



# Highlights 2017



Sightsavers

Following her quick and painless cataract operation, Zamurrad said: "My husband has helped me a lot. But now I will look after him and he can go back to work"



# Welcome

Your outstanding support made 2017 another year to be proud of, enabling Sightsavers to save sight and transform lives in some of the poorest parts of the world. I'm delighted to share key achievements you've been part of and to thank you for the huge difference you're making to millions of people.

With your help we reached more people than ever and saw increased results in almost every area of our work. Our fundraising activities performed extremely well, and we even surpassed our Million Miracles target for cataract surgeries.

The quality of our implementation was officially recognized. Our institutional funding contracts were assessed at A+ or A++ by DFID, and we received a second 'Top Charity' recommendation for our deworming work by charity evaluator GiveWell. We were also honored to win the António Champalimaud Vision Prize for our work to tackle avoidable blindness in developing countries. And, touchingly, we got to share what turned out to be Professor Stephen Hawking's last public engagement, at an event to celebrate our one billionth NTD treatment.

Recent criticism of several NGOs over allegations of sexual exploitation led DFID and the Charity Commission to bring development organizations together to discuss new standards, and other issues in the sector have attracted criticism. We reviewed our policies and procedures, particularly around safeguarding and cyber security, and have made improvements where helpful. Your trust in Sightsavers is extremely important to us and we will continue to ensure we protect the people we serve – our beneficiaries.

The following pages will take you from quiet villages in rural Malawi to the bustling roads of Delhi, as you meet the people whose lives you've helped transform. We'll also share the numbers underpinning these stories, to show how you contribute to the bigger picture. I hope you enjoy this snapshot of 2017, and thank you once again for your fantastic loyalty and generosity.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Straney". The signature is stylized and fluid.

**Mike Straney**  
Director of Major Giving

# 2017 in numbers



**72,800**

professionals were supported on eye health short courses



**14 million**

people received an eye health examination



**157 million**

treatments were given against neglected tropical diseases such as trachoma and river blindness



**383,000**

people received glasses following eye examinations



**389,000**

eye operations were performed



**268,000**

community eye health volunteers were trained



**13,500**

people with blindness, low vision or other disabilities received training in their rights, employment skills, daily living tasks, mobility and orienteering

**You helped  
make this  
happen**

**Thank you**



Mrs Keita teaches visually impaired children alongside sighted students. She told us: "Inclusive education is so important as it allows children with visual impairment to be integrated into school and beyond"

Following her successful cataract operation, a smiling eight-year-old Suborna (third from left) can see her friends and family again



## 2017 key successes

Together we achieved some fantastic successes in saving sight, tackling painful, blinding diseases and enabling people with disabilities to enjoy equal rights

### Wiping out trachoma

There was a fall in the number of trichiasis surgeries for advanced trachoma compared with last year. This is because, with your help, we cleared backlogs in many districts. Together we've come another step closer to eliminating this terrible disease.

## Improving eye health

Our year-on-year performance increased most notably in India, where 80% more eye health examinations were undertaken than in 2016, particularly by the school and rural eye health programs you support. The high number of examinations was also driven by our successful Lady Health Workers project in Pakistan, along with expanded activities in Bangladesh, Mali, Sierra Leone and elsewhere. Growth in the number of glasses distributed came primarily from the expansion of projects in India and Bangladesh.

## Increasing eye surgery

You supported 21% more cataract surgeries in 2017 than in 2016, a fantastic achievement mainly driven by projects in Asia. In Africa, the completion of several large projects led to 3% fewer cataract surgeries being performed than in 2016. However, this was balanced by a 9% increase in surgeries through the multi-country Coordinated Approach to Community Health (CATCH) program. CATCH ensures that patients who visit trachoma screening camps with other eye conditions, such as cataracts, are given the treatment they need.

