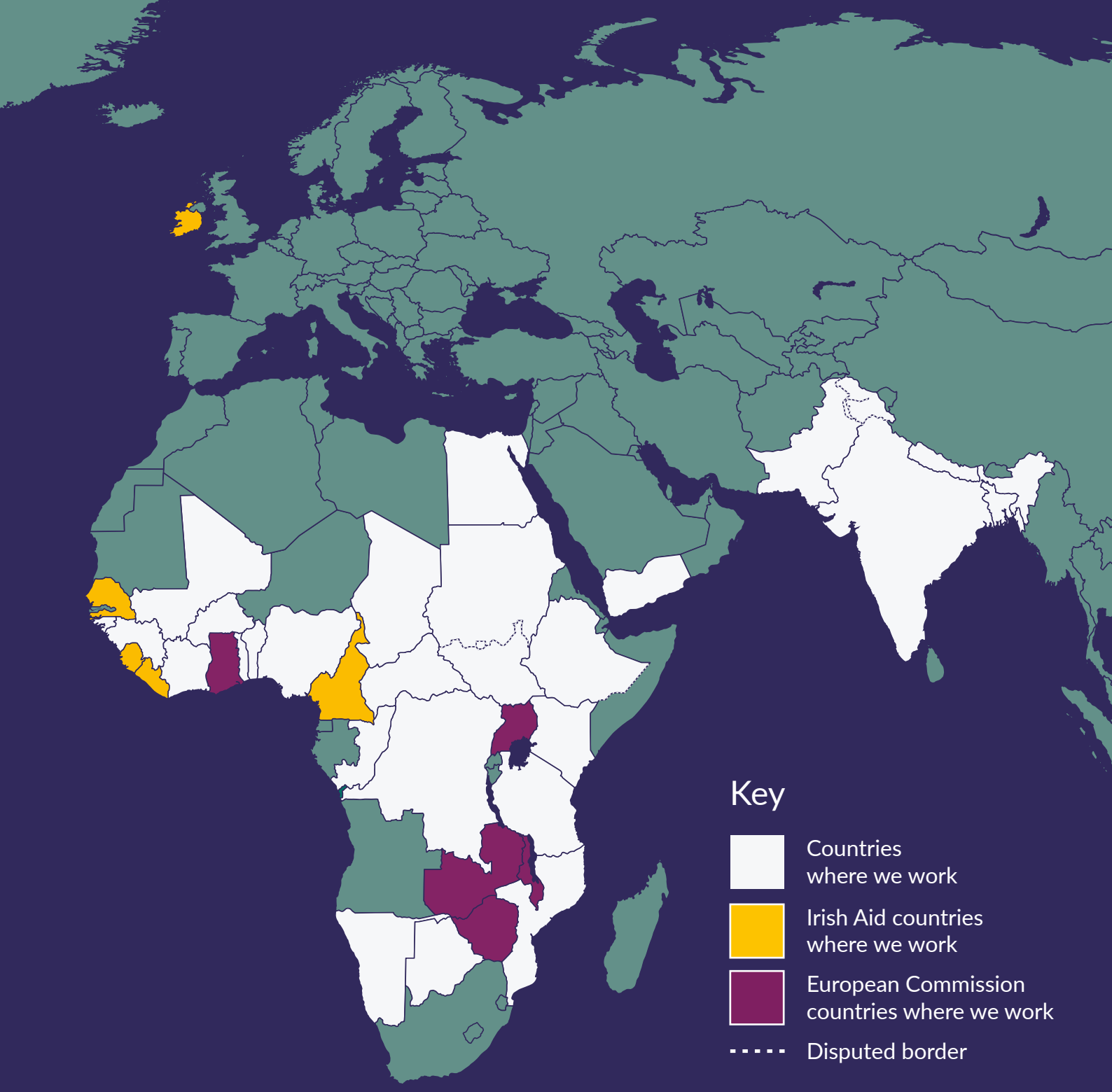
Sightsavers works in more than 30 countries in Africa and Asia where we partner with local, regional, national and international organisations and governments.


Global Vision
Leave No One Behind.
No one is blind from avoidable causes; people with disabilities participate equally in society
Sightsavers Global Strategic Goals and Objectives
Focus on Social Inclusion and Inclusive Education goals and objectives
All goals and objectives across all five thematic areas
Sightsavers Prog. Approach
Influencing
Evidence
Implementation
Sightsavers Ireland Strategic Goals
Sightsavers Ireland is leading the Irish international development sector on inclusion and is successfully influencing the public, policy and decision makers
Sightsavers Ireland is making a meaningful contribution to the global strategy through unrestricted, restricted and institutional funding
Sightsavers Ireland Strategic Objectives
Sightsavers Ireland is successfully leveraging group resources for maximum strategic impact and vice versa
Sightsavers Ireland is a top charity to work for through an employee-centred and values-driven approach
Strategic Impact



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 seven regional and support offices around the world.



7 regional and support offices around the world

30+ countries where we work

Our work



Eye health

We believe affordable healthcare should be available to everyone. As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), health systems are composed of different components, and we work within existing health systems to:

- Improve the delivery of eye health services.
- Train eye health workers.
- Distribute medication.
- Provide health financing.
- Improve health information systems, governance and leadership.

We also promote the inclusion of universal eye health in national health policies. Our district eye care programmes continue to show how we can improve eye health coverage so that it is gender equitable, disability inclusive, and sustainable.

Who we work with

Ministries of health, other ministries, the World Health Organization, national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the private sector.



Education

We believe good-quality education should be available to all children, irrespective of gender, disability, learning requirements, socio-economic background, geographical location, ethnicity, and any other distinguishing characteristics. In each of the countries where we work, we aim to:

- Improve education systems at national, district and school levels to promote and provide inclusive education.
- Ensure community members, including people with disabilities, are actively involved in inclusive education programmes.
- Promote innovative teaching and learning approaches that are contextually appropriate and focused on the students themselves.
- Ensure education plans and policies are disability inclusive and implemented effectively.

Who we work with

Ministries of education, other ministries, organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs), NGOs, alliances and coalitions, universities, and community groups.



Social inclusion

Our work in disability inclusion is aligned to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition to inclusive education, we focus on economic empowerment, inclusive citizenship, inclusive health, gender, and advocacy, following three interconnected paths:

- Human rights policies and laws must be implemented by national governments. This requires legislative and governmental accountability, effective legal mechanisms, and citizen engagement.
- People with disabilities must have equal opportunities. This means being able to access services such as education, health, and legal protection.
- Stigma and discrimination, often deep rooted, must be addressed. Encouraging people to accept diversity is crucial to ensuring lasting social change.

Who we work with

OPDs, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and its members, NGOs, government ministries, and the private sector.



Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

Our overriding goal is to eliminate NTDs while ensuring our NTD work helps to improve local health systems and encourages progress towards universal health coverage, in line with the WHO road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030. We aim to:

- Address gaps and weaknesses in health systems to enable equitable patient care and effective surveillance.
- Encourage opportunities for evidence-based decision-making by supporting data standardisation and data ownership.
- Support universal health coverage by ensuring equitable access to NTD and inclusion services.

Who we work with

Much of our NTD work is undertaken in consortia, funded by donor foundations and governments. We cooperate fully with other large NTD programmes and their donors to avoid duplication, share learning, and ensure we can all consistently support the governments of endemic countries, who are the ultimate owners of these programmes.

How we're run

Sightsavers Ireland team and board

Sightsavers Ireland board

Brian Dawson (Chair)
Joan Burton
Vicki Casserly
David Donoghue
Adrian Harpur
Joyce Luma
Dr Una Murray
Barbara O'Reilly
Ann-Marie Walsh
Daragh Fahey (retired 2026)

Meet the Sightsavers Ireland team

Ciara Smullen	Chief Executive Officer
Wim Desmedt	Head of Individual Giving, Fundraising and Marketing
Emma Murphy	Head of Communications and Public Affairs
Ezekiel Benuh	Programme Manager Irish Aid
Michael Breslin	Supporter Care Manager
Craig Bodger	Senior Fundraising Assistant
Emma Doyle	Key Relationships Manager
Stephanie Ann Glady	Fundraising Consultant
Lauren Herbert	Strategic Partnerships Manager
Maisie Jones	Communications Officer
Anika Lernihan	Supporter Experience Manager
Róisín McAtamney	Global Citizenship Education Manager
Vidura McKevitt	Fundraising Assistant
Cathal O'Grady	Senior Governance and Compliance Officer
Julia Tessari	Senior Fundraising Coordinator
Declan White	Fundraising Manager
Meadhbh Mlowezi	Global Citizenship Education Manager (resigned December 2025)
Moira Horgan	Head of Strategic Partnerships (resigned February 2026)



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Students taking part in an inclusive citizenship workshop at a community junior secondary school in Northern Province, Sierra Leone.

Governance

Board of directors

At Sightsavers Ireland we are fortunate to be governed by a dedicated board of directors. In 2025 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. 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.

Teams

The organisation comprises three core teams, whose leaders report to the CEO. A senior 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 are 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 2025, 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.
- IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education.

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 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.

Safeguarding

All Sightsavers Ireland representatives, board members, 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 2025, 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/KC Nwakalor 2025



The team travelling by road to Kasekoro village in Tonkolili District, Sierra Leone.

Sustainability and climate change

Extreme weather events continue to impact the work of Sightsavers, an example being March's Cyclone Jude, which destroyed infrastructure and affected supply chains in Mozambique. Very few of our programmes are not, or will not be, affected by climate change in some way. We continue to shift to a climate-smart approach for all programmes and operations, with a focus on increasing their climate resilience while lowering their environmental impact wherever possible.

To support vision centres to become climate resilient, we completed a climate and environmental sustainability toolkit in 2025. The toolkit (funded by Irish Aid) is aligned with climate adaptation and climate-smart approaches, and will be rolled out during 2026.

Another example of our climate smart approach can be seen in Ghana, where a disability-inclusive emergency preparedness and climate change training manual was created, highlighting how climate change affects people with disabilities, and what needs to be included in disability-inclusive emergency preparedness plans.

In 2026, the global organisation will reflect on the progress that has been made against our three-year climate action goals launched in November 2023 and will be considering what comes next.

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 and can be found at **www.sightsavers.ie/policies.**



© Sightsavers/Stuart Tibaweswa 2025

Lupula with her 18-month-old daughter Sarah outside their home in Shangombo District, Zambia, following treatment for trachoma.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Disability inclusion in the workplace

The Sightsavers Disabled Employees Network (DEN) was established in 2019 for staff who identify as having a disability, impairment, condition, or access need. Its vision was to foster a thriving network where employees with disabilities are supported and empowered, and whose lived experience informs the inclusivity of our operations and programmes.

In 2025, DEN progressed activities from its Strategy on a Page (SOAP) for the 2024-25 strategic period. Key achievements across its four strategic priorities included:

1. Increasing DEN's visibility. Shaped by member feedback, DEN launched a refreshed DEN iSeek webpage, increasing resources and improving its utility for members and wider staff.
2. Improving DEN's membership. DEN completed its first membership survey, generating actionable recommendations to take forward in its next strategic period.
3. Normalising disability experiences. DEN delivered three well-attended organisation-wide speaker sessions on neurodiversity, migraines, and ME — strengthening awareness of a diverse range of disability experiences.
4. Supporting the development of a more inclusive workplace. DEN reviewed Sightsavers' reasonable accommodation policy with input from members and a local OPD, producing practical recommendations to strengthen support.

Looking ahead, DEN will develop a revised SOAP for 2026-27, drawing on learning and insights from its previous strategic period and member feedback. As the network continues to mature, it will also strengthen its governance and clarify roles and responsibilities to further enhance both its effectiveness and impact.

The Sightsavers Ireland Equity, diversity, and inclusion policy first drafted in 2023 was revised and approved by the Sightsavers Ireland Board in December 2025.

Racial Diversity Working Group

The Racial Diversity Working Group (RDWG) originally set out to assess and address any potential issues of racism within the organisation, to promote racial inclusion and diversity, to bring about positive organisational change on issues of racial diversity, to promote accountability, and to uphold our standards and values of equity and inclusion.

