



Sightsavers

Making waves

Review 2014

Ireland



A message from our Chairman and Chief Executive

2014 was a milestone year for Sightsavers

With the generous support of our donors and working with our partners in the developing world, we have treated more than 102 million people against neglected tropical diseases, in the face of challenges such as Ebola. As part of the global trachoma mapping project, a coalition led by Sightsavers and described by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as “the largest infectious disease mapping project ever attempted”, we have examined 1.7 million people.

In addition, we have conducted 217,907 surgeries to remove blindness causing cataracts and supported 32,247 people with disabilities to live independently. Overall, this represents real progress in our drive to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness across developing countries.

To step up our work in the area of cataracts, we launched A Million Miracles, a global fundraising appeal that aims to fund one million sight-saving cataract operations in some of the poorest parts of the world.



Pat Farrell
Chairman



Michael Marren
Chief Executive

It is important to remind ourselves that half of all blindness is from cataract. The appeal was brought to life by the story of Wineshi March, from Malawi. His journey from blindness to his sight-restoring operation, broadcast live, was seen by over 20 million people worldwide. The good news is that the organisation has already raised nearly a third of A Million Miracles' target of €36 million. In 2014, with our donors help and strong support from Irish Aid, we have transformed the lives of millions of people.

Through our advocacy efforts, we're encouraging politicians and world leaders to do the same when agreeing the Sustainable Development Goals later this year. We are calling on them to ensure that the eight hundred million people with disabilities aren't left behind in global efforts to eradicate poverty by 2030.

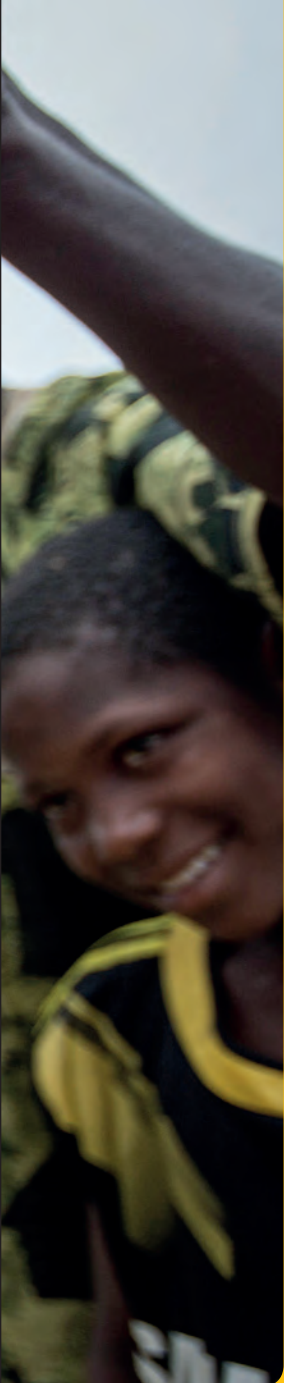
On behalf of everyone whose lives have been transformed,

Thank you.



2014

**was a year of making
waves for Sightsavers**



A Million Miracles

Our biggest ever fundraising campaign raised €12 million globally in just three months.

Put Us in the Picture

The campaign to make development disability-inclusive took the world closer to recognising the rights of 800 million people with disabilities.

New technological solutions

Innovative programmes – including the biggest infectious disease mapping project ever – put the elimination of the world’s most common infectious cause of blindness in sight.

Exciting new partnerships

Joining forces with the likes of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation took the scale of our work far beyond what we could achieve alone.

Our work on the ground

We distributed more than 102 million treatments for neglected tropical diseases.

