

Sightsavers in India

- Focus on Accessibility

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Content

- The situation
- Poverty and disability
- About Sightsavers International (India)
- Programme approach
- Sightsavers initiatives for accessibility/ assistive technology

The Situation

India Facts

- One in three of the world's poor people is Indian
- Each year over one million women and children die due to lack of health care
- Nearly a half of all Indian children are malnourished
- More than 50 million Indian children fail to attend primary school with any regularity
- Women are usually worse off in some areas of the country there are only 850 girls for every 1000 boys
- Most lower caste and tribal people suffer marked discrimination and more deprivation

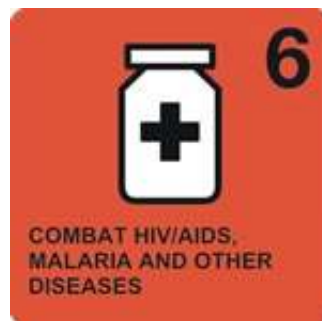
India Facts (contd)

- India has the largest number of irreversibly blind and visually impaired persons
- More than 20 million severely disabled people face enormous challenges
- Less than 10% of all disabled children go to school

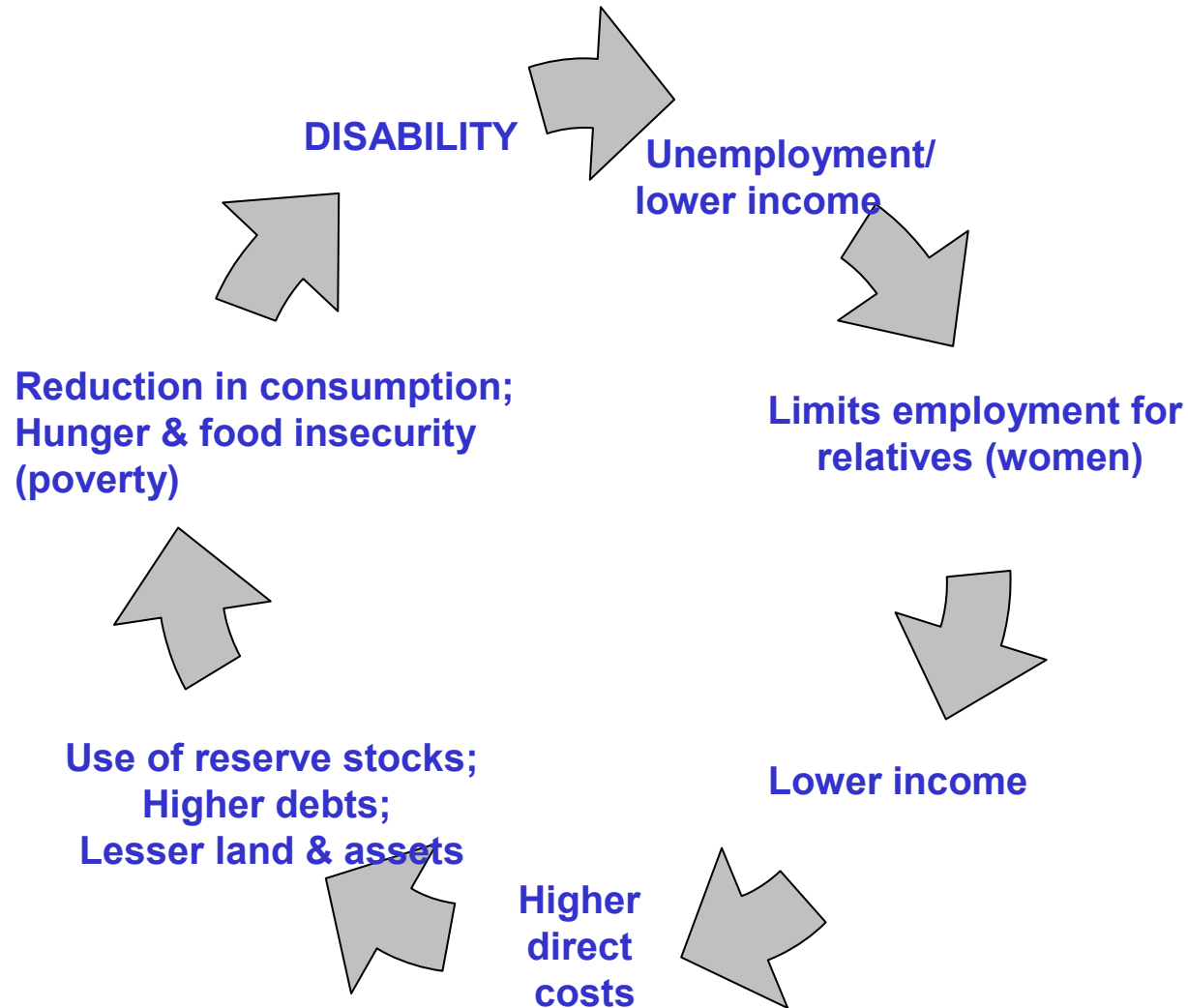




