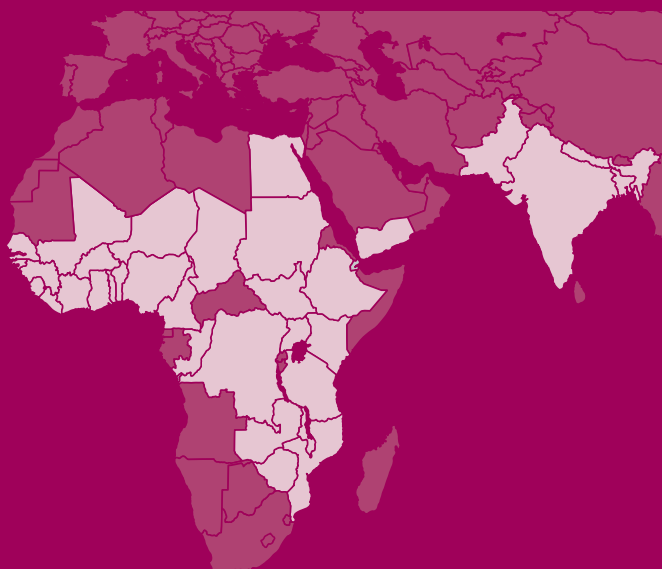


Sightsavers

capability statement

Sightsavers works in more than 30 countries globally to eliminate avoidable blindness and empower people with disabilities to participate equally in society. We create effective and innovative solutions to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion in health, education, employment and governance programmes. We enable access to quality health and education, lead the elimination of debilitating diseases, and fight for disability rights.

Our work



30 country offices across Africa and Asia.

A global team of over **800 staff** leading the design and delivery of programmes.

A portfolio of over **240 projects** in health equity and social inclusion.

Income of **£122m** in 2022 from UK aid, USAID, EC, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UN and more.

Partnerships with government ministries and local and national organisations of people with disabilities in over **30 countries**.

In our work, we:

- Design inclusive policies and innovative programmes to **leave no one behind**
- **Build partners' capacity** – especially organisations of people with disabilities – to engage in policymaking and decision-making
- **Strengthen national systems** to deliver sustainable services
- Address the double barriers faced by **women and girls with disabilities**
- **Catalyse transformative change** through campaigns and advocacy
- **Generate evidence and research** to inform programmes and global debates

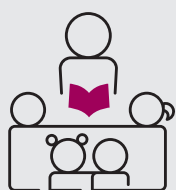


Sightsavers

Our expertise and impact

Social inclusion

Empowering women, men and children with disabilities to access education, health and livelihood opportunities – with a focus on gender equity.



20,000 children with disabilities supported to attend school and access quality education alongside their peers in 2021.

In 2021 alone, **57 policy changes** supported through advocacy, helping national policies, systems and services to be more disability inclusive.

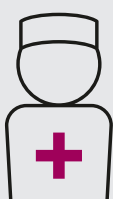
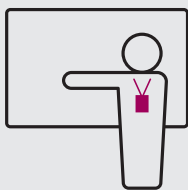


16.4 million

people reached to address negative stereotyping and discrimination of people with disabilities in the last five years.



Trained over **500 employers** to increase disability confidence, and over **2,300 people with disabilities** to develop employability skills in the last five years.



325,000 short courses delivered in the past 20 years to build capacity of health, education and social care workers to provide quality care to people with disabilities.

Health equity

Delivering health programmes at scale to eliminate trachoma and other debilitating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and ensure access to quality health services for all.



Working through community health volunteers, delivered over

1.55 billion NTD treatments since 1953.

Supported national health systems to deliver NTD programmes in over **25 countries.**



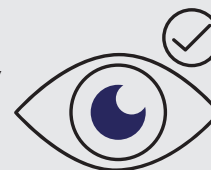
Trachoma eliminated

as a public health problem in Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Malawi and Mali.

National eye health teams supported to deliver nearly

9 million

sight saving operations for cataracts and other conditions since 1953.



5.4 million

people provided with spectacles in the last 20 years.

Reaching women and girls

Across the world, women and girls face inequalities that increase their risk of disease, disability, gender-based violence, and mortality, while reducing their access to education, employment, health care and positions of power. These inequalities are compounded for women with disabilities. Despite having a higher requirement for services like health care, they often face more challenges accessing them. They are also less likely to be in leadership positions and participate in decision-making processes than men with disabilities and women without disabilities.

