



# Eye Bank Development

One eye bank can provide corneas for thousands of sight-restoring transplants

Photo © Mark Swatzell

## Bringing industry-leading best practices to eye banks worldwide.

SightLife’s eye bank development work focuses on building capacity of eye banks to ensure scalability, sustainability and quality by providing strategic and operational consulting. By expanding eye banking to underserved areas, surgeons and their patients will have greater access to quality corneas.

### The Need

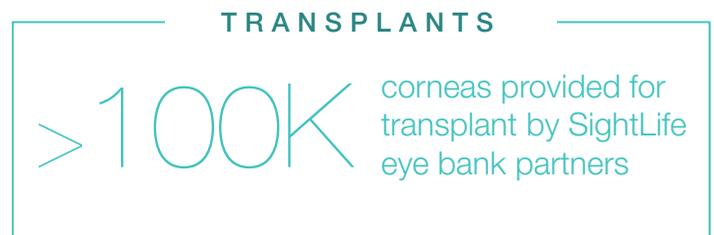
Low- and middle-income countries carry the highest burden of corneal blindness. Lack of proper infrastructure for eye banking in these regions often results in a shortage of corneas for transplant – leaving many individuals waiting for sight-restoring transplants they need.

### Our Focus

Leveraging decades of experience in the United States and learnings from our global partners, our eye bank development program brings industry best practices and proven systems to build and strengthen underperforming eye banks. By doing so, we can ensure more high-quality corneas are available for local surgeons to perform sight-restoring transplants.

Specifically, SightLife partners with eye banks to offer technical training, quality assurance systems, operational guidelines and strategy consulting.

The goal is to develop self-sustaining eye banks in underserved areas to be able to meet the local demand for corneal transplants.





## KGMU UP Community Eye Bank's Story

Lucknow is the largest city in Uttar Pradesh (UP), the most populous state in India – with two-thirds the population of the United States. For comparison, the U.S. was performing more than 50,000 transplants per year, but in UP only 650 corneal transplants took place. To address this great need, SightLife first partnered with King George Medical University and The Hans Foundation to open a state-of-the-art eye bank in late 2016. To date, the eye bank has provided 1,639 tissues for life-transforming corneal transplants.



*“In its first year, the KGMU UP Community Eye Bank was the fastest growing eye bank in the country, and today, it continues to grow. We have made a tremendous impact on our community, but we know there is still more work to do to meet the demand in a state with the highest prevalence of corneal blind in India.”*

- Dr. Arun K. Sharma  
Medical Director, KGMU UP CEB

## Progress and Scaling

The eye bank development work launched SightLife's international programs in 2009. Our original five partners in India provided approximately 3,475 corneas for transplant. In 2018, SightLife supported more than 30 partners across Greater Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and our partners provided more than 24,000 corneas for transplant. To date, with our partners, SightLife has helped provide more than 135,000 corneas for transplant.

SightLife will further scale our work by developing online learning opportunities, creating new curricula and providing in-person training and coaching for eye banks and their personnel. As we continue to develop resources and grow partnerships, SightLife will be able to reach more eye banks around the world, helping them become self-sufficient and able to scale to meet the needs of their communities. This work will further accelerate our mission to eliminate corneal blindness by 2040.

## JOIN US

SightLife is honored to partner with a distinguished group of surgeons and ophthalmic personnel, companies, and individuals who believe in the power of sight as a means to create a better future. These partnerships empower SightLife to expand its programs and services across the globe. We invite you to join us.

Learn more about how you can find a role in eliminating corneal blindness: [www.sightlife.org/joinus](http://www.sightlife.org/joinus)



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