## Protecting against NTDs

You helped make 2017 a landmark year for tackling painful and blinding diseases including river blindness and trachoma. As you'll read on page eight, we delivered our billionth NTD treatment – an outstanding achievement. The biggest % increase was in treatments for schistosomiasis, thanks to activities funded by GiveWell in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Conakry and parts of Nigeria. You also helped us train more volunteer Community Drug Distributors, enabling us to reach those in desperate need.

## Ensuring education for all

The inclusive education programs you support aim to give children with visual impairments and other disabilities the chance to go to school and learn alongside their peers. These programs went from strength-to-strength in 2017, with a 50% increase in the number of children helped. We began new projects in Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Senegal and Mali, complementing our work in Kenya and Malawi. And our systems-strengthening approach in India performed extremely well too, benefiting many children with disabilities.

## Advancing social inclusion

2017 saw us expand and strengthen efforts to gain equal rights for people with disabilities, underpinned by the Empowerment and Inclusion strategic framework we developed in 2015. Cameroon and Senegal launched two political participation projects supported by Irish Aid, while Uganda launched a second livelihoods project under a Big Lottery Fund Grant. Evaluating the impact of our work is crucial, and we introduced innovative new measurement approaches to provide analytical evidence of how we are performing.

## Expanding skills and knowledge

Thanks to you, we're working hard to train more eye health and education professionals. Last year's training results were above target and showed an increase on 2016 figures, with the exception of professional cadres. Our improvements to data quality have changed the way we measure this, therefore results reduced year-on-year but stayed in alignment with our expectations. We did however achieve a huge +882% increase in the number of short education/inclusion courses provided. This was largely due to a successful modular training program in partnership with the state government of Bihar, India, to help teachers assess the learning outcomes of children with disabilities.

# Billionth breakthrough

Together we reached the historic milestone of delivering the billionth treatment against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

**Painful and debilitating diseases such as trachoma, river blindness and lymphatic filariasis affect around 1.2 billion people across the globe – especially the most poverty-stricken and vulnerable. They can cause severe and lifelong physical impairment, trapping individuals, families and whole communities in a cycle of poverty and social isolation. But our billionth milestone shows how positive collaboration on a global scale can achieve extraordinary results.**

We're incredibly grateful to the ministries of health, pharmaceutical companies, program partners and volunteer Community Drug Distributors (CDDs) who work with us to protect vulnerable communities, and to you, our amazing supporters for aiding these vital efforts. Yet we can't be complacent.

Our ultimate goal is to wipe out these diseases for good and, although we're making great progress, there's still a way to go. We must redouble our efforts at this crucial time and strengthen our commitment to endemic countries and communities. We also want to communicate the importance of our programs in new and creative ways, generating further support to eliminate NTDs. With your support, we'll go on working towards a world that's free from them, in which children like Dorcas (right) can have a safer, brighter future.

## Making history

**On 16 November 2017, seven-year-old Dorcas from Kaduna, Nigeria received our billionth treatment against NTDs.**

As Dorcas received her treatment against river blindness and lymphatic filariasis, the whole village celebrated – most of all her grandfather, Simon. He was infected with river blindness 30 years ago when it was rife in the village and, sadly, lost his sight. Simon has never seen Dorcas or her brothers and sisters, but he's happy and relieved to know they're now being protected and can live their lives free from disease and the risk of blindness.


## See the billionth treatment happen

You can watch the momentous moment and discover what it means to everyone at: [sightsavers.org/billionthvideo](https://sightsavers.org/billionthvideo)



All: ©Sightsavers/Graeme Robertson





**“I’m so excited to be a part of the celebration. I love my grandfather very much and don’t want other people to suffer like him. I hope that one day, all children will be free from these diseases”**

**Dorcas**

In Ajenejo community, Nigeria, CDD Gabriel Yusufu measures the height of Blessings Mathew to ensure she receives the correct dosage against river blindness and lymphatic filariasis





### Valued insight

We were honored to have the now late Professor Stephen Hawking lead the global celebrations to mark our one billionth NTD treatment.