Our approach

We work to ensure women all their diversity can access health, education and employment, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. As well as reaching women and girls with disabilities through our disability inclusion projects, we are also prioritising gender-transformative interventions that respond to the specific challenges women and girls with disabilities face. These include supporting large-scale family planning programmes to be more disability inclusive and developing interventions on gender-based violence and women's leadership. Currently, our work on gender has three main strands:

Reaching women and girls – including those with disabilities – with eye health and NTD services

Community case finders in our Accelerate programme identify people with trachoma. In some areas, such as northern Nigeria, training a higher proportion of women as case finders has helped us more easily provide female patients with sight saving operations.

Ensuring our disability inclusion projects empower women and girls with disabilities

Our Zambia EC-funded inclusive education project aims to improve education from pre-school through to secondary tertiary levels. It has a strong focus on young women and girls with disabilities, who experience high levels of discrimination and exclusion.

Delivering specific activities to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities

In Kenya, we are partnering with Coca-Cola Beverages Africa to make its value chains more inclusive of women with disabilities. Women are supported through these programmes to set up micro-businesses selling the company's products.



Gender inequality in organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) can mirror inequalities in wider society, so we want to increase our support to both women-led OPDs and women leaders of mixed sex OPDs.



In Senegal, our political participation project supports women with disabilities to take part in national and local political processes. Watch **our political participation film** to hear the stories of Issa, Khady and Awa.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

An estimated 18% of all women have a disability, yet women and girls with disabilities have been consistently neglected in sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes. Accessing services is challenging because of the inaccessibility of health centres and because SRHR information is often shared in formats that are inappropriate and inaccessible for people with visual and hearing impairments and people with intellectual disabilities. People with disabilities often face coercion and pressure to take up services, and women and girls with disabilities face significantly increased risk of forced sterilisation, coerced abortion and manipulation to take contraceptives, including long-acting methods like implants.

Our approach

There is a pressing need to reach girls and women with disabilities with equitable and accessible family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services. As a specialist disability organisation, our contribution is to partner with health ministries and donors to help make large-scale programmes mainstream disability. We are also working with our OPD partners to change attitudes and policies, globally and in the countries where we work.

Mainstreaming disability into family planning services

We work in partnership to support large-scale family planning programmes like the FCDO WISH programme in West Africa. Support includes providing disability awareness training alongside auditing health facilities and making accessibility improvements.

Shifting attitudes to disability and SRHR

Through our UK aid funded Inclusive Family Planning project, which we deliver in partnership with UK aid's flagship health programme in northern Nigeria, we co-created a comprehensive social and behaviour change strategy. This has included the development of a radio drama and factual programmes.

Supporting local, national and global advocacy for disability-inclusive SRHR

Alongside supporting OPD advocacy to health officials and local and national governments, we advocate for SRHR through networks like the International Disability and Development Consortium and Inclusive Futures (UK aid's flagship disability consortium led by Sightsavers).



Women with disabilities are highly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV) but a recent participatory workshop we held in Uganda showed that GBV services are rarely disability inclusive.



We supported the World Health Organization to make **this film** about the challenges faced by people with disabilities in accessing sexual and reproductive health information.

Project examples

Inclusive Family Planning, Nigeria

2022–2024 | UK aid | £2.3m

Women and girls with disabilities often face significant barriers to accessing SRHR services, and realising their rights. Sightsavers is leading this scale project in northern Nigeria with BBC Media Action and OPDs. We are identifying barriers to accessing services, and improving access to SRH services for women and girls with disabilities. We are reaching around four million people (72,000 people with disabilities directly and 576,000 indirectly) through targeted social and behaviour change messages, and strengthening health systems and services. Activities include improving the accessibility of health facilities, setting up inclusive steering committees to create accountability, and delivering radio drama and factual programmes. The project will include a randomised control trial led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH), West and Central Africa

2023-2024 | UK aid | £164k

Sightsavers has joined the Marie Stopes International-led consortium for the West and Central Africa lot of UK aid's flagship sexual and reproductive health (SRH) programme. Working across multiple countries in West Africa, we are providing technical expertise on disability inclusion and facilitating meaningful engagement of OPDs to increase access to integrated SRH services. We are consolidating a capacity-building package on disability inclusion, and supporting its rollout to frontline SRH staff and health managers in at least one country. We will be supporting consortium partners to incorporate disability inclusion and accessibility throughout their work as well as advocating for integration of disability inclusion into relevant health sector policies, plans and budgets.

Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS), Nigeria

2019–2021 | UK aid | £127k

As part of our UK aid-supported Countdown programme, we carried out a study in Ogun state to assess knowledge gaps about FGS among frontline health workers, policymakers and medical staff. We also identified steps to improve access to care and reduce stigma. A quality improvement team set up as a result has developed tools such as a diagnostic algorithm, treatment package and referral system for the diagnosis, treatment and care of FGS cases. We have trained health workers on respectful and sensitive care for women and girls with FGS symptoms. FGS care is being implemented into the primary health care system, and we are working to improve diagnosis and care in other Nigerian states.

Global Labor Program, Kenya

2021–2026 | USAID | \$7.5m

Our Global Labor Program in Kenya is building the skills of jobseekers, unions, employers and government to achieve inclusive work opportunities in Kenya. Our approach to relational capacity building along the value chain will improve levels of employment for people with disabilities and help protect their labour rights. We are working with Diageo East African Breweries Limited (EABL) and Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) to embed inclusion and labour rights in the companies' supply and distribution chains. By December 2022, we had established 90 farmer hubs and recruited over 2000 smallholder sorghum farmers and 102 women with disabilities into the CCBA value chain. We are strengthening collaboration between OPDs and trade unions, and demonstrating effective approaches to improving access to employment for people with disabilities.

Partnership for Learning for All in Northern Nigeria (PLANE)

2021-2028 | UK aid

PLANE is a seven-year, £95m programme intended to enable a more inclusive and effective basic education system in Nigeria, with a strong focus on increasing girls' access to education. The programme takes a system-strengthening approach to improving learning of foundational skills. It aims to improve learning outcomes, targeting 1.5 million children directly, with eight million indirect beneficiaries in those states and nationally. The programme is committed to promoting higher quality education for all, including safer and more inclusive schools, with gender equality, social inclusion and safeguarding at the heart of programme delivery. Sightsavers developed the disability inclusion strategy and framework, including a set of minimum standards for disability inclusion and plan for engagement with OPDs.

Inclusion Works! Multi-country

2019–2022 | UK aid | £9.7M

Sightsavers led this consortium of 11 partners and 64 OPDs to help make labour markets in Kenya, Uganda, Bangladesh and Nigeria more disability inclusive. Over 2,300 men and women with disabilities developed their employability skills and 454 employers become more 'disability confident'. We also supported national Business and Disability Networks and trained almost 3,000 public and private sector employees. In Kenya, we worked with EABL to pilot integrating women farmers with disabilities who grow sorghum in the Diageo supply chain. We also worked with CCBA in Kenya to support women with disabilities to become retailers for CCBA and start their own microbusinesses. Under both initiatives, women with disabilities received technical support to boost productivity and income, and gain access to finance. The **disability confident employers' toolkit** was an important output of the programme.

Women's Political Participation, Cameroon and Senegal

2012–2022 | Irish Aid | €2.8m

Sightsavers managed two large-scale political participation projects, enabling greater participation of people with disabilities in political processes in Cameroon and Senegal. We strengthened electoral commissions to deliver inclusive elections, and provided direct support to securing critical ID documentation. We worked with ministries, councils, OPDs, community groups and women's associations to increase participation in local development processes. The project included a focus on enabling women with disabilities to enter mainstream political spaces. We engaged with government ministries and working groups to facilitate the inclusion of disability in the electoral code, and relevant national policies and legislation.

Accelerate, Multi-country

2018–2023 | Gates Foundation, CIFF, ELMA Philanthropies, UK aid, Virgin Unite, anonymous donor | US\$106m

Women are four times more likely to develop advanced trachoma than men, so we have carried out operational research to understand gender differences in trachoma as part of our flagship trachoma elimination programme. In countries where social norms can make it hard for male 'case finders' to assess whether women in the households they are visiting have trachoma, we are working to recruit a higher proportion of female case finders. This helps to ensure women are being assessed and referred for surgery. Also, recognising the important role women play in setting hygiene norms in their families, many of our locally designed social and behaviour change pilots focus on women and girls. In Ethiopia, over 27,000 families have been reached with an intervention encouraging hand and face washing and 50 women's groups have been supported to start microbusinesses selling soap. In Cote d'Ivoire, over 3,500 mothers have been trained in hygiene and sanitation.