



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



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# To Our Friends in Service

## A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*The growing divide between those with and without access to essential health services is a big reason why we do what we do. When we implement effective public health infrastructure and monitor it diligently, it helps create resilient, self-sufficient societies. Over the years, Seva's global network has excelled at delivering affordable, sustainable, and accessible eyecare in communities facing economic, political, and social challenges.*

*For 45 years, Seva has been engaged in the ongoing global health and development discussion. Our approach involves precise data collection, synthesis, and surveillance to understand health trends, improve service delivery, and expand our range of approved eye care solutions worldwide. Seva's commitment to science and compassion has reached 57 million people, with over 6.5 million served in the past year.*

*Since the early '80s, Seva has pioneered the use of real-world data in health interventions, even before it was recognized by the international development community. The Nepal Blindness Survey (NBS), a groundbreaking study by Seva Foundation and the World Health Organization, identified cataracts as the primary cause of blindness and played a significant role in convincing governments and stakeholders to invest in eye care programs. As we fast forward to today, Seva is sharing our experiences and research by advocating at the UN, where we are helping to make the economic case for the importance of eye care, in other words, putting a value to vision.*

*Our time-tested methodology for high-volume, sustainable eye care interventions is effective from every angle. Our programs undergo rigorous evaluation to align with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations. These goals, I might add, are not possible if we do not address vision loss. As you read this report, you'll discover more about our Vision Centers, the innovative diagnostic technology we're testing, and, most importantly, the human experience through individuals whose sight was restored this year.*

*Seva is driven by purpose, and our team embodies the selflessness and talent of those who founded Seva. These achievements are made possible by the compassion and generosity of supporters like you—individuals who believe in creating a brighter tomorrow. On behalf of the Seva team, our partners, and the Seva Foundation Board of Trustees, I sincerely thank you for contributing to our mission.*

*Yours in service,*



**Kate Moynihan,**  
CEO/Executive Director

### *Nepal, 2022* (Cover Story)

Before receiving a pair of eyeglasses, 10-year-old **Arnav** struggled with his schoolwork. With clear sight, he now performs at the top of his class and wants to be a doctor in the future.

### *Guatemala, 2022*

○ A patient at an eye screening at the Totonicapán Vision Center in Guatemala.

# WHY SIGHT?

Over 1.1 billion people worldwide live with vision impairment that could have been prevented or treated. Without any significant investments, this figure will rise to 1.7 billion people by the year 2050. A life without clear vision is a life with limited independence, freedom, and opportunity. For a person in the developing world, this can be catastrophic and a threat to dignity.

Men and women who lose their sight are often unable to care for themselves or provide for their families. Children with impaired vision are forced to leave school or are often ostracized by their peers. Often caretakers are members of the family who must shift priorities in their own lives. When one person loses their sight, an entire community suffers.

# OUR VISION

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*A world free of avoidable blindness.*

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According to the World Bank, restoring sight is one of the most cost-effective interventions to reduce poverty. It has an immediate and profound impact on the patient who can now go back to studying, learning and earning a living. Additionally, restoring one person's sight gives two people their lives back: the person with the vision impairment and their caregiver. This creates a positive ripple effect on the entire family and community.

Since 1978, Seva has transformed lives by restoring sight in communities with little or no access to eye care. Today, Seva is a highly effective global nonprofit organization, working with partners in 20 countries to increase the capacity of local hospitals and develop sustainable eye care programs with long-term impact.

Thanks to your support, Seva and our partners have provided vital eye care services to 57 million people in the world, including 6,576,441 people in the last year alone. Seva's vision is a world in which no one lives with avoidable blindness.

With your help, we can make that vision a reality in our lifetime.

## *Bangladesh, 2022*

**Ayesha** could no longer perform her daily work and became dependent on her family when her vision blurred. Through our partner Grameen Health Care Services, she received a cataract surgery. Today, she conducts her household activities, spends time with neighbors, and the entire family is relieved.