Acclaimed physicist Professor Hawking highlighted the pioneering work of his father, Dr Frank Hawking, in treatments for lymphatic filariasis. Speaking at our billionth treatment event in Cambridge, Professor Hawking said:

*“Sightsavers and its partners have taken one billion steps towards combating NTDs. The smallpox, polio and Guinea worm programs all demonstrate that the last mile on the journey to elimination is always the most difficult. Therefore, much still remains to be done, if we are to reach our elimination targets. In any ambitious program, be it research into the farthest corners of the known universe, or the planned growth for an international health program, none of us can rest and assume that our current tools and resources are sufficient to achieve success.”*

Enjoy Professor Hawking’s speech in full at:  
[sightsavers.org/professor](https://sightsavers.org/professor)

# Miracle milestone

Your incredible support helped us reach our ambitious goal of funding one million sight-restoring cataract operations

**In October 2014, we launched our Million Miracles appeal, aimed at freeing hundreds of thousands of people from blindness caused by cataract. This was our biggest appeal yet, with an enormous \$50 million to raise in just four years. But with millions of people going needlessly blind for the sake of a straightforward cataract operation, we knew we had to try. You responded magnificently, and we're truly grateful.**

## Widespread support

Much of the income generously donated during the campaign was matched pound for pound by the UK government, through the UK Aid Match initiative. The most recent Aid Match scheme ran from 9 October 2017 until 9 January 2018, and helped us smash our target. We also received a grant from Virgin Unite to save sight in Tanzania and Bangladesh, as well as donations from Lions clubs across the UK and Ireland.

## Landmark launch

**To mark the start of our Million Miracles campaign, 82-year-old grandfather Winesi March kindly allowed us to broadcast his cataract surgery live via YouTube.**

Winesi helped us show the world how a quick, straightforward and cost-effective operation is like a miracle to the person receiving it. Thousands tuned in to see the procedure take place, and watched again when Winesi's bandages were removed and he saw his little grandson Luca for the first time.

This joyful moment caused a massive stir. The Telegraph, Independent, Daily Mail, Metro, Reader's Digest and numerous other media featured it on their websites, and Radio 5 Live, BBC World Service and many regional radio stations ran interviews with surgeon Dr Gerald Msukwa and Winesi. Further support came in the form of quotes and tweets from UK celebrities, including Richard E Grant, Lorraine Kelly, Matthew Wright, Dr Miriam Stoppard and Olly Murs.

So what of Winesi? We visited him recently to find out how he's doing. Three years after his operation his eyesight is still great and he's growing his crops, looking after his cows and providing for his loved ones again. He says it's like having a whole new life.

