

# Paraguay Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2011 | Partner: 1



## Country Overview

- » Located in South America
- » Paraguay spans 157,047 square miles
- » Population: 7.13 million
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 105 of 191<sup>1</sup>

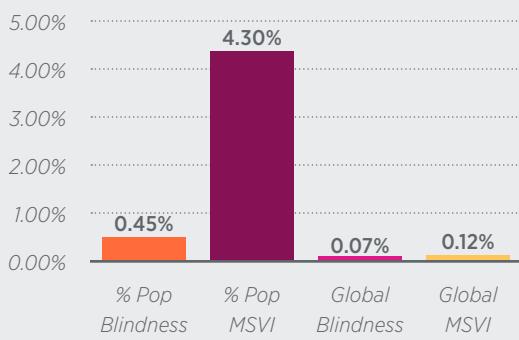
## Scope of Eye Care Needs<sup>2</sup>

- » 0.45% of Paraguay's population is blind (32,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.30% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (310,817), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.07% of global blindness
- » 0.12% of global MSVI

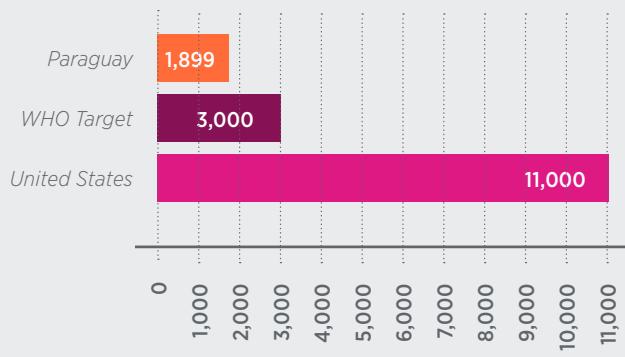
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Paraguay's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 1,899 surgeries per million in 2019, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 34.6 ophthalmologists per million people in 2019, (216 total)
- » 61 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2019 (432 total)

### EYE CARE NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



<sup>1</sup> 2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: [https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf\\_1.pdf](https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

## PARAGUAY FACT SHEET

### Seva's Approach in Paraguay

Paraguay's low population density, along with its subtropical climate, makes this landlocked country an important region for understanding blindness. Most blindness in Paraguay is due to cataract, with many ophthalmologists working in or near the capital city of Asunción. A 2011 Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness showed a significant reduction in blindness due to cataract since 1999, pointing to a substantial improvement in the results and coverage of cataract surgical services.

Seva's partnership with Fundación Visión has contributed to the greater access of eye care in populations that live outside of Asunción, where much of the blindness is concentrated. Fundación Visión is a leading institution in the prevention of blindness, with more than 25 years in Paraguay, 5 clinics in different cities. Fundación Visión's state of the art comprehensive eye hospital and training facility is reaching out to help improve access to eye care throughout Paraguay. The base hospital also has a residency program that trains future ophthalmologists from across Latin America, exposing them to a way of sustainably providing eye care at a high quality to all who need it. In 2018, Visualiza, DNJ and Fundacion Vision entered into a three-way mentoring partnership through the Global Sight Initiative. Through this partnership, Visualiza and DNJ will work with Fundacion Vision to streamline their systems across the four clinics they operate.

This year, Seva will support a program focused on Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and the development of the first Vision Center in the country.

#### EYE CARE PERSONNEL

**34.6**



Ophthalmologists per million people

**61**



Ophthalmic Personnel per million people

= 10 million people

### SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Librado is a 41-year-old farmer who lives in Paraguay. He is married and has three children, the youngest of whom he had not been able to see yet, as he had been blind due to cataracts for a little over a year. Hopelessness had overwhelmed him. He tried to resign himself to a normal life, even though everyday actions such as feeding himself had already proven difficult. Fundación Visión's Community Health team arrived there during their "30 Years of Love for Vision" campaign to evaluate Librado and give him the opportunity to see again.

"Che ndaroviai," an expression in Guarani that translated into Spanish, means "I don't believe," was Librado's first reaction when the doctors told him that he would be able to enjoy his life normally once he regained the sight in his eyes. The operation on the first eye was a success. Today, Librado anxiously awaits the opportunity to undergo surgery again in the eye that is yet to fully recover, full of gratitude for the opportunity to enjoy living independently of the disease that robbed him of so much time.

"Immense gratitude to those who made it possible for me to see again!" - Librado

#### IMPACT (FY 2022-2023)\*

**27,105**

People receiving services

**3,352**

Cataract surgeries performed

**1,931**

People receiving services at VCs

### Resources:

[Partner Website: Fundación Visión](#)

[A TOMS Story in Paraguay: Sabino's Journey](#)

\* Numbers based on reports received.

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