

## SightLife India Activity Report (Summary) April 2017- March 2018

### Introduction:

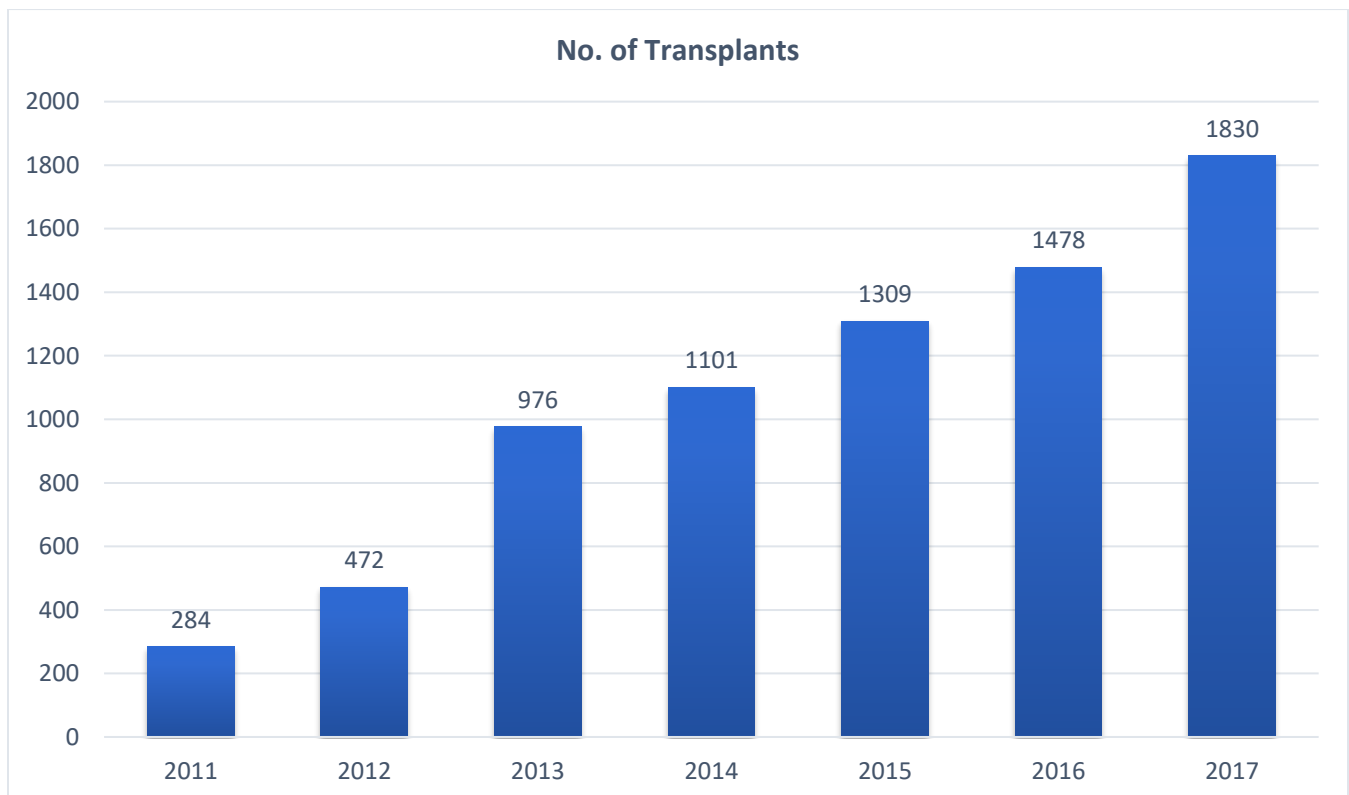
SightLife India along with its partners and key stakeholders continued to build upon its strategy towards elimination of corneal blindness in the country. SightLife, through its various initiatives focused not just on building sustainable eye banks but also towards improving the capacity of human resources for health related to corneal blindness; initiation of prevention programs and supporting policy implementation at the state level. The impact of these initiatives has helped to reduce treatable cornea blindness in the country. As a result, children returned to classrooms, adults rejoined the workforce and parents could take care of their families.

