

SightLife India Activity Report April 2021 – March 2022

	Target	Achieved
Transplants	17,331	19,320
Total # of eye health workers trained	1,140	1,132
Total patients seen by eye health workers	1,007	900
Total patients seen who were treated for abrasions	3,927	11,433
Total number of positive affinity shifts	5	5

I: April – June 2021 Activity Report

General

Strategic planning process

SightLife is initiating an intensive strategic planning process to chart the path for SightLife's path toward elimination of corneal blindness. The six-nine month process will involve four phases and groups comprised of internal and external experts across various fields.



Vision 2020 & NGO community engagement



Despite the many challenges and distractions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, SightLife's role as the Vision 2020 north zone representative has already led to productive initiatives we're optimistic about the potential for this board position. Thanks to Mr. Atul Kapoor's leadership on the board, we have worked with Vision 2020 to propose a policy change related to tissue collection reimbursement as described below. Additionally, SightLife initiated a survey to all Vision 2020 north zone members in preparation for an upcoming zonal workshop which will guide development of the north zone strategy in H2 of 2021.

Eye Bank Development

Partner Account Management

Driven by the declining impact of the pandemic and the ability to have full operations, enabled by NPCB, our partners continued to perform admirably in March, facilitating more than 1500 transplants, nearly back to pre-COVID times. It did prove to be too good to last as we were hit by the second and much more devastating wave of COVID, which again brought operations to a near standstill. As there was no nationwide lockdown this time and the impact of COVID was different in different states at a time, there was still some activity, as evident by the 251 transplants in May as opposed to only 15 in May 2020. As expected, utilization rates dropped to under 70% at 68%. As access to Hospitals started reducing in April, HCRP collections reduced in the second half of April, with maximum impact in May. On the bright side, the second wave is receding, and we are already seeing signs of recovery with some partners, which is likely to get better as lockdowns in different states get relaxed.

Taking advantage of the availability of time with our EDCs, we launched a new learning series focused on partner relations for Managers, HCRP coordinators and senior EDCs. The first session was a success with over 33 trainees participating. It will be followed by two more at a 3–4-week interval and interspersed with assignments. We continue to engage with our funders and would be closely working with them to explore the possibility of a no cost extension in funding for a couple of months.





TRANSPLANTS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	2021 YTD
2021 Actual Tx	1341	1480	1509	937	251								5518
2021 Plan Tx	1046	1006	1044	1041	1105	1102	1175	1179	1122	1171	1265	1251	5242
2020 Actual Tx	1692	1517	890	15	46	154	262	357	578	908	1059	1338	4160

Quality Program

As planned, the Quality team successfully launched and completed the pilot remote quality assessments at two partner eye banks in March. While the audit objective and scope remained the same as the traditional on-site visits, the differences are audit pace, spaced over 4-5 days instead of a 2 full day on-site audits, virtual interviews, demonstrations, laboratory walkthrough and review of Eye Bank, Donor records electronically. This requires increased time and engagement for planning, conducting feasibility assessments, training and review of records. The current focus is on mature Eye banks who have been assessed and certified before. New Eye banks and first-time assessments are currently not under the scope of remote assessment. In April and May another two partner Eye Banks were assessed remotely. Post the assessments and outcome, SL certification panel reviewed the audit observations and status of proposed corrective actions and preventive actions and decided to re-certify 3 partner Eye banks to 2 more years. With the second wave hitting in April, assessments planned at two more eye banks in May and June had to be put on hold as per Eye Banks request. Onboarding of other partner Eye banks whose certification is due this year has been ongoing.

The advantages of this approach are its flexibility, no additional cost of travel and administration and safety of the Auditors and Eye bank team. While this approach has provided the scope for innovations, new learnings and experiences some aspects of the process can be further aligned to enable remote auditing to be a cornerstone of future assessment.

A total of 10 EBs are planned to be remotely audited in the year 2021.

As part of our Operational Readiness Strategy (ORS), SightLife will be launching a monitoring & evaluation program in 2021. The quality team is also in the process of drafting a MEAL guideline for the international programs/projects. The team was also actively involved in facilitating the Theory of Change Workshops being conducted across all Programs.

