



Our vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with disabilities participate equally in society.

Protecting sight

Sightsavers aims to prevent avoidable blindness and save the sight in some of the world's poorest countries by treating eye conditions such as cataracts, trachoma and refractive error. **Worldwide, 36 million people are blind, but 75 per cent of this sight loss can be cured or prevented.**

We provide eye operations for people who need them and train eye care workers and surgeons to provide sight-saving treatment. Through community volunteers, we also distribute medication to protect people from blinding diseases.

Cataracts

Cataracts are often thought to only affect older people, but in developing countries they are a huge problem also for children. It is vital for children that the condition is caught in time or it can cause the eye to stop developing, meaning sight can never be properly restored.

- **355.000 cataract operations** were supported by Sightsavers in 2018.

Refractive error

These eye disorders can be particularly problematic in developing countries, where those affected may not be able to afford sight tests or spectacles to help improve their vision. What's more, in rural areas there's often a shortage of trained eye care professionals.

- **Over 456.000** people were provided with **spectacles** by Sightsavers in 2018.

Trachoma

Trachoma is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. It starts off as a bacterial infection that's a bit like conjunctivitis and can be easily treated. But if it's not, over time it causes scarring to the eyelid that makes the eyelashes turn inward, so with every blink they scrape against the eye. If it is not treated, trachoma can lead to blindness.

- More than **17,6 million people** were treated for trachoma and over **44.000 trichiasis surgeries** were performed thanks to the support of Sightsavers in 2018.

Charity evaluator GiveWell recommends Sightsavers as one of the 8 'Top Charities' for its work on deworming.





The End is in Sight: our aim is to eliminate blinding eye disease trachoma

Trachoma infections spread through contact with infected flies and via hands, clothes or bedding; because of this, it **disproportionately affects women and children** and thrives where there are water shortages, poor sanitation and infestations of flies.

The agony and disability of trachoma can lead to a cycle of poverty, limiting many people's access to health services, education and employment.

157 million people are still at risk of going blind from the disease.

Yet trachoma is treatable and preventable.

Sightsavers has been fighting the disease for many years. Alongside a team of international organisations and governments, the charity aims to **eliminate the disease by 2025**.

We help to control the impact and spread of trachoma by implementing the World Health Organization's SAFE strategy: the acronym describes the four methods used to control the disease.

- **Surgery:** to stop eyelashes from rubbing against the eyeball (advanced trachoma).
- **Antibiotics:** Azithromycin medication is used to treat the trachoma infection.
- **Facial cleanliness:** teaching local communities the importance of face washing and encouraging good hygiene.
- **Environmental improvements:** to improve access to water and basic sanitation.

Be part of history

To help us get one step closer to eliminating this awful disease, you can make a donation on www.sightsavers.it or via bank transfer to Sightsavers Italia Onlus, Banca Prossima S.p.A., IBAN IT10H0306909606100000001732, BIC/SWIFT BCITITMM

- € 50 could pay for one sight-saving operation for advanced trachoma
- € 100 could provide 600 children with the antibiotics to treat trachoma



SIFI SpA

supports Sightsavers Italia since 2015

