

Paraguay Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2011 | Partner: 1



Country Overview

- » Location: South America
- » Paraguay spans 157,047 square miles
- » Population: 7 million
- » 2019 Human Development Index Ranking: 98 of 189¹

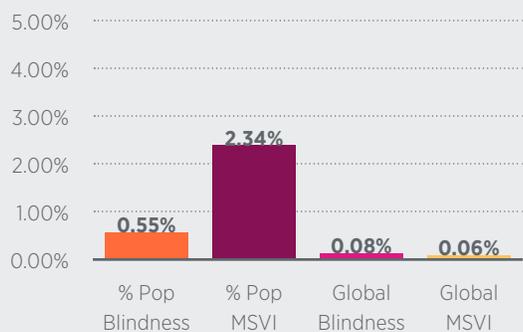
Scope of Vision Needs²

- » 0.55% of Paraguay's population is blind (28K), as compared to 0.15% in the United States
- » 2.34% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (121K), as compared to 1.25% in the United States
- » 0.08% of global blindness
- » 0.06% of global MSVI

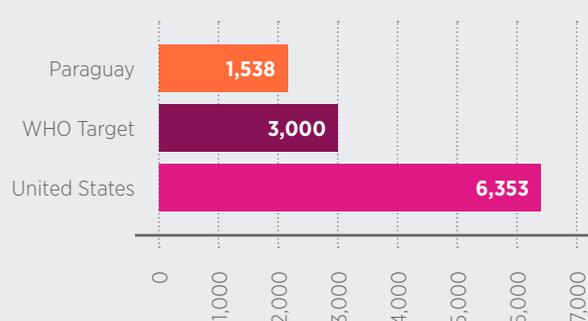
Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Paraguay's 2013 CSR was 1,538 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353 and WHO target CSR of 300 per million.
- » The 2011 CSC=89% (<3/60), exceeding the WHO target of 80%
- » In 2013, there were 34 ophthalmologists per million people in Paraguay.
- » Data is not currently available for optometrists and AOP

VISION NEEDS



CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



¹ 2019 UNDP Human Development Report: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>

² Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

Seva's Approach in Paraguay

Paraguay's low population density, along with its subtropical climate, makes this landlocked country an important region for understanding blindness. Most blindness in Paraguay is due to cataract, with many ophthalmologists working in or near the capital city of Asunción. A 2011 Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness showed a significant reduction in blindness due to cataract since 1999, pointing to a substantial improvement in the results and coverage of cataract surgical services.

Seva's partnership with Fundación Visión has contributed to the greater access of eye care in populations that live outside of Asunción, where much of the blindness is concentrated. Fundación Visión currently performs over 45% of the cataract surgeries being done in the country. Fundación Visión's state of the art comprehensive eye hospital and training facility is reaching out to help improve access to eye care throughout Paraguay. In addition to the hospital in Asunción, Fundación Visión also has three other clinics and a mobile clinic bringing eye care to the most remote areas of Paraguay. The base hospital also has a residency program that trains future ophthalmologists from across Latin America, exposing them to a way of sustainably providing eye care at a high quality to all who need it. In 2018, Visualiza, DNJ and Fundación Visión entered into a three-way mentoring partnership through the Global Sight Initiative. Through this partnership, Visualiza and DNJ will work with Fundación Visión to streamline their systems across the four clinics they operate.

Impact of COVID-19 in Paraguay

COVID-19 continues to have a major impact on the country. Following initial closures, the government has permitted many businesses to reopen. Seva's partner has been able to resume routine, non-emergency eye care services. In recent months, demand for eye care services has continued to increase. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva made funds available to its partner in Paraguay to procure necessary protective equipment for its staff.

* Numbers based on reports received.

SIGHT SERVICES

34



Ophthalmologists per million people

= 10 million people

IMPACT (FY 2019-2020)*

12,601

People receiving services

437

Cataract surgeries performed

SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Through its eye clinics, Fundación Visión provides critical eye care to people who may not receive it otherwise. Enrique Caballero is a 103-year-old veteran of the Chaco War (9 September 1932 – 12 June 1935) between Bolivia and Paraguay over control of the northern part of the Gran Chaco region. He survived the war, found love and happiness with his wife and family, and lived a full life. However, as he got older his vision became cloudy and eventually faded completely. He lived in darkness until he met the eye clinic team. Now a great-grandfather, Enrique has found a new lease on life at the age of 102, having received bilateral cataract surgery from the Fundación Visión with sponsorship from Seva.

Resources:

[Partner Website: Fundación Visión](#)

[A TOMS Story in Paraguay: Sabino's Journey](#)

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