

2020 Annual Report

Continuing her work.

Dear Friends,

As we face the task of summarizing this turbulent year, we're reminded of Helen Keller's immortal words: "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."

Rarely has our commitment to embodying Helen Keller's fierce optimism been put to such a test. But in acknowledging the uncertainty, threat, and fear of a world pandemic, this report also evidences the resilience of Helen Keller Intl and those we are humbled to partner with and support. This has been a year of suffering, but we've adapted to the challenges of COVID-19 with speed and vigor, learning more each day about the resilience and innovation of the communities we serve around the world and stretching further than perhaps we ever imagined possible as a provider of essential services.

Beyond the effects of COVID-19, this year also brought to a head the ongoing racial inequities faced nationally and globally. This moment gave rise to momentum and community action, particularly for systems long overdue for change. We invigorated our commitment to racial justice, inspired by Helen Keller's own fight for equity. In her lifetime, she stood down the ugliness of discrimination, racism, gender inequality, abuses of civil liberties, and the injustice of poverty in America. As Helen said, change requires action and empathy. We are committed to both.

Without a doubt, the events of the past year have placed vulnerable families around the world at greater risk. We have pivoted to reach more people, more creatively, and more safely than we had imagined previously. The stories that follow not only highlight the importance of the work we do – that your support makes possible – but herald a time of community and hope.

We are especially inspired by stories like that of Kabiru Yahaya, a young surgeon trained by Helen Keller Intl, who traveled around Nigeria on his motorbike to provide critical care to surgical patients whose appointments were cancelled unexpectedly; by our team members in Bangladesh, who counselled families by phone on how to prepare their land for planting; and by our healthcare providers in Nepal, who distributed vitamin A supplements to malnourished children in personal protective equipment and had to learn new ways to get close to children, but not too close to have put them at risk. Right here in the United States, we are moved by our partners who worked tirelessly to find children who were at risk for vision loss outside of the classrooms where we would normally have reached them.

For millions of people living in poverty, the pandemic has exacerbated hunger and malnutrition, led to loss of income, and magnified barriers to healthcare. The families we serve faced odds like never before, and we were proud to be at their sides and among them.

We were reminded again and again that none of our good work would have been possible without our amazing donors' support. With your support, we:

- Embarked on a robust hunger crisis response to combat the spillover effects of COVID-19. We've continued malnutrition screenings in Cameroon, provided cash transfers for the purchase of livestock in Bangladesh, and adopted a localized malnutrition screening program in Senegal to ensure people get critical care.
- Adapted to COVID-19 safety protocols and educated our partner communities about the virus.
- Sent fleets of trained healthcare workers door to door to distribute vitamin A supplements, each outfitted with masks and gloves, instead of hosting mass distribution events.
- Set up handwashing stations, targeted areas without potable water and used local communication channels to keep the public informed.
- Reflected on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing call for justice, inspiring us to recommit to empowering our own staff and leaders of color, while beginning a journey to become an actively anti-racist organization.
- Transformed our annual Spirit of Helen Keller Gala to a virtual event, and as we go to print, we have hosted a second virtual gala highlighting our staff from around the world.

It may be tempting to think of your support as funding us, but the truth is that your support goes far beyond Helen Keller's reach. Each and every contribution lays the groundwork for a better life for real people in need. Your trust is an investment that we strive to return in all that we do; and for us, success is measured in real improvements to the lives of real people. You may not know them personally, but we do. Like Lucy Juma in Bungoma, Kenya, whose daughter's health has improved after receiving the vitamin A and deworming tablets we supplied.

We stand on the shoulders of a giant. With Helen as our co-founder, we continue her work of creating a healthy and equitable world. With grit, resourcefulness, collaboration – and with you! – we are building a healthy future for us all, especially for those who otherwise would be left out. The groundwork of that future is laid today, and together.

We are so glad you are here!



