

10

YEARS

would not have
been possible...



without

YOU

**the lives of millions of people
would not have changed...**

**None of this
would be
possible without**

YOU

Thanks to the kindness of Irish supporters like you, millions of people in some of the world's poorest countries got the medical treatment and support they needed. Without your generous donations none of the amazing results and stories in this leaflet would have been possible. So on behalf of everyone whose lives you have transformed, thank you.

Last year, there was a 44 per cent increase in the number of people who received treatment against river blindness.

**Over
35 million
protected
against river
blindness**

Photo: Zinariya
Gagara,
receives her
annual dose of
Mectizan®

© Kate Holt/Sightsavers



The goal to eliminate river blindness is close!

Ten years ago, in the Kaduna region of Nigeria, river blindness was devastating the lives of whole communities. Children were deprived of an education to care for blind relatives and livelihoods were lost as whole families were forced to flee from the fertile but infected river areas. Unimaginable hardship was caused, simply because people didn't receive the medication needed to stop this blinding disease.

Thankfully, today it is a far different story. Your support together with the support of our corporate partners has ensured that more and more people at risk can now get their annual treatment of Mectizan® tablets, (donated free by MSD). This treatment costs just 8 cent to distribute, and must be taken annually for over 10 years to ensure immunity. Ending the threat

of river blindness is a huge challenge but great progress has been achieved in Mali and Uganda, and research has shown that the disease has been successfully eliminated in parts of Nigeria.

In Ghana alone, in 2011 the amount of people protected against river blindness was 750,000, in 2012 this rose to almost 11.5 million - that's almost a fifteenfold increase in the numbers of people protected.

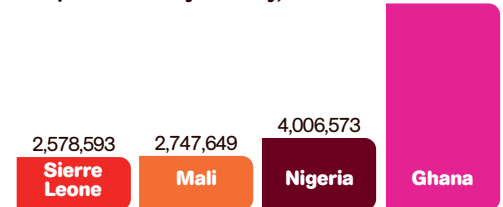
With local volunteers trained to distribute the treatment in their own communities, your donations are delivering a cost effective river blindness prevention programme across 14 countries. Millions more children like Zinariya Gagara (pictured opposite) can live free from the threat of river blindness.



© Kate Holt/Sightsavers

Photo: A Sightsavers trained community distributor gives a young boy his annual dose of Mectizan® in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Since our intervention in the region ten years ago, no more cases of river blindness have been reported.

People treated by country, 2012



Without YOU

205, 825 people would not have received sight restoring cataract operations



The world is a brighter place for thousands of adults and children

In some of the world's developing countries, cataract is the major cause of preventable blindness. Across the developing world, countless numbers of children are sitting in darkness needlessly, because they can't afford, or don't know, that their sight could be restored with a straightforward operation. Thanks to your donations, more people are learning about cataract operations and thousands more are having their sight successfully restored. Not only does a person regain their sight, they regain their independence and as such, the lives of whole families can be transformed.

Take for instance the difference such operations have made to the Singh family who are living in the remote village of Bangasdar near the India-Pakistan border. Like his

older siblings, eight-month-old Kuldeep Singh was born with severe eye problems and had cataract in both eyes. His parents were coping as best they could when a Sightsavers' programme identified the family as being in urgent need of sight-saving support.

In time Kuldeep became the fourth member of his family to undergo a sight-restoring cataract operation. His overjoyed parents compared these incredible changes with the Indian festival Diwali - the celebration of light. His excited mother Chelu Kanwar said:

"We can't wait to send him to school and hope to make him a doctor in the future so he can help restore vision to others and happiness."

Photo: Kuldeep and his mother Chelu smiling with happiness after a successful bilateral cataract operation

**Adult
operations
199,675**
**Child
operations
6,150**

Without YOU

Over 12 million people would not have received treatment and operations for trachoma

Thousands of people regained their sight, and millions were treated for trachoma

Trachoma is one of the main causes of preventable blindness facing people living in some of the world's poorest countries today. If caught in its early stages, it is easily treated with a course of Tetracycline ointment costing just 39 cent. But left untreated, this cruel and painful disease causes the eyelids to turn inwards and

every blink scratches the eyelid and eventually leads to blindness.

Malita Mbwilo, from Chamindini village in Tanzania had this painful disease for over six years. Over time her eyelashes had become stuck to the insides of her eyelids and she struggled to care for her family,

“I just learnt to live with the pain and tried to go about my daily duties as best I could”.

