

almustafatrust.org
Tel: 020 8569 6444



**SEEING IS
BELIEVING**



**Al-Mustafa
Welfare Trust**

Charity Number: 1118492

**GLOBAL VISION AID
EYE ACTIVITY REPORT 2017**

OUR MISSION...
SAVING SIGHT,
CHANGING LIVES
AND BUILDING A
BRIGHTER,
SAFER FUTURE.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



You'll be amazed how little it takes to make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need of eye care.

As this report highlights, together we have saved the vision of thousands of people. On behalf of the Al-Mustafa team I would like to relay a heartfelt thank you for all your support.

Wasalamu'Alaikum,

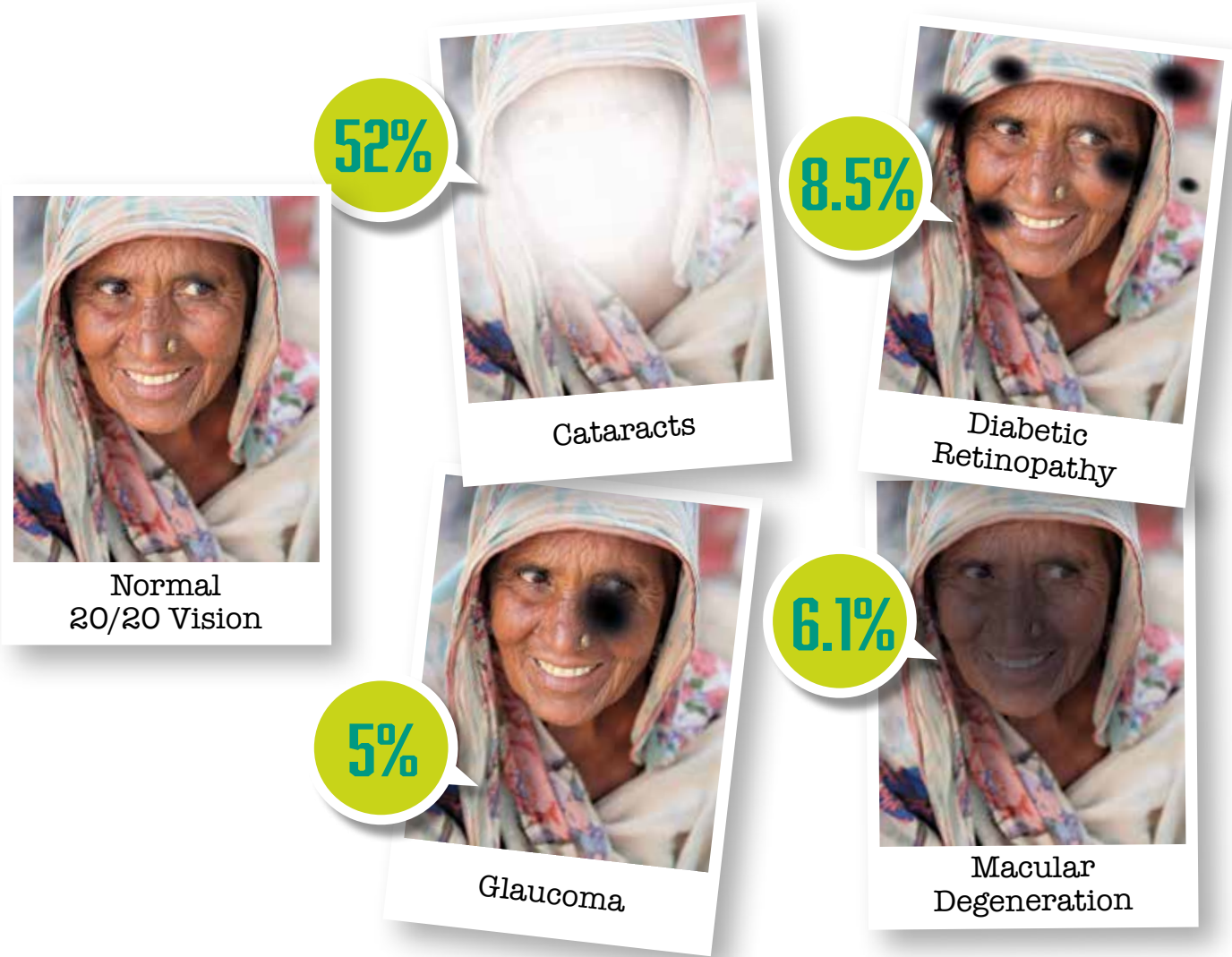
Abdul Razzaq Sajid
Chairman

As of December 2017, **74,000** surgeries completed, help us reach our target of **100,000**

