

# Cambodia Fact Sheet

**SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE:** In country since 1998 | Partners: 15



## Country Overview

- » Bordered by Thailand to the northwest, Laos to the northeast, Vietnam to the east and the Gulf of Thailand to the southwest
- » Cambodia spans 69,898 square miles
- » Population: 16.7 million people
- » 2021-2022 Human Development Index Ranking: 146 of 191 countries<sup>1</sup>

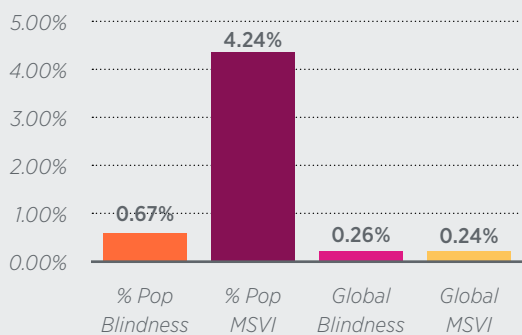
## Scope of Eye Care Needs<sup>2</sup>

- » 0.67% of Cambodia's population is blind (112,528) as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 4.24% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (713,283) as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.26% of global blindness
- » 0.24% of global MSVI

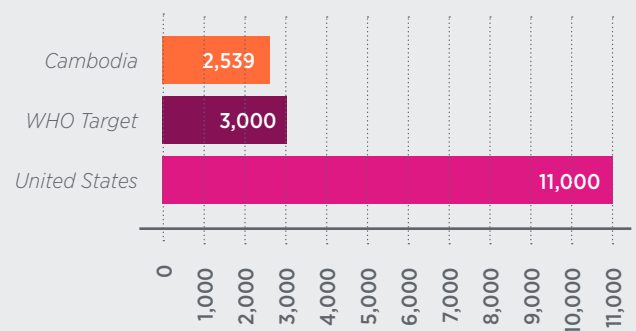
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » Cambodia's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 2,539 surgeries per million in 2019, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 3.9 Ophthalmologists per million people in 2019 (71 total)
- » 0.3 Optometrists per million people in 2018 (5 total)
- » 9 allied ophthalmic personnel per million in 2019 (152 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/>

### Context

Cambodia is a country rich in culture, inspired from nearly two millennia of a unique Khmer blend of Buddhism, Hinduism and animistic religious belief systems. After years of painful genocide and civil war, now just under 40 years later, the Cambodian population continues to slowly rebuild and reclaim their culture as well as an infrastructure of government and health care systems. The majority of the population lives in rural communities practicing traditional and other forms of agriculture, making access to primary health care facilities extremely challenging.<sup>1</sup>

The large majority of those experiencing blindness in Cambodia are either preventable or curable, but sadly the vast majority of Cambodians do not have access to quality, affordable eye care. Seva works in six provinces, with in country partners, to bring needed eye care services to Cambodia's most vulnerable populations, including rural communities, women, and children.

**Countrywide services** continue to be built out in attempts at alleviating this concern. Existing and new infrastructure of hospitals and health centers as well as the professionals who staff these locations and other remote programs throughout the country are pivotal in providing Cambodians with the care they need and deserve.

In a country with a total of 25 provinces, there are **17 provincial referral hospitals** with eye units and 559 Health centers in Cambodia with eye units (45% of the countries total number of health centers)<sup>2</sup>. It's clear the country is striving to tackle the widespread issue of preventable blindness. However, the country still needs a significant increase in trained and available eye care professionals.

### Seva's Approach in Cambodia

Seva works in six provinces throughout Cambodia with 15 partners including 4 new vision centers (Krakor, Bakan, Sampov Loun and Thma Puok)

including the Ministry of Health, government operated eye clinics and health facilities as well as not-for-profit clinics. The provinces include Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Battambang and Pursat all in the northwest Kampot and Takeo, in the southwest bordering Vietnam. Seva's target is to screen 26% of the total population by continuing to work with existing partners in these provinces.