**Without success in India, the world will not
achieve the Millennium Development Goals!**



Disability & Poverty



Magnitude of Blindness: India

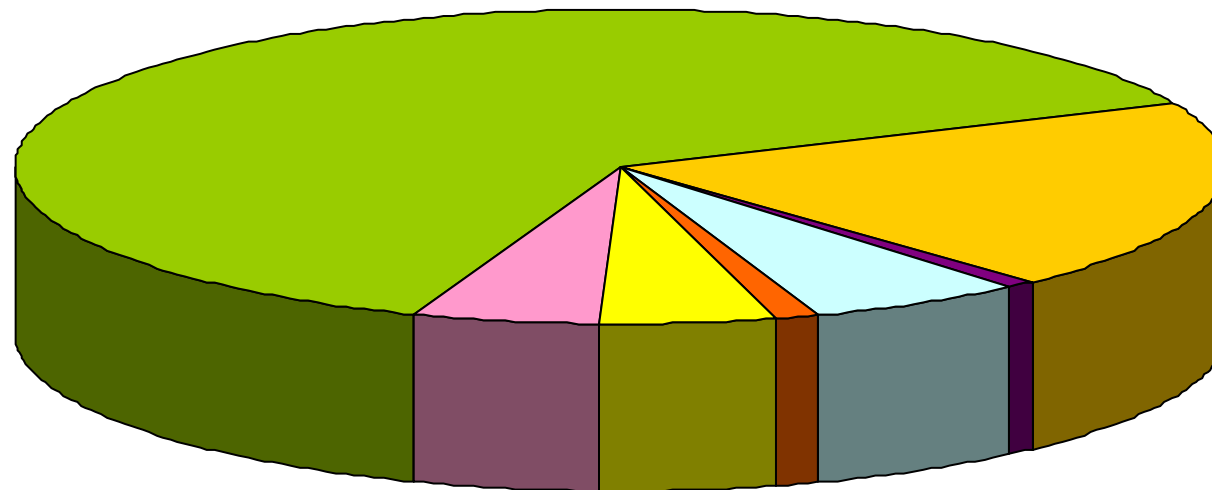
Every 5 seconds a person in our world goes blind....and a child goes blind every minute

- India has highest number of blind people in the world
- Prevalence: 1.1%; 12 million

Major Causes of Blindness: India

(50+ yrs population, VA < 3/60)

(Source: NPCB 1999-2001 survey)



■ Cataract

■ Glaucoma

■ Others

■ RE

■ Surgical complications

■ Corneal blindness

■ Posterior seg disorders

Sightsavers International

Vision & Mission

- **Vision**

Sightsavers' vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where visually impaired people participate equally in society

- **Mission**

We are an international organisation working with partners in developing countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people

Background

- Founded: 1950
- 34 countries
- In India since 1966
- 2 strands of Sightsavers' eye care:
 - Prevention & treatment
 - Inclusion of blind people
- Strong partnerships & strategic alliances