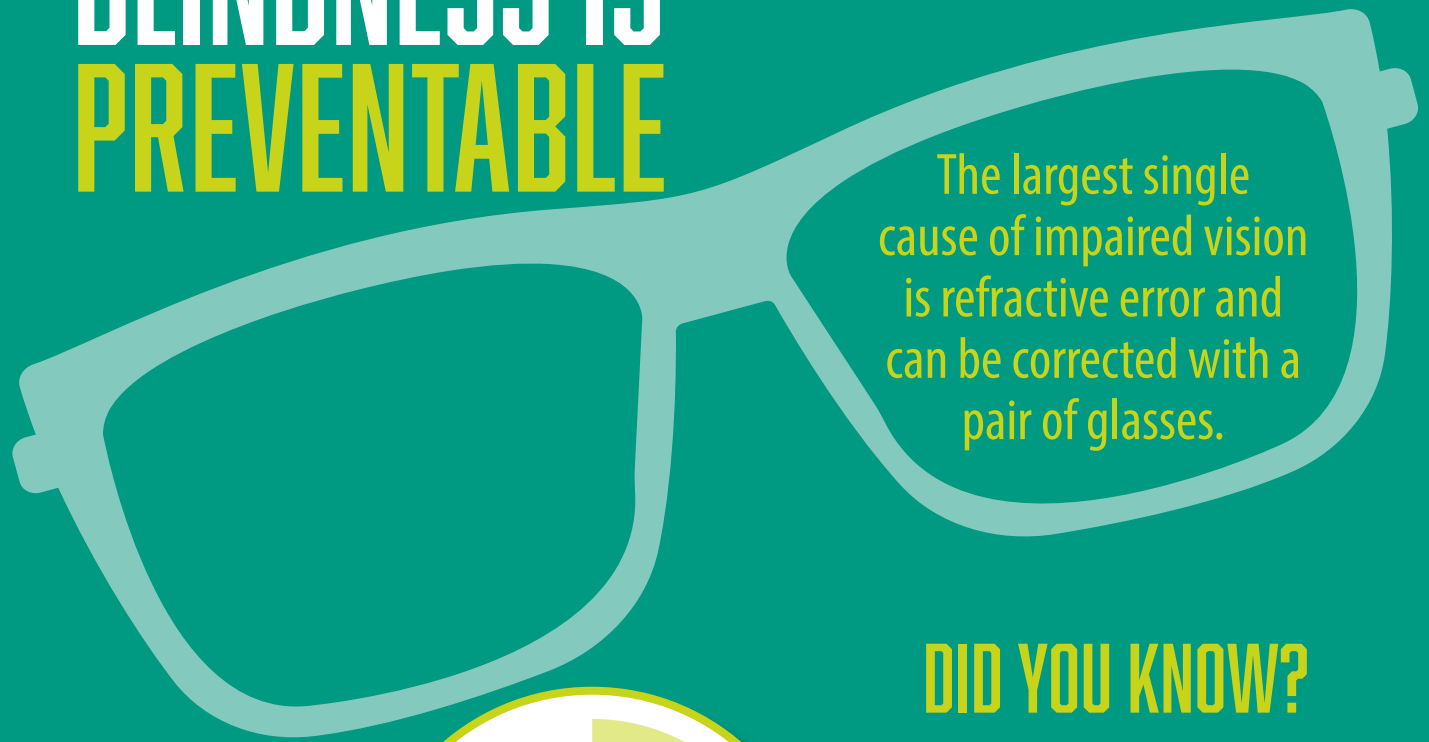
IMPACT OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Looking Through Their Eyes

Our eyes are responsible for four-fifths of all the information our brain receives. Now imagine you had an eye condition like cataract or glaucoma, what would you see?



