

... you helped perform
251,048 cataract operations...

Thanks to you, we're reaching more of the world's poorest people than ever before.

With your help, we deliver cost-effective treatments to the communities that need them most. By providing eye care, prescribing glasses, training volunteers and specialists, ensuring blind children get an education and carrying out sight restoring operations. We're transforming millions of people's lives and giving whole communities hope for the future.

Beating cataract through surgery

Around the world, as many as 18 million people are blind because of cataract – the world's biggest cause of blindness. Yet, their sight can be restored with a straightforward and inexpensive operation. In 2011, with your help, we transformed more than a quarter of a million people's lives like this. 80-year-old Sorufa from Bangladesh is just one of them.



Thanks to your help Sorufa has a lot to look forward to.

Sorufa had cataract in both her eyes. It affected her everyday life; she was unable to walk alone, relying on family and friends to take care of her. Sorufa had cataract surgery as part of a Sightsavers supported project in the Dhaka slums. She is now able to move around freely and is no longer afraid.

People don't go blind by the millions... it happens one by one.

Every time someone goes blind from avoidable causes, the world becomes a little darker. But, with your support, Sightsavers can help people step back into the light.

Sightsavers works to combat blindness in developing countries, restoring sight through specialist treatment and eye care. We also support people who are irreversibly blind by providing education, counselling and training. We help the people who need it most - those living in poverty in some of the world's poorest countries.

In 2011, we protected over 24 million people from river blindness. We performed more than 250,000 cataract operations. We helped over 6,000 blind children to receive an education. We distributed more than half a million pairs of glasses. We treated more than four and half million people for trachoma.



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Behind all these figures lie millions of individual stories of courage and hope. And it's your support that makes them all possible.

Thank you.



(Cover) Thanks to you, Shamsu from Nigeria is able to go to school and learn Braille, giving him the chance of a brighter future.



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Thank you for helping to improve millions of people's lives in 2011

In 2011 you helped protect over 24 million people from river blindness...

With your support, Sightsavers and our partners help millions of people in the world's poorest places each year.

All over the world, people living in extreme poverty are suffering from blindness, needlessly. It can ruin lives and rob children of their future. But it can be so easy to remedy or prevent. Often, sight can be saved for just a few cents and restored for little more than the price of a cup of coffee. Thanks to your amazing support, Sightsavers is helping millions of people to see, to grow, to live.

Beating river blindness through medicine

Many communities rely on local rivers for all their domestic water. The areas around these rivers can be breeding grounds for the black fly which spread river blindness. Right now, more than 100 million people in Africa are at high risk of infection. In 2011, we protected more than 24 million people from river blindness by distributing



Thanks to you, Rashid has a lot to smile about.

Mectizan® tablets. That's over a million more than in 2010. For children like 10-year-old Rashid from Tanzania, it makes all the difference in the world. Now he can grow up free from the threat of river blindness.

... you helped **6,246** blind children to receive an education...

...you helped provide **573,925** people with glasses...

...you helped treat over **4.6 million** people suffering from trachoma...

Year on year, we're reaching further

With your help, we are giving blind people the skills they need to break free from poverty.



Sudha hopes to be a teacher one day, thanks to your help.

In some countries, being disabled more than doubles a child's chance of never enrolling in school. Without an education, blind children can face a life of unemployment, dependence and poverty. A quality education is key to helping blind people lead more fulfilled lives.

Beating poverty through education

With your support, Sightsavers does everything possible to make sure blind children get the chance to go to school – by raising awareness and giving teachers the specialist training they need to teach children who are blind. It's enough to give youngsters like 14-year-old Sudha from India a much brighter future.

Sudha has been receiving special attention at the Sri

Channabasaveshwana High School. Her father told us: "When we moved her to this school, where the inclusive education facilitator visits twice a week, she is picking things up fast! She's very bright."

Your kindness helps give people with impaired sight the chance to see more clearly.

Something as simple as providing a pair of glasses can help someone like 10-year-old Deborah from Tanzania to live life to the full. She has a squint that can make it difficult to control her eyes. But her new glasses have made such a difference.



With your help, Deborah is now top of the class!



...you gave **6,430** blind people training...

23-year-old Sukumati from India has been blind ever since she was 11 years old. But, with our help, she now has the skills to earn a living and support herself.

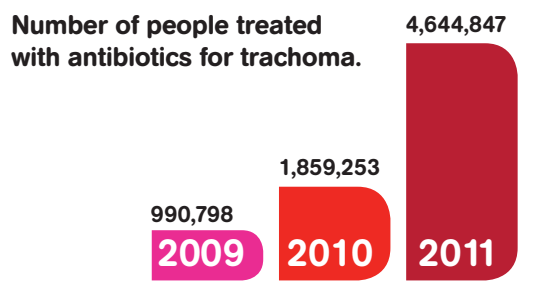
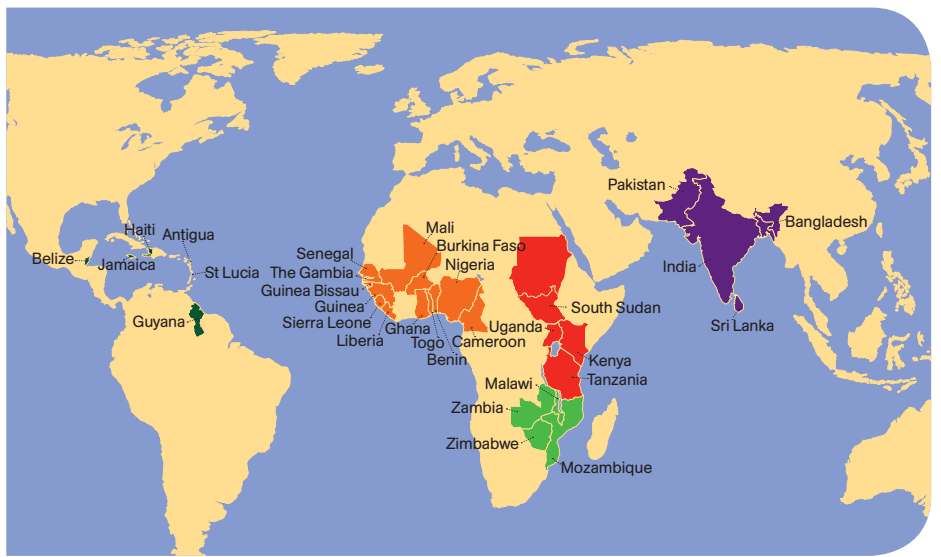
Every 15 minutes, someone goes blind from trachoma. Globally, 1.2 billion people live in areas where this horribly painful infection is endemic. But, with your help, we were able to treat more than four and a half million people with trachoma during 2011 – nearly three million more than in 2010.

70-year-old Badetoye from Uganda suffered from trachoma and had been struggling to earn a living and feed himself. But a simple operation – paid for by you – has given him back his independence.



Our work in 2011: Small world, big difference

- Asia**
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- East Africa**
Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
- West Africa**
Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau,
- Southern Africa**
Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Togo
- The Caribbean**
Antigua, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and St Lucia
- Southern Africa**
Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe



In just three years, we've increased the number of trachoma treatments by nearly 500%.



Volunteers do such important work in local communities. Since 2009, we've almost doubled their numbers.

In 2011...
... we carried out **1,211** surgeries for diabetic retinopathy

... we treated **38,969** people for glaucoma with eye drops and medicine

... we performed **18,295** trichiasis surgeries

Your help made this – and all our work – possible.