### Key activities accomplished from April 1, 2017 to March 2018 are as follows:

#### Activity I: Delhi Centralized Hospital Cornea Recovery Project (DCHCRP)

##### **Key Updates:**

The SightLife India, DCHCRP program continues its progress as a joint effort between R. P Center, AIIMS, New Delhi; Guru Nanak Eye Centre, Govt. of Delhi and Dr. Shroff's Charitable Eye Hospital. Its contributions in elimination of corneal blindness is been highlighted under following chart:



## Projects successfully executed in 2017-18

During the year 2017-18, various activities were conducted to develop and train EDCs (Eye Donation counselor) including various training sessions and workshops, a few are mentioned below:

- 14 EDC's of DCHCRP got certified in SightReady conference for ADVANCED EDC TRACK.
- 2 of EDC cum ERT's (Eye Recovery Technician) got certified in SightReady for ERT TRACK.
- Trained 5 EDC's for ERT Training from SCEH (Shroff Charitable Eye Hospital.)
- Off-Site team building activity for the entire DCHCRP team

Various Hospital Service activities were organized to gain support of the Hospital Staff:

- Sensitization workshops for nursing staff and doctors were organized at DDU (Deen Dayal Upadhyay) Hospital & RML (Ram Manohar Lohia) Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> June 17
- Celebration of Nurses Day at LNJP (Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan) hospital & GB (Govind Ballabh Pant) Hospital on 11<sup>th</sup> May 17
- Celebration of Fortnight at LNJP & GB Pant Hospital and DDU hospital on 25<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> August 17.
- Celebration of Diwali at LNJP & GB Pant Hospital and DDU Hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 17
- Celebration of Holi at LNJP & GB Pant Hospital, DDU and GTB (Guru Teg Bahadur) Hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2018.

DDU Hospital celebrated Eye Donation Fortnight for the first time on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017. Dr. J.S Titiyal and Dr. Namrata Sharma were invited from AIIMS and appreciation certificates were distributed to the EDC and to the ward staff for the efforts and contribution in increasing Eye Donation.



Date: 12/6/2017, Eye Donation Workshop	Date: 12/3/2018, Eye Donation Workshop
Place: RML Hospital	Place: RML Hospital
Participants: Rakhi from SL India and Tara Chand Yadav from NEB with Nurses of RML.	Participants: Dr. Sikha Jain & Nurse Rajbala along with other RML Nurses, Staffs and EDCs.



Date: 25/8/2017, Eye Donation Fortnight	Date: 29/8/2017
Place: DDU Hospital	Place: LNJP Hospital
Participants: Dr. J.S Titiyal, Dr. Namrata Sharma from AIIMS, Dr H.C Gandhi, Dr. Aggarwal from DDU Hospital with EDC Umesh Kumar.	Participants: Nurse Kiran and Nurse Bindu along with LNJP Nurses and EDCs



Date: 18/10/17, Diwali celebration	Date: 28/2/18, Holi celebration
Place: LNJP Hospital	Place: LNP Hospital
Participants: SK Tripathi, nursing staff Amit and Rakesh and other LNJP staffs and EDCs.	Participants: Nursing staff Vikram, EDC Rati Singh, Pinki Singh and other LNJP staffs.



ERT Certification at SL Sight Ready Conference in Oct 2018	Date: 29/3/18, Team Building - DCHCRP team
	Place: Surjivan Resort
	Participants: SL staffs and DCHCRP team

## Activity II: KGMU UP Community Eye Bank

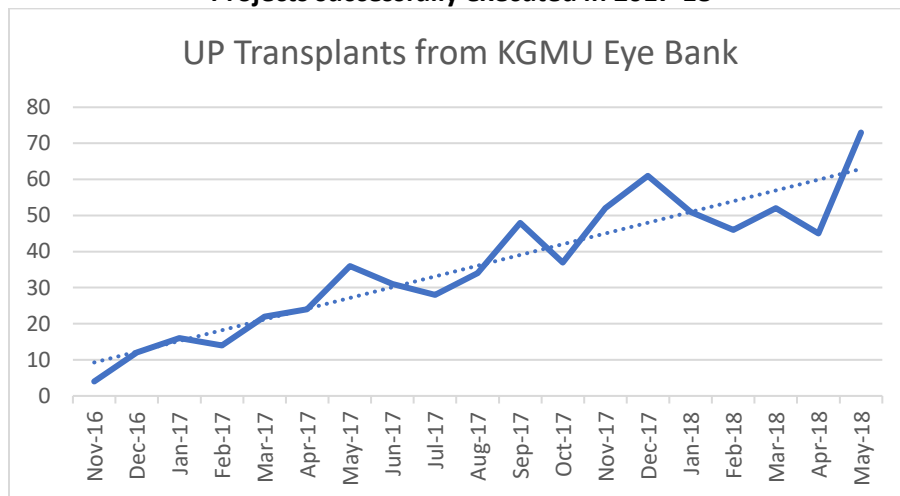
### Key Updates:

The KGMU UP Community Eye Bank has quickly established itself as an industry leader. Inaugurated in December of 2016, the first SightLife-operated eye bank outside the United States had its first full year of operations in 2017. Not only did the eye bank alone double the quantity of tissues available in the entire state of Uttar Pradesh, it played a critical role as an ecosystem catalyst across policy, prevention, training and HCRP.