80% OF THE WORLD'S BLINDNESS IS PREVENTABLE



The largest single cause of impaired vision is refractive error and can be corrected with a pair of glasses.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every 5 seconds someone in the world goes blind and a child goes blind every minute

Approximately 285 million people worldwide live with low vision and blindness

90% of the world's visually impaired live in developing countries

39 million people are blind and 246 million have moderate or severe visual impairment



DID YOU KNOW?

AMWT works to improve the vision of people in developing countries. AMWT optometrists in many cases, simply diagnose patients with refractive errors and prescribe them with a corrective pair of lenses. It's estimated that 153 million people above the age of five could improve their vision with a simple pair of glasses, but are unable to do so due to lack of optometry provisions.



LOSS OF SIGHT EFFECTS THE MOST VULNERABLE

Studies indicate that two-thirds of people suffering from eye conditions are women and girls.

There are various reasons for this, including access to treatment. Even when health services are accessible, in many developing world community's, men control the family finances and their medical needs are prioritised. The unethical question this poses is - should a family invest in a woman's eye health? In many cases the answer is no.

Additionally when services are not easily accessible, it can also be harder for women to travel for treatment because of domestic responsibilities. In some cultures there is a sense of shame surrounding any type of disability, including visual impairments. In Pakistan, for example women are often afraid to be seen as a burden on the family and ashamed about being blind and may not seek medical help and support for this reason.



DID YOU KNOW?

AMWT has a team of trained councillors who conduct community outreach projects aiming to educate people on eye treatments and family healthcare.

OUR **SUCCESSSES** TO DATE

803



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
SUPPORTED IN BUSINESS



74,639

CATARACT
SURGERIES



432

SCHOOL BASE
EYE CAMPS



511,577

OPD (SCREENING)

221,000

HEPATITIS
SCREENING



400,000

EYE GLASSES
DISTRIBUTED



7,241

CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES
SUPPORTED TO
ATTEND SCHOOL

