



## OUR WORK IN ZAMBIA

Operation Eyesight Universal is an international development organisation working **to prevent blindness and restore sight**. Our vision is the **elimination of avoidable vision loss**.

We have been operating in Zambia since 2001, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, our leading partner, and other stakeholders. Together we are improving access to affordable eye health care and addressing the root causes of vision loss. Our comprehensive programmes seek to improve access to quality eye health care while also addressing some of the root causes of avoidable vision loss, such as gender inequities, inadequate eye care services, long distances to eye health centres,

and lack of access to clean water and sanitation. Through implementation of our Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Programme model, we are ensuring that quality eye health services are within reach for those living in underserved communities.

As a member of the global community, Zambia is working within the **"2030 IN SIGHT"** plan, which is the eye health sector's strategic plan for the next decade aimed at ending avoidable vision loss by 2030. It frames eye health and good vision as a fundamental economic, social and development issue that is closely linked to the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals**.

## OUR VALUES

### EQUITY

We commit to equity and equality, inclusion and dignity for all.

### CITIZENSHIP

We commit to providing everyone with optimal eye health care including the best of care for citizens experiencing extreme poverty.

### COMPASSION

We will seek to understand the perspectives of others and our goal is to alleviate their distress.

### INNOVATION

We will make a valuable and measurable impact on the countries where we work. We will test and monitor outcomes for continuous improvement and continue to generate new and innovative approaches.

### EXCELLENCE

We will persistently create better ways of doing the things that we do. We will not rest on our accomplishments but will build on them to be the best we can be.

# 2023 Achievements

## Districts covered: 6

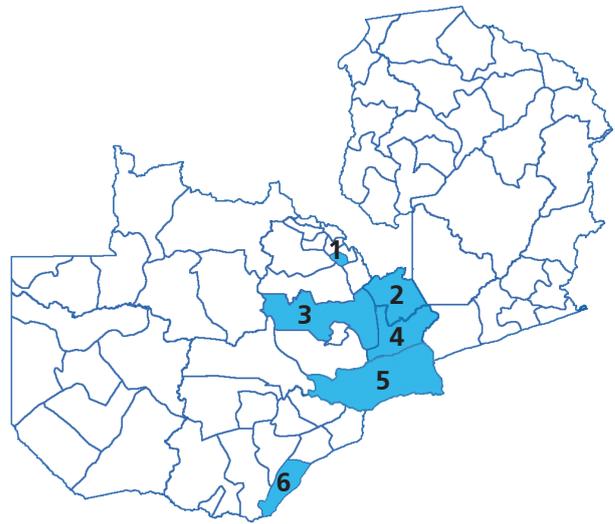
1. Ngabwe
2. Mkushi
3. Kapiri Mposhi
4. Luano
5. Lusaka
6. Sinazongwe

## Number of vision centres supported: 6

1. Kanyama level I
2. Matero Hospital
3. Chawama Hospital
4. Maamba General Hospital
5. Bauleni Clinic
6. Mandevu Clinic

## Operating theaters upgraded: 2

1. Maamba General Hospital
2. Kanyama Level I



2022 VS 2023 PROGRAMME INDICATORS	2023		2023	2022	TOTAL
	ADULTS	CHILDREN			
People screened through door-to-door surveys	F 6,422	F 1,045	10,829	16,004	26,833
	M 2,594	M 768			
People covered under health education and awareness	F 16,258	F 6,526	40,723	16,004	56,727
	M 11,359	M 6,580			
People examined through hospitals, vision centres and outreach camps	F 18,614	F 5,541	40,481	20,378	60,859
	M 11,461	M 4,865			
Pairs of prescription spectacles dispensed (including readers)	F 1,120	F 321	2,429	1,758	4,187
	M 750	M 238			
Number of pupils screened under school eye health programmes		F 2,157	3,555	14,489	18,044
		M 1,398			
Cataract surgeries supported at University Teaching Hospital	F 183	F 6	362	267	629
	M 167	M 6			
People who underwent non-cataract surgeries	F 138	F 24	551	278	829
	M 356	M 33			
People treated for various eye conditions through hospitals and vision centres, including outreach camps	F 11,670	F 3,535	25,273	18,206	43,479
	M 6,765	M 3,303			
Number of dysfunctional water boreholes rehabilitated			25	120	145
Number of Area Pump Minders (APMs) trained			20	122	142

# Plans for 2024



Construct and launch one vision centre at Kafue Gorge Hospital in Chikankata district



Perform 540 sight-saving surgeries



Examine more than 100,000 people at our partner hospitals, vision centres and through outreach camps



Rehabilitate 45 dysfunctional boreholes



Train 120 teachers in Primary Eye Care (PEC)