Distribution

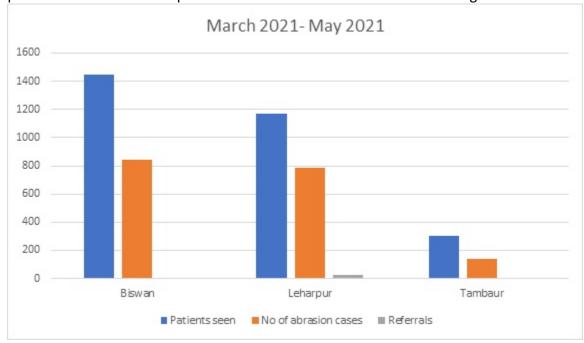
Eye bank partners that are part of Cornea Distribution System had started to have upward trend on tissue transplant. These eye bank partners had started to share more and more tissues wit CDS resulting in more and more satisfied surgeons. However, since March our eye bank partners have been adversely affected. In Q12021 while our eye bank partners shared 430 tissues against budgeted number of 358 tissues with CDS. In April and May 2021, our eye bank partners have



shared 148 tissues on a budgeted number of 214 tissues with CDS. We are hoping that with reduction in COVID19 infections and deaths, our eye bank partners should show some improvement.

Prevention

With the onset of second wave of COVID-19, Corneal Blindness Prevention program in India suffered heavily with program outreach activities continue to remain on halt. Community health workers are screening only those patients who are visiting them at their homes after ensuring the patient has no COVID-19 related symptoms. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare priorities at national, state and local level have been re-oriented towards COVID-19 response with ASHAs being pulled in for the vaccination program. For the period March 2021-May 2021, the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases had increased exponentially leaving most of the community vulnerable. Program team's plan to conduct the remote refresher training also suffered a huge setback due to the increase in cases. Program team is keeping a close eye on the ground situation and is keeping all the stakeholders engaged to find the best strategies navigating through these uncertain times. Our project supervisors continue to work from home and are monitoring the program remotely on regular basis. Program team is also currently looking for a window to conduct the refresher training in the month of June as the numbers of COVID-19 start to decline. From March 2021-May 2021, a total of 2901 patients reached out to the Community health workers on eye related ailments out of which 1772 were the cases of Corneal Abrasions. 28 patients were referred for secondary/tertiary care to local vision centers and Sitapur Eye Hospital. The site wise breakup of these numbers is illustrated below through the bar chart.



Out of 2901 patients seen:

62% were males.



- 38% were females.
- 6 % of the patients were in 0-14 years age group.
- 34% of the patients were in 14-25 years age group.
- 47% were in the age group of 26-50 years.
- 12% were in the age group of 51-75 years.
- 1% were above 75 years of age.



A Community health worker in Leherpur observing the eye of a patient.

Program team has also been able to finalize the content for USAID childhood blindness program and which currently is in its final stages of development. We are closely collaborating with Sitapur Eye Hospital and the Community health workers shall be trained in second half of 2021 on managing Pediatric corneal cases in the community.

Clinical Training

The Clinical Training program entered March 2021 with a heavy wave of COVID-19 in India, creating a few difficulties to launching the pilot training events for virtual learning. Our partners, faculty, and attendees are under an immense amount of stress, dealing with lockdowns and COVID-19 cases in their families, workplaces, or among their community members. Our lead faculty members have requested a postponement of the pediatric training for the cornea



blindness prevention program, which has been echoed by enrolled participants who also indicated they will be unable to attend if the original envisioned dates were kept. With the course being virtually hosted, the curriculum is being built for maximum knowledge adoption for pediatric care, requiring participants to see patients as 'homework' following each session of the course. The number of patients being seen in the clinic is significantly lower due to the lockdowns, leaving the participating trainees with a delay in seeing patients and being able to implement any gained skills. The delay is detrimental for long term skill adoption and can be mitigated by postponing the course until the clinic volumes improve. The course is targeted to be completed no later than September 2021.