# WHERE YOUR GOOD DID THE MOST

*Because of you,*

**6,576,441**

*people received eye care services in 2022-2023.*

**3,412,396**

*were women or girls.*

**867,489**

*people received cataract surgeries.*



## VISION CENTERS

**27**

Vision Centers established in  
2022-2023

**3,617,638**

People gained access to essential  
eye care services through  
Vision Centers

**332,963**

People received services at  
Vision Centers



## EYE CARE FOR CHILDREN

**423,970**

Children screened

**59,005**

Children received glasses

**12,110**

Children received surgery



## TRAINING AND JOB CREATION

**143**

Doctors trained

**431**

Ophthalmic support staff trained

**232**

Administrators trained

**3,913**

Community Health Promoters trained

**16**

Seva-Led Trainings completed

**72**

Seva Led Trainings participant hospitals

**493**

Seva Led Trainings participants



## TECHNOLOGY

Our current areas of focus in the pipeline include:  
portable, low-cost **diagnostic devices**;  
access to **affordable medications**;  
new **telemedicine software**, enabling us to reach isolated communities;  
and advanced **digitization of medical records**.

## India, 2023

Your compassion lifted three generations from darkness.

**Sarama**, 62, lives in a remote village in West Bengal and was born with congenital cataracts. Like her mother and siblings, she could barely see. She's had a series of accidents: once, while walking in the field, she held up a snake thinking it was a dried coconut leaf. Her two sons and two grandsons also lived with cataracts. Work, school, and everyday life for the entire family was a blurred haze.

Through our partner Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan (VMANNN), India, Sarama, her sons and grandsons received sight-restoring cataract surgery. Their lives were forever changed. Now they are back in school or at work. The entire family feels a renewed hope for their future. "I cannot express how happy I am," shared Sarama.

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*"I can see so clearly! I can even see tiny insects now for the first time in my life!"*

- Sarama

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# OUR WORK

## *Building Sustainable Eye Care Systems Worldwide.*

*Seva builds sustainable eye care systems and empowers local communities to provide eye care for themselves. The three strategic priorities that make our vision a reality are:*



## *Creating* **ACCESS**

### *Guatemala, 2022*

**Francisco** is a merchant, selling wallets, necklaces and bracelets, all handmade. At the beginning of 2020, his vision began to blur. A cataract surgery brought him happiness and relief. Two weeks later, Francisco resumed his work, making bracelets and all the crafts he used to make and sell.

90% of people with vision impairment live in low- and middle-income countries, where geographic isolation, limited health facilities, and economic stress prevent communities from accessing health services. Seva works hand-in-hand with local partners to break down these barriers and create consistent access to world-class eye care.

We provide partners with a suite of technology, medical supplies, and other resources necessary to carry out comprehensive vision care at low or no cost to patients. This includes sight-restoring cataract surgeries, medication, and eyeglasses, among other vision services. For patients whose situations prevent them from accessing care, we also secure basic transportation, food, and accommodation needs, ensuring no person is left behind. Localized outreach and awareness campaigns are simultaneously conducted in communities to create a consistent pipeline to care.

Last year, we partnered with Sacred Circle Healthcare, serving the Goshute Tribe in Ibabah, Utah. Through this partnership, we've introduced a tele-optometry opportunity for these geographically isolated tribal members to gain access to care for common ocular and vision treatment without the need for excessive travel. Another new partnership, with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in rural Colorado, focuses on providing elderly Native Americans with eye care. Additionally, existing partners continue to create access for rural Native communities, including Tundra Health Initiative, which completed screenings in five remote village sites, serving 561 patients.







## *Building* **CAPACITY**

Current eye care systems in developing countries are not equipped, robust, and resilient enough to meet the demand of the countries' eye care needs. Seva alleviates the strain on eye care systems by building and strengthening the capacity of hospitals and clinics. We achieve this via a network of 150+ hospitals in low- and middle-income countries working together through our Global Sight Initiative (GSI).

Seva connects “mentor” and “mentee” institutions together, whereby one provides training, research, mentoring, and consultancy to the other. This is the most effective and efficient way to provide high-quality eye care at scale and expand the availability of such services. Seva rigorously trains ophthalmic support staff in management, clinical skills, community outreach, and a myriad of other roles required for a strong program. To ensure patient safety, we also implement comprehensive training and quality protocols. Vision Centers create permanent and sustainable access to eye care in rural and often underserved communities.

In Guatemala, we installed two optical laboratories at Vincent Pescatore and Quetzaltenango Hospital. With these labs directly inside the hospitals, we will optimize the delivery times of eyeglasses to patients, reduce production costs, and reduce patient expenses by eliminating a return to the hospital to pick up eyeglasses. Over the course of three years, these labs will provide frame and lens services to 20,000 people.

### *Nepal, 2023*

- At 100 years old, **Lali** was active as can be – until poor vision stopped her in her tracks. Through our partner, she received cataract surgery; She got her life back, as did her grandchildren who no longer have to look after her.