Kathy Spahn
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starting December 2020



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About Helen Keller Intl

Photo: HKIntl

Mission

Helen Keller overcame tremendous obstacles to her health and wellbeing – and helped millions of others to do the same. Guided by her remarkable legacy, Helen Keller Intl partners with communities that are striving to overcome longstanding cycles of poverty. By delivering the essential building blocks of good health, sound nutrition and clear vision, we help millions of people create lasting change in their own lives. Together with a global community of supporters, we are ensuring that every person has the opportunity – as Helen did – to reach their true potential.

Vision

A world where no one is deprived of the opportunity to live a healthy life – and reach their true potential.



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Why Our Work Matters

Photo: HKIntl

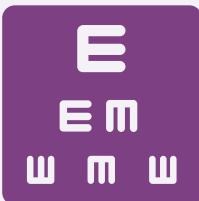
Together we are Saving Sight

"For people who have faced obstacles in life and are trying to do better for themselves, being able to see clearly is so important for taking the next step. It's like a new beginning."

- Kindal Adams, Program Manager, U.S. Vision

A staggering 90% of vision loss is preventable. For about \$50, we can determine whether a child needs glasses and give them a chance:

- To see.
 - To make friends.
 - To develop self esteem.
 - To connect to others.
 - To be confident.
 - To learn.
 - To make their way in the world.
-



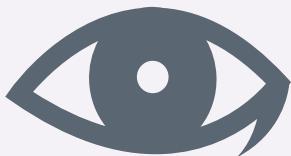
We reached **266,000 students around the globe, screening them for vision issues and providing eyeglasses or advanced care if required.** We partnered with, supported, and trained teachers, healthcare workers, and eye health clinicians.



In the United States, we screened the vision of more than 79,000 students living in some of our country's poorest communities and provided **free eyeglasses to nearly 19,200 (or 25%) of them.**



We screened over 11,000 patients in Bangladesh for diabetic eye disease, of whom over 1,100 were provided with treatment when diagnosed.



In Africa, we screened **455,816 individuals for trachoma and supported surgery for 5,006 individuals affected by trichiasis** (a blinding and extremely painful condition resulting from trachoma).



During 2020 alone, we worked with Ministries of Health to administer over **32.7 million individual treatments for neglected tropical diseases** in five African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone) contributing greatly to national efforts toward the control and elimination of these debilitating and disabling diseases.



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Why Our Work Matters

Photo: HKIntl Nepal

Together we are Nourishing Families

"A lot was at stake for children and moms even before the pandemic, and COVID-19 has worsened this in many ways. I'm really hopeful and so inspired by the women we serve. Despite their struggles, they move bravely forward." – Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of Party, Nepal Integrated Nutrition Project

Communities around the globe have been hard hit by COVID-19 related food insecurity. In southern Senegal, for example, a staggering 30% of the population does not have access to sufficient – or nutritious enough – food.

To meet the needs of the moment, we pivoted to develop new protocols to keep staff and community members as safe as possible during the pandemic, while still reaching them with vital health services.



We took extra steps to ensure immunity-building vitamin A reached children at risk. Vitamin A is a powerhouse micronutrient that builds healthy immune systems and protects children from blindness and serious illness. **Despite the COVID-19 crisis, close to 15 million children were reached with vitamin A supplements in 2020.**



Helen Keller staff texted **11 million households** in Nepal to assess and address women's concerns about breastfeeding and healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.



