

The surgical team at Ha Giang Eye Hospital, where cataract surgeries supported by The Foundation are performed.



Restoring sight in Viet Nam

Almost 70% of Viet Nam's population live in rural areas where problems leading to blindness or poor eyesight go untreated¹. As a result, they can't go to school or take part in productive work. Some may need the care of another person, who also loses out on work or education. Women in Viet Nam are more likely to suffer blindness than men.

Blindness is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Viet Nam has made significant progress towards lifting its population from poverty, but health services are still lacking in many parts of the country and many people do not know that relatively simple treatments are available to restore sight.

90%*



of blindness in Viet Nam is **avoidable**²



globally, **56% of visually impaired people are women**³

418,512



current backlog of **operable cataract** in Viet Nam²

* In those ≥ 50 years

How we work

In 2017, with the support of the Australian public, the Australian Aid Program, USAID and Standard Chartered Bank, we are implementing over AU\$2 million to eliminate avoidable blindness in Viet Nam.

Our head office is located in Da Nang, with project locations in 12 provinces as well as three national advocacy projects, supported by 14 full-time health, development and finance professionals. They are supported by The Foundation's regional and head office staff including expert medical, education, policy and research expertise.

The Foundation is supporting the development of a sustainable eye health system which will serve the people of Viet Nam into the future. We work in partnership with the Government of Viet Nam to:

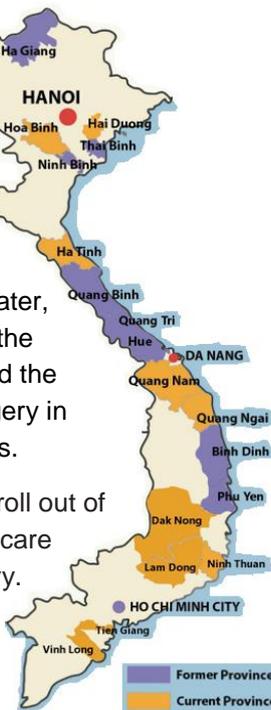
- Increase quality of eye care services focussing on cataract and refractive error
- Strengthen the capacity of key medical institutes, universities and hospitals to reduce gaps in human resources for eye health
- Eliminate trachoma (an infectious cause of blindness) from the last remaining endemic provinces
- Support the integration of eye health into the public health care system
- Increase access to eye care services for women and children through a multi-sectoral approach

Our achievements

In 1992, the late Professor Fred Hollows visited Viet Nam to deliver training in modern cataract surgery techniques. At that time, around one million Vietnamese people were blind in both eyes from cataract. Twenty years later, The Fred Hollows Foundation is one of the leading eye care INGOs in Viet Nam and the number of people needing cataract surgery in both eyes has reduced by three-quarters.

We have developed and supported the roll out of a highly successful comprehensive eye care model in 20 provinces across the country.

The model addresses shortfalls in eye care by providing facilities and equipment; training eye health care workers and ensuring that people know about eye health and can reach and afford services.



Improving Vision to Empower Female Factory Workers

In 2017, The Foundation launched an innovative pilot project designed to improve eye health among female factory workers in Viet Nam, who are particularly at risk of eye health issues. This pilot introduces eye health services to the manufacturing sector in Vietnam for the first time, taking advantage of the potential to reach a large number of women to strengthen eye health and improve occupational health and safety. By its end, the project will increase women's eye health seeking behaviours and access to eye health services, and by doing so, increase staff productivity and retention. The pilot will also work closely with factory management to improve occupational health policies relating to eye health. A core focus of the pilot will be documenting project outcomes and learnings. The Foundation will also engage widely with the sector, with the aim of taking the project model to scale across Vietnam. The project will work in three sites in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai Province, and Da Nang in the pilot phase. While the project will work with all employees, more than 90% of the workers in the project factories are women.

Our implementing partners

- Medical Services Administration and General Department of Preventive Medicine (Ministry of Health)
- Department of Student Affairs (Ministry of Education and Training)
- Provincial Departments of Education and Training
- Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology
- Trade Union of Quang Nam province and Da Nang City

Some of our achievements in 2016

Screened over:

- 480,500 women
- 379,000 men
- 519,000 children

Supported the training of:

- 18 clinic support staff
- over 1,800 community health workers
- More than 870 teachers

Performed sight saving treatments for over:

- 36,956 women
- 30,664 men
- 10,629 children

Implemented targeted eye health education for:

- 290,888 children
- 8,470 women
- 5,889 men

Our funding partners:



¹World Bank. 2013

²Vietnamese Ministry of Health, 2015. National Survey on Avoidable Blindness, Viet Nam. Available from: <http://iapbwesternpacific.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/12/RAAB-Vietnam-final-report-ENG.pdf>

³Bourne RA, Flaxman S, Braithwaite T, et al. 2017. *Magnitude, temporal trends, and projections of the global prevalence of blindness and distance and near vision impairment: A systemic review and meta-analysis*. The Lancet: Global Health, 5(9): 1-10. Available from: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/langlo/PIIS2214-109X\(17\)30293-0.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/langlo/PIIS2214-109X(17)30293-0.pdf)

⁴The Long Term Impact of Cataract Surgery On QOL Activities and Poverty 30 Apr 2014. Danquah L, Kuper H, et al. The Long Term Impact of Cataract Surgery on Quality of Life, Activities and Poverty: Results from a Six Year Longitudinal Study in Bangladesh and the Philippines. PLoS One 9(4): e94140. April 2014

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