## See Winesi's miracle happen

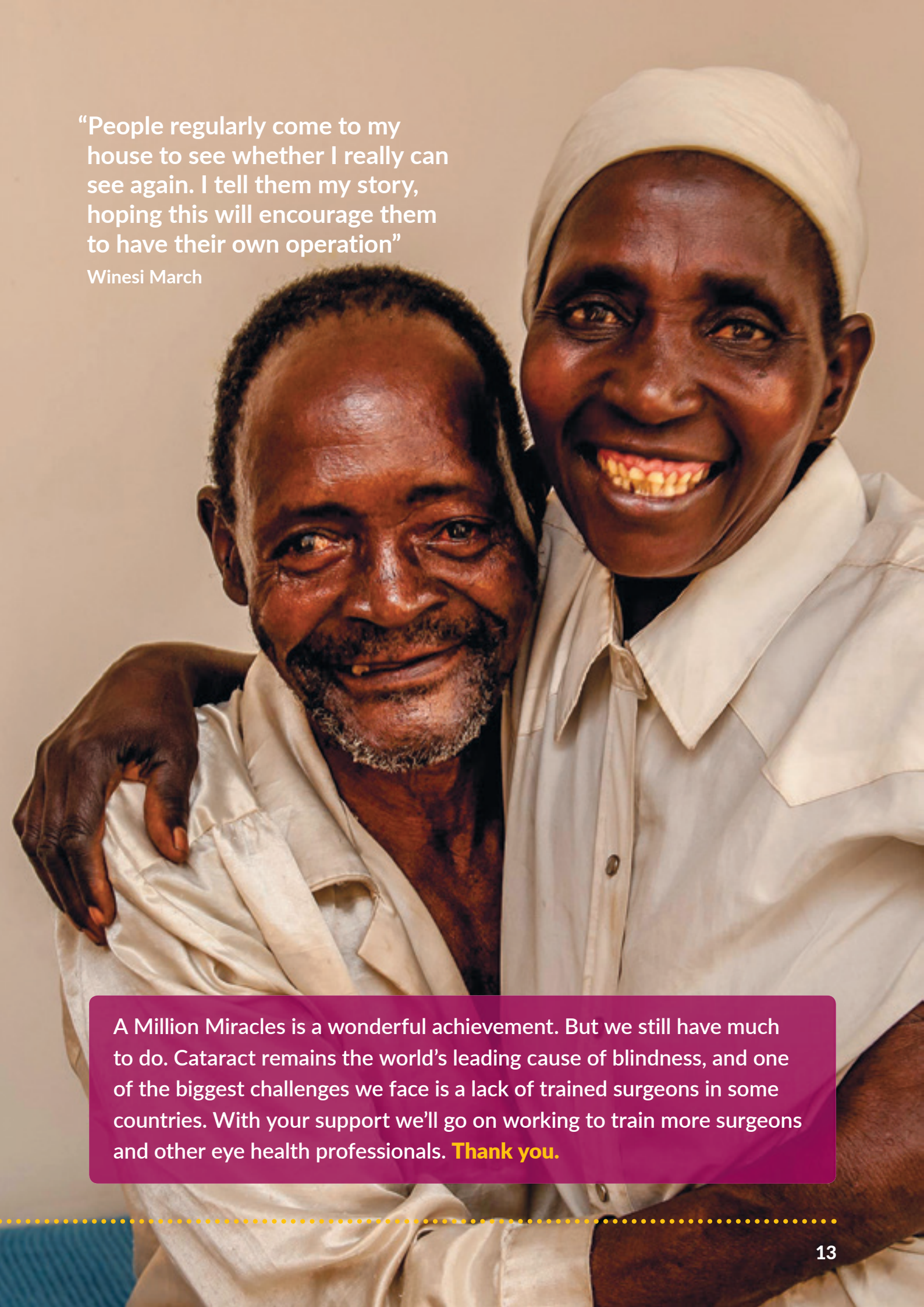
If you missed it first time round, you can watch the miracle moment when Winesi's bandages are removed now, at: [sightsavers.org/winesi](https://sightsavers.org/winesi)



All: ©Sightsavers/Rachel Palmer

“People regularly come to my house to see whether I really can see again. I tell them my story, hoping this will encourage them to have their own operation”

Winesi March



A Million Miracles is a wonderful achievement. But we still have much to do. Cataract remains the world’s leading cause of blindness, and one of the biggest challenges we face is a lack of trained surgeons in some countries. With your support we’ll go on working to train more surgeons and other eye health professionals. **Thank you.**

# Steering better vision

Our National Truckers Eye Health Program is ensuring India's truck drivers get the eye care they need

**Driving for two hours would tire most of us. Yet 24-year-old Sandeep Kumar is behind the wheel of his truck for around 14 hours a day, just to make a living.**

Sandeep ferries cargo across the country, mostly driving at night. He covers vast distances and spends long periods away from home to earn between 14,000 and 15,000 rupees (\$200-\$220) a month, which he sends home to his family. They depend on Sandeep, but he's worried about losing his job because he's having eyesight problems. He's not alone

A lot of driving happens at night, because trucks aren't allowed to cross state borders during the day. This is not only exhausting, it's dangerous, and accidents happen with alarming frequency. Astonishingly, poor eyesight could be putting almost half of India's nine million truck drivers at risk. Yet their transient lifestyles, lack of free time and limited income makes accessing eye care almost impossible. We've taken steps to improve this.