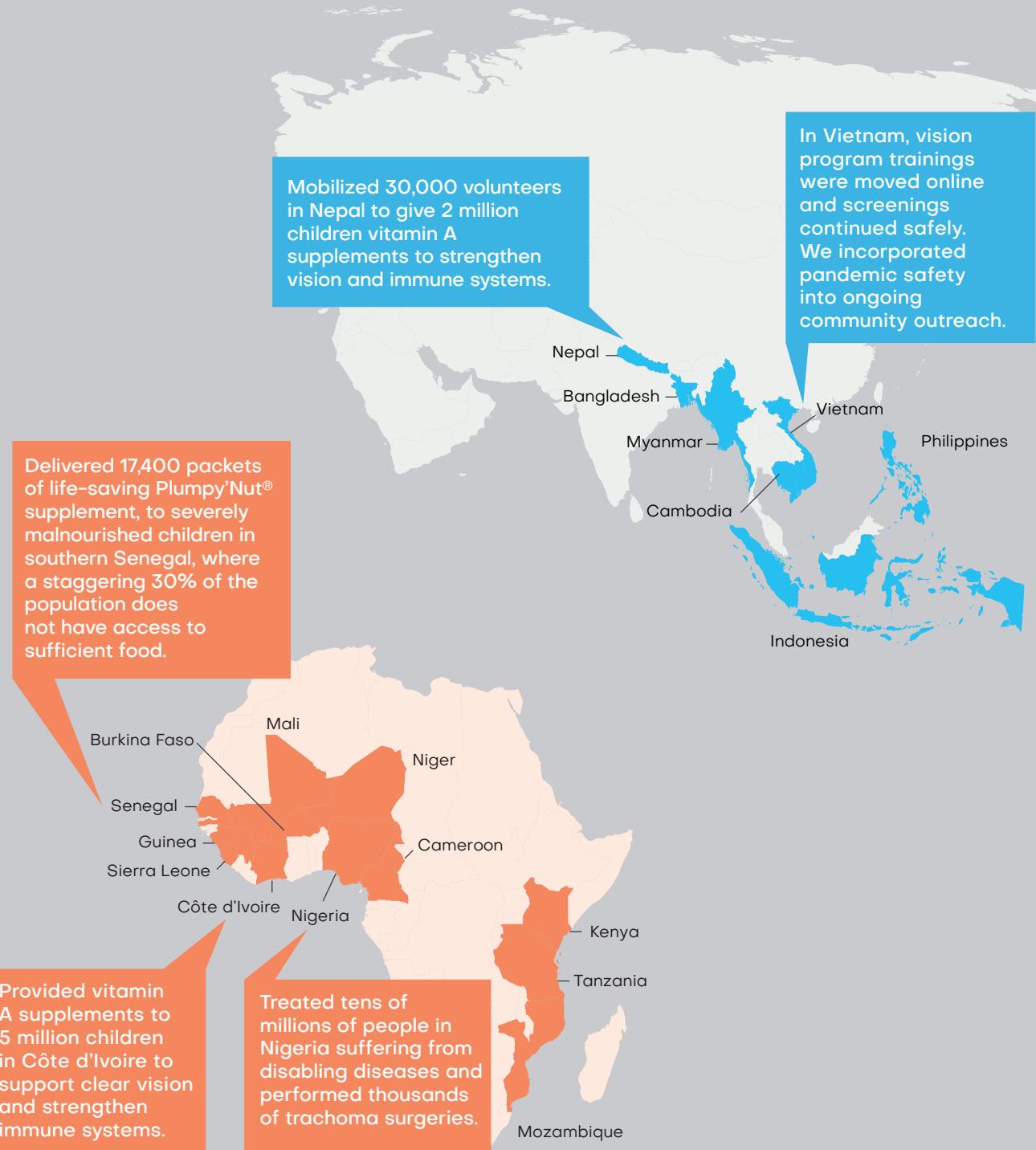
Over the past 3 decades, we have **reached 1.9 million families**, providing them with the means to grow their own nutritious foods in support of a healthy diet, even during supply chain shortages caused by pandemic lockdowns.



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Where We Work







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Photo: Ruth Fertig

Meet Salimata Coulibaly

Described by many as a force of nature, Salimata Coulibaly is committed not only to improving children's health, but also to building local infrastructure that protects it. Coulibaly draws on decades of nutrition experience as founder and executive director of Wo Pile Sanga, an organization dedicated to educating mothers about essential children's nutrition in Côte d'Ivoire. Wo Pile Sanga hosts free workshops on nutrition and hygiene, organizes demonstrations about how to cook nutritious foods, and screens children for signs of malnutrition.