With 457 transplants in the first year, the KGMU UP Community Eye Bank's transplant volume significantly exceeded the first-year volume of SightLife USA in 1969. The policy achievements, medico-legal permission from the government, approval from HCRP in government hospitals, approval of fee reimbursement from NPCB were the most noteworthy.

The role of the eye bank received newspaper recognition on eleven occasions and we anticipate even more successes in the coming year with an achievable target of 700 transplants.

### Projects successfully executed in 2017-18



World-Class SightLife-operated KGMU UP Community Eye Bank. King George's Medical University Trauma Centre, Chowk, Lucknow

The first tissues placed for surgery from the KGMU UP Community Eye Bank. Pictured Puneet Mishra, Patrick Emery, Rajendra Mishra, Karan





Eye Recovery Technician Training



Pictured KGMU UP Medical Director Dr. Arun Sharma and residents during eye recovery training



Date: 27/8/17, Eye donation fortnight rally

Place: KGMU, Lucknow

Participants: Eye bank team along with KGMU staff



Date: 8/9/17, Donor Families Appreciation. Program on 8 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2017	Date: 7/3/2018, UP state level eye bank meeting
Place: KGMU Lucknow	Place: KGMU Lucknow
Participants: Dr. Arun Sharma and Rashid along with Eye Bank team and Donor families	Participants: Dr. Arun Sharma and Rashid presenting KMGU UP community eye bank.

### **Activity III: Quality**

#### **Key Updates:**

During the period April 17 to March 18, SightLife Quality Certification visits were conducted at 9 Global Eye Bank partners. After the visits, eye banks provided corrective and preventive actions for all the reported audit observations. These were reviewed and followed up by the SL audit team comprising of Shubhi Sood Director Quality and CDS (Cornea Distribution System) and Swapnali Gogoi, Quality Assurance Specialist and Deepak Sharma, CDS Coordinator until resolution. On resolution and closure of audit observations, Quarterly certification panel meetings were scheduled to arrive at certification decision. The certification panel team comprises of Bernie Iliakis, Chief Operating Officer and Tom Miller, VP Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs and the Auditors from SightLife.

Besides these certification visits, prep Quality visit was also conducted at 1 Eye Bank partner who was not SL quality certified before. This visit prepares Eye Banks for the final audit visits. Final certification visits are conducted only after resolution of all the prep audit observations. These prep visits are usually conducted by a single SL Quality team member

#### **Projects successfully executed in 2017-18**

Quality certification audit Lions International Eye Bank, Bangalore 9-10 April 17

Quality re- certification audit was conducted at Lions International Eye Bank, Bangalore over a period of 2 days. This was re-certification visit conducted by Shubhi Sood and Swapnali Gogoi, of SL team.

1. Quality certification audit at H.V Desai Eye Bank, Pune 26-27 April 17

Quality re- certification audit was conducted at H.V. Desai Eye Bank, Pune over a period of 2 days. This was re-certification visit conducted by Shubhi Sood and Deepak Sharma, of SL team.

2. Quality review visit at PGI, Chandigarh Eye Bank : 9<sup>th</sup> June 17

A Quality health assessment review visit was conducted at PGI (Post Graduate Institute) Chandigarh to understand the current status of Eye Bank's processes and systems. This was a day long visit was conducted by Shubhi Sood and Swapnali Gogoi.

3. Quality certification audit at Ethiopia Eye Bank, Ethiopia: 11-13<sup>th</sup> July 17

Quality re- certification audit was conducted at Eye Bank of Ethiopia over a period of 2 days. This was re-certification visit conducted by Swapnali Gogoi and Deepak Sharma, of SL team.





