



2024

Impact Report

Thank You

None of this life-changing work would be possible without your incredible support. Your generosity and belief in our mission have helped transform lives, restore sight, and create brighter futures for countless individuals. Thank you for being part of the Orbis family, your support is truly making a lasting difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Cronin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" and the last name "Cronin" clearly distinguishable.

Rebecca Cronin (Chief Executive)

2024

Changing the Way the World Sees

As a vision charity, Orbis UK works with non-profit hospitals, national and local governments, and NGOs to provide eye care training and treatment. With your help, we are able to continue fighting blindness and ensure everyone has access to quality eye care, no matter where they live.

Our Programmes

Orbis builds strong eye care systems that range from educating people about eye health to identifying eye conditions in the community and providing treatment and follow-up services. Your support improves access to eye care in the communities that need it most, but do it in a sustainable and strategic way that leaves a lasting legacy of vision.

Our Volunteers

Our world renowned expert volunteers are the heartbeat of our training programmes. For more than 40 years, our goal has been to share their ophthalmology volunteer skills and knowledge to help prevent avoidable blindness around the world. Your support means these amazing volunteers can run training programmes which not only help share critical skills but help treat people living with avoidable blindness.

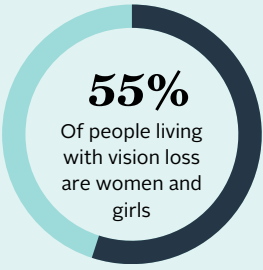
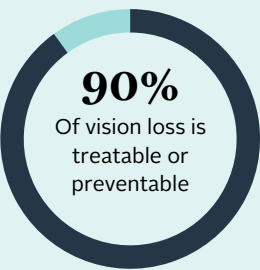
Cybersight

Cybersight is our award-winning telemedicine and e-learning platform. Through Cybersight, our expert volunteers teach and support eye care teams around the world using the latest advancements in internet and mobile technologies.

Vision Loss at a Glance

1 Billion

PEOPLE LIVE
WITH VISION
LOSS GLOBALLY



9 in 10

People living with vision loss are from low and middle income countries

Orbis at a Glance



12

PROGRAMME
COUNTRIES

7

GLOBAL
OFFICES

In 2024 the Flying Eye Hospital landed in:

- Mongolia
- Bangladesh



100,000+

TOTAL USERS

200+

COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
USING GLOBALLY

320,000

COURSE ENROLLMENTS

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has one of the highest rates of visual impairments and blindness in the world per capita. Around 5.4 million people in Ethiopia are living with eye conditions which could lead to blindness. Cataract and trachoma are reported as the leading causes of blindness and low vision in the country.

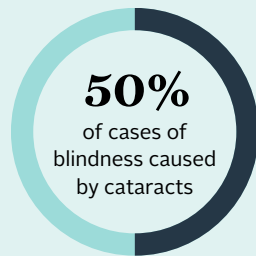
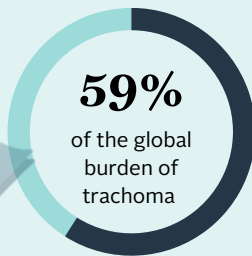
Orbis's Programme

Our programme in Ethiopia is complex, combining school screening, identifying people suffering with trachoma, sight-saving surgeries, and leading a mass drug administration campaign. Your support is confronting the enormous challenge of trachoma by implementing the World Health Organization's SAFE strategy (eyelid surgery, antibiotics, face cleanliness and environmental improvement). The risk of trachoma is being reduced by training nurses to perform trichiasis surgeries (correcting in-turned eyelids) at primary healthcare units and building awareness through the teaching of community health workers, teachers, local women's group leaders and community leaders about eye health.

Trachoma

Trachoma is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the outer eye. Trachoma infection can be prevented and treated with simple antibiotics, but without access to medicine, many repeated infections can lead to another condition called trachomatous trichiasis. This painful condition causes the eyelids to turn inwards and the eyelashes to rub against the surface of the eye. Without treatment, it can lead to irreversible blindness.

Orbis's work is part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) aim to eliminate trachoma globally by 2030



80% Of cases of vision loss remain unaddressed



70% Of cases of Trachomatous Trichiasis are women



1 Ophthalmologist per 800,000 people

Cataracts

A cataract is a clouding of the lens in the eye – this blocks the light from passing into the eye and leads to vision loss and eventually blindness. The only way to treat a cataract is an operation, and there is a critical need for more ophthalmologists in Ethiopia who can perform this surgery.

