

# Peru Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2009 | Partner: 1



## Country Overview

- » Located in South America.
- » Peru spans 496,200 square miles.
- » Population: 32 million.
- » 2019 Human Development Index Ranking: 82 of 189 countries.<sup>1</sup>

## Scope of Vision Needs<sup>2</sup>

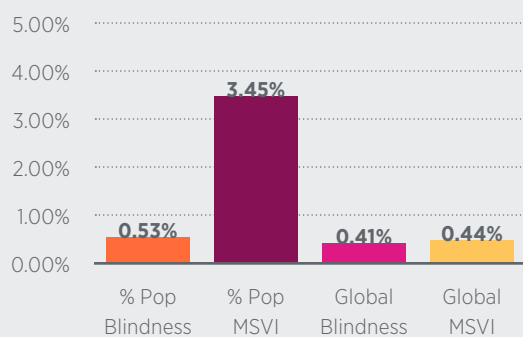
- » 0.53% of Peru's population is blind (146K people), as compared to 0.15% in the United States
- » 3.45% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment (948K), as compared to 1.25% in the United States
- » 0.41% of global blindness
- » 0.44% of global MSVI

## Nationwide Eye Care Response

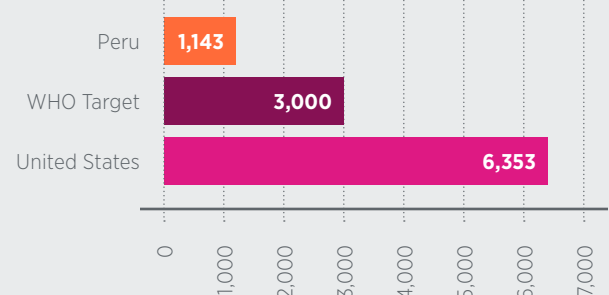
Peru's 2013 CSR was 1,143 surgeries per million, as compared to the US CSR of 6,353. In 2011, its cataract surgical coverage (CSC) was 63% (<3/60), as compared to the WHO target of 80%.

There were 33.2 ophthalmologists per million people in Peru (1,011/30.475M in 2013). (US = 60 per million people). There were 47.6 (1,500) optometrists per million people as of 2016.

### VISION NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



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

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

## PERU FACT SHEET

### Seva's Approach in Peru

With a rapidly aging population and cataract being the lead cause of blindness, Peru has great need for high quality eye care. Seva has partnered with Clinica Oftalmológica Divino Niño Jesús (DNJ) as part of the Global Sight Initiative since 2009. The Global Sight Initiative is an expansive network comprised of more than 120 mentor and mentee hospitals and clinics spanning the world. DNJ began as a mentee of Visualiza Clínica Médica Oftalmológica and quickly became a high quality, high volume center for eye care in South America. DNJ transitioned from a mentee to a mentor hospital in 2014 and has begun mentoring efforts with a focus on its own secondary hospital in Iquitos, Peru, as well as three hospitals in other underserved states of the country. DNJ has grown their staff and hospital to perform over 1,500 cataract surgeries annually. Since 2010, DNJ has conducted several eye camps in the Loreto region of Peru the most isolated and resource-poor state in the nation and recently opened a new eye hospital in Iquitos.

#### SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINING

Through the training program which began in 2016, Seva and DNJ have trained 17 nurses with a specialization in ophthalmology. After the one-year specialization course with theoretical and practical content covering outreach, counseling, management, OPD and OR, the nurses are considered qualified Allied Ophthalmic Personnel. The hospital reports that the training has resolved their HR problems filling AOP positions, while patients and doctors report a higher quality of care with well-trained nurses. Additionally, nurses expressed gratitude for the program and the ability to earn a salary while taking the training, enhancing their incentive to participate in the program and their loyalty to DNJ.

#### SIGHT SERVICES



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



### Resources

[Seva in Peru](#)

[DNJ website](#)

\* Numbers based on reports received.

### Impact of COVID-19 in Peru

COVID-19 continues to have a tremendous impact on the country. Although Peru instituted one of the strictest lockdowns in the region, it suffered the highest mortality rate due to COVID-19. Over the

past few months, the country has gradually begun to reopen and eye care services have resumed. As part of its response to COVID-19, Seva made funds available to its partners in Peru to procure necessary protective equipment and to offset cash flow problems the partners faced.

