



## Future back in focus for Ethiopian student

Imagine failing the same grade twice. And the first grade, no less.

That's an experience 11-year-old Hayat, in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, has gone through. Today Hayat, held back by difficulties with her eyesight, is continuing to work on her first-grade accreditation, alongside seven- and eight-year-olds.

Born with a twin brother, Hayat had vision problems from the very start. Immediately after birth, she underwent eye surgery. The hospital scheduled her for a follow-up appointment, but due to financial constraints and lack of transportation, the family was unable to return for it.

Her father explained that, as Hayat grew older, she continued to have trouble seeing.

"We knew she had difficulty seeing distant objects, but we couldn't take her to a health facility because

we didn't have the money for treatment," her father shared. "It pained us deeply to see her struggle. We began to lose hope in her education because her performance was poor."

But Hayat persisted with her schoolwork, and she was in class when Operation Eyesight, in collaboration with Partners in Education Ethiopia, started a screening program at her school.

Hayat was quickly identified as having vision problems. Along with other students, she received a referral to our partner institution, the Tibebe Ghion Hospital, for a full eye exam. An optometrist diagnosed her with refractive error.

Just two days after her hospital visit, the project team returned to Hayat's school with a life-changing package in tow – the students' eyeglasses.

*Read more inside* →

*Continued from cover*

Hayat went home sporting her new eyeglasses, beaming as she announced that she could finally see clearly. Her family was thrilled, knowing that she now had what she needed to thrive in school.

“Thank Allah!” her father announced, then followed up with instructions for Hayat. “Now you can study well and improve your grades.”

The little girl was more than happy to agree.

***Thank you for helping to bring eye health care to children like Hayat!***

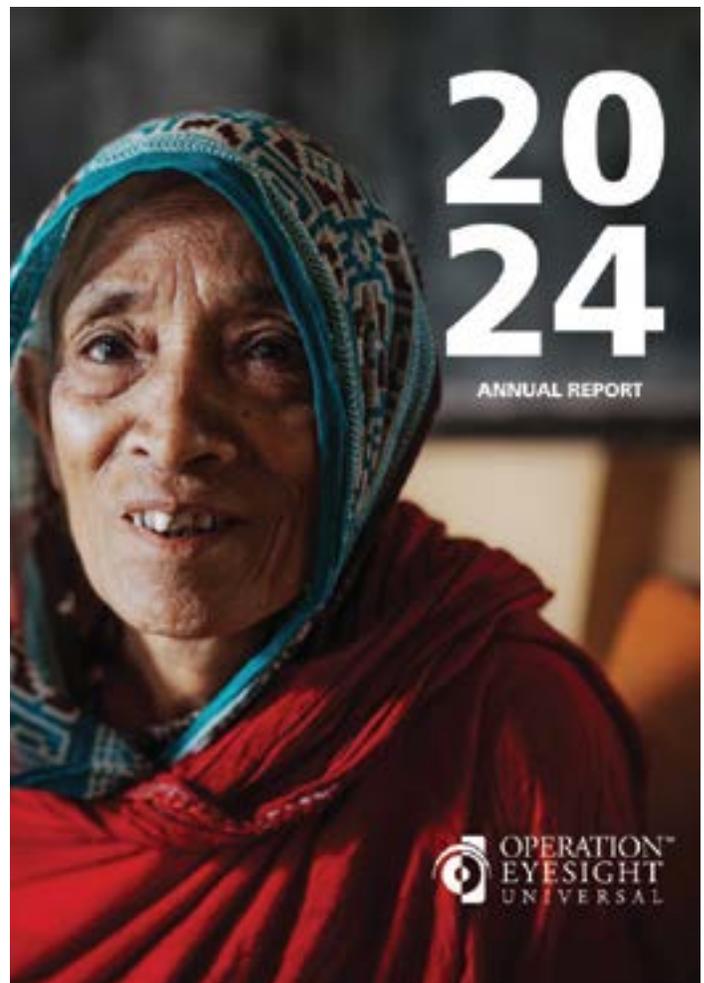


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## 2024 Annual Report now available!

This month we release our *2024 Annual Report*, showcasing the impact you helped to create across Africa and South Asia and the progress we've made on our *2024–2028 Global Strategy*. In 2024 alone, thanks to our partners and donors like you, we screened over 2.36 million people, performed 280,982 eye surgeries and distributed 272,911 pairs of eyeglasses, all while expanding our fundraising efforts across Canada, India, Kenya and Zambia. As the number of people living with vision loss climbs toward 1.8 billion by 2050, 90 per cent of it avoidable, we're scaling up quickly to meet the global need. Read the Report to learn how we're investing in our people and programs, and get detailed updates on our five programming areas: community eye health, hospital strengthening, integrated eye health, disease control, and research and advocacy.

[operationeyesight.com/annualreport](https://operationeyesight.com/annualreport)





Hellen, left, befriended Operation Eyesight employee Samson Nyongesa when he stayed at the mission where she works upon his arrival in Garbatulla, Kenya. Later, she became a cataract patient under our Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Project, funded by Johnson & Johnson.

