



# Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh

National Society for Comprehensive Eye Care

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## Introduction

### Founding and History

Decades ago, nine visionary physicians, social workers, and entrepreneurs united around a compelling realization: while global advancements in healthcare were accelerating, countless Nepali citizens remained deprived of basic eye care services. In response to this urgent need, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) was established in 1978 with an ambitious mission—to eradicate avoidable blindness and deliver comprehensive, equitable eye care to every corner of Nepal.

Today, NNJS proudly stands as the nation's largest philanthropic eye care service provider, serving approximately 80% of the Nepali population through an immense network of 28 hospitals, 224 eye care centers, and 45 district branches. These individuals—whose lives have been profoundly transformed by restored vision and relief from eye ailments—represent

all walks of life, from the remotest rugged terrains and plains of Nepal to neighboring communities in India. From humble beginnings marked by limited resources, NNJS has significantly reduced the national prevalence of blindness—from 0.84% in 1981 to just 0.28% by 2021.

Adapting continuously to emerging healthcare challenges, NNJS addresses major causes of blindness, such as cataracts, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration, while proactively combating modern threats including refractive errors, diabetic retinopathy, and childhood blindness. Guided by innovation, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to equity, NNJS ensures comprehensive eye care remains accessible and affordable to all Nepalese, leaving no one behind in the pursuit of clear vision.



### Impact Statistics

From establishment through 2024

**46,868,060**

OPD visits

**5,392,224**

Surgeries performed

In 2024

**3,268,034**

OPD visits

**258,575**

Surgeries performed



### Core Values

 <b>Integrity and Transparency</b>	 <b>Patient-Centric Care</b>
 <b>Equitable Access</b>	 <b>Commitment to Excellence</b>
 <b>Innovation and Inclusivity</b>	

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## Governance and Organizational Structure



On **April 2, 2025**, during the BIMSTEC Summit, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh and Mahidol University, Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the esteemed presence of the Rt. Hon. Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, and the Rt. Hon. Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand. This marked a significant milestone in advancing international collaboration in eye care.

### Founding Members

Late Brigadier General Rabi Shamsher J.B. Rana  
Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel  
Late Mr. Badri Bikram Thapa  
Late Mr. Raj Krishna Shrestha  
Late Mr. Mani Harsh Jyoti  
Late Mr. Banwari Lal Mittal  
Late Mr. Anang Man Sherchan  
Late Mr. Tola Ram Dugad  
Late Mr. Kamal Mani Dixit

Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh is dedicated to delivering quality eye care services to underserved communities across Nepal, in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and both national and international partners. Guided by the principles of Integrated People-Centered Eye Care (IPEC), NNJS emphasizes programme implementation, quality assurance, and strategic leadership across its hospitals and eye care centers.

NNJS is governed by a General Assembly and a Central Executive Committee, which provide overall strategic direction and oversight. The organization's central office in Kathmandu coordinates national-level programmes, partnerships, and administration. Service delivery is implemented through a robust network of district branches, eye hospitals, and eye care centers, each managed by local leadership teams.

The governance structure is further supported by a broad, volunteer-led present board, headed by a chairperson along with a senior vice chairperson, seven vice chairpersons, a secretary general, treasurer, secretary, spokesperson, vice treasurer, and a group of committed members who ensure accountability and uphold NNJS's mission.

Operational management is led by a secretary general and an executive director, who oversees a multidisciplinary administrative team—including the board secretary, IT officer, programme and project managers, finance officer, and fundraising and communications managers—supported by account assistants, administrative and reception staff, community eye-health workers, drivers, and office helpers.



### Vision and Mission

**Vision**  
Sight for all.

**Mission**  
Reaching to unreached with equitable & inclusive, affordable & accessible, high-quality, and patient-centered comprehensive eye-care services.

**Goal/Overall Objective**  
To reduce prevalence of avoidable blindness to 0.20% by 2030.

### Funding and Resources



#### Funding Mechanisms

Utilizing diverse sources, including government grants, international donors, and private contributions.



#### Donor Engagement

Strengthening partnerships with funding organizations.



#### Community Participation

Encouraging local support through fundraising initiatives and volunteer programs.

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## Programmes and Initiatives

Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh is leading a nationwide effort to reduce avoidable blindness and improve access to quality eye care across Nepal. With the support of the Government of Nepal and other generous partners, NNJS delivers free cataract surgeries and spectacles to underserved communities through its hospital network. Digital tools enhance outreach through the Peek Vision Programme, while the Teleophthalmology Programme connects remote areas in Eastern Nepal to tertiary care, reducing travel burdens and supporting sustainability. NNJS is also advancing research and innovation—

evaluating AI for retinopathy of prematurity, integrating eye care into child health systems, and conducting national surveys on blindness and refractive errors to guide policy and planning. To ensure long-term impact, NNJS is building research capacity across all hospitals and developing a digital training hub in Biratnagar to strengthen the eye care workforce. These are just some of the many initiatives NNJS is undertaking to safeguard the vision of the Nepali people and strengthen the country's eye care system.