Helen Keller first partnered with Coulibaly in 2016, recognizing her organization's efficacy and its high level of trust within the community. Our support expanded Wo Pile Sanga's capacity to improve children's lives. We trained Coulibaly in our framework for improving nutrition, and now as a "master trainer," Coulibaly teaches other health workers in the district. By increasing the number of trainers, Coulibaly has been able to expand her community's access to programs that save children's lives.

Coulibaly is a master at doing a lot with a little. "People don't need a lot of money to take care of our children. But we need a little knowledge. If we have that knowledge and a little bit of support, we can nourish ourselves, we can take care of our children," she says. While she is humble in her self-description, Coulibaly and her organization make a profound impact in their community.

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- Salimata Coulibaly



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Photo: Ruth Fertig

Meet Rosa Mairosse

Now a stalwart community leader, Rosa Mairosse got her start thanks to an initiative designed by Helen Keller to tackle poor nutrition in Mozambique's Tete Province. Rosa said, "I learned from the training, and now I help my family to wash their hands after using the latrine and before eating. Before we cooked traditionally, but now we cook differently. So, the kids are no longer getting ill all the time. They are growing well."

Helen Keller was part of a collaborative effort on an education and training program that Save the Children International sponsors, with funding from the UK government. Through this program, Rosa learned how to grow nutritious crops like beans and peanuts, how to optimize her diet with these new crops, and how to increase children's nutrient retention through hygiene and sanitation practices. Armed with new, essential knowledge, Rosa resolved to share these transformative practices with community members by hosting cooking demonstrations and emphasizing proper handwashing.

"Before we cooked traditionally, but now we cook differently. So, the kids are no longer getting ill all the time. They are growing well."
- Rosa Mairosse



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Photo: HKI/Nepal

Meet Rima Thami

Helen Keller's work in Nepal empowers communities by embracing women and mothers as the pillars of their communities. Thanks to support from USAID, we combat undernutrition by empowering women and mothers to transform health practices within their families and communities. A two-pronged approach targets hidden hunger while also nurturing the leadership potential of women and girls. Among them is model farmer Rima Thami.

Rima received training on how to grow nutritious food in her home garden. When Nepal imposed a nationwide lockdown in March of 2020, Rima was beyond prepared to aid her community. She worked with local administrators to obtain seeds, founded a shared community nursery, and collaborated with a local cooperative to sell its yield. Thanks to her efforts, Rima's neighbors have ongoing access to nutritious food and income. Her story exemplifies the importance of investing in women and girls and affirms Helen Keller's strong belief that unlocking the whole of human potential means putting women at the center and nurturing their skills – to the great benefit of their families, neighborhoods, and cities.

When Nepal imposed a nationwide lockdown in March of 2020, Rima was beyond prepared to aid her community.

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Financial Statement

OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Support	2020	2019
Contributions – corporations, foundations, and individuals	\$40,622,479	\$41,840,664
Contributions – medicines and other (in-kind)	\$120,173,218	\$117,422,888
Legacies and trusts	\$534,556	\$268,923
Grants – U.S. Government agencies	\$34,603,293	\$40,364,873
Grants – Non U.S. Government agencies	\$3,700,138	\$4,062,050
Total Support	\$199,633,684	\$203,959,398
Revenue		
Program and other revenue	\$1,453,339	\$1,010,905
Dividends and interest income	\$138,959	\$126,041
Total Revenue	\$1,592,298	\$1,136,946
Total Operating & Support Revenue	\$201,225,982	\$205,096,344

