



## Our Mission

Helen Keller International saves the sight and lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. We combat the causes and consequences of blindness and malnutrition by establishing programs based on evidence and research in vision, health, and nutrition.

vulnerable people effectively access services to prevent and treat blindness, low vision, and malnutrition.

## In this world:

- No one suffers from preventable or treatable blindness or low vision;
- No one suffers from undernutrition; and
- Fewer people suffer loss of their productive years due to disability and premature death.

# dear friends,

Helen Keller International was founded nearly 100 years ago in 1915.

While the way in which we serve others has changed over the years, we remain committed to the words of our founder, Helen Keller: "The welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all." Helen believed that none of us can reach our full potential when our community—our family, our city, or even the current global community of more than seven billion people—is at risk.

This conviction is the core value behind all of Helen Keller International's programs. Whether we are preventing river blindness in Sierra Leone or teaching mothers' groups in Nepal how to provide nutritious meals for their families, our programs empower and uplift communities.

A year ago a group of us met a woman living in rural Bangladesh named Rashida. She has been participating in HKI's homestead gardening program since 2012, and, at the time of our visit, Rashida had just been selected to manage an HKI-supported produce sales center in her community, selling fruits and vegetables from her own garden as well as those of her neighbors. Today, the sales center is a thriving success. Instead of having to make an expensive, difficultand potentially unsafe—trek to sell her produce at the nearest market, Rashida can do so close to home. In addition, thanks to Rashida's sales center, the other women in her community

now also have access to healthy fruits and vegetables right in their village. The children are growing up healthy and strong, rather than being plagued by blindness, immune deficiencies, and even death, as they were before. And, thanks to her income from the sales center, Rashida's son is attending university—the very first in his family to do so.

Stories like Rashida's demonstrate that if you give people the tools to help themselves, what they accomplish impacts their entire community. And just as Rashida is connected to her community through her sales center, you are connected to Rashida and to the millions of people we help each year through your generous support. Thank you for being part of Helen Keller International's global community of compassion.

With deep gratitude,

**Kathy Spahn** 

President and CEO

Ag (BeQ= Henry C. Barkhorn III

Chairman

## EYE HEALTH

Although 80% of blindness is preventable, more than 39 million people worldwide live in darkness.

Helen Keller International's eye health programs focus on the major causes of preventable blindness and impaired vision by:

- Training surgeons to restore the sight of people suffering from cataract;
- Providing vision screenings and prescription eyeglasses to children living in poverty in the United States and Asia;
- Screening patients in Bangladesh and Indonesia for diabetes-related vision loss and raising awareness about this rapidly growing public health crisis in developing countries; and
- Combating trachoma and onchocerciasis, two blinding Neglected Tropical Diseases that impact millions of people in the world's most vulnerable communities.





Daw Tin Than is a 69-year-old grandmother who was completely blind from cataracts in both eyes. Her home country of Myanmar has one of the highest blindness prevalence rates in the world, and cataract is the cause of 53% of that vision loss. And yet, cataract can be treated with surgery.

especially those in rural areas, the barriers between them and restored sight are complex and multiple. Many believe they are losing their sight simply because they are growing old, and nothing can be done about it. Or, if they do know their condition is treatable, they can't make the trip to the ophthalmologist since the vast majority of doctors are located in the two largest cities of Yangon and Mandalay. Finally, the surgery can be unaffordable for rural farmers and day laborers with very limited financial resources.

Helen Keller International's cataract treatment program is designed to address these barriers through a community-based approach. First, we ensure people know what cataract is and that it is treatable. We train community health workers

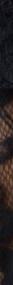
who are already visiting people in their homes and villages to identify those who may have cataract and refer them for treatment. We establish local eye health clinics to treat patients near where they live, and provide equipment and train surgeons to conduct the procedure using a modern, low-cost method. Finally, patients who can afford to pay are charged a low rate, which helps to cover services for their neighbors who can't.

When we met her, Daw had just received surgery on her left eye. As she waited to have her bandage removed, she told us how thankful she is to have her sight restored. Before, she felt like a burden on her family. Now, she is looking forward to caring for her grandchildren. She also promised that she would spread the word about our "miraculous" sightsaving program, so no one else in her community

suffers needlessly from blinding cataract. *In Myanmar—a country with one of the highest blindness* prevalence rates in the world—cataract is the cause of 53% of vision loss.