Screen 15,000 pupils through school screening camps



Dispense 2,796 prescription spectacles (including readers)





## Operation Eyesight as a key partner to the Zambia Ministry of Health

### Expanding access to services through implementation of Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Programmes (HBCEHP)

In order to support the government's efforts to increase coverage of eye health services, for over a decade, Operation Eyesight has developed and implemented our flagship Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Programme (HBCEHP) model to improve access to quality eye health services at the community level and reach vulnerable individuals. This model includes the integration of eye health services into the existing public health facilities, in addition to community-level awareness activities to educate families on the prevention of eye diseases and to promote positive health-seeking behaviour. These community-level activities are implemented through a local and trustworthy network of resources: Community Health Workers (CHWs).

We have worked with the Ministry of Health to establish eye care services into the existing primary health care system at University Teaching Hospital (UTH); Lusaka Eye Hospital (LEH); Chawama, Kanyama, Matero and Maamba Hospitals; and Bauleni, Kapiri Mposhi Urban, Mandevu and Chibefwe Urban (Mkushi) Clinics. Operation Eyesight has provided equipment, infrastructure, training, drugs, and other medical supplies. Going forward, we will continue to scale up the implementation of our model in other locations to increase the coverage of eye health services.



## Provision of clean water as part of the SAFE strategy for trachoma prevention and control

SAFE is a trachoma treatment and prevention strategy that includes **S**urgery for advanced disease, **A**ntibiotics to clear the trachomatis infection, **F**acial cleanliness and **E**nvironmental improvement to reduce transmission. To break the cycle of transmission of trachoma and, overall, to improve people's quality of life, Operation Eyesight has a strong history of both drilling new boreholes and rehabilitating existing boreholes in Zambia. Due to the significant return on investment, in recent years we have focused on rehabilitating existing boreholes in partnership with the district councils and local youth whom we have trained as Area Pump Minders (APMs). APMs provide routine maintenance and repair of the boreholes and are a critical element in keeping the boreholes in good working order. These pump minders are provided with a toolkit and are supervised by the local authority.

We have rehabilitated dysfunctional boreholes in trachoma endemic areas of the Southern

and Central Provinces (in Kapiri Moshi, Mkushi, Ngabwe, Luano, and Sinazongwe districts). There are still boreholes in need of rehabilitation in these districts and beyond.

Not only does the availability of potable and reliable water close to the community help to prevent disease and infection, but it also improves the quality of life for women and girls and supports their educational and economic aspirations. When a water source is located close to their households, the need for women and girls to collect water from far-off and unsafe water sources is eliminated, enabling girls to attend and stay in school rather than spend their time walking long distances for water. Going forward, Operation Eyesight will continue to work with the local authorities to identify additional dysfunctional boreholes in need of rehabilitation and support efforts to reduce the prevalence of trachoma to below levels of public health concern.

# MAAMBA GENERAL HOSPITAL EYE CARE CENTRE



## Operation Eyesight as a strategic partner with Zambia's private sector

Operation Eyesight has a successful history of collaboration with the private sector as an implementing partner of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

In the past, we partnered with Standard Chartered Bank as a local implementing partner of the "Seeing is Believing Program," a global partnership between the Bank and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) that focused on tackling avoidable blindness and visual impairment across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and South America. This long-standing partnership demonstrated what can be achieved when private sector corporations and non-governmental organisations work together with governments and local communities and commit to a long-term strategy to meet an ambitious goal. Under this partnership, between 2016 and 2022, Operation Eyesight led the establishment of eye health services at Chawama, Mandevu, and Bauleni Health Centres and the implementation of community awareness activities. These eye health services continue to be provided today, beyond the end of the project cycle.

We partnered with Maamba Collieries Limited to jointly fund the full SAFE strategy to eliminate avoidable blindness in their area of operation between 2018 and 2022. Under this initiative, people were reached through a Mass Drug Administration, community members across the district were screened for eye conditions, and cataract and other eye surgeries were conducted through outreach camps. The eye unit was equipped, their staff were trained, and the operating theatre at Maamba General Hospital was upgraded to be able to provide routine eye surgeries for residents in Maamba and other districts. This facility was officially launched by Her Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia in October 2022. We also drilled 106 water boreholes and rehabilitated 96 dysfunctional boreholes in Sinazongwe district, and established V-WASHE (Volunteer Water and Sanitation and Health Education) committees to provide oversight of the boreholes. These interventions have resulted in better health and socioeconomic well-being for those living in the communities. Phase two of this partnership will focus on improving the cataract surgical coverage in Sinazongwe district. This 18-month project will reach 1,320 cataract patients while offering screening services to 12,000 people.

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