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*“Sight is a blessing. I know people who have died blind, and I am grateful to be able to see once more.”* - Lali

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## Collecting and Learning from **EVIDENCE**

Seva meticulously and systematically tracks and analyzes data on more than 120 metrics from 20 countries to inform our strategic approach, such as the number of patients seen, cataract surgeries advised and performed, and visual acuity outcomes after cataract surgery. Most metrics are disaggregated by age and gender. This level of detail and scope enables us to better identify, anticipate, plan and deliver on the specific vision needs of communities.

Guatemala has the highest prevalence of vision loss in the entire Latin American and Caribbean region, after accounting for age structure, with approximately two million people living with blindness or visual impairment. Emerging evidence from research conducted by Seva indicates that eye health investment has an exceptionally large return on the economic ROI for a Guatemalan society, comparable to other best buys in global health and development. This research validates the critical value organizations like Seva add in building out eye care infrastructure, and makes the case for continued investment in eye care from governments and partners. A similar study we published last year in India further confirmed these insights.

Seva also supports ongoing, informal learning. Our partners in Africa conducted a cross-learning exercise, sharing insights surrounding the effectiveness of their eye care programs and areas for growth. Through this feedback loop, we are able to create eye care solutions that are practical and viable for each partner and community.

### *India, 2022*

A group of women who were diagnosed with vision impairment by our partner hospital, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya.









*Glasses are Nari's  
new favorite thing!*

### *Cambodia, 2023*

○ Nari lives with her family in a village in Cambodia straddled by seasonal flooding. It's a dangerous environment for a child with vision problems. Through our partner in Siem Reap, she was provided medication and a pair of eyeglasses; the entire family is now relieved for her safety.





# SEVA'S DRIVERS FOR SUCCESS

*Creating a world where everyone can see requires meticulous measurement of the impact of our work. The “Four Drivers” enable us to track the efficacy of our solutions and stay ahead of the curve.*

◦ *Guatemala, 2022*

18-year-old **Arlen** (right) lives with hearing loss. When she visited an eye screening camp in Escuintla, Guatemala, the ophthalmologist on site, Dr. Carlos Romera, spoke with her in sign language. This quickly put Arlen at ease. Dr. Romera diagnosed her with refractive error and provided her with a pair of eyeglasses.

# VISION CENTERS

Most people in rural areas do not have access to quality eye care, as hospitals and clinics are located at great distances. A Vision Center (VC) is a permanent, local establishment equipped to meet 80% of all eye care needs in a single visit, and refer patients who require more advanced care to a nearby hospital. Vision Centers are self-sustaining, providing services for free, at a subsidized rate, or at full price depending on what patients can afford. On average, a VC will treat 3,600 patients a year, provide 360 pairs of eyeglasses, and refer 300 patients for additional services (including 125 for surgery, the most common surgery being cataract, the leading cause of blindness globally). Depending on the region, a single VC creates immediate access to long-term eye care for 50,000 to 500,000 people.

This year, you helped Seva establish 27 new VCs, including VC's in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Peru.

## ◉ *India, 2022*

A Seva supported Vision Center in Madhya Pradesh, India in collaboration with our partner hospital Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya (SNC)





## *Mozambique, 2022*

Vistaro, our wide-field retinal camera being field-tested in Mozambique.

# TECHNOLOGY

Seva supports and invests in revolutionary eye care technology that improves diagnostics, treatment, or delivery. Vistaro, our groundbreaking wide-field retinal camera, developed in collaboration with Remidio Innovative Solutions, is currently being field-tested in India, Mozambique, Ukraine, and Thailand. Most medical devices currently on the market do not easily detect conditions originating at the back of the eye, leaving many blindness-causing diseases, such as CMV retinitis and diabetic retinopathy, to go undiagnosed. Vistaro is a portable, durable, and cost-effective camera for eye care clinics to diagnose and treat these conditions. A comparative study of images from the Vistaro against a high-end, wide-field retinal camera proved successful results.

Seva also invests in tried-and-tested technology, such as telemedicine, digitized medical records, and medical devices, that increase the effectiveness and efficiency of vision screenings, outreach initiatives, hospital flow, disease detection, and treatment of eye conditions. We are launching a new telemedicine app to reach rural communities with eye care. We also leveraged artificial intelligence (AI) for immediate detection of blinding conditions; early application of this AI at community screenings led to timely referral of patients with diabetic retinopathy to hospitals for further care. Working with experts, we designed features and refined algorithms to determine an individual's refractive error using just an inexpensive tablet, with no need for internet connection. This can be used by non-medical personnel, making access to timely treatment possible for health centers whose staff have no optometric training. We are also currently navigating the regulatory process for a leading injectable biosimilar medication for diabetic retinopathy.