### Our National Programmes



#### Service Delivery Programme



- Free Cataract Surgery Programme in Nepal
- Free Spectacles Distribution Programme
- Preventing Childhood Blindness by Including Eye Health in Child Health Policies and Systems

#### Programme and Technology



- NNJS-Orbis Digital Training Hub Project
- Peek Vision Programme
- Teleophthalmology Programme in Eastern Nepal

#### Research Programme



- Evaluation of a Deep Learning Algorithm for Retinopathy of Prematurity
- Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) Survey
- Rapid Assessment of Refractive Errors (RARE) Survey
- NNJS Central Research Capacity Strengthening Project

# Eye Hospitals Operated under



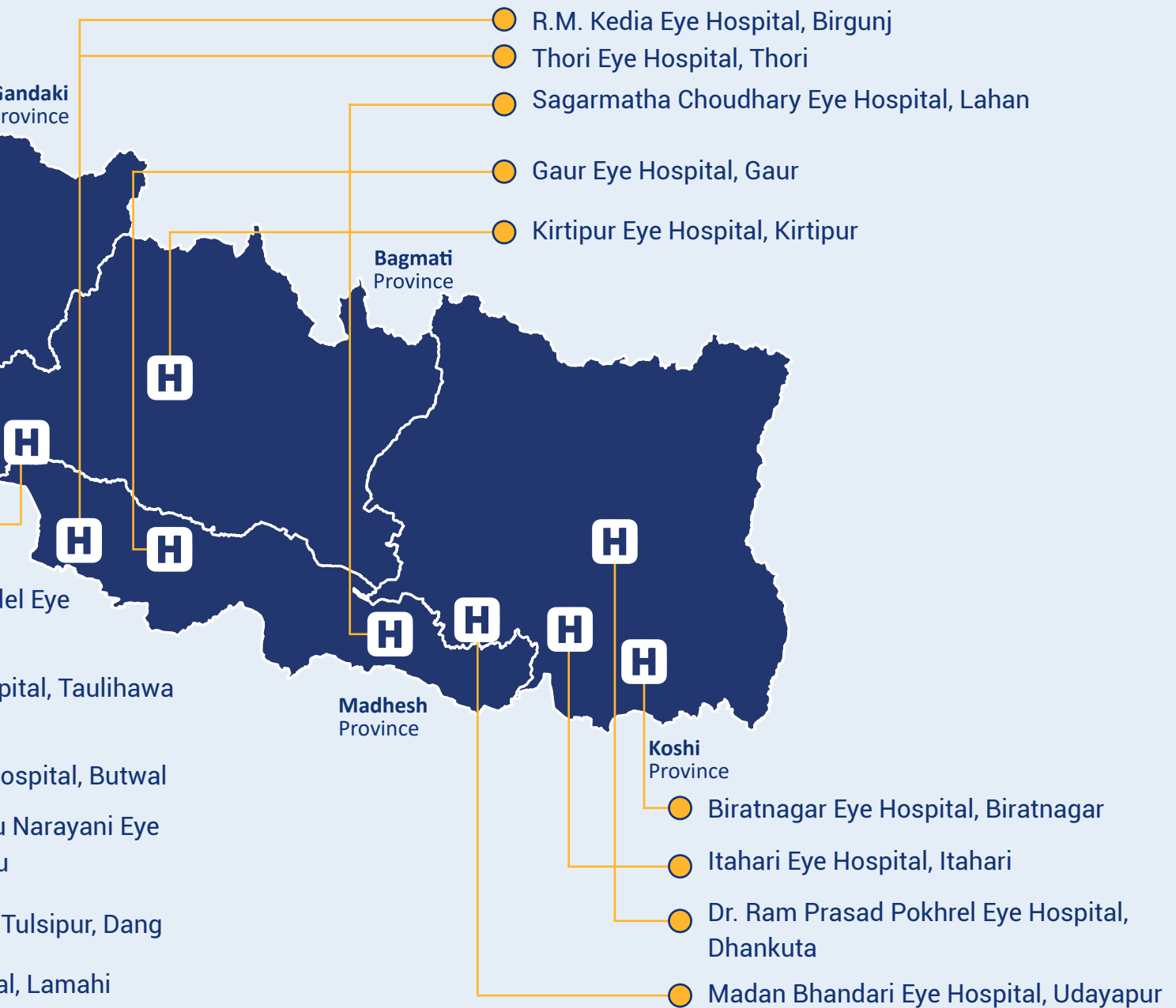
# Dr. Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh

- Chandannath Eye Hospital, Jumla
- Dhaulagiri Eye Hospital, Baglung
- Palpa Lions Lacoul Eye Hospital, Palpa
- LEIRC/Shree Rana Ambika Shah Eye Hospital, Bhairahawa
- Himalaya Eye Hospital, Pokhara
- Bharatpur Eye Hospital, Bharatpur
- Kawasoti Eye Hospital, Kawasoti

**H** 28 Eye Hospitals

**H** 224 Eye Care Centers

**H** 45 District Branches



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## Real-Life Story of Impact

### Every Child Deserves to See the World Clearly



Sifat Khatoon

**I want to become a nurse like this sister. I'll give injections just like her and make people better.**

*Consent has been obtained for the use of the photograph.*

Three-year-old Sifat Khatoon dreamed of going to school and playing with friends, but her poor vision kept her home. Her family, struggling financially, believed treatment was beyond their reach.

