



Soor Aur Saptak

Donor Report
July 2018 – June 2019

Program Goal

In 2018, Seva and its donors came together and made a commitment to reach 1 million children around the world with eye care services by 2020. As of 30 June 2019, we have screened 790,884 children toward our target of 1 million.

Around the world, 19 million children under the age of 15 have impaired vision, including 12 million with vision impairment due to refractive error and 1.4 million with blindness. Approximately three-quarters of the world's blind children live in the poorest regions of Africa and Asia. Good vision is critical for good futures - 80% of what a child learns is processed through the visual system. A child's ability to fully participate in and benefit from educational, social and eventually professional activities needs clear vision.

Thanks to Seva's partners like Soor Aur Saptak, more children will have these opportunities. Through our commitment, children receive an eye screening and those who need additional eye care – such as a pair of glasses or eye surgery – can receive them too.



Cover Photo Caption

Ayan and his sister pause their playing during a check-up at a partner hospital in India to get Ayan a new pair of glasses. Ayan had his first eye check up a year back and the glasses changed his life. The first thing he does in the morning is reach for his glasses. They allow him to see the world clearly and to play confidently. This year he starts school and with his glasses he has the opportunity to thrive in his classes.

Where We Work

Seva works with partners to provide needed eye care for children in India:

West Bengal

Maharashtra

New Delhi



Program Impact



133,668 children screened



1,001 surgeries



3,488 glasses



3 partners

Lives Changed

The following stories highlight the impact these efforts have made in the lives of the children, their families and communities.

Muskaan in India

Born and bought up in New Delhi, Muskaan had been born small and weak. Her mother had given birth to her at home without proper care. She was very small for her age as she had problems drinking her mother's milk. Her parents were very worried about her but as time went by, Muskaan grew up, although she was still very fragile. Life went on for the Hussain family, as her sister came along. Resources were scarce for the family growing up as her father worked in a sewing machine factory and his salary, the only one in the family, was meagre.



As Muskaan neared the age of 15, there was an eye camp which was set up in her school. All the girls were very excited to get their eyes tested. As Muskaan's turn came, the doctor saw that something wasn't right. He immediately called for her father and Muskaan got spectacles for her eyes. But this only gave her partial relief. She still wasn't very comfortable with her sight as there was partial blindness in one of her eyes but she didn't want to trouble her parents, as the family of 4 still had difficulty in meeting ends meet.

Then one day, one of her cousins pointed out to the fact that there were white particles in one of her eyes. Her mother, Farhat Afroz was scared; scared for her little girl as she feared the worst. She got her tested at a private clinic and got to know that Muskaan had been diagnosed with Cataract in her right eye. The family was in a state of shock and despair as they grappled with the fact that their girl had to be operated upon. They couldn't figure out how to finance the surgery as they were told that it would cost around \$350-400. They were distraught. Muskaan had lost all her confidence and used to wonder why she had this misfortune.

When they got to know about Seva's partner, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, it was like a miracle. One of the hospital's counsellors had seen their daughter and ensured that they would be fine. He helped the family understand the requirements and to go through all the pre- surgery requisites. After a successful surgery, she still comes for her regular follow ups and follows all her doctor's recommendations.

Muskaan wants to be a teacher when she grows up. This has been her childhood dream. For a while, she thought it could never come true. But now she has many aspirations and dreams for the future and she also has a pair of healthy eyes to fulfill them.

Lives Changed

Rutika in India

Rutika is a 15-year-old student from Jam village, a rural area of Satara district of Maharashtra state in India. Her father is a farmer and her mother helps in farming. Rutika is the eldest daughter of two in the family. Farming is the only source of income for the family and they are totally dependent on what they grow.



Rutika had drooping eye lids in her right eye since birth. In the rural areas of India, congenital anomalies like drooping of eye lids is still often considered as a curse from the gods. Initially, the family ignored the problem but as Rutika started to go to school, her problems increased. Her classmates teased her and did not allow her to play with them.