Based on the achievements documented since the RDWG was established and throughout it has achieved this. Key successes gathered during one-on-one interviews with RDWG members included:

1. A transformative overhaul of our recruitment practices led by the HR Operations team and supported by the RDWG. An applicant tracking system was implemented to reduce bias and focus on talent; and managers were trained on inclusive language and practices.
2. An online seminar on unconscious bias was delivered to staff globally and was highly impactful, with participants highlighting its effectiveness in raising awareness and recommending it should be continued.
3. The signposting on our organisational intranet of cultural celebrations and festivals successfully raised awareness of racial and cultural diversity, reinforcing our commitment to racial inclusion.

4. Staff are now aware of the organisation's zero-tolerance approach to racism.

Significant progress has been made to positively promote our racially-diverse environment, and going forward it is important that a mechanism exists to sustain and build upon the RDWG's achievements and – as the organisation evolves and the environment changes – to advise the management team on any further initiatives needed to ensure this remains the case. Suitable options will be explored for such a mechanism with members of staff in 2026.



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Eveline with the tactile jackets (ballot folders marked with braille) that help blind people to vote in Cameroon, as part of the Irish Aid funded Citizenship and Political Participation programme.

Our performance in 2025

In 2025, Sightsavers delivered strong results, surpassing 2024 activity levels across a wide range of programmes, including cataract surgeries, eye health treatments, NTD surgeries, support for children with disabilities in schools, community drug distribution, and professional training in eye health, NTDs, education and inclusion. As a result of these interventions, more people no longer require treatment for at least one neglected tropical disease (NTD), reflecting the growing impact of Sightsavers' work.



© Sightsavers/ Cynthia Matonhodze

44-year-old Maria photographed at home with her son Bulondozi in Binga District, Zimbabwe. Maria received treatment for trichiasis, which had prevented her from basket weaving and growing her vegetables, in May 2024.

2025
Our work in numbers

509,236
people had their sight restored through vital cataract surgery

946,513
pairs of spectacles were dispensed

97 million
treatments were supported to protect people from diseases

130 million+
people now no longer require treatment for at least one NTD

6,072
children with disabilities were supported in formal education

22,235
people with disabilities received training and support

42
articles were published by us in peer-reviewed journals, containing high-quality evidence to inform our work

18,562
people in Ireland were making a regular donation to Sightsavers Ireland by the end of 2025

13.2 million
of our social media posts were seen in people's feeds

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eye health				
People examined	8,816,597	10,119,070	9,872,883	**9,797,968**
Eye health operations (including cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy)	473,290	495,211	515,443	**536,530**
Cataract operations	451,873	473,270	497,182	**509,236**
Spectacles dispensed	782,037	920,667	872,922	**946,513**
Neglected tropical diseases				
NTD treatments	137,324,843	60,820,342	103,119,066	**97,011,407**
Treatments for trachoma	14,449,069	6,241,621	3,710,897	**4,383,322**
Treatments for river blindness	46,958,395	20,938,627	37,777,029	**46,577,026**
Treatments for lymphatic filariasis	53,669,105	16,043,423	28,963,274	**10,793,448**
Treatments for soil-transmitted helminths	14,430,770	5,584,249	15,443,497	**13,004,412**
Treatments for schistosomiasis	7,817,504	12,012,422	17,224,369	**22,253,199**
NTD operations (hydrocele and trichiasis)	29,857	18,539	14,463	**16,675**
Education and inclusion				
Children with disabilities being supported in school	14,058	5,863	5,480	**6,072**
People with disabilities who received training	24,366	29,288	36,254	**22,235**

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Human resources				
Health workers trained to gain professional qualifications	12	3	11	**23**
Professionals supported on health short courses	60,315	56,577	44,964	**63,609**
Professionals supported on education, inclusion and climate short courses	19,312	8,819	18,912	**10,339**
Volunteers				
Volunteers and community members trained	246,769	120,695	126,354	**202,492**

© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan 2025



Panellists at the Sightsavers Ireland Solas na mBan event for International Women's Day 2025.

Irish Aid

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be deeply appreciative of the funding provided through the critical partnership with the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Irish Aid. We are truly encouraged at the positive transformation and level of progress that has been achieved in 2025, the third year in implementing Ireland's Civil Society Partnership Grant for a Better World (ICSP). This important programme continued to support and deliver positive 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 Ireland.

In 2025, our ICSP programme focused on further embedding disability and gender inclusion within national systems in West and Central Africa. With the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) support, we strengthened education, health, governance, and climate resilience systems, ensuring that those furthest behind — women, girls, and people with disabilities, were reached, and meaningfully included in policymaking.

In eye health, interventions continued to reduce avoidable blindness by targeting women, girls, and people with disabilities. In Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, 11,693 cataract surgeries were provided, and 53 per cent of patients were women. In Liberia, strategies centred on community outreach and awareness activities in hard-to-reach areas ensuring access for those most marginalised, particularly among women and people with disabilities, dispelling myths and encouraging community service uptake.

Our inclusive education systems strengthening work supported the validation of national policies and the adoption of inclusive tools in Senegal and Cameroon, embedding disability and gender within education systems. This has enabled schools to better identify and respond to children with disabilities' needs. Across both countries, ICSP funding helped 47 ministries, directorates, and institutions strengthen their capacity and commitment to inclusive education.

In Cameroon, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, collaboration with local and national stakeholders on citizenship and political participation enabled women with disabilities to shape decision-making and expand leadership; in Senegal, 37 women trained in disability sensitive budgeting and inclusive local development (ILD) secured council funding for Inclusive Communal Development Plans.

In 2025, Sightsavers continued to strengthen climate resilience across West and Central Africa by integrating renewable energy in Liberia, ensuring inclusive adaptation planning in Senegal, and providing psychosocial support into social, health, and education systems in Cameroon. These actions enabled at-risk communities to better mitigate, adapt, and respond to climate impacts.

Innovations in our GCE programme, such as virtual reality (VR) headsets and a live virtual exchange linking Irish schools with an inclusive school in Cameroon, deepened understanding of disability inclusive development.

ICSP achievements in 2025 demonstrate the critical importance of this partnership as it drives systemic change, expanding access to services, and strengthening resilience for those furthest behind.

However, challenges remain, particularly around sustainable funding with USAID's 2025 withdrawal and the contraction of funding from many other traditional donors

creating significant gaps in health and education systems that will continue for the foreseeable future. Stigma and discrimination also persisted, particularly in Cameroon and Senegal, where entrenched attitudes limited women's access to governance.

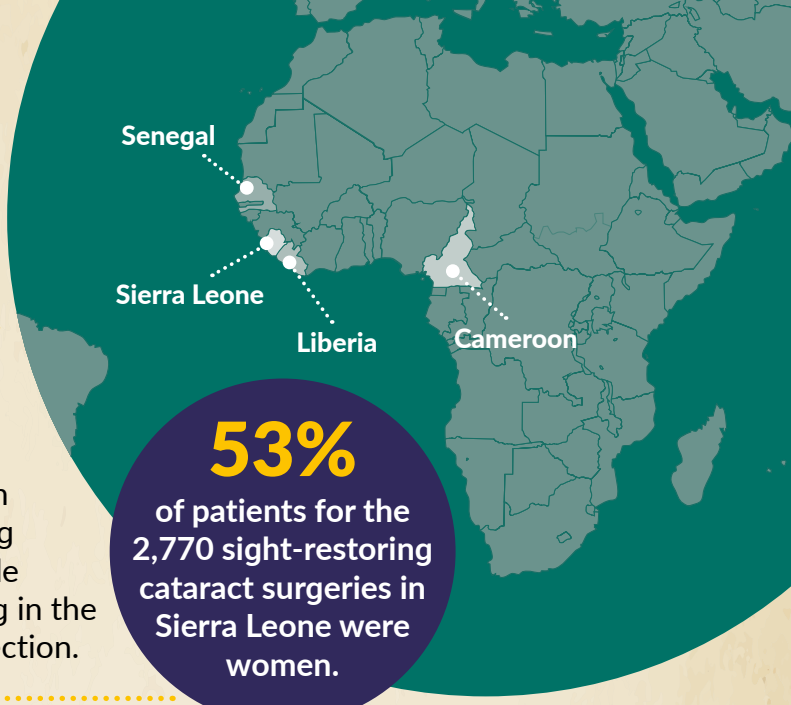
We will continue to address these challenges through activities planned for 2026 and beyond. Sightsavers Ireland remains focused on consolidating 2025 gains, scaling inclusive models, and ensuring disability inclusive development delivers lasting impact aligned with Ireland's priorities on equality, gender, sustainability, and locally led development.

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Enid teaching her students after having a successful double cataract operation in Sierra Leone.

2025 ICSP highlights



53%
of patients for the 2,770 sight-restoring cataract surgeries in Sierra Leone were women.



© Sightsavers/Sandra Rimoh

In Cameroon, **12 women with disabilities** were supported as election observers, monitoring accessibility for people with disabilities voting in the 2025 presidential election.

Trained 67 primary health workers in eye screening, referral, and gender and disability inclusion to improve access for women and girls in Liberia.





All 14 regions in Senegal, including the five where we work on eye health, **now have an ophthalmologist,** ensuring increased access to quality eye health care.

Supported 15 inclusive green microprojects, enabling people with disabilities to lead climate adaptation and mitigation actions in Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Senegal.

Delivered eye care to people with disabilities in resettlement villages across Senegal, **including treatment for 136 former leprosy patients.**



© Sightsavers/Ahmadou Sylla, TSO



The Government of Senegal **validated the inclusive education policy,** ensuring girls and boys with and without disabilities access quality inclusive education.



© Sightsavers/Tim Sheehan

3,149
people in Ireland engaged in disability-inclusive development and ODA awareness activities in 2025.



Trained 35 teachers and 11 social workers to provide psychosocial support to children affected by climate-related flooding and conflict in Cameroon.

Participation of two women and three men with disabilities in local councils led to funding for inclusive education and learning equipment in Senegal.



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

© Sightsavers/Michael Duff



Massa runs a local shop, selling food and snacks to support her family, following cataracts treatment at an Irish Aid funded Sightsavers community eye health clinic in Bo, Sierra Leone.

Reflections on the year

A conversation with Ezekiel Benuh, Irish Aid Programme Manager

Ezekiel lives in Cameroon and manages our Irish Aid programmes across West Africa. He has a wealth of experience and a passion for disability rights.

Looking back on 2025, what stands out most to you?

What stands out most is not just the scale of delivery, but the depth of transformation we are seeing across the programme. We have demonstrated that disability inclusion can be effectively integrated into education, health, governance, and climate resilience, delivering meaningful system-level change. In particular, it has been encouraging to see women and girls with disabilities increasingly shaping decisions that affect their lives.

What progress did you see in leadership and empowerment this year?

This year saw significant momentum in the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities. Through strong partnerships with organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs), governments, and civil society, we supported women and girls not only to participate, but to lead.

Some key breakthroughs included leadership appointments in Senegal and the securing of a 10 per cent quota for young women with disabilities in Sierra Leone's National Youth Service. We also delivered 16 targeted leadership and advocacy workshops, which translated into greater influence in civic and political spaces.

What do you attribute the success of the ICSP programme to?

The programme's success is based on its focus on sustainable systems change, meaningful leadership of people with disabilities, and integrated, evidence-based



© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan

programming. By working closely with governments, local authorities, ministries, OPDs, and civil society organisations, we bring disability inclusion into policies, budgets, planning processes, and service delivery systems, strengthening national ownership and long-term sustainability. At the same time, people with disabilities, particularly women and girls, are empowered to lead and influence decision-making through participation in governance structures, advocacy, and leadership roles, ensuring that change is driven by those most affected by exclusion. This is complemented by our interlinkages approach — linking eye health, inclusive education, climate resilience, governance, and civic participation, with continuous learning and evidence informing programme adaptation to deliver stronger and more sustainable outcomes for people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

What progress was made in inclusive education and health?

We made substantial progress in expanding inclusive services. In Cameroon, inclusive education scaled from 10 to 70 schools, while Senegal validated its national inclusive education policy. Both are major milestones, particularly for girls with disabilities.

In eye health, demand for services increased significantly. Eye screenings more than doubled in Liberia, and women accounted for over half of service users across all eye health countries. That reflects both improved access and growing community trust in services.

How did you continue to engage the public and reach those most marginalised?

Our Global Citizenship Education work in Ireland continued to grow throughout the year, using innovative approaches such as virtual reality to deepen public understanding and engagement around disability inclusion and global equality.

At the same time, we remained firmly focused on reaching those most marginalised across our programmes. From supporting first-time civic participation by people with intellectual disabilities in Cameroon to increasing access to essential services for women and girls with disabilities, we are seeing real and lasting change in people's lives and communities.

