UN global compact communication on engagement

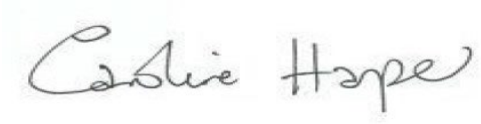
November 2026

Statement of continued support

It is my pleasure to reaffirm Sightsavers' continued support for the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and our commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

These principles remain reflected in our culture, strategy and operations, particularly our rights-based work to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities. During the November 2024 to November 2026 reporting period, we continued to embed the principles in our programmes, partnerships and organisational controls and to measure our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

We renew our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and will continue to strengthen how we apply and promote its principles through our work with governments, civil society, communities, organisations and other partners.



Dr Caroline Harper, CBE
Chief executive officer

Actions in support of the United Nations global compact principles

Human rights

Safeguarding our project participants and communities where we work is core to what we do at Sightsavers. We employ a global safeguarding team and have a network of designated leads based in all country offices to ensure our practice fully aligns with our policy. During programme design, risk of harm, abuse and exploitation are assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures are identified and incorporated into programme design and implementation. These are supported by the inclusion of safeguarding activities in the budgets for new projects.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) are both referenced in our safeguarding policy, and we work closely with partners and communities to ensure the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, in line with Global Compact principles one and two.

We do this through safe recruitment, due diligence assessments, training, incident response and strengthening of feedback mechanisms. We continue to invest in our safeguarding approach and champion the rights of all people we work with, particularly children, women and adults with disabilities.

During the reporting period, Sightsavers also completed its first Voluntary Stakeholder Review, published in February 2026. The review maps organisational indicators to specific Sustainable Development Goal targets and assesses our contribution through three complementary lenses: realisation through programme delivery, regulation through accountability and policy influence, and representation by ensuring that people with disabilities participate in SDG delivery and monitoring. This provides a more systematic evidence base for our rights-based approach and our commitment to leave no one behind.

Labour

Sightsavers maintains its zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and human trafficking within its operations and strives to act ethically and with integrity throughout its operations, partnerships and supply chains.

Sightsavers has in place a robust global anti-slavery policy, a copy of which can be viewed on our website at **www.sightsavers.org/policies**.

In compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (UK) we publish an annual statement which outlines the steps taken by Sightsavers to identify, prevent and address modern slavery and human trafficking throughout our operations and supply chains. This can also be viewed on our website at **https://www.sightsavers.org/how-were-run/accountability-and-transparency/slavery-human-trafficking-statement/**

During the reporting period, modern slavery considerations remained embedded in Sightsavers' partner due diligence and safeguarding arrangements. The due diligence tool includes modern slavery indicators to assess partners' existing controls, identify potential

risks and determine whether further information, mitigation or follow-up action is required. Modern slavery is incorporated into relevant safeguarding, procurement and due diligence training. Staff are provided with information on modern slavery risks, warning signs, reporting routes and the actions to take where concerns are identified. Progress is monitored through Sightsavers' modern slavery key performance indicators, which are reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant and effective.

In April 2026, the planned modern slavery training activity was completed, with 29 relevant staff participating. Between November 2024 and November 2026, 209 new partners were assessed using the modern slavery component of Sightsavers' due diligence tool. These activities supported the continued integration of modern slavery considerations into staff awareness and partner assessment processes.

Sightsavers' Disabled Employees Network (DEN) is an employee-led network open to staff who identify as people with disabilities. Its aims are to:

- Support the wellbeing of employees with disabilities by providing a safe space to share experiences and build solidarity.
- Improve their working experiences by identifying barriers and opportunities for organisational change.
- Provide lived-experience expertise and guidance to colleagues and the wider organisation.

The DEN also promotes greater understanding of disability across Sightsavers and creates opportunities for peer support and cross-team connections. Its updated strategy guides these activities through to the end of 2027.

Established in October 2020 Sightsavers' Racial Diversity Working Group (RDWG) helped to assess and address issues relating to racism within the organisation and promote racial diversity and inclusion. Its work focused on supporting positive organisational change, strengthening accountability, upholding Sightsavers' values of equity and inclusion, and increasing understanding of the cultural and racial diversity of our global workforce.

