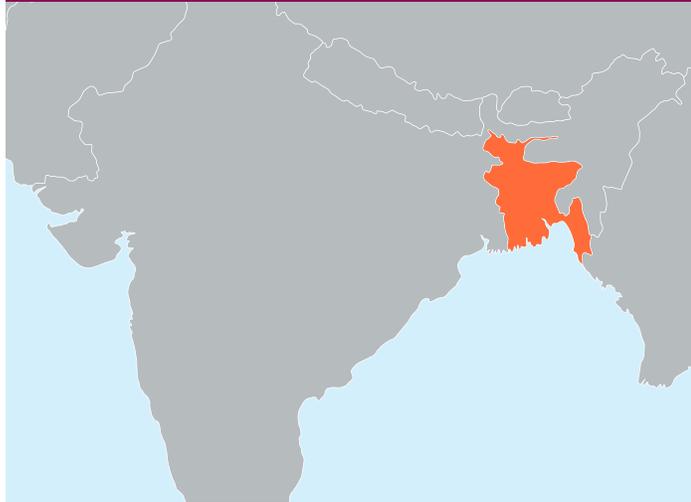


Bangladesh Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2005 | Partners: 3

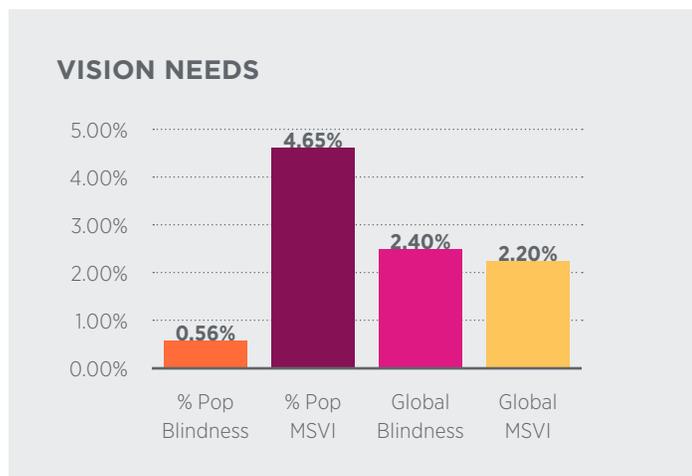


Country Overview

- » Located in South Asia
- » Bangladesh spans 56,977 square miles
- » Population: 161 million¹
- » 2020 Human Development Index Ranking: 133rd of 189 countries and UN-recognized territories
- » Bangladesh currently hosts approximately 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar District²

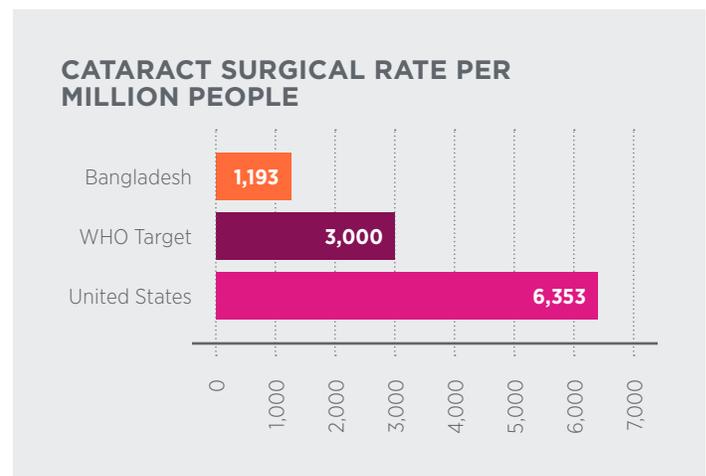
Scope of Vision Needs³

- » 0.9% of Bangladesh's population is blind (0.56 million), as compared to 0.15% in the United States
- » 7.5% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (12M) as compared to 1.25% in the United States
- » 2% of global blindness



Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Bangladesh's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 1,193 surgeries per million in 2013, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353
- » There were 6.3 ophthalmologists per million people in Bangladesh in 2014 (1,000).
- » The US has 60 ophthalmologists per million people
- » There were 7.5 Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) per million people in 2014 (1,200)



¹ 2020 Human Development Report. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BGD>

² IAPB and Seva. A Situational Analysis: Eye Care Needs of Rohingya refugees and the Affected Bangladeshi Host Population

³ Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

Seva's Approach in Bangladesh

Bangladesh ranks among the poorest countries in the world, with more than one-half of its 161 million people living below the poverty line and an estimated 800,000 people afflicted by blindness. As such, Seva Foundation partners with three organizations in Bangladesh to address eyecare needs vulnerable populations. In the last three years, Seva have worked with ten partner eye hospitals and supported establishment of 12 Vision centers in five divisions of Bangladesh out of a total eight along with pediatric interventions in another two divisions.