Curriculum has been the largest focus from March 2021 through June 2021, working on a number of projects simultaneously. The first of which is the pediatric cornea care curriculum with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute to help providers identify, treat and manage early cornea disease and pediatric corneal transplants. The second curriculum is a self-paced Penetrating Keratoplasty curriculum that will be piloted on a learning management system for individuals to complete and return to while getting mentorship through experts. Lastly, the team is working on recruitment of additional DALK experts for review of skills transfer course curriculum. The program will continue to engage in virtual spaces to provide training on needed cornea topics.

II: July - September 2021 Activity Report

Eye Bank Development

As the second wave of COVID receded, eye banking started making a comeback in June. As there was no confusion in government guidelines the recovery proceeded much faster than earlier in the pandemic. While eye collections are still lagging, transplants have grown 500% to over 1500 a month owing to pent-up demand, which is nearly the same as what we saw in March. It was observed that even lower quality tissue got utilized as there was a shortage of optical quality corneas. The utilization rates throughout the three months stayed over 80%, which is well above the usual average of 67%.

Our learning series on partner relations have progressed quite well with higher-than-expected participation. We have been through three sessions, and they have been well received. The final session is scheduled for later September. Also, we had a detailed discussion with our key funder, and they approved a no-cost extension for three months to allow time for us to achieve targets and utilize the available funds. We have already completed the process of recalculation of targets and MoU addendums with eligible partners.





Transplants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021 Actual Tx	1341	1476	1509	937	251	821	1502	1510				
2021 Plan Tx	1046	1006	1044	1041	1105	1102	1175	1179	1122	1171	1265	1251
2020 Actual Tx	1692	1517	890	15	46	154	262	357	578	908	1059	1338

Remote quality audits continued to be performed as planned at four more partner eye banks during the period June to August 2021. Audits were conducted with the well preparedness of the team and no technology issues were faced. Engagements and training with the partners continued in the preparation phase. Also, a few more Eye banks were onboarded into the process and their assessments are scheduled in Q3 and Q4 of the year. We also obtained feedback from the audited partners to identify improvement areas in the process. So far, the feedback obtained has been positive. The next phase will be to follow up with the audited partners for closure of the audit observations and re-certification decision by the certification panel members which will be scheduled in October.

Besides this, the first version of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) policy and procedure was developed which provides guidelines necessary for building MEAL for SightLife's international programs and projects. This document is currently undergoing review.

Glimpses of Remote audit at Eye Banks:





Pic 1: H.V Desai Eye Bank, Pune





Pic 2: Rotary Aravind Eye Bank, Madurai





Pic 3: Lions International Eye Bank, Bangalore

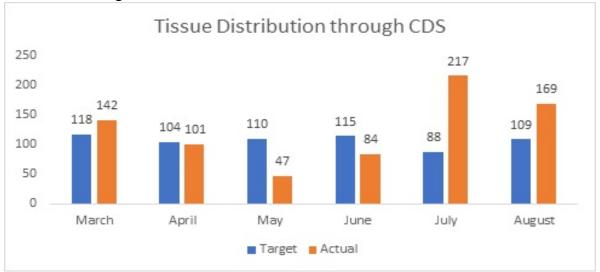


Pic 4: Ramayamma International Eye Bank (RIEB), Hyderabad



Most of our eye bank partners that are part of the cornea distribution system (CDS), that had been adversely affected due to severe second wave of COVID-19 in India, have now started to show an upward trend in tissue transplant. Due to faster recovery of these eye bank partners beginning June, they have started to share more and more tissues with CDS resulting in more and more satisfied surgeons.

While for the period of *March-May*, eye bank partners had shared 12% lesser tissues against the budgeted number of 332 tissues with CDS. In *June-Aug*, we are elated to report a **surge of 51%** against the budgeted number of 312 tissues with CDS. With eye donation fortnight celebrations in full force, we are hoping to see a continued upward trend in total tissues being distributed through CDS.