# EYE CARE FOR CHILDREN

Globally, 90 million children and adolescents live with some form of vision impairment. Because 80% of what a child learns is processed visually, without sight a child may miss educational opportunities, experience social isolation, face greater harm or injury, and experience barriers to employment later on in life.

Seva's pediatric programs provide comprehensive eye care and treatment for children, from screening and early identification of eye care needs to referral, provision of care, and long-term follow-up. Our programs are strategically embedded in schools and local community networks to meet children where they are.

Retinopathy of Prematurity (RoP) is an eye disease that affects many premature babies and is a common cause of vision loss among children. This year, Seva initiated its first RoP programs in Mexico and Paraguay. Last year, through your support 423,970 children were screened, 59,005 children received glasses, and 12,110 children received surgery.

# TRAINING AND JOB CREATION

The demand for eye care services outpaces the supply of eye care professionals. 68% of countries are home to only 5% of the world's ophthalmologists, mostly concentrated in major cities. This leaves millions behind without critical access to timely vision services.

We invest in and strengthen the global eye care workforce by hiring and training ophthalmologists, ophthalmic support staff, and community outreach workers, with an emphasis on underrepresented women. Support staff is equipped to address basic eye health conditions and refer patients who require more complex care, like surgery, to ophthalmologists. This method is cost-effective, increases the number of skilled personnel available, strengthens the local economy through job creation, and enables the longevity of eye care services, even long after Seva's direct involvement has ended.

In collaboration with Lavelle Fund for the Blind and ALCON, Seva and Visualiza are launching the ADI training initiative, an ophthalmology residency and allied ophthalmology training program. This initiative will train 12 ophthalmologist residents and 345 allied ophthalmic personnel (AOP) within the first three years, who will provide services to 10,000+ patients, and perform more than 2,300 eye surgeries. This training project will also establish a global research and education center, creating a body of evidence and research on eye diseases in Latin America.

Eyexcel - our "training the trainers" program - imparts practical and actionable skills to partners to provide quality eye care. The first bilingual Eyexcel workshop in Hindi and English was conducted in India with 12 hospitals and 60 participants. Multiple quality and safety training sessions were also conducted to ensure the standards of hospital environments and care. InSight, our online e-learning platform that provides competency-based training lessons and exercises for all eye care workers on various subjects, was updated with 10 self-paced learning paths focused on 60+ competencies.

This year, you made it possible to provide training to 143 doctors and 431 ophthalmic support staff.

## ◦ *India, 2023*

At 16 years of age, **Arati** was diagnosed with diabetes causing cataracts in both her eyes. She could barely see anything and had to quit school. After receiving a free cataract surgery she is considering going back to school and continuing her studies!

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

Historically, Native perspectives have been underrepresented when it came to decision-making about their communities, leading to a lack of culturally appropriate health care options. To change this, our Native American Vision program organizes talking circle meetings. Based on a traditional meeting structure used by many tribes, talking circles foster discussion and community. Partners lead and drive the conversation, sharing news, problems and solutions, providing demonstrations or asking questions. It is a vital component of our program to create communication across Native eye care partners and Seva, ultimately strengthening and informing the delivery of eye care services. A digital space is also being developed, where future talking circle meetings will be held and saved, to serve as a continuing resource for the community.

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## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:

Due to geographic terrain and population distribution, access to eye care in Nepal is often out of reach for communities. Vision Centers and outreach services -- cataract screening, school screenings, and community-based surgical camps -- are pivotal in bridging this gap. With Seva's support, Bharatpur Eye Hospital, our partner in Nepal since 2003, provides training to outreach coordinators in community health to reach those in rural areas with eye care. With the success of this training program, Bharatpur has created a module to be distributed to other partners for use. To date, 44 candidates have been trained from 26 different eye care facilities, bringing eye care to the doorsteps of communities.

"It is a great experience and we feel extremely delighted to be working with Seva. We have received lots of support in different areas, including capacity enhancement of the staff, patient subsidy support, equipment/instrument, research support, and more. Now, the hospital has grown up and achieved its target. Seva is the pathfinder for the overall development of the Bharatpur Eye Hospital growth and achievement on its mission."