Date: 13/7/2017
Place: Ethiopia Eye Bank
Participants: Swapnali Gogoi and Deepak Sharma along with EBM Lemlem Ayele and other team members of Eye Bank of Ethiopia

4. Quality certification visit at CU Shah Eye Bank, Chennai: 26-27 Jul 17  
Quality re-certification visit was conducted at CUSEB (CU Shah Eye Bank), Chennai over a period of 2 days to assess the readiness of eye bank for the final certification audit. This visit was conducted by Swapnali Gogoi and Deepak Sharma.
5. Quality Certification audit at EBSR (Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan), Jaipur: 17-18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017  
Quality certification audit was conducted at EBSR (Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan), Jaipur over a period of 2 days. This visit was conducted by Shubhi Sood and Swapnali Gogoi from the SL team.
6. Quality certification visit at Sahiyara Eye Bank Thane: 14-15 Sep 17  
Quality re- certification audit was conducted at Sahiyara Eye Bank, Thane over a period of 2 days. This was re-certification visit conducted by Shubhi Sood and Deepak Sharma, of SL team.
7. Quality prep visit at National Eye Bank, Sri Lanka on 15- 17 Nov 17.  
A Quality prep review visit was conducted at National Eye Bank, Sri Lanka to understand the status of Eye Bank's processes and systems. This was a day visit conducted by Shubhi Sood.
8. Quality Certification audit at Hospital Authority Eye Bank, Hong Kong on 24-25 Jan 2018  
Quality re-certification audit was conducted at HEB over a period of 2 days. This was a re-certification audit and visit was conducted by Shubhi Sood and Swapnali Gogoi.



Date: 25/1/2018
Place: Hong Kong Eye Bank
Participants: Shubhi Sood and Swapnali Gogoi along with Dr. Victoria Wong (MD) and EBM Katherine Wong along with Hong Kong Eye Bank team.

#### 9. Quality Certification audit at Eye Bank Association Kerala on 8-9 Mar 18

Quality re-certification audit was conducted at Eye Bank Association Kerala (EBAK) over a period of 2 days by Swapnali Gogoi and Deepak Sharma.



Date: 9/3/2018
Place: EBAK (Eye Bank Association Kerala)
Participants: Swapnali Gogoi and Deepak Sharma of SL team along with Fr. Reju, EBM Sijo Jose along with EBAK team



Quality Certification Panel Decision: Certification panel discussion were conducted quarterly to review the audit observations of the eye banks. SightLife certification panel members include:

- Bernie Iliakis, Chief Operating Officer
- Tom Miller, V.P. Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs
- Shubhi Sood, Director Quality and CDS
- Deepak Sharma, CDS & Quality.
- Swapnali Gogoi, Quality Assurance Specialist

Based on the audit observations and resolution of Corrective Action Preventive actions submitted by the Eye Banks, the following was the certification decision:

S. No	EB name	Audit certification decision
1.	Lions International Eye bank, Bangalore	SL Certified for 1 year valid from 2017-2018
2.	H.V Desai Eye Bank, Pune	SL Certified for 1 year valid from 2017-2018
3.	Eye Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiopia	SL Certified for 2 year valid from 2017-2019
4.	CU Shah Eye Bank	SL Certified for 1 year valid from 2017-2018
5.	Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Madurai	SL Certified for 2 years valid from 2017-2019
6.	Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur	SL Certified for 1 year valid from 2017-2018
7.	Sahiyara Eye Bank, Thane	SL Certified for 1 year valid from 2017-2018
8.	Hospital Authority Eye Bank, Hong Kong	SL Certified for 2 years valid from 2018-2020
9.	Eye Bank Association Kerala	SL Certified for 2 years valid from 2018-2020

### **Activity IV: Cornea Distribution System (CDS)**

#### **Key updates:**

In FY17-18, CDS had 16% growth over last year. For 10 months in this financial year, CDS distributed more than 200 tissues maintaining an average of 254/month for the financial year. While CDS had 2 low months in FY17-18, we also distributed all time highest number of tissues i.e. more than 300 tissue placements in 2 months this financial year with January 2018 marking the highest tissue distributions at 314. CDS also managed to maintain an active surgeon base of 110 out of 254 registered surgeons.

