

Tanzania Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2001 | Partners: 5

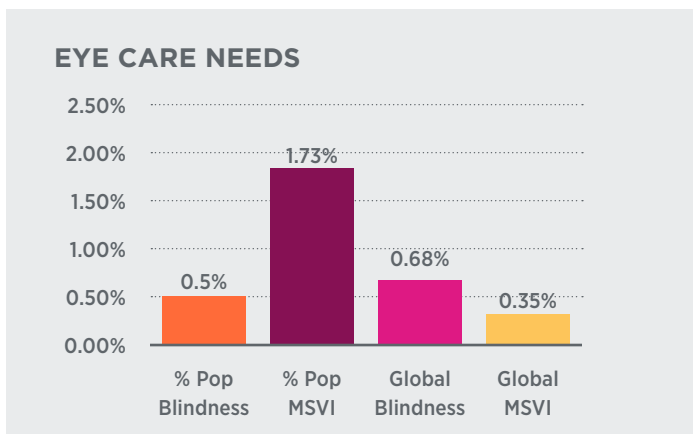


Country Overview

- » Located in Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa
- » The Republic of Tanzania spans 364,900 square miles
- » Population: 59.7 million people
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 160 of 191 countries¹

Scope of Eye Care Needs²

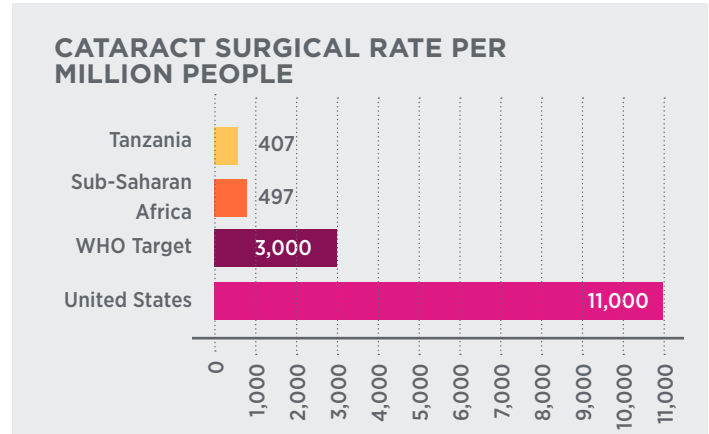
- » 0.5% of Tanzania's population is blind (293,392), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- » 1.73% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (1,020,266), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- » 0.68% of global blindness
- » 0.35% of global MSVI



Nationwide Eye Care Response

Sub-Saharan Africa's median Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) is 497 – 28% of the global average and 6% of the average for high-income countries. Seva works to improve these rates through our hospital management systems and training support in Tanzania, focusing on improvement in the following Global Action Plan indicators for universal eye health.

- » Tanzania's CSR was 407 surgeries per million in 2010, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000
- » 0.8 ophthalmologists per million people in 2018 (69 total)
- » 6.6 optometrists per million people in 2020 (394 total)
- » 3 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people (186 total)



¹ 2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf

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

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EYE CARE PERSONNEL

0.8



Ophthalmologists per million people

6.6



Optometrists per million people

3



Ophthalmic personnel per million people



= 1 million people

Seva's Approach in Tanzania

Seva partners with the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) to reduce blindness in Tanzania. Established in 2001 in response to the VISION 2020 initiative, KCCO works to increase access to high-quality eye care services provided by Africans for Africans. With Seva's support in hospital management systems and training, KCCO partners with local, private and governmental hospitals to train community health workers, conduct outreach trips to rural communities without regular access to eye care, provide clinical training for ophthalmologists and cataract surgeons, and procure medical consumables to provide necessary surgeries. In Tanzania, Seva supports five regional hospitals to bring quality eye care to as many people as possible: Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, Dodoma; Bugando Regional Hospital, Mwanza; Mbeya Regional Hospital, Mbeya; Singida Regional Hospital and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. Our work with the last hospital restarted this year after renewed collaboration between KCCO and KCMC.

Resources:

[Seva in Tanzania](#)

[Program Videos](#)

[KCCO Website](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Nurdin was born in the Bukoba Region in Tanzania. He had been blind since he was four years old. His relatives were ashamed of his blindness and mostly hid him inside their house. He was later sent to live with his aunt in the Singida Region, so that he could attend a school for the blind.

Now, at 23 years old, he and his aunt heard an announcement from Singida Regional Referral Hospital about an outreach event that would take place near their village. They decided to get screened there. Seva and KCCO partner with Singida Regional Referral Hospital and support their outreach efforts. At the outreach event, the team diagnosed Nurdin with bilateral cataract. They met with the hospital counselor and discussed the importance of having cataract surgery. Nurdin agreed to receive surgery. Following the operation, he opened his eyes and he could see! He was very excited to have his vision back after living a very long time with blindness.

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IMPACT (FY 2022-2023)*

43,566

People receiving services

3,489

Cataract surgeries performed

2,066

Children screened

386

Children receiving surgery

79

Children receiving glasses



* Numbers based on reports received.