"If my eyesight had grown worse I'd have had no option but to leave my job. Now I won't have to"

Sandeep Kumar



## Driving change

In 2014, we began a pilot program to take eye care services directly to the drivers, and it's grown from there. So far, we've set up 29 screening stations along the main long distance haulage routes. Some are permanent vision centers, others are pop-up outreach camps, but all are in locations where drivers stop to rest or unload their cargo.

At the pop-up camps, local partner eye care teams literally set out their kiosks and begin screening in a matter of minutes. And that's great news for Sandeep. After having his eyes tested, he was prescribed with new glasses to improve his sight, so he can keep his job and continue to support his family. Every day, the eye care team see 80-100 people like him, proving there's a huge need for this service.

We're aiming to reach 500,000 truck drivers by the end of 2020, helping to improve road safety and give the drivers and their families much needed security for the future. With your support we'll do it.



All: ©Sightsavers/Claudia Janke



# >59,000

truck drivers were screened in 2017 for various eye conditions. As a result, 25,000 were provided with glasses

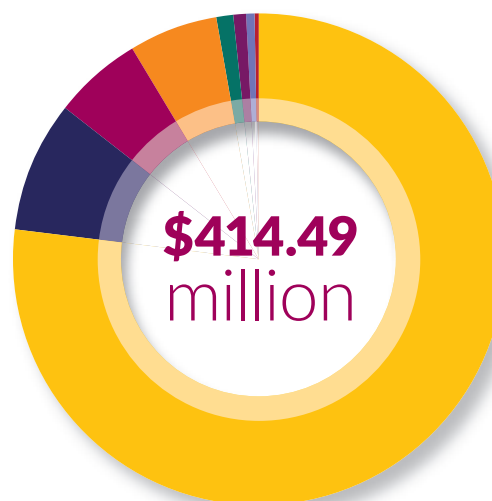
# Finances

## Global income



<b>\$320.17</b>	Gifts in kind
<b>\$38.10</b>	Grants from governments/NGOs
<b>\$31.64</b>	Individuals
<b>\$12.09</b>	Legacies
<b>\$3.38</b>	Companies
<b>\$5.93</b>	Trusts
<b>\$3.12</b>	Other

## Global expenditure

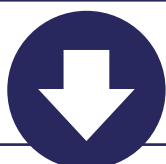


<b>\$319.47</b>	Gifts in kind drug donation
<b>\$35.95</b>	Neglected tropical diseases
<b>\$23.75</b>	Eye health
<b>\$24.91</b>	Costs of generating funds
<b>\$3.55</b>	Social inclusion
<b>\$3.46</b>	Education
<b>\$3.08</b>	Policy and research
<b>\$0.32</b>	Other

Figures represented in millions

2017	Sightsavers Inc	Sightsavers International Inc	Total
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions, donations and grant fundings	\$4,249,458	\$642,970	\$4,892,428
Contributions, gifts-in-kind	\$0	\$284,949,000	\$284,949,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,249,458</b>	<b>\$285,591,970</b>	<b>\$289,841,428</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Program services - grant expenses and donations	\$3,982,744	\$285,549,000	\$289,531,744
Management and general	\$39,768	\$27,341	\$67,109
Fundraising	\$191,527	\$0	\$191,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,214,039</b>	<b>285,576,341</b>	<b>289,790,380</b>

Sightsavers Inc. is the sister non-profit to Sightsavers – a global development organization headquartered and registered as a charity in the United Kingdom. Sightsavers International, Inc. is a separate 501 (c)(3) non-profit that operates primarily for the purpose of distributing the drug Mectizan® an in-kind drug donation from Merck & Co. Inc. Sightsavers International Inc. is sub classified as a 509 (1)(3) supporting organization of Sightsavers



You can download the Sightsavers annual report for more information: [sightsavers.org/annualreports](https://sightsavers.org/annualreports)



# Making a difference

We're committed to using your money wisely – where it can achieve the most benefit and have a high and lasting impact

In 2017, we were delighted to retain our status as one of only nine 'Top Charities' recommended by independent charity evaluator GiveWell, for our work in deworming. The high impact on children's health, relative to the low cost of providing treatment, has inspired other donors to give to Sightsavers, including the Giving What We Can Trust in the UK (recently merged with the Centre For Effective Altruism) and the Effective Altruism Foundation in Germany, which contributed via GiveWell.