EXPENSES

Program Services	2020	2019
U.S. Vision Program	\$2,390,301	\$2,365,103
Nutrition, including vitamin A	\$42,089,860	\$40,782,745
International Eye Health	\$1,841,714	\$1,434,756
Neglected Tropical Diseases	\$13,282,357	\$17,395,512
Distribution of medicines and other (in-kind), primarily for blindness prevention	\$120,173,218	\$117,417,888
Total Program Services	\$179,777,450	\$179,396,004
Support Services		
Management and general	\$10,219,591	\$10,812,695
Fundraising	\$2,021,419	\$2,378,857
Total Support Services	\$12,241,010	\$13,191,552
Total Expenses	\$192,018,460	\$192,587,556
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	\$9,207,522	\$12,508,788

OTHER CHANGES

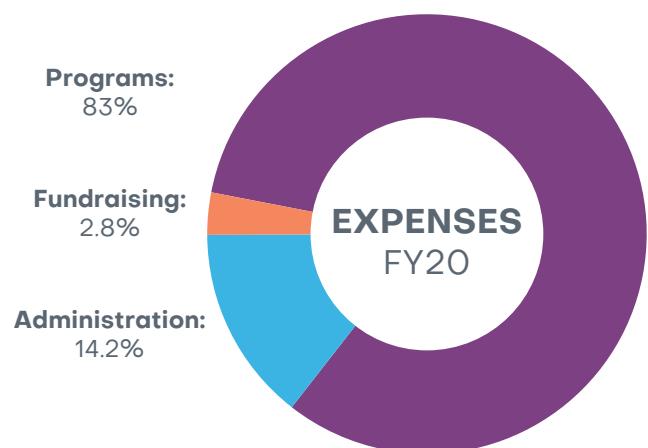
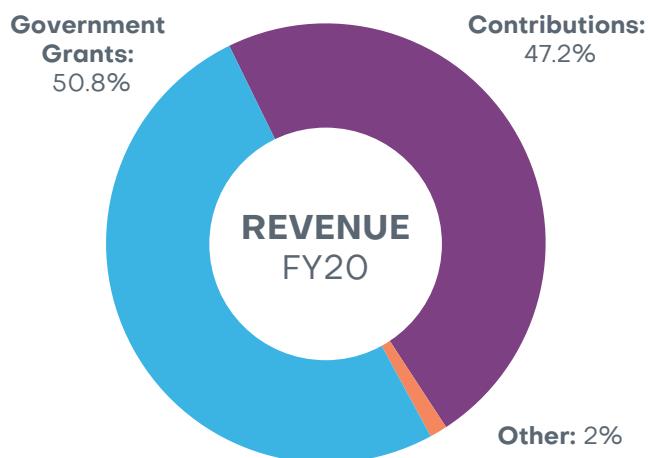
	2020	2019
Net realized and unrealized (losses) gains on investments	\$92,178	\$21,505
Change in perpetual and restricted trusts	(\$11,823)	(\$13,841)
Change in net assets	9,287,877	\$12,516,452

NET ASSETS

	2020	2019
Beginning of year	\$44,783,219	\$32,266,767
End of year	\$54,071,096	\$44,783,219

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)



Pie charts do not include gifts in kind. If included, gifts in kind would represent 59.7% of total revenue, and program expenses would be 93.6%. "Other" revenue includes program revenue, dividends, interest, and miscellaneous income.



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Have you thought about what legacy YOU could leave in the world?

Please consider naming Helen Keller Intl as a beneficiary of your retirement savings, will or life insurance policy.

You can help ensure good health, sound nutrition and clear vision for generations to come.

Please contact giving@hki.org to let us know that you have named Helen Keller International in your estate plans or to learn how.

Photo: Lameck Ododo

How You Can Help

Helen Keller said it best:

“Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

Thank you for turning your compassion into action by joining our community. Together, we empower vulnerable and marginalized people to create opportunities in their own lives and build lasting change.



Online: Donate at hki.org



Mail: Send your tax-deductible donation to:
Helen Keller International
One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, Floor 2
New York, NY 10017



Phone: For questions or to donate by phone,
please call 877-535-5374.



Stock: Contact giving@hki.org

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Helen Keller International and Helen Keller 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.

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