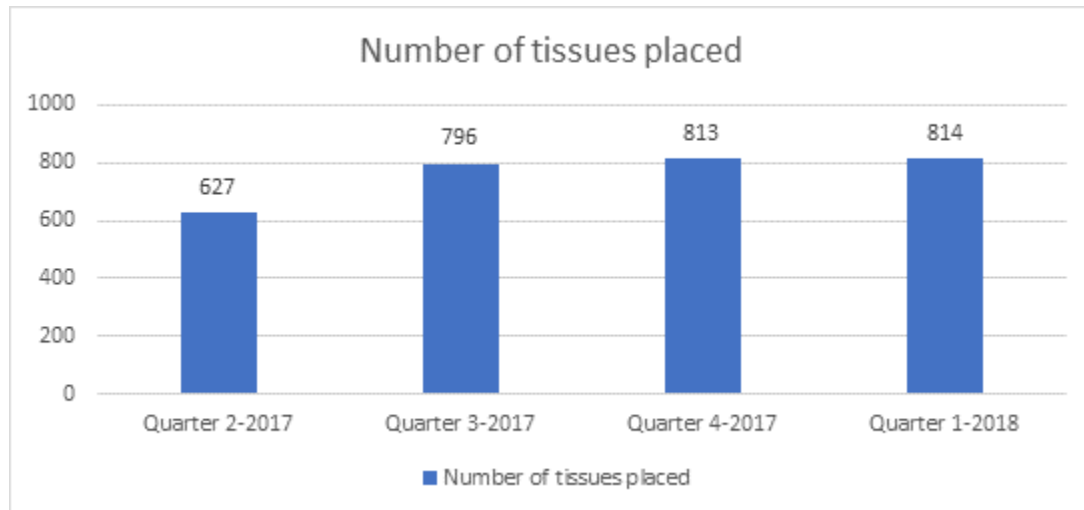
In this financial year, CDS also onboarded another eye bank, Lions International Eye Bank (LIEB) taking total partner count to 7. Despite LIEB joining us a little late in financial year, they shared 170 tissues since joining in July 2017 serving 42 surgeons outside of Karnataka.

In FY 2017-18, CDS distributed 10000<sup>th</sup> tissue in November 2017 since inception in July 2012.

CDS also participated in many conferences - DOSCON, ISCKRS, AIOS, Keracon, etc. At Keracon, CDS hosted a booth with a clear focus of providing better distribution services to a higher number of surgeons across the country.

CDS initiated a project with SightLife partners in Maharashtra to ensure that all surgeons in Maharashtra are connected to our partners and CDS. The goal is to ensure that optical tissues in Maharashtra get utilized in a timely manner.

Though as part of MoU, CDS is not obligated to facilitate or follow-up for payments on behalf of eye bank partners, SL, as a goodwill gesture, worked with eye banks to ensure that surgeons pay up in a timely manner. As a result of this, effort over 30 lakh rupees were recovered, which has come as a huge relief to the CDS partner eye banks.



#### Projects successfully executed in 2017-18.

- RIF (Recipient Information Form) project launch has enabled the compliance rate of utilization report at 80%.
- Payment tracking project has resulted in recovery of more than 30 Lakh rupees of partner eye banks.
- Surgeon database project has helped updating the surgeon details.
- CDS has enabled local partner to exploit CDS's expertise in distribution resulting in low wastage.

#### Rewards and recognition

- Distributed over 300 tissues twice during the fiscal year.
- Over all distribution of 10,000 tissues from July 2012 - November 2017.



Date: 16/12/2018, Keracon
Place: Hyderabad
Participants: Atul Kapoor along with SL team

## **Activity V: Learning and Development**

### **Key Updates:**

SightLife Learning, a portfolio of learning and development offerings for eye banking professionals, was developed in partnership with other eye banking and healthcare organizations. The curricula focus on competency-based skills development and certifications through varied environments – Online, Classroom, and Conference – to reach more eye health workers and result in more sight-restoring surgeries worldwide. Learning opportunities include e-learning, webinars, in-person courses at eye banks, and conference based courses.

### **Projects successfully executed in 2017-18**





#### **SightLife Online: An Online Learning Community for Eye Bankers**



SightLife Online (formerly SightReady Online) is a scalable, freely accessible learning platform for global eye bank professionals, providing technical courses, webinars, and community discussion forums. This strategic investment in online learning resources will professionalize eye banking roles around the world, reach more eye bankers in new regions efficiently and at lower cost than other training models, and help those eye bankers restore sight to more corneal blind in need of transplants.