By focusing on smart solutions and building partners capacity in evidence-based decision making with the support of data dashboard and training — which includes Eyexcel, fellowships and conferences — as well as tracking data collection and evaluations, hospitals and local communities alike are more equipped to build out their capacity and more effectively serve their populations. Seva has organized the first ever 'Eyexcel Bangladesh - Excellence in Eye Care Training' in 2019 with 7 participating hospitals team of more than 20 people. it was hosted by Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital at Dhaka.

Working with Seva, **Grameen Healthcare Services** has established four hospitals in the Bogra, Barisal, Thakurgaon and Satkhira districts. Seva sponsors training of the hospitals' staff, including doctors, nurses and management professionals. These eye hospitals serve people living in Grameen's micro-credit communities. Embedding the service delivery within the existing Grameen networks rapidly facilitates the opportunities for early detection and referral of people for cataract surgery and eye glasses and reduces costs for outreach. Together, we identify and overcome local barriers to care to ensure that quality services are accessed by underserved populations.

With **Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital**, Seva has funded the training of hospital staff and provides subsidies for free and low-cost service delivery. Islamia Eye Institute began as a charitable dispensary and grew into a pioneering eye hospital providing quality ophthalmic services for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

With the **Quasem Foundation**, Seva supports low-cost and high-quality comprehensive eye care services for the vulnerable populations of Northern Bangladesh. Through the implementation of focused and comprehensive projects, the Quasem Foundation has grown in both reach and reputation over the last six decades, serving not only Ulipur but the entire Rangpur district and other parts of Northern Bangladesh. Seva and Quasem work together to provide low-cost and high-quality comprehensive services for patients and training for ophthalmic providers.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROMOTING EVIDENCE

In June 2018, Seva and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) published a situational analysis to provide a snapshot of the eye care context in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh, where the Rohingya refugee camps are located. While eye care data does not exist for the Rohingya community, their lack of access to health and eye care indicates high levels of cataract and eye glass needs. And, poor nutrition and environmental conditions would contribute to high rates of preventable forms of blindness. Among those who have come for eye services in refugee camps, 30% presented with cataract.

The report provides recommendations for how to conduct the largest refugee eye care response ever undertaken in the world, potentially reducing blindness and vision impairment for refugees and the host communities in Bangladesh. It focuses on building local capacity at the district level and national levels while strengthening donor collaboration in the management of large projects. If undertaken, this initiative may provide one of the most compelling examples of how universal eye care can be provided in a stark and difficult environment for one of the world's most disenfranchised and underserved populations.

BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

IMPACT (FY 2019-2020)*

103,131

people receiving services

5,888

cataract surgeries performed

10,710

children screened

43

children receiving surgery

2,577

children receiving glasses

3

new PECVCs funded through Seva

75,000

people who now have access to care

18,537

people receiving services at PECVCs

1

Eyexcels Completed

7

hospitals participating in Eyexcel

24

people participating in Eyexcel

8

doctors trained

6

AOPS trained

10

administrators trained

SIGHT SERVICES

6.3



Ophthalmologists per million people

7.5



Ophthalmic personnel per million people

 = 1 million people

Impact of COVID-19 in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has seen almost half a million COVID-19 cases, the vast majority in the capital, Dhaka. The Ministry of Health is leading the response, in coordination with the World Health Organization. Seva's partners limited services earlier in the pandemic but have since resumed. Seva-supported vision centers continue to see patients in more remote and difficult to reach areas.

Resources

[Seva in Bangladesh](#)

[Situational Analysis of Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Bangladesh](#)

[Training Ophthalmic Nurses in Bangladesh](#)

* Numbers based on reports received

BANGLADESH FACT SHEET