But for people like Daw,



## CHILDSIGHT®: Giving Students in Newark the Gift of Clear Vision

Newark, the largest city in New Jersey, is also one of the poorest. The city's students face a variety of obstacles that limit their opportunities to succeed, and many of their families struggle to afford basic necessities, like a visit to the eye doctor.

One Newark student, Okyeie, had never been to an eye doctor. He knew that his poor vision was a problem, but he did not want to burden his family with the cost of an expensive visit to the doctor or a pair of glasses. Over the years, Okyeie began to sit closer and closer to the board to see and take notes. He often lost focus and had a hard time participating in class, completing homework assignments, and studying for tests—until Helen Keller International's ChildSight® program visited his school. ChildSight® provided Okyeie with his first-ever vision screening and the pair of prescription glasses he so desperately needed—all at no cost to his family. Now that he can see clearly, Okyeie enjoys participating in class, and his grades are improving.

During the 2012-2013 school year, ChildSight® screened more than 90,000 students from six different states, delivering over 18,000 pairs of glasses to the disadvantaged students who needed them across the country. Thanks to ChildSight®, teachers in schools served by the program noticed an increase in class participation among students like Okyeie once they received new glasses. With clear vision, children are empowered to engage in their classrooms, their communities, and the world.

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES to Combat River Blindness

For more than half a century, Helen Keller International has been a leader in the global movement to control and eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). These debilitating, painful diseases afflict one in six people around the world, mainly in povertystricken areas. One of the most prevalent NTDs, onchocerciasis (commonly known as river blindness), causes devastating vision loss. Thankfully, in the 1980s, scientists discovered that river blindness could be treated and prevented with an annual dose of a drug called ivermectin (Mectizan®). For more than 25 years the pharmaceutical company Merck has donated as much ivermectin as needed, and they have promised to do so until the disease is eliminated—a goal that, thanks to this program, is within reach by 2020.



In the early 1990s, in order to take advantage of this discovery and Merck's generous commitment, Helen Keller International helped pilot community-directed treatment with ivermectin in Africa, empowering communities to lead the planning and distribution of the medicine using local volunteers and community health workers. By involving the community from the beginning, people feel ownership over the program and potential cultural or geographical barriers to successful implementation can be addressed in advance.

Today, this community-directed treatment program reaches tens of millions of people and has expanded to include drugs that treat a number of NTDs, as well as other health interventions like our signature vitamin A supplementation for children. This cost-effective, multi-layered approach gives communities the gift of hope for a healthy future free of preventable diseases. ■

## NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES:

Elimination Within Reach



Thanks to the efforts of Helen Keller International and our partners around the world, we are on track to eliminate blinding trackoma in

several countries by 2020, marking a huge turning-point in the battle against this horrible, blinding disease. Goals have also been set to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (commonly known as elephantiasis) and to control other Neglected Tropical Diseases like river blindness, snail fever, and intestinal worms in the coming years. This extraordinary effort brings together pharmaceutical companies, local and donor governments, such as the United States Agency for International Development, large foundations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, along with Helen Keller International and other non-governmental organizations. "The solutions to prevent and treat many NTDs are simple and cost-effective," says our Senior Program Manager for NTD Control, **Emily Toubali, "which means elimination** is within reach."



## NUTRITION Nearly half of all deaths among children under the age of five are connected to malnutrition, often because children's diets lack essential nutrients or they simply do not have enough to eat. Helen Keller International's nutrition programs give communities access to the vitamins and minerals needed to help children survive and thrive. **Helen Keller International fights** malnutrition by: Empowering women to grow home gardens and raise poultry and small livestock as an important source of nutritious food and additional income; Providing mothers and children under five with essential nutrients to prevent blindness and boost immunity against common infections; Educating mothers about how best to feed their infants and young children so that they grow healthy and strong; Fortifying staple foods with essential vitamins and minerals; and Preventing and treating severe malnutrition among some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world. NUTRITION

## PLANTING GARDENS, *Reviving Communities*

For more than 25 years, Helen Keller International's trailblazing Homestead Food Production program has equipped women with the tools and knowledge to cultivate gardens, empowering them to feed and nourish their families and generate additional

program has also expanded to include poultry farming and fish ponds.