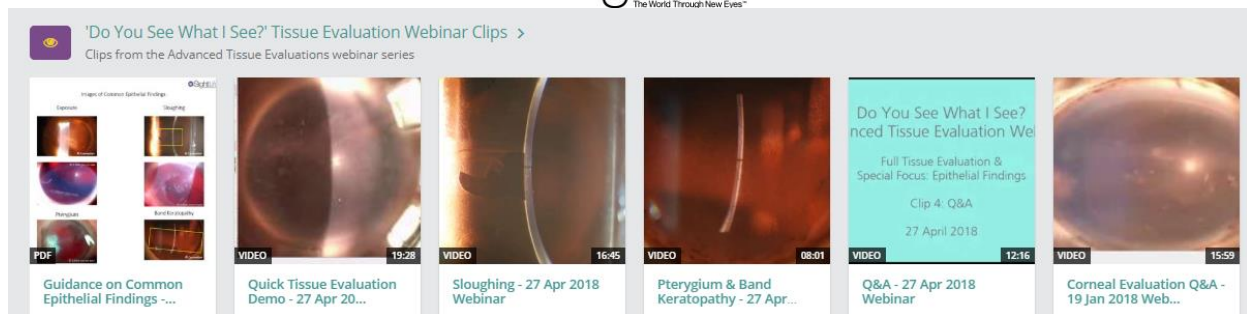
SightLife Online was launched in September 2017 with more than forty technical e-learning modules and seventy other assets, such as videos and articles, designed for eye banking roles and skills-building. The trainings available on SightLife Online continues to expand as new content is released.

**SightLife Online: Eye Recovery >**  
These courses are also included in the Eye Recovery for Beginners Online Specialization.

 <p><b>Eye Banking Basics</b></p> <p>English ★★★★★</p> <p>ENROLLED</p>	 <p><b>Eye Recovery I: Introduction and Non-...</b></p> <p>English ★★★★★</p> <p>ENROLLED</p>	 <p><b>Eye Recovery II: Examining and...</b></p> <p>English ★★★★★</p> <p>ENROLLED</p>	 <p><b>Eye Recovery III: Sterile Preparation</b></p> <p>English</p> <p>ENROLLED</p>
---	---	---	--

In 2018, the new content development includes new webinar series for Tissue Evaluators and Eye Bank Managers. The first quarterly Advanced Tissue Evaluation webinar occurred in January 2018, with expert Mimi Chau, Tissue Evaluation Trainer at CorneaGen, presenting the technical training content and activities. Seventy-one individuals registered for the webinar and more than fifty people from across South and Southeast Asia attended; and the webinar achieved a 100% active participation score for the duration of the presentation. Feedback from participants stated that the content was “solid”, “well-delivered”, and “much-needed”. The webinar recordings have been posted on SightLife Online, where all future users will be able to view and learn from the presentation.





This webinar series for Tissue Evaluators will occur quarterly, and another monthly series on Eye Bank Business Management is currently being developed and is scheduled to be launched in June 2018.

By March 2018, there were 112 total individual users on SightLife Online, from thirty-five institutions, including eye banks, hospitals, and industry organizations.



For more information about SightLife Online or to create an account, visit <https://learning.sightlife.org/online>.

### SightReady Conference: An Eye Banking Training and Leadership Event

The first SightLife Learning Conference (formerly 'SightReady Conference') was held at Taj Vivanta at Dwarka, New Delhi; and it drew more than 150 eye bank professionals from nine countries to participate in skills training, certification, online learning activities, and industry leadership collaboration. In attendance were Eye Donation Counselors (EDCs), Eye Recovery Technicians (ERTs), Eye Bank Managers (EBMs), Medical Directors, Boards of Directors, and Eye Bank Association leadership; and ultimately SightLife certified 24 EDCs and 19 ERTs, which is about 20% of all EDCs and 9% of all ERTs from those regions.



The skill transfer workshops for role based tracks also included two categories of **Certification for Eye Donation Counselor and Eye Recovery Technicians**. The Eye donation counsellor were assessed on their knowledge, skill and attitude that is required by them counsel the families for eye donation. **In total 24 participants.**

The Eye Recovery Technicians Assessment required a candidate to go through the full cornea recovery process in simulated environment using dummy heads and prosthetic eyes. **The total of 19 Eye recovery technician were certified at the conference.**



#### Eye Donation Counselor Certification

Sumitra Rout	Drushtidaan Eye Bank	Sushmita	National Eye Bank
Shailendra Kumar Tripathi	Guru Nanak Eye Center	Sanjeev Singh	National Eye Bank
Pratibha	Guru Nanak Eye Center	Pankaj Kumar	National Eye Bank
Rati Singh	Guru Nanak Eye Center	Rita Pandey	National Eye Bank
Rakesh Kumar	Guru Nanak Eye Center	Umesh Kumar	National Eye Bank
Kumar T.S. Gowda	Lions International Eye Bank	Suraj Gautum	Nepal Eye Bank
Pooja	National Eye Bank	Manish Kanchani	Sadguru Eye Bank
Rishi Raj Kardam	National Eye Bank	Lakshmi Narayan	Sankara Nethralaya
Lokesh Kumar	National Eye Bank	Sanjeev Singh	Shroff Charity Eye Hospital
Madhu Bala	National Eye Bank	Suresh Kumar	Shroff Charity Eye Hospital
Shail Kumar	National Eye Bank	Palaniammal Palanivel	RAIEB
Abid Hussain	National Eye Bank	Sankara Nethralaya Kolkata	RAIEB