"She's had eye problems since birth, but we couldn't afford treatment," her family shared.

That changed when Biratnagar Eye Hospital conducted a free Diagnostic Screening Camp in Gadhi-3, Sunsari, Nepal. There, Sifat was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes and received surgery free of charge. Her vision was successfully restored, opening up a world of possibilities.

"I want to become a nurse like this sister," Sifat said, pointing to a hospital staff member in the

pediatric ward. "I'll give injections just like her and make people better," she added, beaming with excitement.

Her mother, filled with joy, recalled a small but powerful moment after the first surgery:

"I misplaced something the other day and couldn't find it, and she spotted it immediately. It felt like a miracle," she said with a smile.

Community-based initiatives like these diagnostic camps play a crucial role in identifying childhood eye health issues early. By ensuring timely detection and free treatment, children like Sifat can overcome challenges and embrace a future full of possibilities.



### Recognition and Awards

- The António Champalimaud Vision Award
- Social Welfare Council's 'Tulsi Mehar Social Service Award'
- Ministry of Health and Population Nepal honored NNJS for eliminating trachoma from Nepal
- World Health Organization also honored NNJS for its efforts in eliminating trachoma from Nepal
- Healthcare Leadership Award for outstanding contribution in promoting inclusive healthcare
- Mrigendra Samjhana Chikitsa Guthi (Mrigendra Memorial Medical Science Guthi Award)



### Key Achievements

Trachoma, the second leading cause of blindness, was eliminated in 2018 through NNJS/National Trachoma Programme.

Expanded the network of tertiary and secondary eye care facilities and center of excellence.

Contributed to reducing avoidable blindness from 0.35% to 0.28% in a decade.

Accredited hospitals with ISO 9001 -2015 Standards and NABH.

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# Challenges and Strategic Responses

## Identified Challenges

- Inequitable distribution of eye care human resources.
- Financial constraints limiting service expansion.
- Policy gaps hindering effective implementation.
- Need for stronger Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

## Strategic Responses

- Expand mobile eye care units to reach all municipalities.
- Strengthen training initiatives and invest in advanced technology.
- Enhance fundraising efforts through diversified financial strategies.
- Advocate for policy reforms to integrate eye health into national health priorities.
- Engage with government and private stakeholders for collaborative initiatives.

# Future Plans and Strategic Goals

## Strategic Plan Overview

NNJS is committed to upgrading services across all eye hospitals and eye care centers to ensure high-quality, patient-centered care. By strengthening infrastructure, investing in human resources, and integrating advanced technology, the organization aims to enhance service delivery. Expanding eye and ear care services at the local level remains a priority, alongside increasing education and awareness about eye health. Additionally, NNJS seeks to connect eye care with sustainable livelihoods and environmentally friendly practices, fostering a holistic approach to community well-being.

## Key Objectives



**Enhance Service Quality and Accessibility**



**Strengthen Infrastructure and Workforce**



**Promote Awareness and Sustainability**

## Innovation and Technology

Leveraging telemedicine and digital records to enhance efficiency and expand access to eye care.



## Vision for the Future

At Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh, we firmly believe that every individual—regardless of geography, gender, or socio-economic status—has the fundamental right to sight and dignity. Over four decades of pioneering service, we have seen how partnerships, innovation, and community engagement can transform eye health outcomes across Nepal.

In line with our commitment to “leave no one behind,” we have set an ambitious yet achievable goal: to reduce the national prevalence of avoidable blindness to **0.20 percent by 2030**. To realize this vision, we have launched the 2024–2030 Strategic Plan, built around five interlinked pillars:

service excellence, strengthening of human resources and infrastructure, universal coverage, behaviour change through education, and the socio-economic integration of eye care. This approach is anchored in a rights-based, adaptive management framework.

Guided by this plan, our path forward will embrace digital technologies, strengthen PPPs, and foster a culture of continuous learning through an annual MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) cycle—so that every action remains evidence-based and responsive to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

**We invite individuals, organizations, and governments to join us by contributing their voices, expertise, and resources to this vital endeavour. Together, as equal partners in this mission, we can ensure that the gift of sight reaches every corner of Nepal.**

## Call to Action



### Advocate Policy Change

Push for stronger eye health policies



### Support & Donate

Help expand eye care services



### Raise Awareness

Educate communities on eye health

## Sustainability Goals



### Diversify Funding

Ensure long-term financial stability



### Build Local Capacity

Train professionals for lasting impact



### Go Green

Implement eco-friendly healthcare practices

## Contact Information

Netra Jyoti Bhawan, P.O. Box 335, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal  
+977-1-5361921 / 5361066 | [nnjs@mos.com.np](mailto:nnjs@mos.com.np) | <https://nnjs.org.np>