



Preventing Blindness and Restoring Sight in Guatemala

Seva Canada is excited to be working with Visualiza, our partner in Guatemala, an extremely dedicated team of eye care professionals headed by ophthalmologist, Dr. Mariano Yee. Our Guatemalan partner has established a unique model in Latin America to deliver eye care to the poor and to children. Visualiza is already doing about 30% of all the cataract surgeries in the country with only 2% of the nation's ophthalmologists. Visualiza is the only institution providing screening of children aged 5-15. Last year they screened over 30,000 kids.

There are approximately 12,728,000 people living in Guatemala. While there is limited data available on blindness, estimates suggest that there are over 80,000 who are currently blind from cataracts and thousands more children, women and men go blind every year. This blindness could be cured by a simple surgery. Fortunately, Seva has created a strong partnership with the Visualiza Eye Care system for the provision of high-quality eye care services. This family-run network includes three eye hospitals and several smaller eye care centers in development. The eye hospitals are located in Guatemala City, San Benito (near Flores, in the rural Peten region) and Jutiapa, in eastern Guatemala.



SNAPSHOT OF GUATEMALA

- Country population: 12,728,000
- Poverty: 37% live on less than \$2 a day
- Access to health care: 15% have no access
- Approx. number of blind due to cataract: 80,000
- Avoidable blindness: 75%
- Seva's partner: Visualiza Eye Care System
- Seva will support care in eye hospitals in:
 - Guatemala City
 - San Benito, in rural Peten region
 - Jutiapa, eastern Guatemala
- Barriers to care:
 - Poverty: 90% of blind live in developing world
 - Gender: two-thirds of world's blind are women
 - Age: 82% of world's cataract blind are over 50
 - Lack of awareness
 - Expense
 - Fear



BUDGET:

Community training activities	\$5,000
Community outreach activities	\$8,000
Patient subsidies	\$23,000
Program implementation	\$4,500
TOTAL	\$40,500