At a local eye health screening Malita was identified as being in the

latter stages of trachoma and in need of Trichiasis surgery. Shortly afterwards, she was collected from her local village and transported for two hours in a Sightsavers vehicle to the Mkulula Health Centre for surgery. Later the same day she was dropped home and a day after her bandages were removed.

Malita is now free from pain and able to see again. Last year the number of treatments for trachoma almost trebled.

Treatments carried out

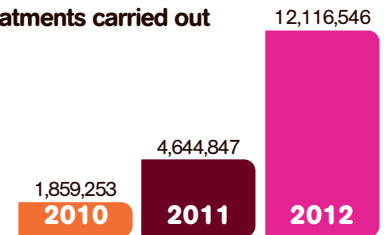


Photo: Malita getting examined for advanced stages of trachoma at a screening camp by doctor Julieth Tesha.



© Robert Perry/Scotland on Sunday/Sightsavers

Without YOU

8,377 blind and visually impaired children would not have received an education



© Andy Weekes/Sightsavers

Poverty is being overcome through wider education programmes

With your help, blind and visually impaired children are getting the chance to go to school and lead more fulfilling and independent lives. By raising awareness with governments and giving teachers the specialist training and tools they need, huge inroads are being made to improve education levels for people who are visually impaired. Up to 10 per cent of those supported are entering the education system for the first time, positive proof of the growing recognition of the need for education for all.

Photo: Joseph loves to read and when not in school loves playing football.

Joseph was born with congenital cataract in both eyes; he is now 12 years old and attends the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Sierra Leone. Assistance from Sightsavers helped to re-open the school in 2009 and ongoing support provides teaching and learning materials. According to his teacher, Joseph has become an outstanding student who hopes to continue onto university to become a government administrator. Your support last year gave 8,377 children like Joseph the chance of a brighter future.

8,377
children given
the chance of a
brighter future

34% increase
on 2011

Without YOU

15,333 blind and visually impaired people would not have been able to support themselves



© Abhisek Sardar/Sightsavers

Blind and visually impaired people are getting support to live independent lives

Being blind shouldn't mean a life of isolation and dependence on others. With basic training, people can get the support they need to care for themselves and even earn a living.

By training people to act as rehabilitation workers in their local communities, visually impaired people are identified and given the support and development care that they need. Thanks to Veena, a trained rehabilitation worker, 44-year-old Safiya is now a very different person.

Photo: Safiya helping around the home thanks to you.

15,333
people
trained to be
self-sufficient

138% increase
on 2011

Safiya, from Mavelikkara village in India was born blind. She had come to depend on her elderly mother and did not want to learn new things, going so far as to become reluctant to even leave her house. With Veena's help, today Safiya can now walk around her village unaided and is earning a small living to help support herself.

Safiya says:

“Veena has helped me get a livelihood. She has helped me become more confident. She is like a sister to me.”

Of all those who receive training in 2012 over nine thousand attended a ‘training to learn’ programme, which gives them the knowledge and the confidence to stand up for themselves and to secure their rights and entitlements.

YOU

have helped
achieve so
much...

Every year you are
helping to transform
more and more lives.

This is just a brief overview of the wonderful work your kindness has helped achieved. If you'd like to know more, please visit: www.sightsavers.ie/ARH

	2002	2012	1949-2012 (since our foundation)
Eye operations performed	261,152	284,332	8,146,919
Treatments to prevent blinding diseases	9,434,039	93,712,531	370,978,861
Blind or visually impaired children receiving an education	6,541	8,377	20,938
Volunteers trained to distribute the treatment needed to prevent blindness	N/A	222,074	741,308
Blind or visually impaired people received training/rehabilitation	5,002	15,333	123,218

Thank you.



“ Since Sightsavers was set up in Ireland in 2002, the kindness and generosity of our supporters has never ceased to amaze me. This generosity clearly knows no bounds or boundaries.

I hope this review of our work gives you a sense of the impact your support has made in some of the world's poorest countries. While we can present our sight saving work in overall facts and figures, we can never fully show the lives and futures that have been changed for so many families. Of course all this work would never happen without you and we can never fully thank you for this wonderful support.

”



John Fleming
CEO, Sightsavers Ireland



Sightsavers

It doesn't stop here. Together in 2013 even more lives can be transformed.

