

# Making an impact



Thanks to Sightsavers' school screening programme, 15-year-old Melvin's sight will be restored. Story inside.



Sightsavers



Our vision is of a world where **no one is blind from avoidable causes**, and where people with visual impairments and other disabilities **participate equally in society.**



**Thanks to the incredible support of the Lions Sight Savers Trust, we made fantastic progress in 2022, reaching millions of people. Together, we achieved some remarkable successes and I'm delighted to share some of the year's many highlights with you.**

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, our efforts to get back on track continued, boosted by the huge generosity of our supporters. By the end of the year, all our programmes were running at full tilt. We were able to screen 8.8 million people for eye health conditions and support over 470,000 sight-saving surgeries, significantly more than in 2021.

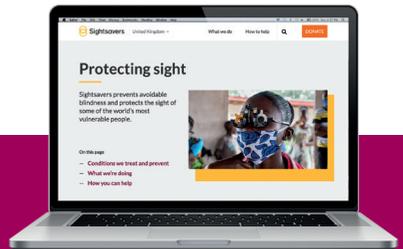
In one of the biggest highlights of 2022, Malawi became the first country in southern Africa to eliminate trachoma. Achieving this historic milestone is due to years of hard work – involving the people and government of Malawi and the World Health Organization, supported by Sightsavers and our partners.

In 2022, we continued our efforts to control and eliminate other neglected tropical diseases, such as river blindness, distributing over 135 million treatments and reaching around 87 million people. We are determined to see people in other countries enjoying lives free of these dreadful diseases and know it is possible with your help.

There is still more to do to help some of the most marginalised people in the world. Lions' clubs across the UK continue to show incredible commitment and generosity to our mission. Thank you!

**Dr Caroline Harper CBE  
CEO, Sightsavers**

Read more about our eye health work:  
[www.sightsavers.org/protecting-sight](http://www.sightsavers.org/protecting-sight)



# Saving the sight of the most marginalised

Thank you for helping us to change thousands of lives around the world. We're truly grateful for your help. Together, we are helping individuals, families, and communities thrive.

Your generosity allows us to provide vital, cost-effective eye care services across Africa and South Asia. This support enables us to achieve our vision - a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes, and where people with disabilities participate equally in society.

## What our supporters helped us achieve in 2022:



**472,441**  
eye operations  
performed



**782,037**  
pairs of glasses  
prescribed



**8.8 million** children  
and adults screened  
for eye conditions

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## Help us to change more lives

Lack of access to basic eye health services leads to a cycle of poverty and further vision loss, as people with visual impairments are often unable to work or support themselves. Clear vision enables opportunities for continued employment, increased wages, education, enhanced quality of life, and so much more.

This year, we aim to deliver over 460,000 life-changing surgeries, distribute more than 50 million treatments for neglected tropical diseases, and dispense over 660,000 pairs of glasses.

We hope Lions Clubs will support another year of our work.

## World blindness and visual impairment in numbers



**2.2 billion** people are blind or visually impaired



**1 billion** people have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or addressed



**89%** of visually impaired people live in low and middle income countries



**61 million** people could be blind by 2050

## Clear vision changes everything

Melvin, 15, was struggling to read the blackboard at school. No matter how hard he squinted, he still could not see it properly. His grades suffered and his chance of a bright future was slipping away.

His father, Reverend Leon, had already taken him to the local hospital twice, but they were unable to help.

Leon said: “They really did not tell me anything. They only said we should go to a better or a bigger place to check the eye.”

Leon knew his son needed urgent medical help. But like many families in Liberia, they just didn’t have the money for treatment, nor the transportation to take Melvin to the eye hospital in Monrovia – several hours away.

Leon feared for his son: “Melvin pretends he sees, but I know that he doesn’t really see well. He’s pretending. I am worried. He likes going out. He’s a fast mover. But he sees with one eye.”



**Name:** Melvin

**Location:** Liberia

When they heard that Sightsavers was able to offer free eye screening at Melvin’s local school, they were extremely relieved. One of the trained teachers at the school tested Melvin’s eyes, asking him what he could see on the chart. He couldn’t see much and was diagnosed with severe vision loss - possibly because of glaucoma.

Glaucoma is caused when pressure builds up inside the eye, damaging the optic nerve that connects the eye to the brain, causing blurred vision and other symptoms. Without treatment, his chances of regaining his full vision would’ve been slim.



## A brighter future

Melvin has now been referred to an ophthalmologist at a Sightsavers' supported eye centre in Bong County, with all travel, food and accommodation costs taken care of. He is waiting to find out if surgery will be required. Melvin's eyesight will be saved.

His father is hugely grateful to Sightsavers for helping his son, saying: "I more than appreciate it. More than appreciate it because sight is life. Thank you".

Wonderful moments like these would not be possible without people like you. We want all children to have a better future and we couldn't be more hopeful for Melvin's journey ahead.

**I more than appreciate it.  
More than appreciate  
it because sight is life.  
Thank you.**

Reverend Leon,  
Melvin's father.



## Thanks to you... Lions' clubs are helping to change things by supporting vital eye health programmes in Asia and Africa.

Better eye health can have a transformational and far-reaching ripple effect that helps reduce poverty and inequality – enabling children to go to school, adults to work and look after their families, and giving everyone the chance to take part in community life.

Without your support, children such as Melvin could lose their chance for a better future. Clear vision allows a child to get the most out of their education and gain the skills they need for their future.

With the continued support of the Lions Sight Savers Trust, we know we can still reach the most marginalised with vital eye care and support. We hope you will support us this year.

## How your gift can have a huge impact



**£94** could pay for a child to have cataract surgery



**£300** could help pay for personal protective equipment, including face masks and protective gowns



**£1,000** could cover the cost of distributing over 400 pairs of glasses



**£3,000** could restore the sight of over 90 adults, saving them from a lifetime of blindness



**£5,000** could treat or protect over 27,000 people against the blinding neglected tropical disease trachoma

Your support transforms  
lives in so many ways.  
Together, we can continue  
to reach those who need  
our help and deliver  
life-changing treatments.

Want to know more?

Email us at [ions@sightsavers.org](mailto:ions@sightsavers.org)

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