With rising prices of staple foods and a lack of access to healthy fruits and vegetables, people in urban areas are in

dire need of innovative ways to



other nutrient-rich vegetables—we plan to expand the urban gardening program.

## By the year 2017, Homestead Food Production is expected to reach an additional 300,000 households.

income. What started as a cluster of small plots in rural Bangladesh has evolved into a program that spans 12 countries across Asia and Africa, helping more than one million families grow thriving gardens filled with micronutrient-rich foods.

Since the first seeds were planted, Helen Keller International has adapted Homestead Food Production to reach more households in more communities and to ensure that the gardens are filled with fruits and vegetables that are healthy and likely to be eaten. Beyond the careful selection of crops to ensure high nutritional value and long growing seasons, Helen Keller International also incorporates the cultural values of each community in choosing which crops are grown, making each of our gardening programs around the world unique. The

make sure their children have access to nutritious foods on a regular basis. Piloted this past year, the latest evolution of Homestead Food Production provides community health workers and mothers of malnourished children in Dakar, the capital city of Senegal, with the tools, seeds, and knowledge to grow rooftop gardens filled with nutritious vegetables. In addition, cooking demonstrations teach mothers the best ways to prepare the vegetables they grow, ensuring their children get the nutrients they need. Alongside this, mothers also learn about the importance of breastfeeding during the first two years of life.

Thanks to a successful test run—the rooftop gardens flourished with carrots, orangefleshed sweet potatoes and Over the next three years,
Dakar's skyline will be getting a
lot greener as more than 1,800
families will have access to
healthy fruits and vegetables
right from their own rooftops.

## MORINGA: *The New Superfood?*

Superfoods like avocado and acai berry are popular around the world because they are filled with nutrients and taste great, too. But have you ever heard of moringa? A tree native to Asia and parts of Africa, moringa is packed with protein, vitamins A, B, and C, and other essential nutrients. Every part of the tree is usable and can be prepared in a variety of delicious ways. Moringa is also easily cultivated in a variety of climates, making it an ideal food source. Helen Keller International has started incorporating this healthy food into our gardening programs. With so many uses and nutritional benefits, it may not be long before

moringa appears on a grocery shelf near you!





# A HIGH IMPACT STRATEGY: A Focus on Women and Girls Studies by the World Bank and

## **MOTHERS GROUPS: Uplifting Entire Communities**

Parvati Lawang lives in Far Western Nepal, an area with some of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in the world. Her small plot of land did not provide enough food for her two growing children, and she was worried that they were at risk of hunger and illness as they did not have enough to eat.

Helen Keller International has long been on the forefront of combating malnutrition: we teach women how to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables and to raise chickens and other small livestock for their families. We also educate mothers about best practices for feeding and caring for young children. To address the crisis of malnutrition in Nepal, we created a program called Action Against Malnutrition through Agriculture, or AAMA, which means "mother" in Nepali. The program brings mothers together into groups

where they share their challenges and learn skills they need to raise healthy children.

Thanks to this program, Parvati is now a leader in her community. She has a thriving garden that includes a variety of produce, and she also raises chickens so she can feed her children nutrient-rich eggs. Parvati even sells the surplus produce and eggs, providing extra income for her family and nutritious food for her neighbors. Through the mothers' groups, she teaches her neighbors about good nutrition, telling them about the importance of eggs and vegetables for children and for women who are pregnant and breastfeeding. She now has high hopes for her children's future, and feels empowered to improve life for her family—and for her entire community.

other leading authorities have shown helping women and girls is the most cost-effective way to uplift entire communities. Helen Keller **International strives to empower** women and girls through our programs.

- Our nutrition programs target women who are vulnerable. We empower them to make financial, nutritional, and educational choices for their families.
- Women are especially at risk for contracting blinding Neglected **Tropical Diseases because of their** close contact with children and hazardous water supplies. We work with local leaders to ensure that women and girls receive the health education and the treatment they need.
- We advocate passionately for empowering women and girls and alleviating malnutrition through our leadership in groups and initiatives, including Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and the 1,000 Days partnership.

