



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Prevention of Blindness Project 2024

HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Prevention of Blindness
2024
Free Cataract Sur
From Royal



Free Cataract Surgery

Cataracts trapped 70-year-old Niliason in her Kenyan village home for months, forcing her to abandon daily walks or risk repeated injury. Without the money to schedule costly surgery, she was resigned to suffering alone in the dark.

HHRD's free cataract surgery program restored her sight in a single procedure, returning her independence and mobility. "Thank you so much! I feel so happy seeing again," she said, finally able to return to her daily walks. HHRD's Prevention of Blindness Program transforms lives by addressing critical healthcare gaps like Niliason's in underserved communities.

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness. Around 100 million people like Niliason are affected across the globe. Of these, 17 million are blind; while, 83 million experience vision impairment. This means they have difficulty performing daily chores, maintaining employment and taking care of their families. Cataract Surgery is a quick, cost-effective and long-lasting remedy to avoid disability and improve the quality of life.

HHRD initiated this project in 2011 with 200 surgeries conducted in one district of Pakistan and gradually scaled up to cover all provinces of the country. In 2016, the intervention was expanded to support other countries. In 2024, HHRD's Prevention of Blindness program performed 12,228 cataract surgeries and 38,662 screenings across 18 different countries and 6 different refugee populations.



The Mission

The mission of the Prevention of Blindness project is to improve the quality of life for poverty-stricken residents of targeted communities by providing cataract surgeries and primary eye care or facilitating access to the collaborating healthcare facilities for any further support.

We currently operate in the following countries:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- DRC
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Mali
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Somalia/
- Somaliland
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Uganda

Assisting the following refugee populations:

- Syrian, Palestinian, Yemeni & Iraqi Refugees in Jordan
- Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh
- Yemeni Refugees in Somalia
- Ethiopian, Sudanese, Congolese refugees in Kenya

Cataract surgery delivers extraordinary impact per dollar invested—a single \$125 procedure restores sight permanently, transforming someone from dependency to productivity in just 15 minutes. Other healthcare interventions can cost up to tens of thousands of dollars, require ongoing medications, hospital stays, or complex equipment. The Prevention of Blindness program immediately returns people to work, family care, and community participation, generating economic benefits that multiply across entire households.

One surgery equals substantial relief for an entire family, making it among the most cost-effective humanitarian investments available

We welcome you to partner with us in restoring sight. Your contribution brings hope and light to people who have been living in darkness for too long, for less than the cost of a pair of shoes.

Please visit us at: hhrd.org/healthcare



Thank you



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

hhrd.org