Following a review of the group's work and achievements in 2026, members concluded that the RDWG has successfully delivered its original objectives. The group therefore evolved into a new employee-led Racial Inclusion Network (RIN), which builds on this progress and continues to champion a racially inclusive culture across Sightsavers. A copy of our global equality and diversity policy can be viewed on our website at **www.sightsavers.org/policies**

Climate Change and the Environment

Sightsavers recognises that some of the world's most marginalised people, including people with disabilities, women and girls, are among those at greatest risk from the effects of climate change. Our programmes aim to incorporate appropriate adaptations that reduce the impacts of climate change on these communities and strengthen their resilience and ability to adapt.

Sightsavers also recognises that, as a global development organisation, we have a responsibility to monitor and limit our own environmental impact. Through this work, we support the environmental principles of the United Nations Global Compact and contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

In May 2026, we updated our thematic strategies and confirmed climate action as a cross-cutting priority across all five thematic areas: eye health, neglected tropical diseases, social inclusion, inclusive education and economic empowerment. Across our programmes, climate action is operationalised through:

"Strengthening inclusive systems so they remain accessible, equitable and sustainable under climate stress."

Our programmatic approach places particular emphasis on:

1. Strengthening health, education, economic and social systems so that they are more resilient to climate related disruption.
2. Improving the environmental sustainability of programme delivery through lower carbon and more resource efficient approaches.
3. Promoting equity and inclusion, particularly the inclusion of people with disabilities in climate action initiatives.

Within eye health, we are incorporating climate related risks into programme planning and design to improve project resilience. This includes using solar power where appropriate, training health workers and bringing services closer to communities through strengthened primary eye care systems.

In Inclusive Education, we are working to make schools more resilient to extreme weather events, supporting children with disabilities who may be disproportionately affected by climate change, and training teachers in inclusive and climate-sensitive approaches.

Through our Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Citizenship work, we support people with disabilities to participate in climate planning and decision-making processes and promote a just transition that includes workers with disabilities.

This programmatic focus builds on the work of Sightsavers' Climate Action Strategy Team (CAST), whose membership draws on a wide range of disciplines from across the organisation. CAST is the custodian of Sightsavers' three-year climate action goals, which cover programme activities, strategic and funding partnerships, policy and advocacy, evidence generation, governance and reporting, and organisational development.

We have made good progress against these goals since they were introduced in 2024. During 2026, we began reviewing and updating them for the next three-year period to maintain momentum and ensure that they remain aligned with our thematic strategies and organisational priorities.

We undertake horizon scanning to identify carbon-data and environmental-reporting requirements in the countries where we operate, and we monitor the carbon footprint of our offices. Environmental leads in our offices support monitoring, reporting and continual improvement. In the UK, we update our Carbon Reduction Plan annually and make it publicly available on our website: **https://www.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Sightsavers-carbon-reduction-plan-2025.pdf**

Our Environmental Operations Steering Group (EOSG), comprising members of the senior management team, provides oversight and guidance on environmental compliance and the monitoring and reporting of environmental activities. The EOSG is also responsible for oversight of the ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System for our UK office.

The UK office has maintained its ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System since achieving certification in 2023. The 2026 internal EMS audit confirmed that the systems remain effective and continues to provide assurance against the applicable ISO 14001 requirements, with no non-conformities identified and opportunities for further improvement recorded to support continued development and transition readiness for ISO 14001: 2026.

Anti-corruption

Sightsavers has a zero-tolerance approach to fraud, bribery, corruption and the financing or support of terrorism.

Sightsavers maintains policies addressing fraud, bribery, corruption, conflicts of interest and counter-terrorism financing. These policies are reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain appropriate to the organisation's activities, risks and regulatory obligations.

Sightsavers operates a global reporting mechanism, 'Speak Up', which can be used by Sightsavers beneficiary, employee, volunteer, partner, vendor, programme participant or other outside party to report any inappropriate conduct. Reports are assessed and, where appropriate, investigated and addressed through Sightsavers' established case-management processes. The platform can be accessed on our website at **www.sightsavers.org/speakup**.