Prevention

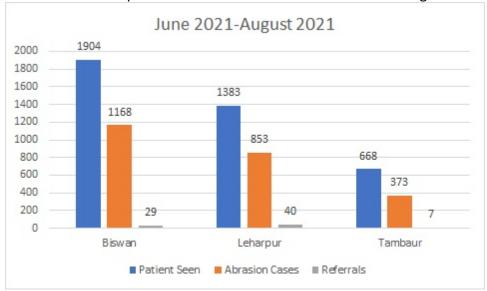
With the second wave of COVID-19 fading in early June, Corneal Blindness Prevention program in India was resumed with strict guidelines to supervisors in maintaining COVID-19 appropriate behavior. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare priorities at national, state and local level have continued to remain re-oriented towards COVID-19 response with ASHAs being pulled in for the vaccination program. For the period June 2021- August 2021, the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases has decreased but the possibility of third wave continues to linger leaving most of the community vulnerable.

The prevention team has designed ways to facilitate training by having program supervisors conduct training in a small group size of four to five Community health workers (CHWs). Supervisors received comprehensive virtual training by SightLife master trainer on both facilitation skills and the technical components of training, including the nuances of reviewing the treatment and referral protocol and leading conversations on mental health and wellbeing. This training model adhered to the precautionary measures and preventive guidelines against COVID-19 (social distancing, masks, sanitization, etc.).



During the period June 2021- August 2021, the team covered 493 ASHAs out of 637 in Sitapur, India in the month of June while the rest of 144 community health workers were covered in July using the same innovative model. This method also provided a way to sync up with community health workers, which was difficult to do last year due to the pandemic. Supervisors replenished their supplies and addressed any concerns and issues related to the program.

From June 2021-August 2021, a total of 3955 patients reached out to the Community health workers on eye related ailments out of which 2394 were the cases of Corneal Abrasions. 76 patients were referred for secondary/tertiary care to local vision centers and Sitapur Eye Hospital. The site wise breakup of these numbers is illustrated below through the bar chart.



Out of 3955 patients seen:

- 60% were males.
- 40% were females.
- 7% of the patients were in 0-14 years age group.
- 33% of the patients were in 14-25 years age group.
- 51% were in the age group of 26-50 years.
- 8% were in the age group of 51-75 years.
- 1% were above 75 years of age.

Program team has also been able to deliver training to 637 ASHA workers on the pediatric module currently under the USAID's Childhood Blindness Prevention program. This training was conducted in person by our master trainer in the 3 blocks of Sitapur district with the help of 2 supervisors supporting him. It was the first of its kind being conducted in India.





A child being diagnosed with Corneal abrasion by a Community health worker in Biswan

Clinical Training

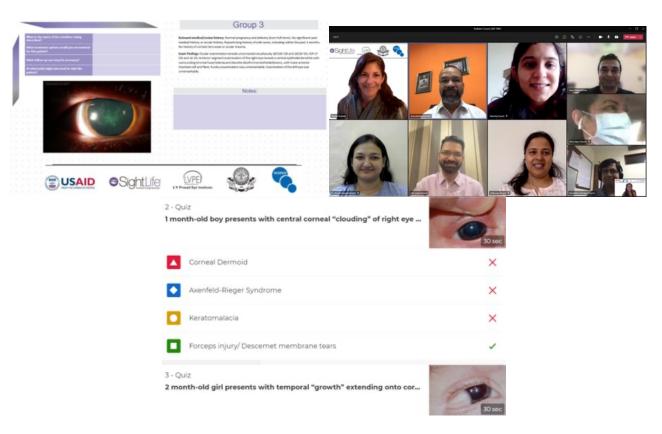
As the COVID-19 cases in India improved through early June, the dates for the pediatric cornea blindness prevention program were finalized in partnership with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, World Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus made possible with the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). With leading faculty Dr. Muralidhar Ramappa, Dr. Virender Sangwan and Dr. Ken Nischal over a 3-day series of virtual interactive classes the trainees were able to learn how to identify common pediatric diseases earlier, treat and stop the progression. Further, they were able to learn about SLET procedure and the nuances of treating young patients. Each trainee was given homework assignments between each day of the training series and returned with patient case studies to present to the group. This maximized the trainees ability to connect with the faculty and their peers to get direct advice and feedback on their treatment plans with their patients. During the period of June through August of 2021 there was a total of 12 trained surgeons in the pediatric cornea training.