Seva's approach to addressing eye health needs in Cambodia prioritize three key strategies; **Access** to universal eye care, building **Capacity** of personnel and infrastructure as well as **Evidence**-based interventions and advocacy.

**Primary eye care services** offer adult outpatient services through key partner hospitals and vision centers in Seva's catchment area. Community outreach activities include screenings and door-to-door visits in remote communities as well as distribution of educational materials and radio PSAs.

Modern **Technology** for patient care is vital in supporting up to date practices implemented locally. By purchasing clinical equipment for partner hospitals, Seva and our partners ensure an increase in availability of quality services for the Cambodian population.

By focusing on **Hospital Management Systems** such as training, tracking and evaluations, hospitals and local communities alike are more equipped to build out their capacity and more effectively serve their populations. Seva with our partners, provide trainings for local doctors in ophthalmology residencies, Allied Ophthalmic personnel as well as teachers for school screenings. The quality of cataract surgeries, evaluation of personnel and the effectiveness of service delivery are all tracked. Attendance at professional conferences and meetings allows our partners to share program findings with a broader community of specialists.

Seva continues to build our partnership with Angkor Hospital for Children in delivering **pediatric outpatient services** and eye camps (exams, eye health education,

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.wpro.who.int/health\\_services/service\\_delivery\\_profile\\_cambodia.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/service_delivery_profile_cambodia.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Cambodia's National Strategic Plan for Blindness Prevention and Control 2021-2030:

<https://seva4oun.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Public/EWevmpqyzDtNnPRQ7JE1VOYBIJjZYb49JV9Pi5OVDXxxPA?e=WNe68b>

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medical treatment, glasses, surgeries, transport) with technology and trained personnel (Pediatric Allied Ophthalmic Personnel; Health Center Staff; Teachers for school screening). The quality of cataract surgeries, specifically for pediatrics, is always tracked and the findings disseminated with other professionals who are invested in improving universal eye care.

Seva assisted the Ministry of Health and National Program for Eye Health (NPEH) to develop the Cambodia's "National Strategic Plan for Blindness Prevention and Control 2021-2023". Seva was invited by NPEH to launch the National Strategy's Provincial Roadmap in the 5 Seva working provinces. Seva Cambodia is an active member of the consultative team established by the government and has been supporting them in implementing the national eye health strategies.

### SPOTLIGHT ON REACHING CHILDREN

Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) offers comprehensive clinical services, from lifesaving specialty care to holistic support designed to treat the whole child. In Cambodia, it's of high need and unprecedented.

Dara, a six-year-old boy, was excited to begin school. He soon realized he was having difficulty reading the text on the board, even when sitting at the front of the class. When he told his parents, they did not know what to do. Their neighbor recommended they visit Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). The family took a seven-hour bus ride to AHC, hoping to find a solution. At AHC's Eye Clinic, Dara received a comprehensive eye examination from an experienced ophthalmologist. Dara had a cataract in his left eye, which was causing his blurry vision. "I almost fainted when we found out about my son's cataract. AHC's doctors and nurses comforted my husband and me," remembered Dara's mother. "As parents, we would do any-

thing to make sure our child gets better." Dara's surgery was scheduled for the following day to prevent further damage to his eye. Ophthalmologists removed and replaced the clouded lens with a new one. The operation was a success, without any post-surgical complications. Dara's parents felt grateful and were impressed by the care and attention provided by AHC's Eye Clinic. Dara is thrilled to see clearly and is excited to return to school and read the class board along with his classmates.

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

109,975

People receiving services

9,085

Cataract surgeries performed

14,439

Children screened

2,724

Children receiving surgery

2,177

Children receiving glasses

9

Administrators trained

6

Doctors trained

38

AOPS trained

258

Community Health Promoters trained


\* Numbers based on reports received.

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## EYE CARE PERSONNEL

3.9   
Ophthalmologists per million people

9   
Ophthalmic personnel per million people

0.3   
Optometrists per million people

 = 1 million people

## Resources

[Seva in Cambodia](#)