Climate action has become an increasing focus globally. How did this feature in the programme this year?

This year we moved beyond pilot initiatives and began advancing more systemic approaches to disability-inclusive climate action.

Renewable energy installations in Liberia improved service continuity and reduced reliance on diesel, while youth-led and community-led initiatives in Senegal began influencing national climate policy and inclusive adaptation planning.

What achievements are you most proud of overall?

One of the biggest achievements has been strengthening governance systems and local ownership. The programme directly reached more than 174,000 people while also influencing institutional practices across sectors.

We strengthened capacity in more than 40 government institutions and 120 OPDs and civil society organisations. It has been particularly encouraging to see OPDs increasingly taking leadership roles in advocacy, service delivery, and accountability.

What gives you hope as you look ahead?

Reflecting on the year, progress has been both substantial and systemic. Institutions are stronger, participation has expanded, and demand for inclusive services continues to grow.

While challenges remain, this year has shown that sustained investment in local partnerships, institutional capacity, and evidence-based approaches can deliver transformative and lasting results in inclusive development.

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



© Sightsavers/Michael Duff

Isatu, a girl living with albinism, attending a Sightsavers supported eye screening at the National Commission For Persons With Disability in Makeni, Sierra Leone.

Global Citizenship Education

In 2025, Sightsavers Ireland's Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme continued to empower people in Ireland to better understand global inequality and Ireland's role in advancing disability inclusive development. Grounded in the principles of inclusion, active engagement, and lived experience leadership, the programme reached diverse audiences through a blend of formal education, informal public engagement, and non-formal education initiatives.

Across the year, GCE activity engaged more than 4,000 people through major national events, schools' outreach, festivals, and third level education. Innovative tools such as immersive virtual reality (VR) storytelling strengthened experiential learning, enabling participants to connect emotionally with the lived experiences of people with disabilities in Sierra Leone and other partner countries.

Feedback consistently indicated increased empathy, understanding, and solidarity following engagement.

The programme also achieved a significant milestone through the integration of the Nothing About Us Without Us ethical communications workshop into a core DCU module, embedding disability inclusive development within mainstream higher education and influencing the practice of future communications and development professionals.

Throughout 2025, the programme remained strongly aligned with Irish Aid's Global Citizenship Education priorities, UNESCO's GCE framework, the IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education, and the Dóchas Code on Ethical Communications, ensuring high quality, accessible and rights based learning across all activities.

© Sightsavers/ Ben Ryan



The Global Solidarity Hub at the All Together Now Festival, (Back L-R) Sightsavers' Róisín McAtamney, GOAL's Victoria Walshe, Sightsavers' Craig Bodger, GOAL's Sarah Carr, GOAL's Jeanne Hertaloup, (Front L-R), Trócaire's Jennifer Flynn, and Sightsavers' Maisie Jones.



© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan

Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Neale Richmond, and Sightsavers Ireland CEO, Ciara Smullen, experiencing the VR headsets at the National Ploughing Championship.



© Sightsavers/ Ben Ryan

Irish Aid's Emer Carney (left), Junior Painter of the Year 2025 winner Elina (middle) and Sightsavers Ireland CEO Ciara Smullen (right).

European Commission

Uganda

Anyim Maber (Bright and Better Future) — Enhanced opportunities for employment and employability for youth with disabilities.

Funded by the European Commission, the Anyim Maber ("Bright and Better Future") project is a three-year project that has now come to a close, with the end of term evaluation near completion. The project aimed at enhancing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for youth with disabilities in four districts (Oyam, Nwoya, Gulu, and Amuru) in Uganda. Working with three key partners, organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs), and business development partners, this initiative emphasised 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 focused on two primary objectives. Firstly, to seek 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. Secondly, it worked to amplify their voices in governance processes, to ensure a more inclusive business environment and stronger inclusion in decision-making structures such as Disability Councils and the Parish Development Model.

The project has now come to an end, with the majority of performance indicators having been achieved or exceeded, including employment related training completion (113%), entry into employment (97%), apprenticeships with Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (101%), and labour force participation (89%). Over the duration of the project notable achievements were recorded in the progress towards its objectives. These included:

- 372 young people with disabilities have secured jobs.
- 543 have completed employment related training.
- 124 MSMEs were supported under the project and demonstrated improved business resilience.

Access to formal financial services remained a challenge throughout the project; however, this was mitigated through successful Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) approaches. Partnerships with OPDs and VSLAs have enhanced financial inclusion, while advocacy efforts have advanced disability inclusion in governance and policy. Despite a politically sensitive election period in late 2025, implementation continued without disruption.

The EU Delegation commended the programme's visibility, innovation, and impact. A clear exit and sustainability roadmap has been agreed with district stakeholders, ensuring continued youth participation in Parish Development Model planning, strengthened OPDs and youth wings, and ongoing advocacy on disability inclusion beyond the life of the project.



© Sightsavers/Esther Mbabazi 2025

Knighty at work in her workshop in Nwoya as part of the EC funded programmes in Uganda.

"I never imagined such a future"

Akwero Knighty, a tailoring entrepreneur from Nwoya district in Uganda, is building a brighter future through the Anyim Maber ("Bright and Better Future") project, supported by Sightsavers Ireland and funded by the European Commission.

Knighty, who has lived with a physical disability since childhood, never had the opportunity to attend school and faced significant barriers growing up. In 2018, she joined Sightsavers' Connecting the Dots programme, where she received vocational training in tailoring, alongside business and financial management support.

Today, Knighty runs her own tailoring business, makes and supplies school uniforms, and trains other young people, including people with disabilities.

Reflecting on her journey, Knighty shared: **"Growing up I never imagined such a future, I did not think I would go this far."**

Through programmes like Anyim Maber, Sightsavers Ireland is supporting young people with disabilities in Uganda to develop skills, access employment opportunities, and build greater independence and confidence.

Ghana

European Commission

© Sightsavers/2025



Monica receiving her certificate of participation as part of the training programme for the Strengthening Civil Society Representation of Women with Disabilities in Ghana.

Strengthening civil society representation of women with disabilities in Ghana

Funded by the European Commission, this two-year project due to end in May 2026 aims to strengthen the capacity of two key civil society organisations (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 organisation 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 organisational 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 organisations 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 organisations of women with disabilities and the broader national women's rights movement to amplify the voice and specific concerns of women with disabilities.

Over the duration of the project notable achievements were recorded in the progress towards its objectives. These included:

- Conducting capacity assessment of the co-applicant CSOs WODAO and ABAK designing tailored capacity strengthening interventions for each co-applicant which reached 122 staff, board members, and community agents. To promote organisational development and compliance, 14 strategic documents, seven for each co-applicant were developed. These included monitoring and evaluation strategies, finance manuals, resource mobilisation strategies, sustainability plans, and gender mainstreaming strategies, Climate Change Preparedness Plans, including two multi-year advocacy plans (2025–2027) promoting disability and gender rights and the review of other existing policy documents including the HR manual and safeguarding policies to make them more inclusive.
- Reached 586 participants against a target of 560 participants through our training of downstream organisations. These trainings on disability inclusion, gender mainstreaming, climate change, and safeguarding reached 47 downstream organisations and were conducted using tailored manuals developed to respond to the gaps identified in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) analysis, and the climate change assessment audit report. These trainings enhanced grassroot capacity and improved broad base advocacy responsive to the needs of their local populations, mainly disability inclusive and gender mainstreaming actions were implemented by the co-applicants and downstream organisations.

This project has progressed in a hugely positive manner ensuring the rights of women with disabilities across Ghana are recognised and supported.

Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe

European Commission



© Sightsavers/ Cynthia Matonhodze

Local OPDs, supported by Sightsavers under the European Commission funded RAD-P programme, lead the Solidarity Walk for the International Day for Persons with Disabilities in Malawi in December (Sightsavers, 2025).

RADP – Realising the African Disability Protocol

This multi country, three-year project commenced in January 2025 and aims to support people with disabilities and organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) to participate in national governance and decision-making, promoting inclusion in policies and local development and promoting the adoption, ratification, and implementation of the African Disability Protocol (ADP).

It has an ambitious programme of activities seeking to build OPD capacity for advocacy, increase their voice and participation in decision-making (especially for women and young people with disabilities), and specifically to support the ADP.

RAD-P brings together a regional coalition of co-applicants that includes the Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA), the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD), and the Africa Disability Alliance (ADA), as well as four national OPDs as project partners. It will also collaborate with the African Disability Forum.

Over the first year of the project, teams across the three countries have continued to make good progress, with activities progressing as planned. Some notable achievements that have been recorded in 2025 include:

- A commitment to ratify the ADP in 2026 was made in the Zambian parliament on 25 July 2025, following campaigning and questions in parliament by project partners.
- Zimbabwe passed the Persons with Disability Act on 21 November 2025. This landmark achievement opens the door for full domestication of the ADP in the country.
- The first mentorship programmes in Zambia and Malawi were launched, with 26 disability activists participating. This focused on empowering women and youth with disabilities to take on leadership and advocacy roles within their networks. These mentorship programmes will scale up across all three countries this year.



© Sightsavers/Michael Duff 2025



Alex tending to his farm, following cataracts treatment at an Irish Aid funded Sightsavers community eye health clinic in Bo, Sierra Leone.



Fundraising

Individual giving

In 2025, we were deeply moved by the generosity of our supporters, who stood with Sightsavers Ireland through challenging times. The heart of fundraising lies in gifts from major donors and partners, regular givers, cash donors, television responders, those who sign up on the street, and the many supporters who take on extraordinary challenges like running marathons for us. These contributions are powerful in impact, providing the steady foundation that makes our work possible. By fostering these relationships, the team ensures continued support for our work and helps strengthen awareness of the positive transformation made possible through partnership.

We are especially grateful to all of our donors enabling us to reclaim tax and stretch every euro further. And we honour those who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will, many after a lifetime of loyal support, ensuring their compassion continues to change lives for generations to come.

Together, our donors form a remarkable community of kindness and commitment. Their steadfast support is not only vital funding, but a shining reminder that, even in difficult times, Irish people believe in a world where no one is left behind.

Marathons, cycling adventures, and weekly visits — our wonderful donors

Each year, we are reminded that Sightsavers' work is only possible because of the extraordinary people who stand with us. On behalf of the team at Sightsavers Ireland, we extend our sincere thanks to every supporter who helps bring our mission to life.

We are inspired by supporters like Sinéad, who cycled the length of Sri Lanka to raise vital funds, and James, who visits our office each week with steady commitment and friendly encouragement. We are also grateful to those who reply to our communications, sharing how our stories resonate and celebrating lives changed through sight restored, your messages mean a great deal.

This year, our Supporter Care Manager, Michael Breslin, joined a group of dedicated individuals who took on the challenge of the Dublin Marathon to raise funds for Sightsavers Ireland. While each runner signed up independently, together their efforts reflected a shared commitment to our mission.

Collectively, the team raised an outstanding €21,000, ensuring more resources reached the programmes that change lives. Michael's participation, alongside others, exemplifies how staff and supporters alike go beyond their roles to champion the cause.

The achievement highlights the strength of our community: people willing to turn endurance into impact. By combining athletic dedication with fundraising, this group inspired colleagues and donors, reinforcing the message that every step taken brings us closer to a world where no one is left behind.



© Sightsavers Ireland

Sinéad Greenan during her extraordinary challenge in support of Sightsavers Ireland, where she completed an 800km solo cycle around Sri Lanka in January 2025.

Cycling for sight: Sinéad Greenan's 800km journey across Sri Lanka

Sinéad took on an extraordinary challenge in support of Sightsavers Ireland by completing an 800km solo cycle around Sri Lanka in January 2025. Over the course of 2 weeks, she cycled up to eight hours a day in temperatures reaching 30°, relying solely on her own bike and minimal travel set-up. Born with congenital cataracts and later developing glaucoma, Sinéad has experienced first-hand the life changing impact of proper eye care. Her gratitude for the treatment she receives in Ireland is what inspired her to take on this challenge. "I would love to provide the same opportunities to children and adults with eye conditions who are in less fortunate positions than me." Through her remarkable effort, she raised €8,110 to support our work.

To the many donors we may never meet, thank you for your continued, often quiet generosity, especially during times of uncertainty. To supporters living with sight loss, your empathy and determination to help others is deeply moving.