The team will be launching the pilot for the self-paced PKP course, which will be delivered with subsequent lecture series through expert PKP faculty worldwide. This curriculum will strengthen the approach for synchronous and asynchronous learning for the curriculum development formatting that the team takes moving forward.

The team is returning to the curriculum development for the course targeting ophthalmic assistants. This course fortifies the patient referral pathway between the community and primary, secondary, and tertiary care levels, enabling patients to have access to a capable cornea provider and early referral for higher care. During this time, we are including lesson plan finalization, outreach with key opinion leaders and experts, and created core partnerships for the virtual pilot in 2021 with the Ophthalmic Assistant Society and SEVA Foundation, which will partner in implementation.

In the second half of 2021 the team will be working on finishing the DALK curriculum and make strategic plans for the possible pilot in the coming months as well, dependent on the evolving COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in our content collection, batch review or core review please reach out to us for more information! We would be thrilled to schedule a call with you to get things moving forward.





Eye Bank Development

The trend of recovery with eye bank partners continued and all our partners are now actively collecting and distributing corneas. As the demand remains high, utilization of corneas remained well above what is expected at 75%. We continue to sew growth in volumes with September crossing the 1700 mark and the utilization of therapeutic quality corneas has not declined as much as we feared.

We were also able to organize our last session in the partner relations learning series and like others, it was well received. We assimilated feedback from the partners which indicates overall approval and satisfaction from the series. We also got the input that partners would like virtual learning to continue and got some indications on what topics they would like us to cover. Based on that feedback, we have drafted a high-level virtual learning plan for 2022.

In 2022, we will not have annual consulting MOUs with partners but will actively engage them in virtual training while our refreshed eye bank development strategy is complete as part of the SightLife strategic planning process.



Transplants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021 Actual Tx	1341	1476	1509	937	251	821	1504	1537	1714	1619		
2021 Plan Tx	1046	1006	1044	1041	1105	1102	1175	1179	1122	1171	1265	1251
2020 Actual Tx	1692	1517	890	15	46	154	262	357	578	908	1059	1338

Remote quality audits continued to be performed as planned at three more partner eye banks during the period September to November 2021. Audits were conducted with the well preparedness of the team and no technology issues were faced. Engagements and training with the partners continued in the preparation phase. Quality certification panel discussion was conducted in October to discuss certification status of five partner eye banks and the panel agreed to re-certify these five Eye Banks for two more years based on the remote audit outcome.



As of October, eight partner eye banks are quality certified this year based on remote audit approach.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (M.E.A.L.) role has also been taken up by the quality team and currently we are working with the Prevention program to identify ways to integrate M.E.A.L. practices into the program.



Image 1: Remote audit at Lions International Eye Bank, Bangalore









Image 2: Remote audit at Eye Bank

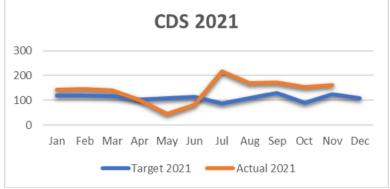






Image 3: Remote audit at Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan.

CDS volumes have been quite steady in the past three months and have ranged between 153 and 172 placements with all active partners contributing. Nearly 15% of placements have been of therapeutic tissue. With demand remaining high, we have surpassed our overall targets by 41%. The demand remains robust for now, but we will eventually see a reduction in the therapeutic utilization rate which may have an impact on volumes.



SightLife's MOU with King George's Medical University ended on 1st November, 2021 and handover was completed.



Clinical Training

To measure the impact of the training conducted last quarter for 12 corneal surgeons in pediatric cornea care and simple limbal epithelial technique (SLET) with Dr. Muralidhar Ramappa, Dr. Virender Sangwan and Dr. Ken Nischal, SightLife assesses direct skill adoption (or the skills learned in the training the surgeon reports putting into practice post-training) and the net promoter score of the training itself of each surgeon post course. The pediatric cornea care course received the highest net promoter score (100%) and the highest direct skill adoption (100%) of any SightLife clinical training course. In the months since the training, surgeons have continued to leverage the WhatsApp mentorship group to receive support on pediatric management and keratoplasty cases from Dr. Muralidhar Ramappa and Dr. Virender Sangwan. On average they have provided treatment support and procedures, including SLET, to 60 patients each per month.