#### Eye Recovery Technician Certification

Rakesh Kumar	CL Gupta Eye Institute	Manisha Santosh Pandhare	PBMA's H V Desai Eye Hospital
Badri Prasad	Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	Anusuya K	RAIEB, Madurai
Jitendra Kumar	Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	Lokesh Kumar	RPC AIIMS
Deepak Kumar	Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	Suresh Patel	Sadguru Eye Bank
Gayatri Nayak	Drushtidaan Eye Bank	Bal Kishor Shukla	Sadguru Eye Bank
Jayesh C. Parackal	Eye Bank Association Kerala	Karan Singh	SightLife, KGMU
Eden Bahru	Eye Bank of Ethiopia	Puneet Kumar Mishra	SightLife, KGMU
Roshan Singh	Eye Bank Society of Chandigarh	Ganesh Kumar Prajapati	Y P M Niramaya Eye Bank
Vishal Mahur	Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan	Pramod Prajapati	Y P M Niramaya Eye Bank
Thyagaraju P	Lions International Eye Bank		

#### SightReady Conference: Keynotes, Fun & Game Night, Gala Celebration

In addition to the intensive training tracks, participants had the opportunity to hear from executive and industry leaders, have some competitive, fun games, and to wrap up with an India-inspired cultural and heart touching Gala Celebration.



<p><b>Radhika Tandon - President Eye Bank Association of India</b> <i>"Together, This Is a Common Mission - We believe we can eradicate corneal blindness."</i></p>	<p><b>Forrest Ward - Director Global Learning &amp; Development SightLife</b> <i>"We Are Smarter Than Me – Learning Together to Cure Global Corneal Blindness"</i></p>	<p><b>Atul Kapoor - VP Asia Global Programs SightLife</b> <i>"Keeping Your Minds Open to New Learning"</i></p>
---	--	--

### SightReady Conference: Eye Bank Leadership Forum Panel Keynote

(What are your hopes?"" What are your challenges?"" What will you do when you return to your countries?")



Josie Noah, Senior Director of Global Advocacy, Prevention, and Clinical Program, leads a discussion with the delegates. Left to Right: Josie Noah, Radhika Tandon (India), Luxme Hariharan (SightLife), Dr. Lucero Pedro-Aguilar (Mexico) Prof. Min Zhao (China), Beibei Yi (SightLife), Prof. Zhiqiang Pan (China)



## SightReady Conference: Gala Celebration



*The National Institute of Indian Classical Dance (NIID) Dance Troupe performed many very traditional dances for the Gala. The dancers were ages 6-19! "Mallari" may be translated as "wrestling with the Lord" In simple words this is first thing you do to call or alert god in a temple. In this event, this was performed first to alert the guests. "Ganesh Vandana" is to pray lord Ganesh as first god, praise and thank god for giving us birth right direction to live on this earth.*

*Claire Bonilla and Radhika Tandon co-host the Gala Panel. They enjoy the Gala, give out awards, and discuss the current state and immediate future of eye banking in India*

*Vinay Kulkarni, retired CEO and double corneal transplant recipient, delivered a moving keynote about his journey of corneal blindness to restoration.*

*Eye Bank Association Leader Forum guests participate in the traditional lighting of the lamp – the Light symbolizes knowledge, and darkness, ignorance Knowledge removes ignorance just as light removes darkness.*

*Claire Bonilla closes the Gala Celebration, giving a strong, heartfelt thanks to those in the audience for allowing her on this journey with them to 'cure corneal blindness in her lifetime'.*

## SightReady Conference: A Wonderful Little Story

Ganesh Prajapati of P M Niramaya Eye Bank had just finished taking his very intensive ERT practical assessment, and was ready to take his written exam, when he received a call of a potential donor in Gurgaon (near Delhi). He left for many hours to tend to the recovery, then returned to SightReady from Gurgaon to take his exam...and completed his certification requirements! Then, he then spent time with our trainers showing them pictures of the recovery he had just made – driven by passion and commitment!



## **Activity VI: Prevention Program**

### **Key Updates:**

The first of its kind, program was launched in India during the year. Over 280 community health workers were trained to diagnose and treat corneal abrasion.