Thanks to you, in 2024

2.5 Million

DOSES OF TRACHOMA ANTIBIOTICS ADMINISTERED

174,088 SCREENINGS CONDUCTED

7,628 HEALTH WORKER TRAININGS DELIVERED

7,554 SURGERIES PERFORMED

1,979 EYEGLASSES PROVIDED FREE OR SUBSIDISED

India



India is home to nearly a quarter of the world's blind population. An estimated 270 million people are living with vision loss. 9.3 million children in India are visually impaired and 270,000 are blind - this is the largest number of blind children in any one country. Yet, over 50% of these children could have their sight restored, if treated early.

Green Vision Centre Model

The Vision Centre is a tried-and-tested eyecare solution across the world, providing a range of primary eyecare services, including: examinations, minor treatments, detection of potentially blinding diseases and referrals to specialist secondary eyecare facilities. In partnership with local eye hospital Trilochan Netralaya, two additional Green Vision Centres in Deogarh and Padampur opened in 2024. Each centre serves a population of 100,000.

Aarav's Journey to a Brighter Future



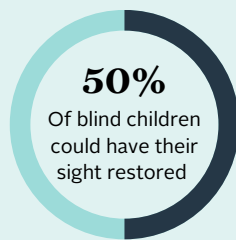
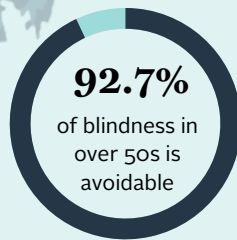
Aarav was born with limited sight, which worsened as she grew. In rural India a girl's future often depends heavily on her health and education. Aarav's parents were determined to find a solution to her sight

impairment. So, they took her to a nearby Orbis-supported Vision Centre. Aarav underwent her first successful surgery which has restored sight to her right eye. She is due to undergo her second surgery which her family hope will complete the restoration of her sight. Her mother, Sri, expressed gratitude:

"Without surgery life would have been without hope. Now there is a future. I know she has to have another surgery. I want to go for it"

Aarav can now grow up with the gift of sight, pursuing an education and a life filled with possibilities. Your support reaches communities and transforms lives.

270 Million

 PEOPLE LIVING WITH VISION LOSS

1,000 Paediatric ophthalmologists in the whole country

Thanks to you, in 2024

47,647 SCREENINGS OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN COMPLETED

1,361 SURGERIES PERFORMED

2 NEW VISION CENTRES OPENED

Green Vision Centres are:

Financially Sustainable

All of our Vision Centres are designed to be financially sustainable within two to three years of being established.

Environmentally Sustainable

Using solar power, Green Vision Centres emit 94% fewer carbon emissions than health facilities using regular energy sources.

Building Partnerships

Vision Centres are partnered with a secondary level hospital which can provide more complex diseases such as cataracts, pediatric eye problems, and eye injuries.

Utilising Teleconsultation

Teleconsultation services allow patients who require additional care to receive it remotely when possible, removing the need for them to travel the potentially long distance to the partner hospital.

Bangladesh 27 Million

With around only 1,200 ophthalmologists, Bangladesh faces daunting challenges in delivering quality eye care to its population of 173 million people. Across the country, 950,000 people live with blindness. For the many people living in rural areas, eye care is especially hard to access.

Flying Eye Hospital

For two weeks, the Flying Eye Hospital was stationed in Chattogram, Bangladesh, where local ophthalmologists trained alongside Orbis's world-class medical volunteers. Local ophthalmologists, nurses, anaesthetists and bio-medical engineers received hands-on training, surgical simulation, and workshops that will enable them to perform sight-saving surgeries. This training will empower these eye care teams for years, ensuring that people across Bangladesh have access to the quality eye care they deserve.