SightLife and Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) are collaborating on the development of a journal submission to assess the impact of the short-term hybrid cataract to cornea fellowship program which has graduated 16 fellows to date. During the quarter, a series of quantitative and qualitative surveys with past fellows were conducted and a first draft of the article publication was drafted. Over the next 2 months the organizations will be partnering to finalize this publication and begin submissions to perspective journals.

During the quarter the Clinical Program Manager left SightLife, which has led to some delays in the progression of 3 global level clinical training projects: DALK curriculum, Self-Paced PKP Skills Transfer Course pilot launch, and pilot of training for ophthalmic assistants (allied ophthalmic personnel). With this change in human resources, SightLife has re-evaluated the structure of the clinical training team and will be recruiting for a new clinical training position based in India to lead instructional design for curriculum and provide program management support. The recruitment will be launched end of December2021/early January 2022.

The Self-Paced PKP Skills Transfer Course with video lectures from expert faculty including Dr. Anthony Aldave, Dr. Matthew Giegengack, Dr. Rahul Pandit and Dr. Pravin Krishna Vaddavalli, have finalized peer review and quality control in early December. The small changes required in the course will be completed in early 2022 and SightLife will begin recruitment of trainees a global pilot of the course on SightLife's Learning Management System Eye Learn in Q2 2022. SightLife has engaged a part-time consultant to support the finalization of the DALK curriculum. In early December 2021 the consultant began work on the curriculum and outreach to 3 faculty members who have committed to support the curriculum finalization: Dr. Anthony Aldave, Dr. Pravin Krishna Vaddavalli, and Dr. Roberto Pineda.

Prevention

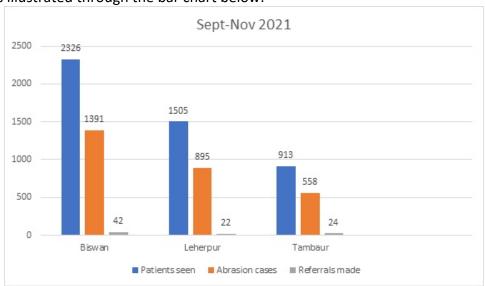
Timeframe from September-November 2021 was quite productive and smooth for program implementation activities post refresher trainings held in August 2021. Our field team continued to follow COVID-19 appropriate behavior and followed the required guidelines during program implementation. For the period September 2021- December 2021, the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases has decreased but with the emergence of Omicron variant the possibility of third wave



continues to linger leaving most of the community vulnerable. Another challenge that has emerged in the last month from the community is the resistance between ASHAs and government to keep a monthly stipend. ASHAs have gone on strike in several blocks of Uttar Pradesh to voice out their discontentment with the current government polices of keeping them only incentive based. ASHAs are expecting a monthly stipend for which they are continuously protesting. The impact of this on the program was minimal in the last month but it could emerge as a big challenge in future if the movement grows.

Post refresher training in August, Community health workers reached out to the patients with more confidence and extended outreach. They also reached out to children from 0-14 years of age under USAID program and treated their eye related issues successfully.

From September- November 2021 a total of 4744 patients reached out to CHWs on eye related ailments out of which 2844 were Corneal abrasion cases. Total referrals made to local vision centers and Sitapur eye hospital were 88. CHWs were able to successfully manage and treat 96.90% of the total abrasion cases at their level of primary care. The site wise breakup of these numbers is illustrated through the bar chart below:



Out of 4744 patients seen:

- 61% were males.
- 39% were females.
- 9% of the patients were in 0-14 years age group.
- 30% of the patients were in 14-25 years age group.
- 52% were in the age group of 26-50 years.
- 8% were in the age group of 51-75 years.
- 1% were above 75 years of age.





