

Myanmar Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2006 | Partners: 3



Country Overview

- » Size: 261,228 square miles
- » Population: 53.9 million
- » 2016 Human Development Index Ranking: 145 of 188¹

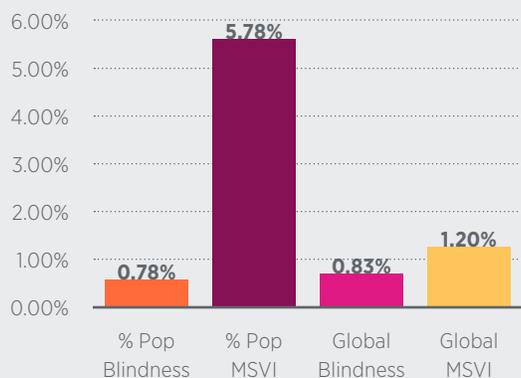
Scope of Vision Needs²

- » 0.78% of Myanmar's population is blind (298K), as compared to 0.15% in the US
- » 5.71% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (2.5M)
- » Myanmar accounts for 0.83% of global blindness and 1.2% of global MSVI

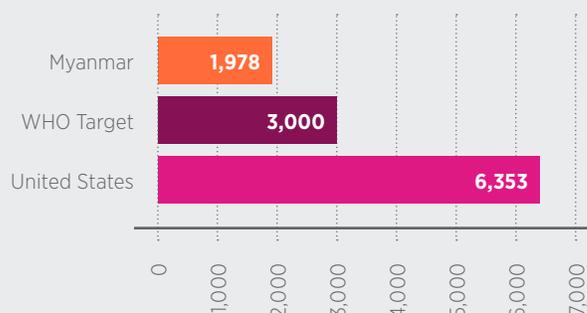
Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Myanmar's Cataract Surgical Rate is 1,978/million as of 2015
- » There are 6.1 ophthalmologists/million people (327)
- » There are 0.8 optometrists/million people (44)
- » There are 0.8 AOPs per million people (44)

VISION NEEDS



CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



¹ 2016 UNDP Human Development Report: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>

² Unless otherwise noted, all statistics provided by IAPD Vision Atlas Global Vision Database.

Seva's Approach in Myanmar

Seva's approach in Myanmar incorporates primary eye care support for communities, technology for improved patient care, pediatrics, and improved hospital management systems with our three local partners:

Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) is a non-governmental organization with a mission to improve access to health care all people on Myanmar. Myanmar experiences high rates of HIV, with approximately 200,000 people living with AIDS. Seva works with MAM through the AIDS Eye Initiative, supporting the training of front line HIV doctors to examine their patients using an indirect ophthalmoscope. This advance enables them to detect and treat blinding CMV Retinitis. These trained health workers can also detect tuberculosis using this technique, allowing early treatment of TB. Seva is working with Myanmar's leading ophthalmologists, the Government, and several non-Governmental eye care organizations to promote an effective national eye care plan.

Mettashin Foundation has been providing free eye care to people in the Taunggyi, Shan Province region of Myanmar since 2007 through the guiding principles of self-motivation, generosity, compassion and kindness. Seva and Mettashin Foundation recently partnered to build capacity and increase access to eye care in Myanmar. Seva is supporting infrastructure improvements, including equipment and technical staff training for a new eye hospital that is currently under construction.

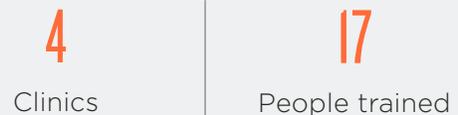
Yangon Eye Hospital has been providing eye care since 2006. Yangon Eye Hospital (YEH) is a specialist teaching hospital providing comprehensive eye care services and training to pre- and post-graduate ophthalmology students. Seva has recently partnered with YEH to build capacity and knowledge base with the goal of increasing access to eye care in the Yangon region. Seva is supporting Yangon Eye hospital to conduct a Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness, also known as a RAAB survey. Findings from the RAAB survey are vital in creating an effective plan to eliminate preventable and treatable

blindness and vision impairment. Seva is also supporting clinical training for eye care professionals at Yangon Eye Hospital.