On the day I arrived in Garbatulla, Kenya to begin my work with Operation Eyesight, there was no electricity, so I couldn't let my colleagues back in Nairobi know I had made it. The next day, the network came back online, but the incident sums up one of the challenges of working in this area – the difficulty in connecting with people, including many of our community health promoters who live in villages without network coverage.

Many people here in Isiolo County, in Kenya's arid upper eastern region, are semi-nomadic. They move from place to place in search of pastures for their cows, sheep, goats and camels. Recently, flash floods cut off access to several villages. That's why the new vision centre we've established in Garbatulla – in partnership with Garbatulla Sub-County Hospital – is so important. Now there's a permanent eye clinic people can visit whenever the roads are open or when herders are back from distant pastures.

When I got here, I stayed at a local mission as I hadn't found a permanent place to stay. A woman there named Hellen was very kind to me, making sure I got my tea each morning and that I had everything I needed to get settled. When I explained what had brought me to Garbatulla, she said she was struggling with her vision. I encouraged her to come to our clinic, where she was diagnosed with a cataract in her left eye. She was concerned that taking time off would disrupt her duties at the mission, but on the day of her operation she showed up and got it done. I just had lunch with her recently, and she is doing very well and has made a full recovery. I'm grateful to have helped someone who made me feel so welcome when I first got here.

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## Notes from the field: Reporting for duty in Isiolo County, Kenya

By Samson Nyongesa,  
Program Coordinator



Samson Nyongesa started working for Operation Eyesight in March 2025. He is the Program Coordinator supporting our Johnson & Johnson-funded Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Project in Garbatulla, Kenya. Samson previously worked for the Asante Africa Foundation, implementing a digital transformation strategy in remote parts of East Africa, and he has a background in economics.



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## The advantage of gifting stocks

Did you know that donating stocks is the most tax-efficient way to give? Here's why: When you sell a stock or mutual fund that has increased in value since you purchased it, you pay tax on the capital gain. But if you donate the securities to charity, there is no capital gains tax payable on the increase in value since you purchased it. This makes gifting appreciated stock one of the most cost-effective ways to make a donation to Operation Eyesight.

Another way you can save on your taxes and make a significant gift to Operation Eyesight is by gifting an annuity. It combines a charitable gift with a life insurance contract that provides regular payments to the donor in exchange for a lump sum payment.

To learn more, contact us at 1-800-585-8265 or [securities@operationeyesight.com](mailto:securities@operationeyesight.com) or visit [operationeyesight.com/stockgifts](https://operationeyesight.com/stockgifts). We also encourage you to speak to your financial advisor.



**No matter how you choose to make your donation, thank you! Every dollar counts, and every gift is greatly appreciated.** In March, thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we opened a new vision centre at Chitipa District Hospital in partnership with the Malawi Ministry of Health. Chitipa District is a hilly, agricultural region tucked into the northwest corner of Malawi, bordered by Zambia and Tanzania. Its remote location has long made access to eye care a challenge, but the new centre is now providing eye exams, eyeglasses, cataract surgeries and more to the district's 256,000 residents.



Priyansh sits for a photo with his parents, Raj and Ramya

## Early detection gives little boy a second chance at life

Four-year-old Priyansh's story begins in March 2023 when his father, Raj, noticed a strange glow in his little boy's eyes. It was an observation that would end up saving Priyansh's life.

Raj and his wife, Ramya, acted quickly and took Priyansh to a local doctor who diagnosed him with a tumor. After more consultations, the family was advised to get treatment at the Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer at the L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India.

The Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer was made possible by the generous gift of an anonymous Canadian family, and through our longtime collaboration with the renowned eye hospital. Since 2015, the Institute has provided comprehensive treatment for the entire range of ophthalmic tumors in both adults and children. It is one of just a handful of centres in the world that specializes in this type of treatment.

Once he arrived at the Institute, Priyansh was examined by an ophthalmologist who diagnosed him with fourth-grade retinoblastoma, a severe form of eye cancer that largely affects very young children.

With the level of danger the cancer presented, the doctor recommended that the affected eye be surgically removed. Although heartbroken by the diagnosis, the family knew surgery was their only hope to save their son. The operation was a success, and Priyansh's outlook improved, but the journey was far from over. Following the surgery, Priyansh underwent grueling chemotherapy sessions to make sure there were no remaining cancer cells. The little boy was left weakened and frail, but kept his spirits up during treatment.

Due to the demands of Priyansh's treatment, Raj, who works as a taxi driver, had to take time off work. In order to help free the family from the financial burden caused by Priyansh's diagnosis, the L V Prasad Eye Institute was able to offer the treatment completely free of charge, allowing the family to focus on recovery.

Today, Priyansh is stable, and his parents are extremely grateful for the care he received. To date, the Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer has identified and treated 18,515 patients for eye cancer.

***With special thanks to the L V Prasad Eye Institute, who originally reported this story.***