Community health worker diagnosing the eye of a patient in Biswan



A child being treated under USAID program in Leherpur

IV: January – March 2022 Activity Report

Eye Bank Development

Eye Banking is now at a near-normal state and recoveries have picked up 20 2019 numbers on most eye bank partners. Even though the year started slow because of fears from the Omicron wave, there has been a good recovery. Demand remains high, which is reflected in the higher-than-expected utilization rate of 69%. This year, we decided not to have any more MoUs with partners as we work on our long-term strategy, which was communicated to the partners in the last quarter of 2021. Because of this, there have been a couple of partners who have been reluctant to share performance data with us.

Our focus this year will be on virtual engagement, and we have partnered with EBAI to work together towards imparting key learnings to the larger eye banking community, which includes all EBAI members. We plan to create a self-sustaining community with a culture of learning, so we are ensuring that most of our sessions are facilitated by experts from the Indian Eye Banking



industry. The topics for the sessions were finalized based on inputs from EBAI and SIghtLife partners. The inaugural session was held on March 25th and was attended by over 30 eye bankers from across India.



Transplants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022 Actual Tx	1273	1534	1430									
2022 Plan Tx	989	1219	1298	1166	1177	1071	1350	1342	1399	1378	1403	1405
2021 Actual Tx	1341	1476	1509	937	251	821	1504	1537	1714	1619	1475	1640

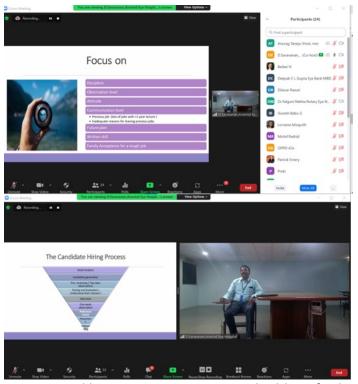


Fig. 1 Virtual learning Session on team building, facilitated by D. Saravanan, EBM, RAIEB

Quality and MEAL program:



In Q1 2022, remote quality audit continued to be performed as planned at one more partner eye bank, Mohsin Eye Bank, Vishakhapatnam (MEB) in Feb 2022. Eye Bank team was well prepared, and we faced no technology issues. Engagements and training with the partners continued in the preparation phase. Quality certification panel discussion was conducted in Feb 22 to review certification status of Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan (EBSR) Jaipur which was audited in Q4 2021. Panel agreed to re-certify Eye Bank for two more years based on the audit outcome and CAPA status. Four other partner Eye banks were reached out during Q1 to ensure readiness for planned remote audit in Q2-Q3 2022. The Quality team is also engaged in the virtual training sessions related to Quality topics which have been planned in collaboration with EBAI in Q2 of 2022. These training sessions will be built with a collaborative approach with the participating partner Eye Banks as per the schedule.

In Q1, Organization wide workplan was developed for Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (M.E.A.L.) program. This was the first MEAL workplan developed in SL with planned priorities, initiatives and metrics for the year 2022. In addition, a third-party Monitoring and Evaluation visit was also conducted for the USAID Childhood Prevention Program project in Feb 2021 and SL Quality personnel was a part of the visit conducted at 3 project sites in U.P. This was a first-hand field experience in evaluating the project impact as per the project M&E plan which will help in building a foundation for the programmatic MEAL plans.

Image 1: Remote audit at Mohsin Eye Bank, Vishakhapatnam (Virtual Technical demonstration and Interview)

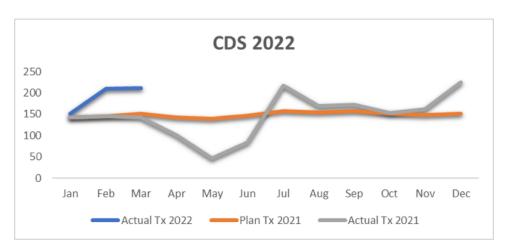






CDS (Cornea Distribution System) volumes have been quite healthy this quarter. We have had a total of 572 transplants in Jan- March which is 33% higher than last year, indicating a return to higher volumes in towns not served by local eye banks. As of date, demand remains healthy and so far, we have not seen any logistics issues with the takeover of Air India by the Tata group. The demand for therapeutic tissue has been reducing, as seen in the therapeutic tissue placements which are at less than 12% now. We added 6 new surgeons and served 32 cities per month on average.