SIGHT SERVICES



IMPACT (FY17-18)



SPOTLIGHT ON CAPACITY BUILDING

She grew very worried as her left eye began to cloud over and lose vision too. Eventually, both of her eyes became so clouded that she could no longer see.

Daw Ei lives with her unmarried son, where she used to spend her days sitting alone in the house, fighting depression and waiting for her son to return home at the end of the day. She couldn't do anything for herself or help her son. She lived like this, dejected and without

MYANMAR FACT SHEET

sight, for at least six months before receiving care at Mettashin Charity Eye Hospital, Seva's newest partner in Taunggyi, Myanmar.

Mettashin, meaning "Loving Kindness," conducted its first surgical eye camp earlier this year. Still partially under construction, the hospital was able to provide two fully equipped operating theaters to restore sight to 218 patients through surgery! The camp was led by Dr. Bidya Pant, a skilled ophthalmologist from Nepal who was trained with support from Seva. It was the final step in a comprehensive sight restoration process for Daw Ei Zin.

Because of Seva's new partnership with Mettashin, Seva can support many more people like Daw Ei throughout the Taunggyi region in Myanmar. Building new relationships is an exciting venture that Seva undertakes with extreme care and commitment. We establish long-term partnerships built on trust and mutual respect with the aim to create sustainable eye care services that reduce dependence on outside assistance.

The relationship-building process began three years ago. Long-time Seva volunteer ophthalmologist Dr. Dick Litwin made multiple trips to Yangon Eye Hospital to meet with Hospital Director Dr. Tin Win. Together, Dr. Litwin and Dr. Tin Win discussed the large unmet need for comprehensive eye care services and developed a plan with Seva to expand access to these services for the people of Myanmar. The following year, Seva staff and Dr. Pant visited three potential locations to determine their readiness to provide eye care. When they reached Taunggyi and met with officials from Mettashin, they learned a hospital was already under construction with the goal to provide comprehensive eye care services. Thus a new partnership was born.

During the surgical camp held just one year later, Seva Board member and volunteer ophthalmologist Dr. Marty Spencer joined Seva staff to evaluate the clinical procedures at Mettashin. Dr. Spencer noted, "There are an enormous number of blind people in Myanmar who could be cured, and an obvious role for Seva to play in teaching and other support. I examined 50 patients the day after their surgery and observed the high quality of their restored sight."

Because Dr. Pant has partnered with Seva for many years in Nepal, he brings Seva's way of providing high-quality critical eye care services to Myanmar. For Daw Ei Zin, this meant she had access to care that would otherwise not be available to her. Accompanied by her family, she had one cataract removed and was scheduled to have surgery on her second eye to fully regain her vision.

A skillful mentor as well as an accomplished ophthalmologist, Dr. Pant trained seven local young people for a year at his project in Htee Saung, near Mandalay, to become Ophthalmic Aides. He brought them back to Mettashin to be on hand during the surgical camp where they helped patients move through the surgery process with efficiency and comfort. These Ophthalmic Aides will stay at Mettashin as full-time employees to screen for eye care needs in neighboring communities for future surgical eye camps. Dr. Pant is also mentoring local doctors in ophthalmic procedures, one of whom will be trained at a partner hospital in Nepal for one year.

After her first surgery, Daw Ei Zin was overjoyed to regain her sight. She most looks forward to cooking, helping her son around the house, earning money again, and being able to care for herself without anyone's help. She and her family were so grateful to the doctors and

MYANMAR FACT SHEET

Ophthalmic Aides for their care, and to Seva and donors like you for making her personal miracle possible. In addition to patients seeking care directly at the hospital, Mettashin will be fully prepared to reach out to the community, screen for eye care needs, and conduct their own surgical eye camps with their own staff, reaching thousands more like Daw Ei Zin who are in need of critical eye care.

Resources

[Partner Website: Medical Action Myanmar](#)

[Regaining Sight and Hope in Myanmar](#)