Year in numbers

2014





12 million
euros

raised in the first three months
of our **A Million Miracles** appeal

9.2 million
people

treated and protected
for **trachoma**

1.7 million
people

examined as part of our
Global Trachoma Mapping Project

218 thousand
operations

to remove **cataract**
and restore sight

102 million
treatments

distributed to protect against
neglected tropical diseases

Fighting cataract blindness

A photograph of two elderly men of African descent. The man on the right is wearing a white headwrap and a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, smiling broadly with his teeth showing. He has his right arm around the shoulder of the man on the left. The man on the left is also wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt and has a grey beard. He is smiling gently. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The overall mood is warm and positive.

A Million Miracles



The miraculous moment when Wineshi discovered he could see again inspired an extraordinary response to our biggest ever fundraising appeal.

Watch this moment again on our YouTube channel.

 [SightsaversTV](#)

Fighting cataract blindness



Winesi can help with family life again

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world. That's why, in 2014, we launched our biggest ever fundraising appeal, A Million Miracles. Its aim? To fund a million sight-saving operations.

Winesi March, Malawi

Winesi, 70, had been blind for two years when we met him. "I can no longer provide for my family," he said. "I've never seen my grandson, Luka. I have only ever heard him cry."

Dr Gerald Msukwa, one of only eight cataract surgeons in Malawi, operated on Winesi during a live online broadcast. A worldwide audience was able to share in the miraculous moments that have allowed Winesi to see his family again.

This amazing footage helped A Million Miracles reach an online audience of 20 million people and raise a staggering €12 million in the space of just three months.

At only €36 for an adult's cataract operation, that's already enough to fund more than 333,000 operations.



Winesi plays with
Luka, his grandson

217,907

people received surgery
in 2014 to remove a
blinding cataract

You can help us do more

A Million Miracles is off to a flying start but there's still a long way to go if we're to reach our target of €36 million and fund a million sight-saving operations.

Donate to A Million Miracles

www.millionmiracles.ie

and help people like Winesi to see again.

A more inclusive world

Global break

In developing countries 800 million people are being ignored, left out, discriminated against. Often they are denied their right to healthcare, education, work and welfare simply because they are disabled.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – global poverty-reduction targets agreed in 2000 – made no mention of people with disabilities, denying them the chance to benefit equally from global aid.

As world leaders agree to a new set of targets to replace the MDGs in 2015, we'll be campaigning to make sure that this time, when poverty-reduction goals are set, they leave no one behind.

We're fighting discrimination against people with disabilities wherever we find it. Here are just a few of the vital political breakthroughs our advocacy work made possible across the world in 2014.

UK

The government launched a new Disability Framework in response to our campaign on social inclusion.

Senegal

Promoted inclusive education, agreeing technical and financial support for inclusive and special schools and investment in teaching materials for children with disabilities.

Tanzania

Reformed its constitution to include significantly strengthened support, protection and recognition for people with disabilities.

throughs



Pakistan

On the verge of passing the National Disability Bill, which will bring Pakistani law into line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

India

The Reserve Bank committed to providing all new ATMs with ramps and audio to make them more accessible for people with disabilities.

A more inclusive world

A tale of two teenagers

The contrasting stories of Jenneh and Nabirye show how school can make all the difference for a child with a disability.

“When the teacher asks questions, I’ll stand up, I’ll answer”

Jenneh Collier, Sierra Leone*

Cheeky and confident, 13-year-old Jenneh excels at school.

She consistently gets top marks, has lots of friends – “they love me and I love them” – and has set her sights on being a teacher.

The fact she is blind will not determine the life she will live.

*Programme supported by Irish Aid

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

8,159

children with disabilities supported to attend school

“ Now I don't do anything, I just stay at home ”

Nabiryre Haliyat, Uganda

When Nabiryre lost her sight aged nine it had a devastating impact on her chance of a full life. Her school couldn't support children with disabilities so she had to drop out.

Nabiryre, now 15, says: “I felt so bad leaving school. I liked science and English, I wanted to be a lawyer, but I don't think I can anymore.”

A more inclusive world

“ All people with disabilities can stand on their own feet and earn ”



Sankarlal Sansi, India

“I used to sit inside the house and my wife used to go to work and support me,” says Sankarlal, who lost his sight when he was 14.