Relevant staff receive training on fraud, bribery and corruption risks, warning signs, applicable controls and reporting routes. The training reinforces individual responsibility to report suspected wrongdoing and supports consistent application of Sightsavers' policies across the organisation. Sightsavers also undertakes proportionate screening and due diligence to identify whether relevant employees, partners, suppliers or other third parties are subject to applicable international and government sanctions. Screening arrangements and escalation procedures are reviewed periodically.

During the reporting period, reported concerns continued to be assessed through the established case-management process, and resulting remedial or control-improvement actions were monitored through to completion.

Our work to support the sustainable development goals

In addition to aligning our strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, Sightsavers also takes actions that advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of these actions are listed below and you can read more about how we are advancing the Sustainable Development Goals on our website at **www.sightsavers.org/sustainable-development-goals**

In February 2026, Sightsavers published its first Voluntary Stakeholder Review, a systematic assessment of our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. The review maps Sightsavers' organisational Learning, Accountability and Monitoring Progress indicators to individual SDG targets and identifies contributions to 29 targets across ten Sustainable Development Goals.

The review presents Sightsavers' contribution through three complementary lenses:

- **Realisation:** direct contribution through programme and service delivery.

- **Regulation:** supporting accountability, policy development and government delivery of the SDGs.
- **Representation:** supporting people with disabilities and their representative organisations to participate in decision-making, programme delivery and SDG monitoring.

The Voluntary Stakeholder Review reports, among other outcomes, that:

- Sightsavers' policy-influencing work contributed to progress under the regulation and representation dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. Working alongside governments, organisations of people with disabilities and other partners, key achievements during the reporting period included:

    i. approval of the Persons with Disabilities Act in Kenya and enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act in Zimbabwe;
    ii. implementation of the national inclusive education policy in Cameroon and validation of the inclusive education policy in Senegal;
    iii. ratification of the African Disability Protocol in Togo, Zimbabwe and Uganda;
    iv. integration of the World Health Organization Guide for Action into Côte d'Ivoire's national health policy; and
    v. validation of Nigeria's national strategy for the sexual and reproductive health rights of vulnerable people and persons with disabilities.

- More information covering the full range of policy influencing achievements is available on Sightsavers' website: **https://www.sightsavers.org/influencing-policy/resources/#annual-summaries-**
- These achievements reflect Sightsavers' contribution to policy and regulatory change, establishing mechanisms to hold governments to account in their delivery of the SDGs, as well as its work to support the participation of people with disabilities and their representative organisations in policy development and decision-making.
- Sightsavers-supported neglected tropical disease programmes have contributed to the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in seven countries (Pakistan, Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Togo and The Gambia), and lymphatic filariasis in Malawi. It reports that 65.9 million people no longer require mass drug administration for at least one neglected tropical disease.
- Sightsavers' economic empowerment programmes operate across 12 countries, supporting people with disabilities to participate more fully in the labour market through waged employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship and skills development.
- Inclusive health activities have reached 540,000 people with disabilities with targeted health information through radio and digital activities, while more than 1,500 health workers in Kaduna have been trained on disability inclusion and health equity.
- Work with government stakeholders and organisations of people with disabilities contributed to Pakistan and Bangladesh approving changes to their labour-force surveys, enabling disability-disaggregated labour data to be produced.
- These examples illustrate how Sightsavers works with governments, organisations of people with disabilities, civil society, communities and private-sector partners to advance the Sustainable Development Goals while supporting the United Nations Global Compact principles. The full Voluntary Stakeholder Review provides further information on the methodology, evidence, limitations and wider portfolio of contributions; it is publicly

available here: **https://www.sightsavers.org/influencing-policy/resources/#voluntary-stakeholder-reviews-**

Sightsavers will continue to strengthen the integration of the United Nations Global Compact principles across its programmes, partnerships and organisational operations. We will also continue to improve how we measure and communicate our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the learning and recommendations arising from our first Voluntary Stakeholder Review.