

# Vision



2.2 billion people+ globally live with visual impairment<sup>1</sup>

## DECADES OF SAVING SIGHT IN MADAGASCAR



Almost 80 percent of Madagascar's population lives on less than US\$2 a day. This sobering reality means many in the country go untreated for cataracts — the number one cause of

blindness there — and for uncorrected refractive errors. Compounding the negative impact? Many with vision challenges can neither work nor support their families.

Moved to create a better reality, and with support from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions in the world's second largest island country launched Lions SightFirst Madagascar.

The program recently reached its 20th anniversary, providing Lions the opportunity to reflect on the life-altering service they have provided.

More than US\$5.2 million in LCIF grants over the two decades have enabled Lions to operate SightFirst Madagascar and deliver hope like this:

**~80,000**  
cataract  
surgeries  
performed

**115,000**  
pairs+ of  
eyeglasses  
distributed

**600 people+**  
diagnosed  
with/treated  
for diabetic  
retinopathy

**60**  
physicians+  
trained

"Seeing people helped by Lions and LCIF smile goes straight to your heart," said Lion Anja Ramilison. "No riches can buy that feeling."



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**



# Seeing Things Clearly

Vision has been at the forefront of Lions service for more than a century. Though tremendous strides have been made, work must continue, as statistically, vision-related issues look like this in Africa and the African Region:

## RIVER BLINDNESS

99% of people infected with onchocerciasis/river blindness live in 31 African countries<sup>2</sup>

## TRACHOMA

Africa is the continent most affected by trachoma<sup>3</sup>

## BLINDNESS

~15.3% of the world's blind population is in Africa<sup>4</sup>

Nearly 6 million people in the African Region are blind<sup>5</sup>

## VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

20 million people+ in the African Region have low vision<sup>6</sup>

THAT'S THIS PART OF THE WORLD.  
GLOBALLY, VISION CHALLENGES LOOK LIKE THIS:

**1 billion** people live with vision impairment that could have been prevented or can be corrected<sup>7</sup>

**US\$14.3 billion** is needed to treat existing cases of refractive error and cataracts worldwide<sup>8</sup>

Unaddressed distance vision impairment in many low- and middle-income regions is **4 times higher** than in high-income regions<sup>9</sup>

## LCIF AND LIONS

### Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

More than US\$365 million in LCIF SightFirst grants – **US\$125 million+ in the African Region alone** – have helped Lions show the world a brighter tomorrow. We will continue to be part of the solution, adding to this progress:

9.3 MILLION  
CATARACT SURGERIES  
PERFORMED

2.3 MILLION  
PROFESSIONAL EYE  
CARE AND COMMUNITY  
HEALTH WORKERS  
TRAINED

493 MILLION  
DOSES OF MEDICINE  
PROVIDED FOR  
TRACHOMA,  
ONCHOCERCIASIS

Visit [lci.org/vision](https://lci.org/vision) to learn more and access information about LCIF's SightFirst, Matching, and District and Club Community Impact Grants.

SOURCES: <sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9</sup>World Health Organization



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LCIF is the grant-making body empowering Lions to create greater impact in their communities and around the world. The vast majority of funding LCIF receives is from Lions; one hundred percent of every donation supports Lions service through LCIF grants and programs.

Vision is just one cause area supported by LCIF and *Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service*. With financial support from Lions and clubs worldwide, Campaign 100 is empowering Lions to increase service impact in vision, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts; fight the global epidemic of diabetes; and make important progress in expanded cause areas of childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment.

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