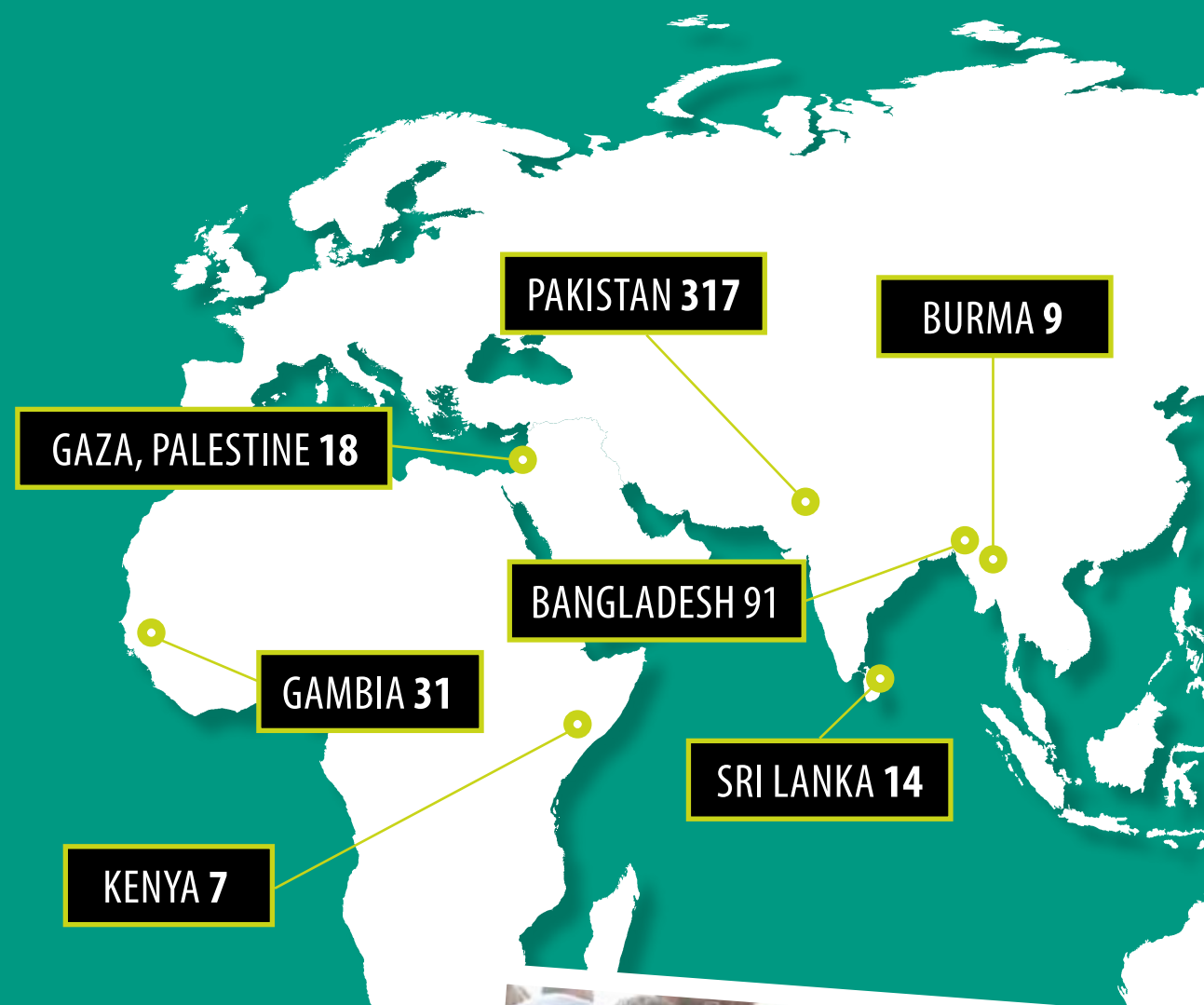


Learning Through Innovation

Your generous support has provided us the opportunity to take a leap forward in exploring potentially innovative approaches to addressing the challenges faced in the delivery of effective eye care.

With ring-fenced funding for AMWT's Innovation Fund, we can now explore new approaches and projects that hold the promise of effective large-scale educational and social change. We hope this will have a long-term impact on eye health reporting, assessment and treatment in hard to reach regions, whilst also establishing standards of good practice.

EYE CAMPS **2017**



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR DONATIONS

Muhammad Akram, Chiniot, Pakistan

Muhammad Akram is known for his skills in building houses using traditional materials like mud and straw. At the ripe age of 60 he is still known across many villages in Chiniot, Pakistan and beyond for his craftsmanship. Over the last few years, due to deteriorating eye sight he could not work comfortably. At times he found he had made incorrect measurements or mixed the wrong materials, this led to poor workmanship and financial losses, resulting in a period of depression. When AMWT set up an eye camp in Malakal, Muhammad attended and was referred to a specialist who explained that a simple surgical procedure could help him regain his vision and that the surgery cost would be supported.

Muhammad says he feels that all his prayers have been answered. He is now back to work and delighted that he is able to provide a quality service to his clients once more.



Name: **Muhammad Akram**
Age: **60**
Location: **Chiniot, Pakistan**



Name: **Aleya Begum**
Age: **52**
Location: **Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Aleya Begum, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Aleya Begum is 52 and hails from Bangladesh, she was blessed with a beautiful family of two sons and a husband Shahabuddin. Though living below the poverty line, Shahabuddin was a hard-working labourer, working 12 hours daily to earn a small income to feed his family. He managed to send his sons to a good school, providing a good education, once they were married they chose to leave their parents. Shahabuddin continued to work as he was receiving no support, his health deteriorated and sadly he passed away in 2014. After 30 years of marriage Aleya Begum was now left alone, completely destitute and helpless, abandoned by her sons. With the passage of time, Aleya suffered from back problems due to heavy lifting and was diagnosed with a vertebrae dislocation. Unable to move properly and with deteriorating vision, all she had left was memories of happier times.