Across every gift, event and message, one thing is clear: **our supporters are extraordinary**. Thank you for making our work possible.

Tax Efficient Giving Programme

Since launching a dedicated tax campaign in 2019, Tax Efficient Giving has become one of our most valuable fundraising income streams. Annual tax income has grown from €180,000 in 2019 to almost €340,000 in 2025, driven by a combination of targeted direct marketing, donor stewardship and ongoing optimisation of the supporter journey.

While response volumes have fluctuated year on year, following a peak in 2022, the programme has consistently generated more than 600 responses annually in recent years. This strong level of supporter engagement has enabled us to sustain and grow tax income, providing a significant source of unrestricted funding to support our work.

In 2025, significant changes introduced by Revenue transformed the administration of the Charitable Donation Scheme. Charities can now obtain donor renewal consent by telephone, followed by written confirmation via post or email. This has substantially improved response quality, reduced errors in form completion, and made the donor journey more accessible. However, the new process has also increased administrative requirements, including call recording management, confirmation tracking, and additional data processing.

To maximise the opportunities presented by these changes, we implemented a targeted telemarketing renewal campaign. The campaign delivered outstanding results, achieving a 55.4 per cent response rate, with 272 renewals secured from 311 donors contacted. Combined with our annual direct marketing activity, the programme generated 667 tax responses during the year.

Across four Revenue submissions, we secured tax relief on 1,969 donations, generating €339,174 in income to support our work. The success of this year's Tax Efficient Giving programme continues to demonstrate the importance of Tax Efficient Giving as a key source of unrestricted income.

Building on the success of 2025, we will continue to refine our approach in 2026 through enhanced creative content, improved donor communications, and a further telemarketing renewal campaign with streamlined processes and optimised scripting to increase efficiency and donor engagement.

2025 highlights

667
donor tax responses received

272
renewals secured through telemarketing

55.4%
telemarketing response rate

1,969
forms submitted across four Revenue claims

€339,174
income generated

Legacy giving - a gift for the future

Legacies remain a vital and growing source of income for Sightsavers Ireland. In 2025, we received 27 gifts in Wills, totalling €346,447 and representing 8.3 per cent of fundraised income. We are profoundly grateful to all those who choose to remember Sightsavers in this special way, leaving a lasting impact for future generations.

With only one in three Irish people having made a Will, encouraging supporters to write their Will and consider legacy giving is a core focus. Through partnerships with Lawonline and the Free Wills Network, we offer free Will writing services to make this process easier.

Our Make Miracles Happen campaign, featuring Mary from Malawi whose sight was restored through cataract surgery, inspired audiences to consider leaving a gift in their Will. Together with year-round online promotion, these efforts generated over 60,000 website impressions and more than 200 direct enquiries.

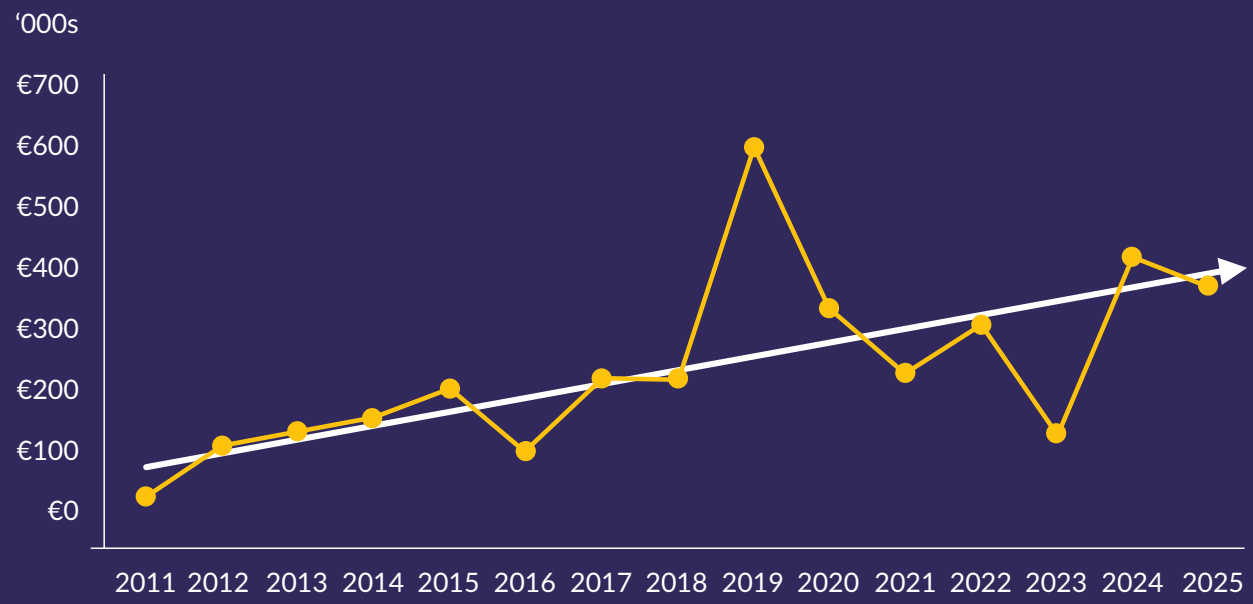
"A gift in your Will can change lives forever."



© Sightsavers/Nana Kofi Acquah

Vera hugs her mother Felicia, who's been battling lymphatic filariasis for about 25 years. Vera is Felica's main carer at their village in Ghana.

Sightsavers legacy income



Strategic partnerships

The Tom Cunningham Trust — partnering to eliminate neglected tropical diseases in Republic of Congo

In August 2025 Sightsavers Ireland were incredibly grateful to be awarded a €500,000 grant from the Tom Cunningham Trust, helping us to accelerate progress towards eliminating river blindness and lymphatic filariasis in the Republic of Congo, protecting millions of people at risk of this debilitating disease.

Republic of Congo faces significant development challenges as a country that is ranked 138th globally in the human development index, reflecting persistent gaps in health, education, and income. Poverty and inequality remain widespread, with many communities lacking access to basic health services, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas. In Republic of Congo, more than two million people remain at risk of neglected tropical diseases such as river blindness and lymphatic filariasis, conditions that are entirely preventable, yet continue to affect some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Tom Cunningham Trust, Sightsavers Ireland is scaling up efforts to eliminate these diseases through an integrated approach that combines treatment, prevention, and health system strengthening. This €500,000 grant, awarded through The Ireland Funds, represents a transformative investment in both immediate and long-term impact.

At the heart of this partnership is a large-scale mass drug administration (MDA) programme, delivered in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. By treating entire populations (whether they have these diseases or not) this approach protects communities and interrupts disease transmission, helping countries move towards elimination. Delivering mass drug administration at this scale is a highly coordinated effort. Thousands of community drug distributors are trained to safely administer treatment, mobilise communities, and ensure high coverage across each district. This community-led approach is critical: it builds trust, increases uptake, and ensures that even the most remote populations are reached.

The programme also includes pre and post treatment monitoring, surveillance activities, and impact assessments to track progress towards elimination. These efforts help ensure that disease transmission is interrupted and that gains are sustained over time.

Integrated delivery is central to this approach. By treating river blindness and lymphatic filariasis together through a single campaign, programmes can maximise efficiency, reduce costs, and reach more people, aligning with World Health Organization guidance on NTD elimination strategies.

Beyond treatment delivery, the partnership is contributing to stronger, more resilient health systems. Training community distributors, improving coordination structures, and supporting monitoring activities ensure long-term sustainability.

Impact highlights



1.2 million treatments for children and adults against river blindness



900,000 treatments for children and adults against lymphatic filariasis



© Sightsavers/Dr. Marlhand C. Hemilembolo

Community drug distributors doing door-to-door awareness raising, sensitisation and drug distribution in Bouenza in the Republic of Congo (Sightsavers: Dr. Marlhand C. Hemilembolo 2025).

With strong progress already underway and treatment delivery scheduled for 2026, Sightsavers Ireland is confident that this partnership will accelerate elimination efforts in Republic of Congo.

"This €500,000 grant represents far more than financial support, it is an investment in health, opportunity, and dignity for millions of people moving us closer to a future where these diseases are no longer part of everyday life." — Ciara Smullen, CEO, Sightsavers Ireland

Sightsavers Ireland is deeply grateful to the Tom Cunningham Trust for its vision, generosity, and commitment to creating lasting change.

Tom Cunningham Trust matched funding leveraging additional support

One of the most inspiring moments of 2025 was reconnecting with supporters who had stepped away but chose to return. Thanks to the generosity of the Tom Cunningham Trust, which provided a €50,000 matched giving fund, we were able to reach out to lapsed donors and invite them back, reminding them that their past support mattered and that returning now could have double the impact.

The response was remarkable. Across two phases, 666 supporters reactivated, contributing over €43,000.

We are profoundly grateful to each donor who chose to return, and to the Tom Cunningham Trust for making this initiative possible. Together, they have strengthened our supporter community and ensured that more people can benefit from sight saving programmes.



© Sightsavers/Dr. Marlhand C. Hemilembolo

Community drug distributors conducting drug distribution through fixed-site strategy for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Mandingou Health District in Bouenza, Republic of Congo. This involves delivering treatments and health interventions at stationary, pre-determined locations such as community health posts, schools, and local markets (Sightsavers: Dr. Marlhand C. Hemilembolo, 2025).

First Light for Sight Arctic campaign

The First Light for Sight campaign run by Sightsavers Ireland is a life changing 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 co-created in partnership with adventure.ie. It celebrates the life-changing impacts of sight-saving treatments across Africa and Asia with each participant raising funds to support vital services such as cataract surgeries, trachoma treatments, and child vision screenings. Each First Light for Sight participant has a personal story, some of resilience or awe and others of personal growth.

© Sightsavers Ireland/Lauren Herbert



A Sightsavers Ireland supporter during the 2025 First Light for Sight Arctic Challenge.



© Sightsavers Ireland/Lauren Herbert

The 2025 team of First Light for Sight trekkers during their Arctic challenge.

Michael Waters
Google — Security Systems and Delivery Lead (EMEA)

In January 2025, I was honoured to join a select group of adventurers on an expedition to the heart of the Arctic. Our mission was as poetic as it was challenging: to greet the year's first sunrise in one of the most breathtaking, yet unforgiving, corners of our planet. This was the Sightsavers Ireland's "First Light for Sight" Arctic Challenge.

The emotions I felt during those days were a complex tapestry of awe and exhaustion. There is a specific kind of tiredness that comes from battling the elements, but it was consistently outweighed by an overwhelming sense of purpose. We shared stories of the work Sightsavers does: performing life-changing eye surgeries, training healthcare professionals, and championing the rights of people with disabilities across more than 30 nations. Every kilometre trekked was a tribute to the "new dawns" Sightsavers has made possible for over seven decades.

Then came the moment we had all been waiting for: the first sunrise. To witness the sun breaking over the Arctic horizon after months of darkness is an experience that defies simple description. It is a slow, majestic transition from deep indigo to soft pinks and fiery oranges. In that moment, the exhaustion fell away. We stood in silence, a group of strangers turned teammates, united by the sheer beauty of the world and the knowledge that our presence there meant something much larger than ourselves.

This Arctic adventure was more than a physical test; it was a celebration of hope. The sunrise served as a powerful symbol of the vision Sightsavers restores every day. Just as the light reclaimed the landscape, the funds we raised would reclaim futures for thousands of individuals.

Returning home to Ireland, I was tired but deeply fulfilled. The support from my network, peers, and friends was nothing short of extraordinary. Personally, I was able to raise almost €12,000, with a significant €5,200 matched by Google's Giving Program.

As I look back on the Arctic Challenge 2025, I am filled with gratitude. Gratitude for the team I travelled with, for the donors who made our impact possible, and for Sightsavers Ireland.

Trusts and foundations

In 2025, the support of our trusts and foundation partners has been critical in delivering measurable, life changing impact across Africa and Asia. Their investment has enabled Sightsavers Ireland to expand access to essential eye health services, tackle avoidable blindness, and ensure that marginalised communities, particularly women, children, and people with disabilities, are not left behind. These partnerships are driving sustainable change, strengthening health systems, and advancing progress towards our shared goal of a more equitable world.

The Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund continues to be a longstanding partner, supporting the delivery of inclusive and accessible eye health services in Nampula, Mozambique. Since 2007, this partnership has helped reach underserved communities with vital services, contributing directly to poverty reduction and improved quality of life. As one of Ireland's oldest payroll giving initiatives, the Fund's sustained commitment demonstrates the powerful role that collective employee giving can play in delivering tangible, lasting impact.

"Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund are proud to partner with Sightsavers Ireland and support the impactful work they deliver in some of the world's most underserved communities. Their commitment to improving eye health, fighting disease, and strengthening health systems is inspiring. Throughout our collaboration, Sightsavers Ireland has always operated with a high degree of transparency, accountability, and consistently delivered programmes on time and on budget. Their focus on sustainability and local capacity building ensures that their programmes create lasting change. Bank of Ireland Staff Charitable Fund greatly values this partnership and looks forward to continuing to support their vital work." — Bank of Ireland Charitable Trust

ElectricAid, the ESB and EirGrid staff social justice and development fund, has continued to drive meaningful impact through its work with Sightsavers Ireland. Since 2012, its funding has supported scalable, long-term solutions aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2025, this partnership delivered critical eye health treatments and surgeries in Mozambique and Bangladesh, directly improving access to care for those most at risk of exclusion. By prioritising women and people with disabilities, ElectricAid's support is helping to reduce inequality and ensure that essential health services reach those who need them most.

"Sightsavers Ireland is a valued partner for ElectricAid, reflecting the importance we place on working with trusted organisations that combine strong governance with deep expertise. Through our funding partnership, we are supporting sustainable, long-term solutions for people living with visual impairments, delivering meaningful impact to marginalised communities throughout the countries where Sightsavers works." — Orla Gallagher, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at ESB

The L'Occitane Foundation remains a key strategic partner in advancing child eye health and gender equity. Its continued commitment to preventing avoidable blindness and empowering women has enabled the expansion of critical services in underserved communities. In 2025, this support was pivotal in delivering screenings, treatments, and surgeries through the Nigeria Child Eye Health project, ensuring more children, especially those at heightened risk of exclusion, can access the care they need to thrive. With their support we are jointly helping to create a future where no child's potential is limited by preventable vision impairment.

"At L'Occitane en Provence, we believe in crafting life ties with heart and reason. We strive to build meaningful connections that go beyond commerce and into real human impact. Our partnership with Sightsavers Ireland is a powerful expression of that belief." — L'Occitane Foundation

World Sight Day – abseil

To celebrate World Sight Day on October 10, 2025, Sightsavers Ireland held its annual fundraising challenge: a 150ft abseil from the roof of Dublin's Croke Park stadium. The thrilling experience united individuals and corporate teams in support of sight-saving treatments for some of the world's most underserved communities. Every participant raised enough to fund at least 10 sight-restoring operations, helping people to regain independence and dignity. A team of four raising €1,300 could help protect the sight of 15 communities through medication for trachoma. Participants took in sweeping views of Dublin from the stadium roof before completing a pulse-racing descent, cheered on by friends and family.

The 2025 Croke Park Abseil reinforced its reputation as a flagship Sightsavers Ireland event, bringing together adventure, community, and purpose. The event is made possible thanks to fantastic partners like adventure.ie, as well as the critical support of An Post Insurance.



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Sightsavers Ireland supporters taking part in the annual Abseil for World Sight Day at Croke Park, Dublin.

© Sightsavers Ireland/Emma Murphy



Sightsavers Sierra Leone Country Director, Tiangay Gondoe, with Sightsavers Ireland Board members Joan Burton, Adrian Harpur, Brian Dawson, Vicki Casserly, and Ann-Marie Walsh at the Sightsavers Ireland annual event in Dublin.

Our global voices in Ireland

In November 2025, Sightsavers Ireland welcomed Tiangay Gondoe, Sightsavers Country Director for Sierra Leone, to Ireland for a series of engagements with supporters, partners, policymakers, and funders.

Visits such as these provide an important opportunity to bring the perspectives and experiences of programme teams directly into conversations with Irish stakeholders. During her visit, Tiangay met with representatives from Irish Aid, including Sightsavers Ireland's Irish Aid partner lead, as well as corporate partners and political representatives. Together with Sightsavers Ireland CEO Ciara Smullen and Head of Communications and Public Affairs Emma Murphy, she also met with Minister of State for Charities, Gaeltacht and the Islands & Rural Transport, Jerry Buttimer TD, to discuss the importance of disability-inclusive development and the impact of programmes supported by Ireland overseas.

A particular highlight was Sightsavers Ireland's end-of-year supporter event in Dublin, where Tiangay spoke directly with supporters about the impact of programmes in Sierra Leone. Through stories of resilience, leadership, and inclusion, she helped bring to life the real and lasting difference made possible through the generosity of supporters, partners, and funders, including Irish Aid.

By connecting decision-makers and supporters in Ireland with the people leading programmes on the ground, these exchanges help strengthen partnerships, deepen understanding, and ensure that local voices and expertise are at the centre of discussions about international development. They also reinforce the shared commitment between communities, programme teams, and Irish stakeholders to creating lasting, inclusive change.

Our 2025 highlights



© Sightsavers/Carmen Abd Ali

80-year-old Ndiatté, a patient who went through trachoma surgery, photographed in front of her house while on her way to sell fruits in Touba, Senegal.

© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan



Participants at the inaugural Solas na mBan International Women's Day event in Dublin in 2025.

Solas na mBan – creating space for disabled women's leadership and global solidarity

To mark International Women's Day 2025, Sightsavers Ireland hosted Solas na mBan, a vibrant public event that brought together women leaders, activists, and advocates with disabilities to explore disability rights, gender equality, and global citizenship. The event created a welcoming and affirming space where women with disabilities could connect, share their experiences, and speak directly about the changes they want to see, both in Ireland and globally.

Through panel discussions and conversation, participants highlighted how disability intersects with key global issues including education, climate justice, international development, and public policy. As Emma Murphy, Sightsavers Ireland's Head of Communications and Public Affairs, reflected: "Having so many women who are advocates for persons with disabilities in one room, talking about the work they are doing to advocate for themselves and others, is incredibly powerful."

For many attendees, Solas na mBan offered something rare: a space where women with disabilities were not being spoken about but were speaking for themselves. The event also connected Irish perspectives with global disability movements, drawing attention to shared barriers faced by women with disabilities in countries such as Sierra Leone and Cameroon, and reinforcing disability inclusion as a global issue requiring collective action.

Solas na mBan strengthened Sightsavers Ireland's collaboration with organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) in Ireland and supported ongoing links with OPD partners across West and Central Africa through Irish Aid supported programmes. By centring lived experience, the event demonstrated clearly that women with disabilities are not passive recipients of support, but active advocates, experts and decision-makers shaping more inclusive societies. As participant Emily Conway, jazz singer and disability advocate, shared: **"An event like this shows the value of the disabled experience — it's a validation, a support, and a celebration."**

As part of Sightsavers Ireland's Global Citizenship Education programme, Solas na mBan played a key role in deepening public understanding of disability rights and gender equality, while encouraging audiences to see global inclusion as a shared responsibility and a vital component of a just and equitable world.

WPAY30 – Global youth leadership in action

In 2025, youth leadership within Sightsavers Ireland's GCE programme reached a global stage. James Casserly, Sightsavers Ireland's Equal World Champion, was invited to address the United Nations General Assembly during the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY30). His contribution highlighted the importance of disability inclusive development and youth leadership, reinforcing Ireland's voice in global advocacy spaces.

James's engagement exemplified the programme's commitment to supporting young people with disabilities to lead, influence policy, and shape global conversations. His participation also reflected the strength of Sightsavers Ireland's approach to youth engagement, linking local learning with global advocacy and ensuring lived experience remains central.

© Sightsavers



Sightsavers Equal World Global Youth Champion, James Casserly, at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2025.

James's work through Sightsavers with the UN Youth Office on their #YouthLead initiative, focuses on the importance of ensuring young people are actively involved in shaping global decisions that affect their lives. Bringing together perspectives from youth advocates and participants at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week, the campaign highlights calls for meaningful participation, intergenerational collaboration, and greater accountability from global leaders on youth issues.

James in his address reflects on the importance of collaboration, inclusion, and ensuring young people are part of shaping solutions for the future.

"Collaboration between each generation means inclusivity, people working together, organisations working together, and an equal world for all, where everyone feels included and working together."

WPAY30 marked an important milestone moment for youth engagement at the United Nations, taking place during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. The anniversary event brought together governments, youth leaders, civil society organisations, and UN agencies to reflect on progress made over the past 30 years, identify ongoing challenges, and discuss how to accelerate action through intergenerational collaboration.

Sightsavers Ireland and the Equal World campaign were very proud to support James's participation at UNGA80 and WPAY30 and the World Social Summit, where he demonstrated the importance of meaningful youth engagement and representation in his role as Sightsavers Ireland Equal World Champion.



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Ndack, a patient who went through trachoma surgery, photographed in front of her family house in Touba, Senegal.

Senegal eliminates trachoma as a public health problem

In 2025, Senegal became the latest country where Sightsavers-supported programmes contributed to the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem.

This significant milestone reflects years of collaboration between communities, governments, health workers, and partners to tackle one of the world's leading infectious causes of blindness through surgery, medication distribution, health education, and improved hygiene practices.

The achievement marked an important moment for regional eye health progress and reinforced the impact of long-term partnership and investment in neglected tropical disease programmes.

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Moderator and panellists at the Sightsavers Ireland Film Festival, A Vision for Action, held in October 2025 (L-R Ciara Smullen, Grace Massah, Rafiat Agbona, Tom Jenkinson).

A Vision for Action Film Festival

To mark World Sight Day 2025, Sightsavers Ireland hosted the Film Festival – A Vision for Action, a flagship public event within our wider Sight Month campaign. The festival brought together supporters, advocates, students, policymakers, and members of the public for an evening of film, discussion, and shared reflection on the global impact of avoidable blindness and the importance of ensuring access to eye health for all.

Through a curated programme of short films and documentaries, the event highlighted the life-changing difference that sight-saving interventions can make for individuals, families, and communities. The screenings explored themes including cataract treatment, equitable access to services, the experiences of people living with visual impairment, and the role of eye health in supporting education, independence, and livelihoods worldwide.

By placing personal stories at the centre of the conversation, the event helped audiences connect with the realities of global eye health inequalities and the transformative power of restoring sight.

Following the screenings, a panel discussion brought together expert and lived perspectives on the role eye health plays in shaping opportunity and inclusion.

Panellists included Tom Jenkinson, Senior Content Producer at Sightsavers; Grace Massah, pharmaceutical and med-tech professional and advocate with albinism; and Rafiat Agbona, a visually impaired student and youth activist. Together, they explored how access to eye care can influence education, employment, and participation in society, and reflected on the importance of storytelling in building awareness and momentum for change.

The festival was presented in partnership with the Irish Arts and Human Rights Festival, reinforcing the role of culture and storytelling in advancing awareness of global justice issues. It also supported the objectives of our Sight Month campaign by helping to position Sightsavers Ireland as a leading national voice on eye health, raising awareness of avoidable blindness, and highlighting Ireland's contribution to addressing global inequalities in access to services.

By connecting audiences in Ireland with stories from communities around the world, A Vision for Action created a meaningful platform for engagement and dialogue. The event encouraged participants to see eye health not only as a medical priority, but as a foundation for equality, opportunity, and sustainable development, and inspired continued support for the work of Sightsavers to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has the right to sight.

Investing in disability-inclusive youth empowerment at UNGA80

In September 2025, during the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), Sightsavers Ireland co-hosted a High-Level Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable on Investing in Disability-Inclusive Youth Empowerment alongside Irish Aid and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations.

Held in New York, the event brought together ministers, senior government officials, youth advocates, and development partners to discuss how to strengthen inclusion and participation for young people with disabilities. Speakers included Sightsavers Ireland CEO Ciara Smullen, Irish Aid Director General Michael Gaffey, Sightsavers Equal World Global Youth Champion James Casserly, and Minister for International Development and Diaspora Neale Richmond TD.

Discussions focused on the importance of investing in inclusive education, youth leadership, and meaningful participation, while addressing the barriers that continue to exclude young people with disabilities from decision-making spaces.

The roundtable reinforced Ireland's leadership on disability-inclusive development and highlighted the importance of ensuring young people with disabilities are not only included, but empowered as leaders and changemakers.

© Sightsavers Ireland



Participants at the Sightsavers high-level ministerial roundtable on youth with disabilities hosted in the Irish Mission in New York during UNGA 2025.