Clinical Training

During the quarter the successful recruitment process for the new Learning and Development Manager who will lead instructional design for SightLife programs; the selected candidate will start in early May. Additional program management support to bolster the team's capacity is envisioned for the end of Q2.

From January 2022- March 2022, the 13 trained surgeons under the USAID funded program in 2021, have seen 912 pediatric patients. Out of these patients, 613 were boys and 299 were girls between the age group of 0-14 years. A total of 174 surgical procedures were provided to pediatric patients from 0-14 years of age (126 boys and 48 girls). Continued mentorship is available to the surgeons for the WhatsApp group as needed to receive additional guidance on pediatric management and keratoplasty cases from Dr. Muralidhar Ramappa and Dr. Virender Sangwan.

During the quarter, the clinical team finalized a draft curriculum for training allied ophthalmic personnel in the clinical management of cornea care, to be piloted in early June. During Q1 the team engaged with several faculty for input on the DALK curriculum, however this work will be ramped up, along with Self-Paced PKP Skills Transfer course pilot in Q2 once sufficient human resources and team restructuring is complete.

Prevention

The Corneal Blindness Prevention Program in India continued normal operations from January-March 2022. Community health workers did the program outreach wearing masks and following necessary COVID mandates. Government of India continues to leverage community health workers for COVID vaccination and awareness generation in the community. Though the COVID-19 cases during the reporting quarter reduced substantially, the possibility of next wave continues to linger, leaving many in rural communities vulnerable.

The field team is making regular site visits to meet the patients, local government health officials and the Community health workers to ensure smooth and effective implementation of

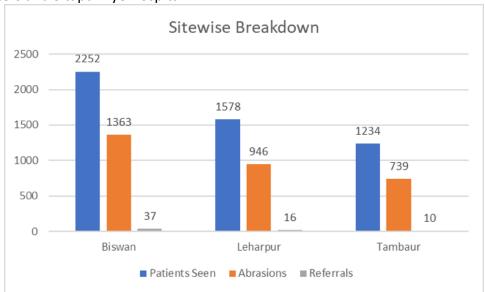


the program. Return to normalcy has led to more collaboration and partnership with different stakeholders on the ground.

In India, community health workers along with the field team extended their outreach as field situation remained normal with substantial reduction in COVID cases. SightLife project team was able to resume field visits and in February visited all the blocks of Biswan, Leherpur and Tambaur. It was a great opportunity to meet all stakeholders in person after a long stint. Refresher training is scheduled to be conducted in the second quarter of 2022 and the field team is engaging closely with local government officials to decide on the schedule of the training. Regular awareness generation campaigns were conducted in the community to sensitize people on eye care and hygiene.

Under USAID Childhood Blindness Program, trained community health workers screened 632 children from 0-14 years of age on eye related issues. The cases being screened are mostly related to allergy, corneal abrasions, trauma, caustic substance burn, Vitamin A deficiency etc. We saw an increase of 63% in the number of children screened as compared to the previous quarter (October 2021-December 2021). The total number of referrals made by community health workers from January 2022- March 2022 is 30. The referred patients visit the local vision centers for secondary care and head to Sitapur eye hospital for tertiary care. A third-party project evaluation was conducted in February 2022 wherein the M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) consultant visited the 3 project sites and interacted with multiple stakeholders to assess the impact of the project.

From January-March 2022, a total of 5064 patients reached out to CHWs on eye-related ailments, of which 3048 (60%) were cases of corneal abrasions. 98.09% of those patients were successfully treated by their CHW. 63 patients were referred for secondary/tertiary care to local vision centers and Sitapur Eye Hospital.



Out of 5064 patients:

- 56% were males
- 44% were females
- 3% of patients were from 0-14 years of age



- 27% of patients were from 15-25 years of age
- 51% of patients were from 26-50 years of age
- 18% of patients were from 51-75 years of age
- 1% of patients were> 75 years of age



Community health worker diagnosing the eye of a children in Tambaur



A female being treated by Community health worker in Leherpur