Tea Garden Workers



Tea garden workers spend eight hours a day picking tea leaves like those which make your cup of tea. Tea picking is an intricate occupation that requires close concentration, and workers often have no eye care

services in their communities Orbis is aiming to tackle this - over 3 years, Orbis's project in the Tea Gardens in Sylhet will provide community eye screenings and deliver free glasses, medication, and surgeries to tea pickers and their families. Around 74% of tea workers in Sylhet live below the poverty line, and their pay is directly impacted by their productivity. Studies have shown that with glasses, tea workers' productivity increases by up to 32%. This higher productivity and accuracy translates to increased earnings for tea pickers, improving their economic stability. In 2024, your support allowed the project to screen over 24,000 workers and provided over 2,000 free pairs of glasses, directly supporting both the tea workers and their families.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH VISION LOSS



1 Ophthalmologist per 145,000 people

Thanks to you, in 2024

151,278	SCREENINGS OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN COMPLETED
14,036	PAIRS OF GLASSES PRESCRIBED
2,457	SURGERIES PERFORMED
545	TRAININGS COMPLETED BY TRAINEES

Women-Led Green Vision Centres

Women and girls disproportionately bear the burden of avoidable blindness. One of the ways we're tackling this is through women-led green vision centres (WLGVCs) – green eye care centres that are improving access to eye care, and empowering women in underserved communities. Women receive care from female health workers in their local area without the need to travel long distances. The centres are even subsidised for those unable to afford the costs. Many women are more likely to seek eye care for themselves and their children when it is administered by other women. It also empowers women in the community through job creation and increasing their financial independence.

Vision Centre Achievements

42,821	SCREENINGS COMPLETED
7,231	PAIRS OF GLASSES PRESCRIBED
180	TRAININGS COMPLETED BY TRAINEES
3	NEW VISION CENTRES OPENED

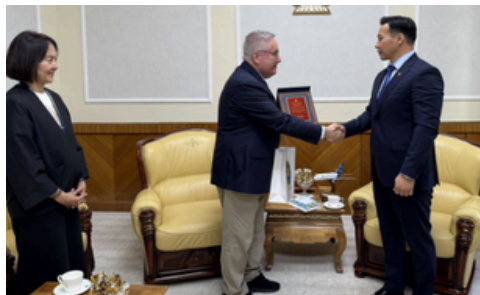
Mongolia



Access to quality eye care is a pervasive challenge in Mongolia, affecting both urban and rural areas, due to scarce equipment, limited training, and inadequate health infrastructure. Since 2009, when resuscitation for low-birth-weight infants was introduced, infants in Mongolia have faced a heightened risk of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a disease that can occur in premature babies, causing abnormal blood vessels to grow in the retina. It is the leading cause of childhood blindness worldwide.

Sustainability through Systems Change

Orbis has been working with Mongolia's Ministry of Health for 35 years, collaborating to integrate a strong and sustainable eye care network into the national health system. In 2024, thanks to you, skills for other childhood eye conditions were built in six aimags (provinces) where we have successfully established ROP screening services, and five new aimags developed the capacity to manage ROP. Orbis participated in discussions with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education in Science in Mongolia regarding policy to improve the eye care of babies and children, through such measures as in-school eye screening, and implementing mandatory ROP screening across Mongolia for babies born fewer than 32 weeks following gestation.



In 2024 Orbis Mongolia Country Director, Chimgee Chuluunkhuu and Orbis International CEO, Derek Hodkey met with The Honourable Minister of Health for Mongolia, Mr Togtmol Munkhsaikhan.

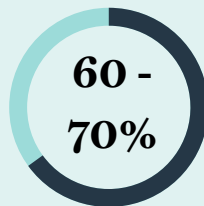
13%

Of ophthalmologists can perform high quality refraction and prescribe spectacles.

All of them were trained in Orbis's previous projects



1 in 6 school children are visually impaired



of infants born at less than 32 weeks or weighing less than 1,500 grams are affected by ROP

Retinopathy of Prematurity is the leading cause of childhood blindness worldwide

Flying Eye Hospital

In May this year, the Flying Eye Hospital visited Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. For three weeks our expert volunteers and clinical staff trained local eye care teams to restore the sight of children and adults living with vision loss. More than 70 ophthalmologists took part. In addition to training, our volunteers performed surgery onboard, treating young patients with cataracts, glaucoma and strabismus.



Thanks to you, in 2024

2,079

SCREENINGS OF PREMATURE BABIES FOR ROP

363

PROFESSIONALS TRAINED TO IDENTIFY AND TREAT EYE DISORDERS IN NEWBORNS





orbis.org
+44 (0)20 7608 7260

Orbis UK
42 Craven Street,
London, WC2N 5NG

Registered charity no. 1061352. Company number 3303689.
All photos copyright Orbis.