Overall, we received more than \$3 million in 2017 from organizations affiliated with the effective altruism movement, and from individual donors inspired by its principles. We're especially honored to be recognized by these donors, following their rigorous, impartial analysis of our results and cost-effectiveness. We hope to continue working with them to provide solutions to the challenges facing the countries where we work, including intestinal worms and other Neglected Tropical Diseases.

## Effective altruism

The concept of value for money when giving to charity can be subjective and even controversial. But the term "effective altruism" has grown in popularity in recent years, as donors have sought to better understand the real impact of their charitable giving. The effective altruism movement aims to provide high quality evidence to help donors decide where their money will provide the greatest benefit.



## Healthy futures

**Our school-based deworming program in Guinea Bissau, funded by GiveWell, is protecting children's health.**

Audulai is head teacher of Djumbembe primary school in Farim. Today, as well as teaching his pupils, he helps administer the medicine that keeps them safe from schistosomiasis. It's making a world of difference to children like Aruna.

When we first came to Farim to screen for the disease, 90% of children tested positive, including Aruna. He had all the typical symptoms; severe stomach pains, headaches and blood in his urine. Aruna was often in too much pain to go to school, but this lively 12 year old is now well again and can go on to lead a fulfilling life. **Thank you.**

**"It's important for children to be physically and psychologically fit, in order for them to learn"**

**Audulai**

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# Thank you!

You helped make 2017 another outstanding year of sight-saving successes, and transformed the lives of millions of people in desperate need of help.

We're extremely grateful to all our individual donors, and the government ministries, trusts and foundations, corporate partners and fellow charities that make our life-changing work possible. We couldn't do it without you, and we hope you're proud of what we've achieved together.

## Trusts and Foundations

A G Leventis Foundation  
Arab Fund  
Bernard Lewis Family Charitable Trust  
Big Lottery Fund  
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust  
Carmen Butler-Charteris Charitable Trust  
Comic Relief  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Conservation, Food and Health Foundation  
GiveWell  
Good Ventures  
Henderson Charitable Trust  
Henry E Niles Foundation  
Icthius Trust  
IZUMI Foundation  
Lions Clubs International Foundation  
Lions Sight Savers  
Mrs Christina Goodall Charitable Trust  
Mrs K M F Maxwell-Stuart's Charitable Trust  
Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation  
Stichting Polar Lights  
Swedish Postcode Foundation  
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
The END Fund  
The Ingram Trust  
The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust  
Zochonis Charitable Trust

## Individuals

- Albert Edwards
- Ben Brodie
- Carole and Geoff Lindey
- Dr and Mrs Mark and Jan Scott
- Greg Nasmyth and Samantha Rowe-Beddoe
- Jane Thurnell-Read
- Ms Monica Giles
- Paul Green
- Trevor Norwood
- The David and Barbara Lawrence Memorial Fund

## Corporate partners

- Allergan International Foundation
- BGC Charity Day
- Dubai Duty Free
- eBay for Charity
- Engie
- Fondation d'entreprise Thea
- Fondation L'Occitane
- Paperchase
- Robert Bion & Company Ltd
- Rotork
- Standard Chartered
- Virgin Unite

## Institutions

- European Commission
- Irish Aid
- Jersey Overseas Aid
- The UK Government's Department for International Development
- The World Bank
- United States Agency for International Development

## NGOs

- Al Najat Charity Kuwait
- Helen Keller International
- Orbis International
- RTI
- The Fred Hollows Foundation
- The Task Force for Global Health

## Universities

- Imperial College London
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- University of Birmingham

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## Mailing address

One Boston Place, Suite 2600  
Boston, MA 02108  
(800) 707 - 9746

[info@sightsaversusa.org](mailto:info@sightsaversusa.org)

[www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org)



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