

# Cambodia Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 1998 | Partners: 6



## Country Overview

- » Bordered by Thailand to the northwest, Laos to the northeast, Vietnam to the east and the Gulf of Thailand to the southwest.
- » Cambodia spans 181,035 square kilometers (69,898 square miles).
- » Population: 15.29 million people.
- » 2016 Human Development Index Ranking: 146 of 189 countries.

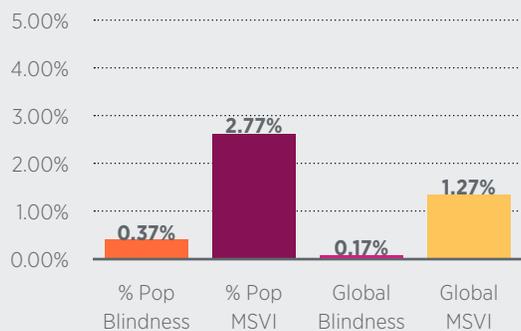
## Scope of Eye Care Needs

- » 0.37% of Cambodia's population is blind (56,567 of 15.29M) as compared to 0.15% in the United States.
- » 2.77% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (~470k) as compared to 1.25% in the United States.
- » Cambodia's Global Burden of Blindness is 0.17% and Global Burden of MSVI is 1.27%.

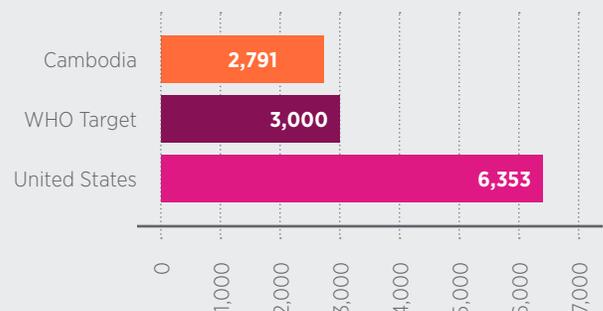
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Cambodia's CSR was 2,791 surgeries per million<sup>1</sup> in 2019, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353.
- » 4.65 Ophthalmologists per million people in Cambodia (71/15.29 M as of 2019. US = 60 per million people).
- » 23.9 allied ophthalmic personnel per million (365/15.29M) as of 2019.

### VISION NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



<sup>1</sup> NPEH Progress Report 2019

### Context

Cambodia is a country rich in culture, inspired from nearly two millennia of a unique Khmer blend of Buddhism, Hinduism and animistic religious belief systems. After years of painful genocide and civil war, now just under 40 years later, the Cambodian population continues to slowly rebuild and reclaim their culture as well as an infrastructure of government and health care systems. The majority of the population lives in rural communities practicing traditional and other forms of agriculture, making access to primary health care facilities extremely challenging.<sup>1</sup>

Today, there are less than 71 fully trained ophthalmologists in a country of over 15 million — Seva has trained at least four of them and is currently training two more. The large majority of those experiencing blindness in Cambodia are either preventable or curable, but sadly the vast majority of Cambodians do not have access to quality, affordable eye care. Seva works in five provinces, with in country partners, to bring needed eye care services to Cambodia's most vulnerable populations, including rural communities, women, and children.

**Countrywide services** continue to be built out in attempts at alleviating this concern. Existing and new infrastructure of hospitals and health centers as well as the professionals who staff these locations and other remote programs throughout the country are pivotal in providing Cambodians with the care they need and deserve.

In a country with a total of 25 provinces, there are **24 provincial referral hospitals** with eye units and 331 Health centers in Cambodia with eye units (29% of the countries total number of health centers). It's clear the country is striving to tackle the widespread issue of preventable blindness. However, with a total of only 71 Ophthalmologists (3.38 for every million person) and 365 allied ophthalmic personnel (ophthalmic and refraction nurses), or 23.9 for every million persons, the country still needs a significant increase in trained and available eye care professionals.

### Seva's Approach in Cambodia

Seva works in five provinces throughout Cambodia with nine country partners including the Ministry of Health, government operated eye clinics and health facilities as well as not-for-profit clinics. The provinces include Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Battambang and Pursat all in the northwest and Kampot, in the southwest bordering Vietnam. Seva's target is to screen 26% of the total population by continuing to work with existing partners in these provinces.

Seva's approach to addressing eye health needs in Cambodia prioritize three key strategies; **Access** to universal eye care, building **Capacity** of personnel and infrastructure as well as **Evidence**-based interventions and advocacy.

**Primary eye care services** offer adult outpatient services through key partner hospitals and vision centers Seva's catchment area. Community outreach activities include screenings and door-to-door visits in remote communities as well as distribution of educational materials and radio PSAs.

Modern **Technology** for patient care is vital in supporting up to date practices implemented locally. By purchasing clinical equipment for partner hospitals, Seva and our partners ensure an increase in availability of quality services for the Cambodian population.

By focusing on **Hospital Management Systems** such as training, tracking and evaluations, hospitals and local communities alike are more equipped to build out their capacity and more effectively serve their populations. Seva with our partners, provide trainings for local doctors in ophthalmology residencies, Allied Ophthalmic personnel as well as teachers for school screenings. The quality of cataract surgeries, evaluation of personnel and the effectiveness of service delivery are all tracked. Attendance at professional conferences and meetings allows our partners to share program findings with a broader community of specialists.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.wpro.who.int/health\\_services/service\\_delivery\\_profile\\_cambodia.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/service_delivery_profile_cambodia.pdf)

## CAMBODIA FACT SHEET

Seva continues to build our partnership with Angkor Hospital for Children in delivering **pediatric outpatient services** and eye camps (exams, eye health education, medical treatment, glasses, surgeries, transport) with technology and trained personnel (Pediatric Allied Ophthalmic Personnel; Health Center Staff; Teachers for school screening). The quality of cataract surgeries, specifically for pediatrics, is always tracked and the findings disseminated with other professionals who are invested in improving universal eye care.

### Impact of COVID-19 in Cambodia

COVID-19 cases across Cambodia remain low to date with fewer than 500 cases reported across the country. Seva's staff and partners have incorporated additional safety protocols into its day to day operations. Community screening remains limited and in accordance to enhanced protection. As part of its response, Seva provided funds to procure essential protective equipment for its partner hospitals.

#### IMPACT (FY 2019-2020)\*

51,311

People receiving services

3,902

Cataract surgeries performed

28,813

Children screened

3,164

Children receiving surgery

1,653

Children receiving glasses

14

Doctors trained

16

AOPS trained

9

Administrators trained

2086

Community Health Promoters  
trained

\* Numbers based on reports received.