## FROM SWEET POTATOES TO CELL PHONES:

A Multi-Program Approach to Providing Children with Vitamin A

Each year, as many as 500,000 children go blind due to a lack of vitamin A. Not only is vitamin A crucial to preventing childhood blindness, but children also need it to develop healthy immune systems to fight off common childhood illnesses, like measles and diarrhea.

A pioneer in vitamin A supplementation, Helen Keller International has been delivering sight and lifesaving vitamin A to children in some of the world's most disadvantaged communities since the 1970s. And yet, as every community is different, we use a variety of customized and innovative approaches to ensure children have enough vitamin A to survive and thrive.

Two tiny, high-dose vitamin A capsules each year can save a child's sight and life at an annual cost of just \$1 per child. The challenge lies in making sure that millions of children receive one of these crucial supplements two times each year. One of the ways we do this is by hosting Child Health Days, biannual free events where children receive vitamin A supplements—and a variety of other high-impact treatments tailored to each community's specific needs—to keep them healthy and strong. We use multiple tactics, including sending text messages to parents, so that they know when Child Health Days are taking place. Another way Helen Keller International

makes sure that children receive the vitamin A they need is by providing mothers with agricultural training to cultivate home-based gardens filled with nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables, including orange-fleshed sweet potato. Just one tiny potato, about 100-125 grams, gives children their daily vitamin A requirement. We teach mothers to prepare these sweet potatoes in a variety of ways so children receive their vitamin A and enjoy the way it tastes, too.

## Each year, up to 500,000 children go blind due to a lack of vitamin A.





HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL Working Worldwide

Africa

Regional Office

Dakar,

Senegal



### UNITED STATES 👓

We provide the gift of clear vision to tens of thousands of children every year by providing free school-based vision screenings, prescription eyeglasses, and referral for further care through our innovative ChildSight® program.

California 👓 Connecticut 👓 New Jersey 👓 New Mexico 👓 New York 👓 Ohio 👓

## AFRICA 🥕 💶

We alleviate malnutrition in Africa through a range of programs, including Vitamin A Supplementation, Homestead Food Production, Food Fortification, and Essential Nutrition Actions. We also combat Neglected Tropical Diseases—including the blinding conditions of trachoma and onchocerciasis—through drug treatment and promotion of improved hygiene and sanitation.

Burkina Faso 🗡 🚥 Mozambique / • Cameroon / Niger / • Côte d'Ivoire Nigeria 🥕 🚥 Senegal 🥕 🚥 Democratic Republic of Congo 🦯 Guinea 🗡 🚥 Sierra Leone Tanzania 🗡 🚥 Kenya 🥕 Mali 🖊 🚥

ASIA-PACIFIC ✓ 🖜 👓 💶 We pilot innovative programs to prevent vision loss caused by cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and refractive error. We also improve the health of mothers and children through Vitamin A Supplementation, Homestead Food Production, Food Fortification, Essential Nutrition Actions and Neglected Tropical Disease control. Myanmar 👁 Bangladesh / ®

Helen Keller International Europe Paris,

France

Cambodia 🥕 🚥 China © OO Indonesia 🖊 👁 💶 👓 Nepal / Philippines / Vietnam 👓

## **PROGRAM KEY**



Asia-Pacific

Regional Office

Phnom Penh,

Cambodia

Eye Health



Vitamin A Supplementation



Childsight®

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## THE SPIRIT OF HELEN KELLER GALA

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, at the famous Christie's auction house in New York City, Helen Keller International raised more than \$1.1 million to support our sight and lifesaving programs at our eighth annual *Spirit of Helen* Keller Gala. Longtime trustee and Helen Keller International advocate, Kate Ganz, received the Spirit of Helen Keller Award, and Lions Clubs International received the *Helen Keller Visionary Award*, celebrating their longstanding dedication to global eye health. In addition, Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was honored with the *Helen* Keller Humanitarian Award. Secretary Clinton gave a captivating speech, applauding Helen Keller International for our "smart and sensible, resultsoriented" programs "aimed at really making a difference, person by person, village by village, country by country."



