

What is the SightFirst program?

The mission of the SightFirst program is to significantly reduce preventable and reversible blindness worldwide but particularly in developing countries, where 90 percent of avoidable blindness exists. SightFirst grants are considered for projects that (1) result in a significant and measurable reduction in blindness in a specified region, (2) target the leading blinding diseases and/or address crucial unmet eye care delivery needs at regional and national levels and (3) use cost-effective and sustainable strategies.

How does the SightFirst program battle global blindness?

Typical SightFirst projects focus on strengthening of eye care infrastructures and eye delivery systems, training of eye care workers and related human resource personnel, and intervening against the major blinding diseases through large-scale treatment initiatives.

How does SightFirst help developed countries?

In developed countries, Lions participate in the **Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP)**. LEHP is a community-based eye health education program that helps Lions communicate the importance of a dilated pupil exam to those at risk for glaucoma and diabetic eye disease. Multiple districts in the United States, Japan, the British Isles and Ireland, Canada, Australia and Turkey and New Zealand and Fiji have participated in LEHP.

Recent SightFirst Grants Include:

Pakistan 305-S2 Diabetic Retinopathy Project, Sukkur US\$71,633	Peru H-3 Cataract Surgery Campaign (2,800 surgeries) US\$262,000
India 323-D1 Upgrade Lions Eye Hospital, Ratnagiri US\$72,475	Myanmar (Undistricted) Upgrade Eye-Care Services US\$52,286
Kenya 411-A Upgrade Loresho Hospital, Nairobi US\$295,360	Vietnam (Undistricted) Childhood Cataract Prevention & Surgery Program US\$44,500
India 322-C3 Upgrade Lions Club of Jhalda Eye Hospital US\$40,944	Dominican Republic MD-R Cataract Surgery Campaign (1,500 surgeries) US\$160,000



SightFirst Statistics

SightFirst has...

- Prevented serious vision loss for **24 million**
- Provided **65 million** treatments for river blindness
- Awarded **US\$175 million** for **724** projects in **80** countries
- Restored sight to **4.6 million** with cataract
- Improved eye care services for **hundreds of millions**
- Built or expanded **258** eye hospitals and clinics
- Upgraded **300** eye centers with equipment
- Trained **68,000** ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, other professional eye care workers
- Launched world's first-ever initiative to combat childhood blindness in partnership with the World Health Organization. **Thirty** pediatric eye care centers will be established.