Our year in pictures



© Sightsavers/Aidan Gerard

Sightsavers Ireland Board Member, David Donoghue, Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora, Neale Richmond TD, and Director General of Irish Aid, Michael Gaffey, speaking at the joint Irish Aid and Sightsavers Ireland High-Level Ministerial Roundtable Meeting on Investing in Disability-Inclusive Youth Empowerment at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.



© Sightsavers/Ben Ryan

Deaf activist Lydia taking part in a Sightsavers Ireland led panel discussion on inclusion with Leon Diop at the All Together Now Festival 2025 as part of the Global Solidarity Hub, an Irish Aid funded Global Citizenship Education initiative in Ireland.

© Sightsavers/Alyssa Marriner 2025



James Casserly, youth champion for Sightsavers' Equal World campaign, and Hildegarde Naughton, Minister of State for Disability, before the 'Youth Leadership Now' side event hosted by Sightsavers, UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin, Germany.

© Sightsavers



The Sightsavers Ireland delegation and the Irish Aid delegation with Minister of State for Charities, Gaeltacht and the Islands & Rural Transport, Jerry Buttimer TD, at the World Social Summit in Doha, Qatar, in November 2025.



© Sightsavers/Maisie Jones

Fionn, one of our amazing team of runners in the 2025 Dublin Marathon, proudly holding his medal after completing the marathon in October.



© Sightsavers

Ousmanou, pictured here at the Sightsavers Cameroon office, was supported to become elected as a youth senator as part of the Irish Aid funded Citizenship and Political Participation programme run by Sightsavers in Cameroon.



© Sightsavers/Emma Murphy

Frank Ward, Bank of Ireland, Tiangay Gondoe, Country Director Sightsavers Sierra Leone, Ciara Smullen, CEO Sightsavers Ireland, Lauren Herbert, Sightsavers Ireland, and Brian Dawson, Sightsavers Ireland Chair, at the annual Sightsavers Ireland end of year event for supporters and friends of the organisation.

Financial review 2025



© Sightsavers/Carmen Abd Ali

50-year-old Aminata, a patient who went through trachoma surgery, photographed plucking chickens at a market in Touba, Senegal.

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

Brian Dawson

Joan Burton

Daragh Fahey (retired February 2026)

Joyce Luma

Barbara O'Reilly

Una Murray

Adrian Harpur

Ann Marie Walsh

Vicki Casserly (appointed September 2025)

Directors

Chairperson: Brian Dawson

Joan Burton

Daragh Fahey * (retired February 2026)

Barbara O'Reilly **

Una Murray **

Joyce Luma**

Adrian Harpur*

Ann Marie Walsh*

Vicki Casserly (appointed September 2025)

* 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

Key Staff

Ciara Smullen
CEO

Wim Desmedt
Head of Individual Giving

Moira Horgan
Head of Strategic Partnerships
(resigned February 2026)

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

The Directors present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

1. Objectives and activities

Founded in 1950, the global Sightsavers organisation 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 the Irish public, 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 assistance, as well as a small selection of grants from 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.

Our Charitable Objects

Sightsavers Irelands' charitable objects are contained in our founding Constitution and include: to advance health, with particular emphasis on preventing and/or curing blindness; to advance the education of people with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on blind people; and to prevent or relieve poverty among people with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on blind people.

2. Review of 2025

The global organisation Sightsavers continued to demonstrate a strong performance in 2025. Overall, 2024 activity levels were exceeded for cataract surgeries, eye health treatments (including the distribution of spectacles), NTD surgeries performed, children with disabilities supported in schools, community drug distributor targets, and professionals gaining qualifications or being supported on eye health and NTD short courses. Targets for examinations, people with disabilities receiving training, and professionals supported on short course training on education and inclusion topics were also exceeded. As a direct result of Sightsavers' interventions we continue to see an increase in the estimated population no longer requiring treatment for at least one NTD.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eye health				
People examined	8,816,597	10,119,070	9,872,883	**9,797,310**
Eye health operations (including cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy)	473,290	495,211	515,443	**536,530**
Cataract operations	451,873	473,270	497,182	**509,236**
Spectacles dispensed	782,037	920,667	872,922	**946,513**
Neglected tropical diseases				
NTD treatments	137,324,843	60,820,342	103,119,066	**97,011,407**
Treatments for trachoma	14,449,069	6,241,621	3,710,897	**4,383,322**
Treatments for river blindness	46,958,395	20,938,627	37,777,029	**46,577,026**
Treatments for lymphatic filariasis	53,669,105	16,043,423	28,963,274	**10,793,448**
Treatments for soil-transmitted helminths	14,430,770	5,584,249	15,443,497	**13,004,412**
Treatments for schistosomiasis	7,817,504	12,012,422	17,224,369	**22,253,199**
NTD operations (hydrocele and trichiasis)	29,857	18,539	14,463	**16,675**
Education and inclusion				
Children with disabilities being supported in school	14,058	5,863	5,480	**6,072**
People with disabilities who received training	24,366	29,288	36,254	**22,235**
Human resources				
Health workers trained to gain professional qualifications	12	3	11	**23**
Professionals supported on health short courses	60,315	56,577	44,964	**63,569**
Professionals supported on education, inclusion and climate short courses	19,312	8,819	18,912	**10,339**
Community support				
Volunteers and community members trained	246,769	120,695	126,354	**202,492**

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 9.8 million eye examinations in 2025, in 46 projects across 16 countries. This exceeded the target by 20 per cent, although the conducted examinations represent a one per cent decline from 2024's output. At primary level, examinations were conducted through project teams implementing programmes in schools, eye camps, and other primary care settings. Just over 50 per cent of beneficiaries were female.

Once again over 500,000 cataract surgeries were delivered, achieving the annual target and exceeding our 2024 performance by two per cent. Surgeries were delivered across 36 projects in 15 countries, with India contributing more than 75% of all procedures. The number of female beneficiaries increased by nine per cent compared with 2024. Strong partnerships and targeted awareness campaigns contributed to this success in 2025. Bangladesh and Liberia recorded the highest proportion of female beneficiaries at 55 per cent, underscoring strong progress toward equitable access.

We delivered over 1.9 million eye health treatments in 2025, including the distribution of 946,513 spectacles through 46 projects across 15 countries. This reflects an eight per cent year on year increase in spectacles dispensed, with India accounting for nearly 75 per cent of all distributions. As in 2024, Zimbabwe and Kenya recorded the highest proportions of female beneficiaries at 68 per cent and 66 per cent respectively. Notably, 13 of the 15 countries reported that over half of all beneficiaries were women, marking an increase from 10 countries in 2024.

b. Neglected tropical diseases

In 2025, the global organisation helped to deliver over 97 million NTD treatments across 15 countries. The quality of our treatment programmes remained high, with 96 per cent of districts achieving or exceeding their minimum threshold for population coverage.

Due to our collaboration with health ministries and other partners, an estimated 132 million people across Africa now no longer require treatment for one or more NTDs. Two of the countries we have worked with — Senegal and Egypt — successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health problem last year.

We also made strong progress in supporting people affected by hydrocele, lymphedema, and trichiasis across 16 countries. Hydrocele is a swelling in the scrotum caused by lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic infection that can lead to pain, disability, and social stigma. Lymphedema, also caused by lymphatic filariasis, involves the long-term and often debilitating swelling of legs or other body parts. Trichiasis, the advanced stage of trachoma, occurs when a person's eyelashes turn inward and scratch the eye, risking permanent blindness.

We supported 7,666 hydrocele operations in 2025 — the highest number of such operations we have facilitated in a single year to date — representing a 267 per cent increase from 2024. We facilitated 21,207 training sessions for patients and carers on managing lymphedema symptoms at home, achieving 223 per cent of our annual target. We also helped countries to manage 10,967 cases of trichiasis, which included providing 9,009 operations.

These outputs include contributions from our consortium partners.

c. Education

In 2025, the global organisation supported inclusive education across 15 countries through schools-based support, provision of education materials, assessments and referrals for specialist support, support and training for parents, equipping schools to support learning for children with disabilities, and the training of teachers and other education professionals on inclusive education.

In Uganda, we strengthened local capacity by training 792 teachers and education service providers on inclusive education topics, enhancing their ability to meet the learning needs of children with disabilities.

We provided formal support to 6,072 children with disabilities in Sightsavers-supported schools and learning centres in five countries (India, Malawi, Mali, Senegal, and Zambia). This represented 90 per cent of the annual target. Overall, 49 per cent of children supported in schools were girls.

d. Social inclusion including economic empowerment

In 2025, the global organisation provided training to over 22,000 people with disabilities on topics such as basic living skills, inclusive development, livelihoods, employability, and employment, exceeding our annual target by eight per cent. We supported 216 beneficiaries in Senegal's Economic Empowerment project, with strong results driven by the commitment of job seekers and the effectiveness of face to face training sessions.

In combination with training, projects in our Economic Empowerment portfolio reported that over 860 people with disabilities improved their employment status, with 188 recorded as starting new businesses and 673 securing new employment. Overall, 39.5 per cent of those reported were female, and 90 per cent of the female target was achieved.

We also continued to support OPDs, civil society organisations (CSOs), employers, and businesses with training on inclusive development across five countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania), reaching 86 bodies, including 41 OPDs and 21 CSOs.

e. Human resource development

In 2025, the global organisation continued our work to develop human resources for our health, inclusion, and education programmes.

We trained almost 74,000 professionals on eye health, NTDs, education, inclusion, and climate, representing a 16 per cent increase in the total number of beneficiaries. As in 2024, most of the training was delivered to education and primary health care workers as part of GiveWell projects in Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria. We also supported 23 professionals to gain qualifications across five countries (Mozambique, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and Nigeria) — this included two cataract surgeons in Senegal and 11 ophthalmic technicians in Mozambique.

202,492 community level volunteers were trained across our programmes in 2025, representing a 60 per cent increase. 188,886 of the trained volunteers 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 the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Liberia, and the GiveWell projects in Nigeria and Cameroon. In addition, 2,194 volunteers received training on education and inclusion topics. Most notably, the Irish Aid funded ICSP Citizenship and Political Participation programme in Cameroon trained 1,287 participants on institutionalising inclusive practices and strengthening systemic inclusion for people with disabilities.

f. Environmental and climate change activities

Extreme weather events continue to impact the work of Sightsavers, an example being March's Cyclone Jude, which destroyed infrastructure and affected supply chains in Mozambique. Very few of our programmes are not, or will not be, affected by climate change in some way. We continue to shift to a climate-smart approach for all programmes and operations, with a focus on increasing their climate resilience while lowering their environmental impact wherever possible.

To support vision centres to become climate resilient, we completed an environmental sustainability toolkit in 2025. The toolkit (funded by Irish Aid) is aligned with climate adaptation and climate-smart approaches, and will be rolled out during 2026.

Another example of our climate smart approach can be seen in Ghana, where a disability-inclusive emergency preparedness and climate change training manual was created, highlighting how climate change affects people with disabilities, and what needs to be included in disability-inclusive emergency preparedness plans.

In 2026, the global organisation will reflect on the progress that has been made against our three-year climate action goals launched in November 2023 and will be considering what comes next.

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 and can be found at www.sightsavers.org/policies.

Irish Aid

Sightsavers Ireland continues to be deeply appreciative of the funding provided through the critical partnership with the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Irish Aid. We are truly encouraged at the positive transformation and level of progress that has been achieved in 2025, the third year in implementing Ireland's Civil Society Partnership Grant for a Better World (ICSP). This important programme continued to support and deliver positive 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 Ireland.

In 2025, our ICSP programme focused on further embedding disability and gender inclusion within national systems in West and Central Africa. With the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) support, we strengthened education, health, governance, and climate resilience systems, ensuring that those furthest behind — women, girls, and people with disabilities were reached, and meaningfully included in policymaking.

In eye health, interventions continued to reduce avoidable blindness by targeting women, girls, and people with disabilities. In Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, 11,693 cataract surgeries were provided, and 53% of patients were women. In Liberia, strategies centred on community outreach and awareness activities in hard-to-reach areas ensuring access for those most marginalised, particularly among women and people with disabilities, dispelling myths and encouraging community service uptake.

Our inclusive education systems strengthening work supported the validation of national policies and the adoption of inclusive tools in Senegal and Cameroon, embedding disability and gender within education systems. This has enabled schools to better identify and respond to children with disabilities' needs. Across both countries, ICSP funding helped 47 ministries, directorates, and institutions strengthen their capacity and commitment to inclusive education.