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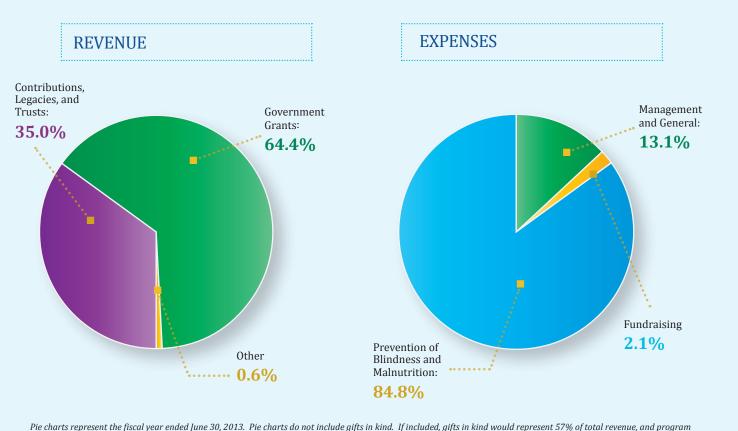
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## Statement of Activity



expenses would be 94%. "Other" revenue includes program revenue, dividends, interest, and miscellaneous income.

## Financial Statement

Support	2013	2012
Contributions – corporation, foundations, and individuals	\$ 20,529,504	\$ 15,458,82
Contributions – medical supplies, medicines and other (in-kind)	77,876,062	168,128,00
Legacies and trusts	254,611	273,55
Grants – U.S. Government agencies	23,424,294	22,478,41
Grants – Non U.S. Government agencies	14,727,842	13,684,65
Net assets released from restrictions		
TOTAL support	136,812,313	220,023,450
Revenue		
Program and other revenue	313,877	136,562
Dividends and interest income	25,286	24,907
TOTAL revenue	339,163	161,468
TOTAL OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE	137,151,476	220,184,918
EXPENSES		
Program services:		
ChildSight <sup>®</sup>	1,352,784	1,602,49
Trachoma	1,121,390	971,898
Famine and Other Relief Services	3,016,657	2,482,61
Nutrition, including Vitamin A	28,089,535	25,901,64
Onchocerciasis	66,178	199,21
Eye Health	1,259,469	1,537,482
Neglected Tropical Diseases	10,150,318	9,490,613
Distribution of medicines and other (in-kind), primarily for blindness prevention	77,841,354	168,106,50
TOTAL program services	122,897,685	210,292,46
Support services		
Management and general	6,961,424	6,670,12
Fundraising	1,131,381	1,002,092
TOTAL support services	8,092,805	7,672,218
TOTAL EXPENSES	130,990,490	217,964,682
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	6,160,986	2,220,236
Other Changes		
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	38,721	19,79
Change in perpetual and restricted trusts	46,699	(53,226
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	6,246,406	2,186,80
Net Assets, Beginning of year	14,555,364	12,368,56
End of year	\$ 20,801,770	\$ 14,555,36









## THANK YOU for making a difference

Helen Keller International will soon celebrate 100 years of saving sight and lives in the world's most vulnerable communities. We would like to thank all of our donors and partners for helping us achieve our mission. It is truly because of your dedication and commitment that we are able to provide critical services to communities in need worldwide. We hope that you continue to stay involved and engaged with Helen Keller International's work.

## How can you stay involved?

### DONATE

Your gift to Helen Keller International supports programs that save sight and lives around the world—including right here in the United States. Please use the enclosed reply form to send your generous gift today. You can also donate online at: **donate.hki.org**.

## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Join the *Visions for the Future* Legacy Society by naming Helen Keller International in your will or as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or remaining IRA funds. Your legacy of compassion and generosity will live on in millions of children and families around the world.

For questions about donating to Helen Keller International, please contact our Development team at 877-535-5374 or giving@hki.org.

## JOIN THE HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Get to know our organization and experts, sign up for our monthly newsletter, and take action by visiting our website at **www.hki.org**.

## CONNECT WITH HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL

on social media for up-to-the-minute news and updates:







## **OUR OFFICES**

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Dakar-Yoff, Senegal

## **Asia-Pacific Regional Office**

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## Helen Keller International Europe\*

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\*Helen Keller International and Helen Keller International Europe are affiliated non-profit, non-governmental organizations registered in the United States and France respectively and are united in a common mission to prevent blindness and reduce malnutrition.