-Mr. Daya Shankar Chaudhary, Hospital Manager, Bharatpur Eye Hospital

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### *Oklahoma City USA, 2022*

**Keiko** used to struggle to see objects and would blink a lot. She was provided with a pair of eyeglasses to treat astigmatism. She can now see clearly, and her future is brighter than ever.







## *Looking forward to the* **FUTURE**

“Guatemala Brillando” is our groundbreaking and first-of-its-kind plan to systematically eliminate avoidable blindness in Guatemala. Through this, we have already created permanent access to eye care for 9 million Guatemalans. By 2032, we will have established 8 hospitals and 30 Vision Centers, reaching the entire nation with eye care coverage. This blueprint can then be scaled across the world, making access to eye care available to everyone.

Seva’s Vision Centers create permanent access to eye care in rural and underserved communities. Next year, we are establishing more than 40 Vision Centers, including in Peru, Paraguay, Nepal, India, Guatemala, Cambodia, and Bangladesh. Combined, these centers will create access to eye care for at least 4 million people.

Diagnostic tools and treatment options for diseases that occur in the back of the eye are currently limited. Seva is closing this gap through its pioneering wide-field, retinal camera Vistaro. This imaging device has undergone extensive field testing with partners in Mozambique, India, Thailand, and Ukraine and soon will be used in additional settings before going into higher-volume production.

### ◦ *Mozambique, 2022*

**Vistaro**, our revolutionary wide-field, retinal eye camera that detects and diagnoses diseases that occur in the back of the eye, being field-tested by partners in Mozambique.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Every dollar you give goes towards ending avoidable blindness.*

Last year, your generosity brought critical vision care to more than 6.5 million of the most vulnerable, isolated people around the globe. Because of you, countless men, women, and children worldwide can see clearly. Seva puts every dollar you give into immediate action, bringing the power of sight within everyone's reach.

This year, you gave \$9,919,242 to restore sight and prevent blindness in isolated and resource-poor communities. When you give to Seva, you bring long-term, sustainable solutions to people in underserved communities everywhere. Every contribution you make represents a life-changing gift for someone in need. As always, on behalf of everyone we serve, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

## *Cambodia, 2023*

At 11, **Pisey** (left) excels in mastering the formal Khmer language and accompanies her writing with illustrations. Concerned about her watery eyes, her mother took her to the Seva-supported Angkor Hospital for Children, where she was diagnosed with nearsightedness and received glasses. Previously struggling to see the chalkboard, Pisey can now comfortably absorb lessons. Inspired by TikTok, she dreams of owning a bakery, showcasing her intelligence and budding entrepreneurship.



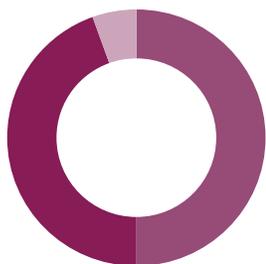


# REVENUES

**\$9,919,242\***

# PROGRAM EXPENSES

**\$10,128,995**



## GLOBAL SIGHT INITIATIVE

- ASIA 48%: \$4,829,979**
- AFRICA 4%: \$380,788**
- AMERICAS 49%: \$4,918,228**

**PROGRAM SERVICES: \$10,128,995**

**FUNDRAISING: \$1,402,565**

**GENERAL & MANAGEMENT: \$1,397,786**

**NET ASSETS ON JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023: \$33,681,497**

\* Does not include Investment Income.

The financial information as of and for the year ending June 30, 2023 has been derived from Seva Foundation's financial statements audited by Armanino LLP independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2023 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact Seva Foundation's office for copies of the complete audited financial statements.

## India, 2023

**Bhabani Pal**, a 63-year-old woman in a remote West Bengal village, was suffering from cataracts until she received free sight-restoring surgery from Seva's partner hospital.

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Kate Moynihan

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Pg 21, 26: Partner in Mozambique

Your support helped Seva provide life-changing eye care services to more than 6.5 million people this year. On their behalf, thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We look forward to working with you in the years to come, as we strive to create a world free of avoidable blindness. If you want to learn more about a specific area of Seva's work, please contact us at [give@seva.org](mailto:give@seva.org). We are happy to provide you with additional information. On behalf of the Seva family, our partners, and everyone we serve around the world, thank you for your continued commitment and generous support!

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SEVA FOUNDATION  
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