### **Projects successfully executed in 2017-18**

#### **Corneal Blindness Prevention Program, Sitapur, India- Feb 2018**

The Corneal Blindness Prevention (CBP) Program kicked off mid-February with partner Sitapur Eye Hospital (SEH) in Uttar Pradesh. It is estimated that 90% of cornea patients are blind due to corneal ulcer. In rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country, minor eye injuries sustained in agricultural farms and allied occupations often lead to corneal ulceration and loss of vision. Once vision is lost, the only treatment is a costly corneal transplant, where incidence of graft failure or opacity are high. Some untreated patients also risk losing an eye. Corneal ulcers are largely preventable.

The program aims to increase awareness about corneal injuries and the need for timely reporting to an eye care provider, as well as builds capacity at the local level to manage and refer new cases. The pilot program was launched in Biswan block of Sitapur district, with the potential for future expansion to other blocks.

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers in Biswan block were provided two-day intensive training at SEH to learn to how to identify a corneal abrasion along with other eye diseases, and how to provide first aid medicine for the patient. All ASHAs were equipped with first aid kits needed to treat people in their communities. ASHAs will record all patient information and follow-up after a full course of antibiotic to ensure the abrasion is healed. If the abrasion is not healed, or if the patient presents with another serious condition, the ASHA will refer the patient to SEH. ASHAs will receive regular refresher trainings throughout the year.





Date: 22/2/2018	Date: 22/2/2018,
Place: Sitapur Eye Hospital	Place: Sitapur Eye Hospital
Participants: Atul Kapoor, Vasanth Kumar and Josie Noah from SL along with Col. Ranveer Singh, Anshu Singh and Sitapur Eye hospital staffs	Participants: Bimal Poudyal, Prevention program consultant and ASHA workers



*First Aid kit provided to ASHAs to treat corneal abrasion*



## **Activity VII: Policy and Advocacy**

### **Projects successfully executed in 2017-18**

#### **Laying the groundwork for Policy & Advocacy (P & A) for corneal blindness**

P&A team drafted and developed an MoU between Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI) and SightLife for the next five years. The MoU highlights the importance of policy and how collaboration between SightLife and EBAI can advance policy in India to eliminate corneal blindness.

P&A had a successful meeting with the Director of National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) where possible collaboration on trainings, state government support and information sharing from the national registry was discussed. NOTTO is keen to partner with SL to organize training for its staff. P&A will team up with Partner Account Managers (PAM) at SL to develop comprehensive trainings for the NOTTO team on key aspects of corneal blindness.

**State engagement strategies:** P&A developed tailored 'State Engagement Strategy' (SES) for each of the priority states in India in consultation with Partner Account Managers which will have key information on these states along with step by step approach to advocate for favorable policy in those states.

**P & A win in UP:** P&A team drafted language for the state police to issue a circular (written statement for government policy). Uttar Pradesh state police had not issued a circular for facilitation of timely retrieval of corneas in Medico-Legal cases (MLCs). With advocacy leadership from SL's Uttar Pradesh partner KGMU – SightLife Eye Bank, Uttar Pradesh police adopted the language in the circular and published it in June 2017.

SightLife has developed a feasibility study to assess which eye banks/hospitals will be best suited for a new mandatory notification/HCRP (Hospital Cornea retrieval program) program in Punjab to advance the policy proposal there. P&A team has set up a meeting with the government of Punjab to discuss next steps.

**Exploring MoU with Niramaya Eye Bank, Haryana:** As a part of State Engagement Strategy (SES), P&A team reached out to SightLife's Haryana partner- Niramaya Trust and their medical director Dr Hitendra Ahooja. SightLife, along with its partner, Niramaya aims to push policy in the state of Haryana especially on adoption of mandatory notification, facilitation by state police in Medico-Legal Cases (MLCs) and reimbursement for government surgeons to take cornea from CDS and other resources. The meeting was productive as Niramaya was onboard with SL's Policy & Advocacy strategy and was keen to collaborate to on this front.

As a follow up to SL's meeting with Niramaya, we were able to schedule a meeting with the Haryana Director General of Police (DGP), Mr BS Sandhu, Commissioner of Police, Mr Sandeep Khirwar and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Deepak Gahlaut to push for notification of a circular to facilitate retrieval of cornea in MLCs. The DGP agreed in principle and asked us to submit a proposal. SL has submitted a proposal with draft circular language and precedents in other states to push this policy forward.

P&A team has been invited by the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) as resource persons to develop the program and speak on prevention and elimination of corneal blindness in the South-East Asia region. P&A team has put together a program that will involve presentations and panel discussions with experts in the field.