Joining a Sightsavers-funded disabled people’s organisation (DPO) transformed his life. The group helped him get a government loan to start a business, which he has now expanded into a shop selling vegetables and pulses, with a refrigerator for cold drinks.

He’s proud to have shown people that being blind hasn’t stopped him earning a living and supporting his family.

32,247

people with disabilities supported to live independently



“ We don’t think of ourselves as disabled, be confident in heart ”

Anuradha Pareek, India

After a childhood accident left her with severe burn injuries to her face and hands, Anuradha grew up feeling depressed and unconfident. As an adult, her lack of self-belief saw her trapped in an unfulfilling job, unable to see a way out.

An ad she saw by chance in a newspaper one day changed everything. It was publicising a meeting of the local DPO, supported by Sightsavers. Anuradha went along and met "brothers and sisters, people like me". She learned she was entitled to a pension and travel pass, and realised she was capable of doing more for herself and others.

With each meeting she attended, her confidence and belief in her own abilities grew. Anuradha became a vital member of the DPO, eventually taking over as its leader, and in February 2015 she was elected to local government. Her new position means she's able to fight for the rights of people with disabilities even more effectively.

"Now I'm very confident and take care of my family," she says. "I like the work from the bottom of my heart as I feel happy when people with disabilities can do things for themselves."

Life-changing treatment

We distributed a staggering 102 million treatments for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in 2014 – a figure that would have been even higher if not for the Ebola outbreak.



Making millions safe from NTDs

Trachoma is a disease that can make every blink agony, and is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

Today about 21 million people, mostly women and children, have an active infection and a further 232 million people are at risk of getting the disease.

Sightsavers is proud to be leading a team of partner organisations which began rolling out two flagship treatment and prevention programmes in 2014. One is an ambitious project to make progress towards eliminating trachoma as a public health risk in four African countries. Over the next five years, the programme aims to provide almost 12 million people with antibiotics and manage surgery for 177,000 people with trachoma.

We're also leading a programme on behalf of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control, distributing the antibiotic treatment Zithromax® and supporting surgeries in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda.

Last year, Sightsavers helped to treat and protect over 9.2 million people for trachoma. Blinding trachoma can be eliminated by implementing an integrated package of interventions called the SAFE strategy – surgery, antibiotic distribution, facial cleanliness and environmental improvements.

102 million
treatments for
NTDs delivered

You can help us do more

Be part of the global effort to eliminate trachoma by 2020

Please donate today at www.sightsavers.ie

Innovating to beat NTDs

Information is power

Meet Boubacar. He's one of many surgeons harnessing the power of mobile phone technology in the fight against trachoma.



To eliminate trachoma, we need to know where and who it affects. That's why a pioneering programme funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and IZUMI Foundation, provides our mobile surgeons in Mali with motorbikes and mobile phones. When Boubacar arrives in Mali's most remote villages on his motorbike, he uses his mobile phone to report on the prevalence of trachoma and the number of people he treats, sending the information to the National Eye Health Programme. "There's no data lost," he says, "we do it fast and easily." Crucially, this data means we can deliver treatment where it's needed most, helping bring us to the brink of eliminating trachoma in Mali.

The Global Trachoma Mapping Project

Begun three years ago by a group of more than 20 organisations, led by Sightsavers, the International Trachoma Initiative and the World Health Organization, it uses smartphones to gather data on trachoma, often from some of the most remote and dangerous places on earth. Under Sightsavers' leadership it has become the largest infectious disease survey in history.

The scope of the GTMP is phenomenal, covering 1,400 districts in 22 countries and a population of 200 million people. It's been so successful that there are plans for the project to be used as a model to plot the prevalence of other diseases.