For Rutika it was also difficult to see things far away. She had to sit near the blackboard in class. Many times, she was forced to copy her classwork from her friend's notebook. As time went on, her vision problems increased. She felt uncomfortable in large settings because she couldn't clearly identify people. She started avoiding the community gatherings.

With increasing study pressures, Rutika felt challenged each day. Due to her dropping right eyelid, she relied more on her left eye. She would often turn her head towards left. But after doing so for long periods, her neck would ache, proving challenging for her both at school and at home.

Fortunately, during a recent school screening program, Rutika received an eye examine and referral to H V Desai Eye Hospital. As the services were free, her father took her to the hospital. At the hospital, a specialist examined Rutika advised a lid correction surgery. Rutika's father refused to do the surgery because of the cost. But the surgeon and counsellor at the hospital showed the results of others cases and also explained that the costs could be covered thanks to generous donors like you. All the services are offered free of cost. After the counselling, Rutika's father agreed and she had the corrective surgery.

Just one week later when Rutika came for her follow-up exam, she seemed a different person. She was very happy and confident. She expressed her gratitude towards the screening team, the surgeon and the counsellor for bringing a smile back to her and her parents. She now felt much more confident to perform well in her upcoming 10th standard examination.

Lives Changed

Sastika in India

Sastika, two years old, lives with her family in Bajshnabchak, West Bengal. When she was born she had congenital cataract and couldn't see. She was unable to recognize anything. Her family didn't know what to do and resigned themselves to their situation. One day, her neighbors told her family about an eye hospital they had visited. The hospital provided good services and also saw children. The neighbors were really happy with their experience and suggested that



Sastika's family take her to the hospital to try to see if anything might be done for her. Her family agreed and, after an examination, the doctor recommended she have cataract surgery. Her parents, although anxious, agreed this might be a good opportunity for their daughter. After the surgery, Sastika's world opened up. Now, she could see. She could recognize her mother, her father, and her big sister. Her parents, amazed, also told their neighbors and friends about their experience. As her mother shared, Sastika can now easily enjoy her life. "With sight, you have life," she said.

Finance Report

Funding Allocation

FY18-19

	SAS Funds	PED Funds Overall	% of Ped Effort Funded by SAS
HVD	\$10,305.00	\$47,402.00	22%
SCEH	\$18,000.00	\$127,499.00	14%
VMANN	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	100%

Services for FY 18-19	HVD		SCEH		VMANN		TOTAL
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	
Children Screened	31,002	31,925	13,620	21,809	19,481	15,831	133,668
Surgeries Provided	378	447	43	58	29	46	1,001
Glasses Provided	642	592	843	1,180	129	102	3,488

From July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, the Soor Aur Saptak community donated \$58,305 to fund the screening and follow up care for children with eye health problems, at Seva's three partner hospitals in India: HV Desai, VMANN and Dr Shroff's Charity Hospital. All funds were distributed to the partners from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, and reported above, as are the services performed by each hospital.

Priorities Looking Ahead

Seva and its partners remain committed to reaching more children and achieving our goal to screen 1 million children by December 2020. For the coming year, in collaboration with Soor Aur Saptak, we will continue to reach children in India in critical need of eye care. Thanks to your ongoing support, we are confident we will reach our goal to provide necessary eye care services to children in India, and around the world.

Once we have reached the 1 million children, Seva will restart the clock, as we turn our focus to Seva's C20/20 campaign, an ambitious campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness in our lifetime. The goals of this campaign include reaching an additional 3 million children with vital eye care services over the next 3-5 years. C20/20 is a comprehensive campaign to raise an additional \$22 million, over and above our annual budget. These funds will support Seva's global work with our partners in over 20 countries. The pillars, the foundation that forms Seva's programs are: Children, Technology, Primary Eye Care Vision Centers, and Training and Job Creation.

We are grateful for the Soor Aur Saptak community's ongoing efforts that support Seva's pediatric programs in India and thank you for joining us as we set our sights on eliminating avoidable blindness in our lifetime.