In 2017 she was taken to the local Eye Hospital, near Dhaka. AMWT was able to sponsor her free eye treatment, with the support of our respected donor Ms Tahrina Chowdhury. A cataract surgery was successfully performed and Aleya Begum was overjoyed when the eye pads were removed. She expressed her gratitude to the team with tears of happiness in her healing eyes, "I have no words that can express my happiness, I will forever remember this great deed of kindness"

EYE RESTORATION IN AFRICA

Providing eye care in Africa is full of challenges. Poverty, the shortage of eye specialists and transportation are all major obstacles.

Cataracts are the leading cause of treatable blindness in the world. Most people have no idea what is wrong with their eyes or that there is a solution.

A 15-minute cataract surgery to remove the clouded lens costs about £35 and can restore sight. But because cataracts develop gradually and are painless, most people in Africa won't spend the money to travel to hospital to seek help. Even when diagnosed, many people feel fear and apprehension.

Hospitals are often viewed as places where you go to die, not as centres for cure. Moreover, many people have little real conception of what cataract surgery is all about.

Two common and frightening beliefs are that doctors will replace your eye with a goat's eye! Or that during surgery they'll completely remove your eyeball, before replacing it! AMWT is working with local communities to dispel such myths and provide necessary treatments.



DID YOU KNOW?

AMWT promote and practice the world Health Organization "SAFE" strategy to combat trachoma which involves surgery, antibiotic treatment, facial cleanliness and environment (SAFE)

MEET OUR 70,000TH CATARACT PATIENT

Azmat Ali 46, who lives with his wife and two children in Bahawalpur, Punjab, went blind gradually.

"I used to work on a metal lathe machine in Bahawalpur. There was a slight problem in one of my eyes. On having it checked, I was told to wear spectacles, but my eyesight continued to deteriorate. At one stage I was completely dependent on others. When I went to the doctor again, I was informed it was a cataract and that the operation would cost Rs.20,000 (Approx. £145)".

How your donation made a difference

Azmat Ali's life today is very different today, with his sight restored, he can live independently and no longer depends on his family to help perform simple daily routines such as washing and feeding himself. And best of all, he can once again provide for his family.



Name: **Azmat Ali**
Age: **46**
Location: **Bahawalpur, Pakistan**



DID YOU KNOW?

Amwat is the only charity working in Pakistan which screens blood for Hepatitis B&C from all patients in its eye camps before their surgeries. We then treat all Hepatitis B&C positive patients under strict prescribed medical procedures.

2017
WORLD
SIGHT
DAY

SUPPORTING WORLD SIGHT DAY

Once a year, on the second Thursday of October, World Sight Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the 36 million people who are blind and the 217 million people that are visually impaired worldwide.

We know that 80% of blindness and vision loss is curable or preventable. This means four out of five of the visually impaired lose their sight needlessly. That's why AMWT is committed to raising funds to treat 100,000 visually impaired people by 2020 through a global initiative, run in partnership with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). To help fund leading eye health organisations to deliver projects that train doctors and health workers, develop eye care infrastructure and support services to the poor.

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HOW **YOU** CAN HELP

> Campaign

Add your voice and speak up for those who can't be heard.

> Donate

Make a regular monthly donation and spread the impact of your gift.

> Fundraise

Whether it's a sponsored run or a coffee & cake morning, your support changes lives.

> Leave a gift

A gift in your Will, however small or large, can help ensure we can always be here for those in need.

£35

CAN PROVIDE
1 CATARACT
SURGERY

£105

CAN PROVIDE
3 CATARACT
SURGERIES

£350

CAN PROVIDE
10 CATARACT
SURGERIES

£1000

WILL PROVIDE
28 CATARACT
SURGERIES IN
ONE EYE CAMP

> Volunteer Abroad

Join us for a truly life changing volunteer experience abroad. Working with our local team in an Al Mustafa Eye Camp, you will also have the opportunity to visit our other projects. **Simply set up an Eye Camp by raising £2000 and see first hand how a 15 minute operation can change someones life forever.**



Call us on **0208 5696 444** or complete the online form, **we need your support!**



Al-Mustafa
Welfare Trust®

As of 2017

74,000 SURGERIES COMPLETED

help us reach our target of

100,000





Design & Print: MDUK Media 020 8799 4455



**Al-Mustafa
Welfare Trust®**

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