The GTMP in numbers*

2.1 million people examined

200 million people covered

43 million items of data processed

900 health workers trained

524 smartphones used

*figures correct as of February 2015

Record-breaking

Global expenditure
€229.6m

Charitable activities
€210.7m

Eye health	€202.2m
Education	€2.8m
Social inclusion	€3.8m
Policy and research	€1.9m

Governance
€1.2m

Fundraising
€17.7m



year

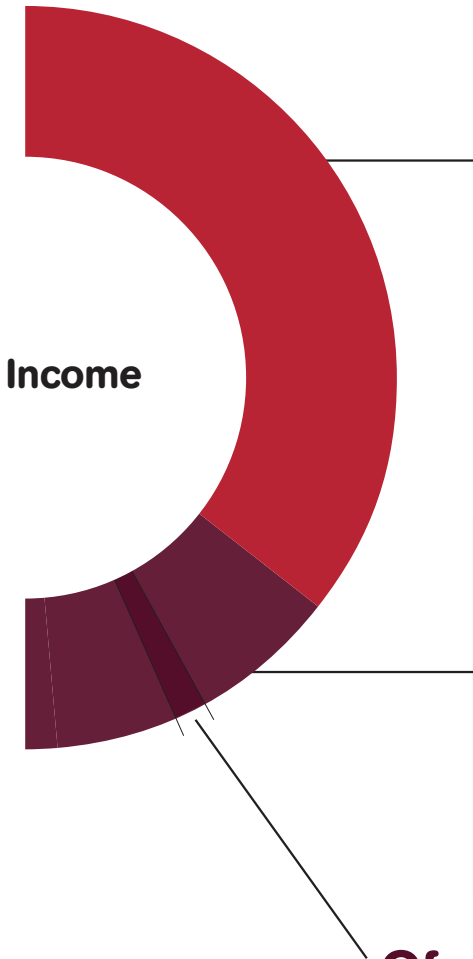
**Global income
€232.7m**

**Gifts in kind
€166.6m**

**Other incoming resources
€ 66.1m**

Individuals	€26.2m
Trusts	€1.5m
Companies	€2.6m
Legacies	€9.0m
Grants from Governments/NGOs	€23.9m
Other	€2.9m

**Of which Ireland has contributed
€5.4m (8.2%)**



Figures represented in millions.

Last but not least

Thank you!

We couldn't do it without you





As well as the vital support we receive from individual donors, we also work in partnership with trusts and foundations, government ministries, international institutions, corporate partners and fellow charities – helping us have the greatest impact for the highest number of people.

We're grateful for all your incredible support for our life-changing work in 2014.

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.

Sightsavers Ireland complies with the following code of practice:

- The Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance,
- The Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising,
- The Dochas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages.

In addition, we have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for accounting and reporting by charities, as recommended by the UK Charities Commission.

Supported by



Irish Aid

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

Member of

Dochas

The Irish Association of Non Governmental
Development Organisations

Within our

You've read how our work is changing lives through the stories of just some of the millions of people your donations and campaign actions are supporting.

We can't stop now. We believe we're on the verge of some historic changes in eye health and for people with disabilities.

With your support, we can create a world where:

- **no one goes blind**
from a preventable or treatable cause.
- **eye care is universally available**
be it access to a suitable pair of glasses or a cataract operation.
- **trachoma and river blindness**
are eliminated.
- **no child is excluded from school**
just because they have an impairment.
- **people with disabilities**
have equal rights to healthcare, education, employment and welfare.

reach



**This world is
within our reach**

You can help make it a reality

Visit www.sightsavers.ie or
call us on **1850 60 20 20**

A photograph of a small shop interior. The walls are pink. There are shelves with various goods, including bags of snacks and a counter with more items. The lighting is warm and focused on the shop's interior.

Patron

President Michael D Higgins

Chairman

Pat Farrell

Board of Directors

Cathrine Burke
Dr Bernadette Carr
Howard Dalzell
Fintan Glynn
Dominic Haslam
Brenda Moriarty

Chief Executive

Michael Marren

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