In Cameroon, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, collaboration with local and national stakeholders on citizenship and political participation enabled women with disabilities to shape decision-making and expand leadership; in Senegal, 37 women trained in disability sensitive budgeting and inclusive local development (ILD) secured council funding for Inclusive Communal Development Plans.

In 2025, Sightsavers continued to strengthen climate resilience across West and Central Africa by integrating renewable energy in Liberia, ensuring inclusive adaptation planning in Senegal, and providing psychosocial support into social, health, and education systems in Cameroon. These actions enabled at-risk communities to better mitigate, adapt, and respond to climate impacts.

Innovations in our GCE programme, such as virtual reality (VR) headsets and a live virtual exchange linking Irish schools with an inclusive school in Cameroon, deepened understanding of disability inclusive development.

ICSP achievements in 2025 demonstrate the critical importance of this partnership as it drives systemic change, expanding access to services, and strengthening resilience for those furthest behind.

However, challenges remain, particularly around sustainable funding with USAID's 2025 withdrawal and the contraction of funding from many other traditional donors creating significant gaps in health and education systems that will continue for the foreseeable future. Stigma and discrimination also persisted, particularly in Cameroon and Senegal, where entrenched attitudes limited women's access to governance.

We will continue to address these challenges through activities planned for 2026 and beyond. Sightsavers Ireland remains focused on consolidating 2025 gains, scaling inclusive models, and ensuring disability inclusive development delivers lasting impact aligned with Ireland's priorities on equality, gender, sustainability, and Locally Led Development.

European Commission

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 that has now come to a close, with the end of term evaluation near completion. The project aimed at enhancing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for youth with disabilities in four districts (Oyam, Nwoya, Gulu, and Amuru) in Uganda. Working with three key partners, Organisations of People with disabilities (OPDs), and business development partners, this initiative emphasised 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 focused on two primary objectives. Firstly, to seek 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. Secondly, it worked to amplify their voices in governance processes, to ensure a more inclusive business environment and stronger inclusion in decision-making structures such as Disability Councils and the Parish Development Model.

The project has now come to an end, with the majority of performance indicators having been achieved or exceeded, including employment related training completion (113%), entry into employment (97%), apprenticeships with Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (101%), and labour force participation (89%). Over the duration of the project notable achievements were recorded in the progress towards its objectives. These included:

- 372 young people with disabilities have secured jobs.
- 543 have completed employment related training.
- 124 MSMEs were supported under the project and demonstrated improved business resilience.

Access to formal financial services remained a challenge throughout the project however, this was mitigated through successful Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) approaches. Partnerships with OPDs and VSLAs have enhanced financial inclusion, while advocacy efforts have advanced disability inclusion in governance and policy. Despite a politically sensitive election period in late 2025, implementation continued without disruption.

The EU Delegation commended the programme's visibility, innovation, and impact. A clear exit and sustainability roadmap has been agreed with district stakeholders, ensuring continued youth participation in Parish Development Model planning, strengthened OPDs and youth wings, and ongoing advocacy on disability inclusion beyond the life of the project.

Ghana: strengthening civil society representation of women with disabilities in Ghana

Funded by the European Commission, this two-year project due to end in May 2026 aims to strengthen the capacity of two key Civil Society Organisations (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 organisation 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 organisational 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 organisations 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 organisations of women with disabilities

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

Over the duration of the project notable achievements were recorded in the progress towards its objectives. These included:

- Conducting capacity assessment of the co-applicant CSOs WODAO and ABAK designing tailored capacity strengthening interventions for each co-applicant which reached 122 staff, board members, and community agents. To promote organisational development and compliance, 14 strategic documents, 7 for each co-applicant, were developed. These included monitoring and evaluation strategies, finance manuals, resource mobilisation strategies, sustainability plans, and gender mainstreaming strategies, Climate Change Preparedness Plans, including two multi-year advocacy plans (2025–2027) promoting disability and gender rights and the review of other existing policy documents including the HR manual and safeguarding policies to make them more inclusive.
- Reached 586 participants against a target of 560 participants through our training of downstream organisations. These trainings on disability inclusion, gender mainstreaming, climate change, and safeguarding reached 47 downstream organisations and were conducted using tailored manuals developed to respond to the gaps identified in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) analysis, and the climate change assessment audit report. These trainings enhanced grassroot capacity and improved broad base advocacy responsive to the needs of their local populations, mainly disability inclusive and gender mainstreaming actions were implemented by the co-applicants and downstream organisations.

The project has progressed towards its implementation objectives solidly and is on track for close-out in May 2026 with the End Term Evaluation currently ongoing.

Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe: RADP — Realising the African Disability Protocol

This multi country, three-year project commenced in January 2025 and aims to support people with disabilities and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to participate in national governance and decision-making, promoting inclusion in policies and local development and promoting the adoption, ratification, and implementation of the African Disability Protocol (ADP).

It has an ambitious programme of activities seeking to build OPD capacity for advocacy, increase their voice and participation in decision making (especially for women and young people), and specifically to support the ADP.

It brings together a regional coalition of co-applicants that includes the Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA), the Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD), and the Africa Disability Alliance (ADA), as well as four national OPDs as project partners. It will also collaborate with the African Disability Forum.

The project teams across the three countries have continued to make good progress over the course of the first year of this project, with activities progressing as planned. Some notable achievements that have been recorded in year one of this project include:

- Following campaigning and questions in parliament by project partners, a commitment to ratify the ADP in 2026 was made in the Zambian parliament on 25 July 2025.

- Zimbabwe passed the Persons with Disability Act on 21 November 2025. This landmark achievement opens the door for full domestication of the ADP.
- The project launched its first mentorship programmes in Zambia and Malawi, with 26 disability activists participating. This focused on empowering women and youth with disabilities to take on leadership and advocacy roles within their networks. This activity will scale up further across all three countries this year.

Whilst the project has been progressing in a positive manner, one set back experienced in the initial months was the withdrawal of one of the co-applicants the Deaf Zimbabwe Trust (DZT) due to the loss of funding from USAID which has required that they scale back their operations.

Financial Review of 2025

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 2025, particularly in these challenging times.

In 2025, Sightsavers Ireland's overall income which is made up of both voluntary and institutional funding combined, totalled €8.4 million (2024: €8.2 million) — representing a 3.4% increase on 2024 for the organisation. There was a 5.8% growth in the voluntary income (€5.5 million vs € 5.2 million in 2024) which was primarily due to the once off €500,000 charitable trust grant received in August 2025. There was a slight decrease of 1.7% in grants received from institutional partners. The Irish Aid ICSP grant remained stable at €2.2 million, with funding from EU grants sitting at €687,348 (2024: €699,203) a minimal decrease based on the Zambia inclusive education programme coming to an end in December 2024.

Once again, the fundraising environment the Sightsavers Ireland team faced in 2025 was a difficult one. The ongoing cost of living crisis, continuous rises in fundraising costs and back-to-back emergency fundraising appeals causing donor fatigue and intense competition created a very challenging landscape to operate in. However, despite these challenges over the course of the year, our fundraising income channels remained stable across the team.

The individual giving fundraising programme of activities raised €4.2 million compared to €4.4 million in the prior year. The decrease in 2025 income in the individual giving programme was the result of a combination of contributing factors such as lower performing appeals, DRTV challenges, and a slight decrease in legacies. Whist the legacy fundraising performed strongly once again in 2025, it was not at the level of 2024. The income from legacies for 2025 stood at €359,420 (2024: €424,822) and comprised of 30 legacy gifts (2024: 29), which is the highest number received in recent years.

The income raised by the Strategic Partnerships team was one of the success stories for Sightsavers Ireland in 2025 (corporates, major donors, trusts and foundations) generating €1,354,667 in income (€810,000 in 2024) a record-breaking year for the team. This level of funding was largely down to a once off grant of €500,000 donated by the Tom Cunningham Trust whom the team had worked with, in the preceding two years.

Spending on charitable activities was at €5.3 million (€6.3 million in 2024, of which approximately €400,000 comprised unrestricted reserves accumulated in previous years). This amount was allocated as follows: 36% to Eye Health; 31% to Social Inclusion; 21% to Education; and 12% to Neglected Tropical Diseases.

There was an increase in Social Inclusion funding when compared to 2024, due

to the EC funded Realising the African Disability Protocol (RAD-P) grant that began in January 2025.

At a country level, charitable spending was highest in Senegal (€1 million (€1.5 million 2024), Sierra Leone (€715,000) (€831,000 in 2024), Cameroon (€543,000) (€645,000 in 2024), and Liberia (€646,000) (€636,000 in 2024). The charitable expenditure split across countries and 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 2026

Despite an ongoing challenging fundraising climate, Sightsavers Ireland closed 2025 in a strong position across all of the organisation's key pillars. The organisation continued to show resilience, adapting to a period marked by overlapping economic, geopolitical, and environmental crises. These pressures have intensified existing challenges, constrained charitable giving in Ireland, and at times affected the delivery of our programmes across West and Central Africa.

The international development sector will continue to face ongoing, and in some cases escalating, uncertainty. Geopolitical instability, constrained development budgets, and intensified humanitarian pressures are reshaping the aid landscape at pace. These dynamics continue to place our sector in a precarious position as we progress through 2026.

From a fundraising perspective, recruiting regular givers (RGs) continues to be the bedrock of sustainable fundraising and now in Sightsavers Ireland, the individual giving team has two solid and well-established acquisition channels in DRTV and face-to-face fundraising. The ability of the team to maximise the return on investment across both of these channels interchangeably is critical to the success of individual giving programme in years to come. The team plan to recruit 1,550 new RG donors over the course of 2026 through both of these recruitment channels.

Equally as important as acquisition, is retention and our focus on the supporters we already have. Attrition levels are monitored on a close basis and there are ongoing plans for new activities to grow the income from supporters that give to Sightsavers Ireland through our cash appeals, and to reactivate donors who have not supported us in recent years.

Our legacy campaign continues to deliver strong results and is an increasingly important channel in our long-term fundraising strategy. The team will continue to invest in legacy fundraising through a range of planned activities including the free Will service, social media communications and television advertising. The pipeline remains strong for 2026 and the activities above will ensure the pipeline continues to grow in the future to secure legacy gifts in years to come.

The income from Sightsavers Ireland major donors has been growing year on year and is an area of potential and strategic focus for the Strategic Partnerships Team in 2026, whereby we will nurture the existing relationships we have with these supporters and explore channels to recruit new supporters to support mission of Sightsavers Ireland.

Whilst Irish Aid income will remain stable, there is an expected slight decrease in revenue yielded by the EU grants in 2026, with the Uganda Economic Empowerment programme finishing in December 2025 and the Ghana Social Inclusion programme ending in May 2026. However, it is important to note that this variance will be

offset against the new EU funded Beyond Barriers programme in Pakistan launched in April 2026.

On a programmatic level, following a successful third year of implementing the ICSP grant in West and Central Africa, and finishing 2025 with an 'on-track' rating through our Programme Reporting Oversight process, we look to the delivery of the fourth year of the Irish Aid funded ICSP grant with great optimism. As in 2025 with the withdrawal of USAID funding, once again the early months of this year 2026 have seen a turbulent start to the year with the escalating conflict in the Middle East. Whilst these events have seen significant adverse global economic developments, it is not expected to have a material direct adverse impact on the financial position of both Sightsavers Ireland and the global organisation. However due to the rising cost of fuel, mitigating measures are being taken to monitor all travel arrangements.

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 pillars that underpin the positive outlook for Sightsavers Ireland in 2026.

- 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 contributed to 44% of fundraised income in 2025 (2024: 76%).
- 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, Irish Aid and the EU Commission that deliver robust programmes across four countries in West and Central Africa, as well as Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ghana, and Pakistan.

2026 marks the final year of our current Sightsavers Ireland Strategic Plan 2022—2026. While the goals and objectives remain relevant, the Senior Management Team believes this is an opportune moment to pause, reflect, and refresh our strategy. Over the coming months, we will engage with a range of internal and external stakeholders to ensure the future direction of Sightsavers Ireland is sensibly ambitious and aligned with the evolving global context.

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 reserve levels 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 2025 organisational performance and 2026 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 Ireland Programme Board (SIPB), 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 2025 Board and Committee meetings is provided below.

