2.2 billion people+ globally live with visual impairment

SEEING A BRIGHTER, HEALTHIER FUTURE

About three hours. That’s how long it takes to fly from New Zealand to Fiji, where endless white beaches, crystal blue waters, and lush landscape welcome all. It’s no wonder Kiwis flock to Fiji on holiday. What is less obvious is this:

For many Fijians, the beauty is lost, eye challenges like diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, refractive error, and cataract marring – or stealing entirely – the gift of sight.

Fortunately, Lions of New Zealand not only visit fabulous Fiji, they also have a history of helping their neighbors to the north enjoy better eye health. With a grant of more than US$330,000 from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), New Zealand Lions played a critical role in adding and replacing aging diagnostic and surgical equipment at a local Fijian hospital, and establishing permanent diabetic retinopathy screening facilities at four additional facilities.

“As Lions, we’re passionate about both service and vision,” explained Past District Governor Roger Robinson, an integral member of the project team. “We saw a need, and with grant funding from LCIF, we addressed it.”
Seeing Things Clearly

Vision has been at the forefront of Lions service for more than a century. Though tremendous strides have been made, work must continue, as statistically, vision-related issues look like this in this part of the world:

More than 1 in 20 New Zealanders aged 50+ have moderate to severe vision impairment. Diabetic retinopathy affects ≤25% of New Zealanders with diabetes. Economic impact of vision impairment in New Zealand = ~$2.8B.

THAT’S HERE. GLOBALLY, VISION CHALLENGES LOOK LIKE THIS:

1 billion people live with vision impairment that could have been prevented or can be corrected.

US$14.3 billion is needed to treat existing cases of refractive error and cataracts worldwide.

9.3 million cataract surgeries performed

2.3 million professional eye care and community health workers trained

493 million doses of medicine provided for trachoma, onchocerciasis

Unaddressed distance vision impairment in many low- and middle-income regions is 4 times higher than in high-income regions.

LCIF AND LIONS

Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

More than US$365 million in LCIF SightFirst grants have helped Lions show the world a brighter tomorrow. We will continue to be part of the solution, adding to this progress:

Visit lcif.org/vision to learn more and access information about LCIF’s SightFirst, Matching, and District and Club Community Impact grants.

Visit lionsclubs.org/donate to support LCIF’s mission of empowering Lions to create greater impact in their communities and around the world.