Board member attendance 2025	
Brian Dawson	4/4
Adrian Harpur	3/4
Barbara O'Reilly	3/4
Una Murray	4/4
Joan Burton	4/4
Daragh Fahey (retired February 2026)	0/4
Joyce Luma	3/4
Ann Marie Walsh	3/4
Vicki Casserly (appointed September 2025)	1/1

Finance and Audit Committee meeting attendance 2025	
Adrian Harpur	2/2
Daragh Fahey (retired February 2026)	0/2
Ann Marie Walsh	2/2

Sightsavers Ireland Programme Board meeting attendance 2025	
Una Murray	3/4
Joyce Luma	3/4
Barbara O'Reilly	3/4

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 Regulatory Authority's 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, that we 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 2025 and its business plans and strategy for 2026. 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 66. There was one appointment in 2025.

Neither members, nor directors, of Sightsavers Ireland received any remuneration for their work on the Board of Directors or its Sub-Committees in 2025. 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 reviews identified and potential risks of the organisation, and 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 2025, 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. Events after the balance sheet date

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: 12 June 2026

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sightsavers Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2025, which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland';
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

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

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

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

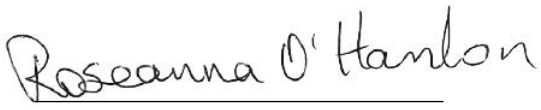
As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: 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

Crowe Ireland
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
40 Mespil Road
Dublin 4
Date: 16 June 2026

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 €	Restricted funds 2025 €	Total 2025 €	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Restricted funds 2024 €	Total 2024 €
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	4,875,383	2,868,184	7,743,567	5,042,105	2,399,434	7,441,539
Income from charitable activities	4	-	687,348	687,348	-	699,203	699,203
Other	4	-	-	-	10,766	-	10,766
Total income		**4,875,383**	**3,555,532**	**8,430,915**	**5,052,871**	**3,098,637**	**8,151,508**
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	2,603,521	-	2,603,521	2,468,460	-	2,468,460
Charitable activities							
Health – eye care	5/6	692,690	1,190,903	1,883,593	1,265,176	1,417,542	2,682,718
Neglected tropical diseases	5/6	505,375	146,266	651,641	822,560	143,318	965,878
Education	5/6	677,070	429,917	1,106,987	409,487	782,595	1,192,082
Social inclusion	5/6	336,648	1,308,015	1,644,663	513,057	906,381	1,419,438
Policy and research	5/6	-	7,075	7,075	(1)	1,613	1,612
Total charitable activities		2,211,783	3,082,176	5,293,959	3,010,279	3,251,449	6,261,728
Total expenditure		**4,815,304**	**3,082,176**	**7,897,480**	**5,478,739**	**3,251,449**	**8,730,188**
Net income / (expenditure)		**60,079**	**473,356**	**533,435**	**(425,868)**	**(152,812)**	**(578,680)**
Transfer between funds	14	(8,277)	8,277	-	147,712	(147,712)	-
Net movement in Funds		**51,802**	**481,633**	**533,435**	**(278,156)**	**(300,524)**	**(578,680)**
Total funds brought forward		665,907	38,348	704,255	944,063	338,872	1,282,935
Total funds carried forward	14	**717,709**	**519,981**	**1,237,690**	**665,907**	**38,348**	**704,255**

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 91 to 101 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Current assets			
Debtors	11	599,633	638,467
Cash at bank and in hand	12	1,783,596	1,406,401
		2,383,229	2,044,868
Creditors: amounts falling due	13	(1,145,539)	(1,340,613)
Net current assets		1,237,690	704,255
Total net assets		1,237,690	704,255
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	14	717,709	665,907
Restricted funds	14	519,981	38,348
		1,237,690	**704,255**

The notes on pages 91 to 101 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the directors

Brian Dawson Adrian Harpur

Date: 12 June 2026

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Cash flows from operating activities	Table A	377,195	336,679
Net cash from operating activities		377,195	336,677
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**377,195**	**336,678**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,406,401	1,069,723
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	Table B	**1,783,596**	**1,406,401**

Table A

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		533,435	(578,680)
Adjustments for:			
Increase in debtors		38,834	177,827
Decrease /(Increase) in creditors		(195,074)	737,531
Net cash from operating activities		**377,195**	**336,678**

Table B

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	12	1,783,596	1,406,401

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

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 R672.

1. 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.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable expenditure

Sightsavers works in low income 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 escalation of conflict seen 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 44% 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 our portfolio of high net worth donors that continue to provide important support
- Our vital collaboration with Irish Aid which delivers programmes across four Central and West African countries through the Irish Civil Society Partnership Grant (ICSP) continues to be a significant part of enabling Sightsavers Ireland to deliver its mission.

Eu Funding has remained steady with two EU-funded programmes coming to an end and a new one coming online in 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 qualitive 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

	2025 €	2024 €
Donations and legacies		
Individuals and Major Donors	4,136,166	4,272,331
Trusts	**683,739**	**174,773**
Companies	354,432	354,242
Other organisations e.g. churches, schools	9,810	15,371
Legacies	359,420	424,822
Irish Aid	2,200,000	2,200,000
	7,743,567	7,441,539

	2025 €	2024 €
Other		
Rental income	-	10,766

5. Direct charitable expenditure

	Health Eye Care €	Neglected Tropical Diseases €	Education €	Social Inclusion €	Policy & Research €	2025 €	2024 €
Bangladesh	176,069	-	-	-	-	176,069	409,870
Cameroon	-	144,443	209,682	188,462	-	542,587	644,554
Ghana	-	-	-	269,999	-	269,999	104,745
Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,217
India	117,505	-	-	-	-	117,505	232,488
Kenya	18,416	9,404	2,743	8,620	-	39,183	40,182
Liberia	497,025	149,408	-	-	-	646,433	636,397
Malawi	-	694	-	60,319	-	61,013	77,543
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,606
Mozambique	53,874	-	-	-	-	53,874	103,975
Pakistan	84,086	-	-	-	-	84,086	51,776
Senegal	435,395	57,772	250,665	286,945	-	1,030,777	1,159,633
Sierra Leone	346,167	128,010	25,516	215,904	-	715,597	831,000
South Sudan	-	30	-	-	-	30	-
Tanzania	42,596	-	-	-	-	42,596	110,816
Uganda	207	1,095	122,536	225,794	-	349,632	385,372
Zambia	(8)	-	150,763	132,397	-	283,152	340,264
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	170,923	-	170,923	-
Regional							
West Africa	10,562	62,491	2,347	5,477	-	80,877	150,257
ECS Africa	47,018	-	-	-	-	47,018	-
Central Support	779	1,460	359	414	-	3,012	2,919
Programme Technical Support	47,000	90,158	5,623	70,332	1,803	214,916	487,708
Advocacy, Communication and Education Programmes	6,902	4,898	336,753	9,077	5,272	362,902	382,406
Neglected Tropical Diseases	-	1,778	-	-	-	1,778	-
Direct Charitable Expenditure	**1,883,593**	**651,641**	**1,107,987**	**1,644,663**	**7,075**	**5,293,959**	**6,261,728**

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 €	2025 €	2024 €
Raising funds	-	2,368,839	234,682	2,603,521	2,468,460
Charitable activities					
Health - Eye Care	1,883,593	-	-	1,883,593	2,682,718
Neglected Tropical Diseases	649,863	1,778	-	651,641	965,878
Education	783,068	304,919	19,000	1,106,987	1,192,082
Social Inclusion	1,644,663	-	-	1,644,663	1,419,438
Policy and Research	7,075	-	-	7,075	1,612
Direct Charitable Expenditure	**4,968,262**	**2,675,536**	**253,682**	**7,897,480**	**8,730,188**

Support costs	2025 €	2024 €
Directorate	95,000	95,000
Governance		
External audit	12,685	12,331
Strategic review	344	3,186
Staff costs	80,111	77,345
Operational costs	65,541	77,796
	253,682	**265,658**

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:

	2025 €	2024 €
Auditors' remuneration	12,685	12,657
Operating lease – building	44,852	41,995

8. Staff costs

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Chief Executive	1	1
Fundraising and Communications	13	13
	14	14

Total employee remuneration for the year was:

	2025 €	2024 €
Wages and salaries	904,141	861,790
Social welfare costs	95,153	95,180
Pension costs	67,081	65,582
Other employee benefits	2,467	699
Total Sightsavers Ireland	1,068,842	1,023,251
Allocation of staff costs from Sightsavers	95,000	95,000
	1,163,842	1,118,251

8. Staff costs (continued)

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
€60,001 to €70,000	2	1
€70,001 to €80,000	0	2
€80,001 to €90,000	2	1
€90,001 to €100,000	0	0
€100,001 to €110,000	1	1
€110,001 to €120,000	1	1
	6	6

Key management personnel

Key management personnel include the Chief Executive and the senior management team. The total remuneration cost for the senior management team was €323,012 (2024: €314,583), including pension contributions of €17,068 (2024: €16,127).

The Chief Executive's total remuneration paid in 2025 amounted to €139,651 (2024: €136,568). Separately, employers' costs amounted to €12,879 PRSI (2024: €12,493) and €11,525 (2024: €11,280) in pension contributions.

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 2025 was €67,081 (2024: €65,583). The outstanding payable amount due at year end for 2025 was €NIL (2024: €NIL).

11. Debtors

(Amounts falling due within one year)	2025 €	2024 €
Prepayments and accrued income	590,879	635,855
Other debtors	8,754	2,612
	599,633	**638,467**

12. Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 €	2024 €
Restricted funds	795,028	210,787
Unrestricted funds	988,568	1,195,614
	1,783,596	**1,406,401**

13. Creditors

(Amounts falling due within one year)	2025 €	2024 €
Accruals and deferred Income	322,261	215,235
Sightsavers (note 18)	776,021	1,053,740
Payroll taxes	39,626	29,022
Other creditors	7,631	42,616
	1,145,539	**1,340,613**

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 2025 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers €	Balance at 31 December 2025 €
General Reserve	665,907	4,875,384	(4,815,305)	(8,277)	717,709
Total Unrestricted Funds	665,907	4,875,384	(4,815,305)	(8,277)	717,709
Restricted funds					
European Commission funds	-	687,348	(734,901)	47,553	-
Irish Aid funds	-	2,200,000	(2,161,114)	(38,886)	-
Other donations and legacies	38,348	668,183	(186,160)	(390)	519,981
Total restricted funds	38,348	3,555,531	(3,082,175)	8,277	519,981
Total Funds	**704,255**	**8,430,915**	**(7,897,480)**	**-**	**1,237,690**

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 (€8,277) 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	-	717,709	717,709
Restricted funds		519,981	519,981
	-	**1,237,690**	**1,237,690**

16. Leasing commitments

Sightsavers Ireland has a commitment to make future minimum lease payments under an operating lease expiring in November 2028. The obligation to make these lease payments falls due as follows:

Land and buildings	2025 €	2024 €
Within 1 year	36,900	-
Within 2 – 5 years	67,650	-
	104,550	-

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 €776,021 (2024: a balance owing to Sightsavers of €1,053,739).

	€
Amount owing 2024	(1,053,739)
Advanced	(3,702,486)
Repaid	3,980,204
Amount owing 2025	(776,021)

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 2025 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 the 9/06/26

Thank you



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The sport of hurling was introduced to Zainab at her school in Makeni, Sierra Leone, by Sightsavers Ambassador Padraic Mannion.

At Sightsavers Ireland, we know that meaningful and lasting change is only possible through partnership. Every achievement highlighted throughout this report reflects the collective efforts of individuals, communities, and organisations working together towards a more inclusive world.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our supporters, donors, corporate partners, trusts and foundations, institutional funders, volunteers, and Board members for their continued commitment and generosity. We are especially grateful to the Government of Ireland, through Irish Aid, and to the European Commission for their ongoing partnership and support.

We also wish to recognise the leadership and expertise of our programme teams, partner organisations, organisations of people with disabilities, government ministries, and the communities we work alongside across Africa and beyond. Their knowledge, commitment, and lived experience continue to drive meaningful and sustainable change.

In a year marked by global challenges and uncertainty, your partnership has enabled us to strengthen health systems, advance disability inclusion, support young leaders, and expand opportunities for people who are too often left behind.

Thank you for sharing our vision of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with disabilities can participate equally in society. Together, we are building a more inclusive future.



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Eveline advocates for the rights of people with disabilities as part of the Irish Aid funded Citizenship and Political Participation programme run by Sightsavers in Cameroon.

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



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