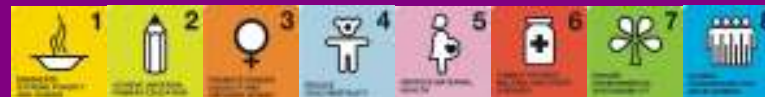
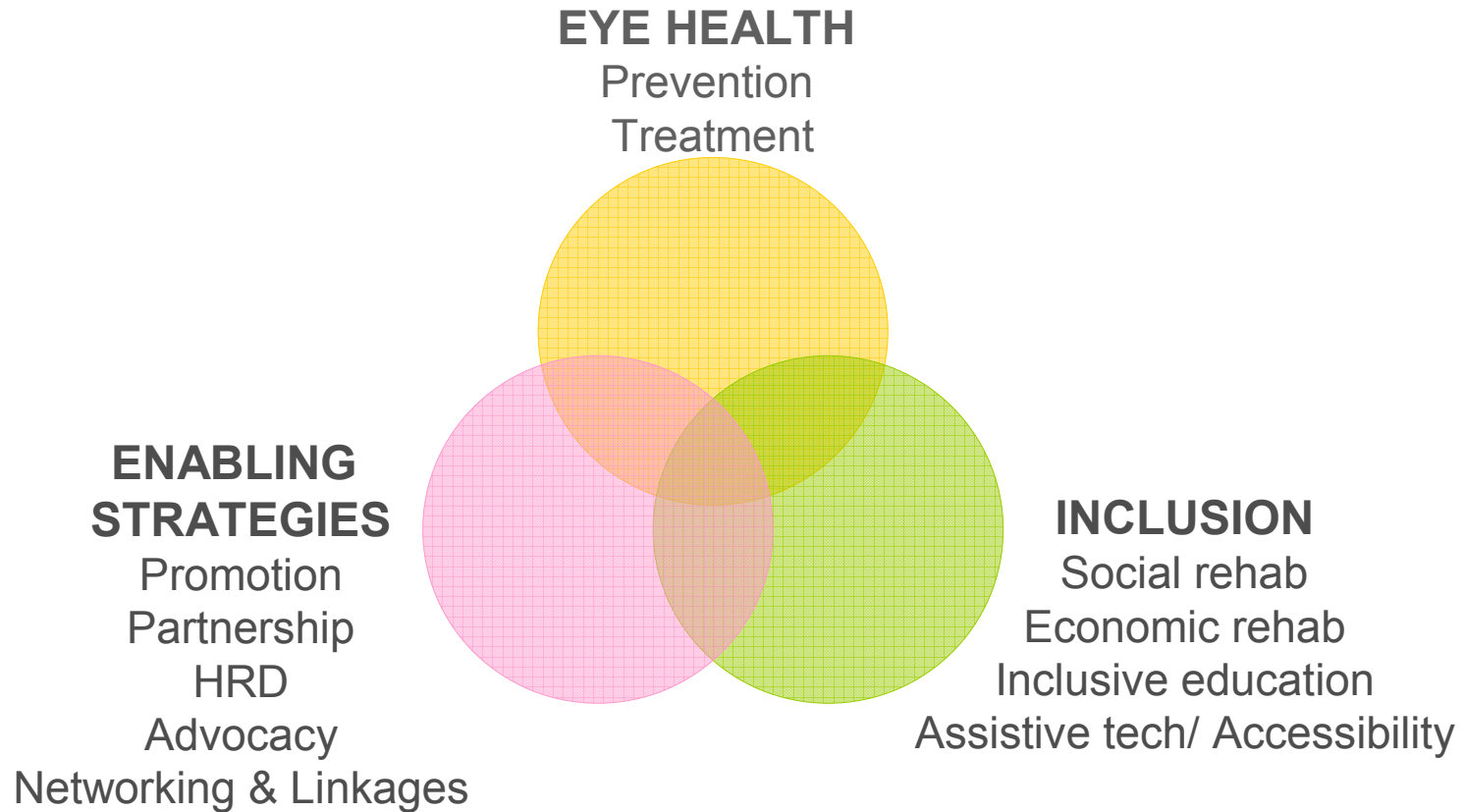
Sightsavers India: Milestones

- 1960s **Surgical camps**
- 1970s **Xerophthalmia project**
Launch of NPCB (1976)
- 1980s **Rehabilitation & education for the (CBR & IE approaches)**
Support to hospitals
- 1990s **Comprehensive eye services (CES)**
Capacity building
Promotion of technology: Production of IOLs & corneal preservation media
- 2000s **Launch of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight India**
Developing specialized services & tertiary care
Aligning with Government programmes for V2020 & Inclusion
Working with developmental organisations
Assistive technology
Decentralisation



Programme Approach

Core Programme Approach: Comprehensive Eye Services



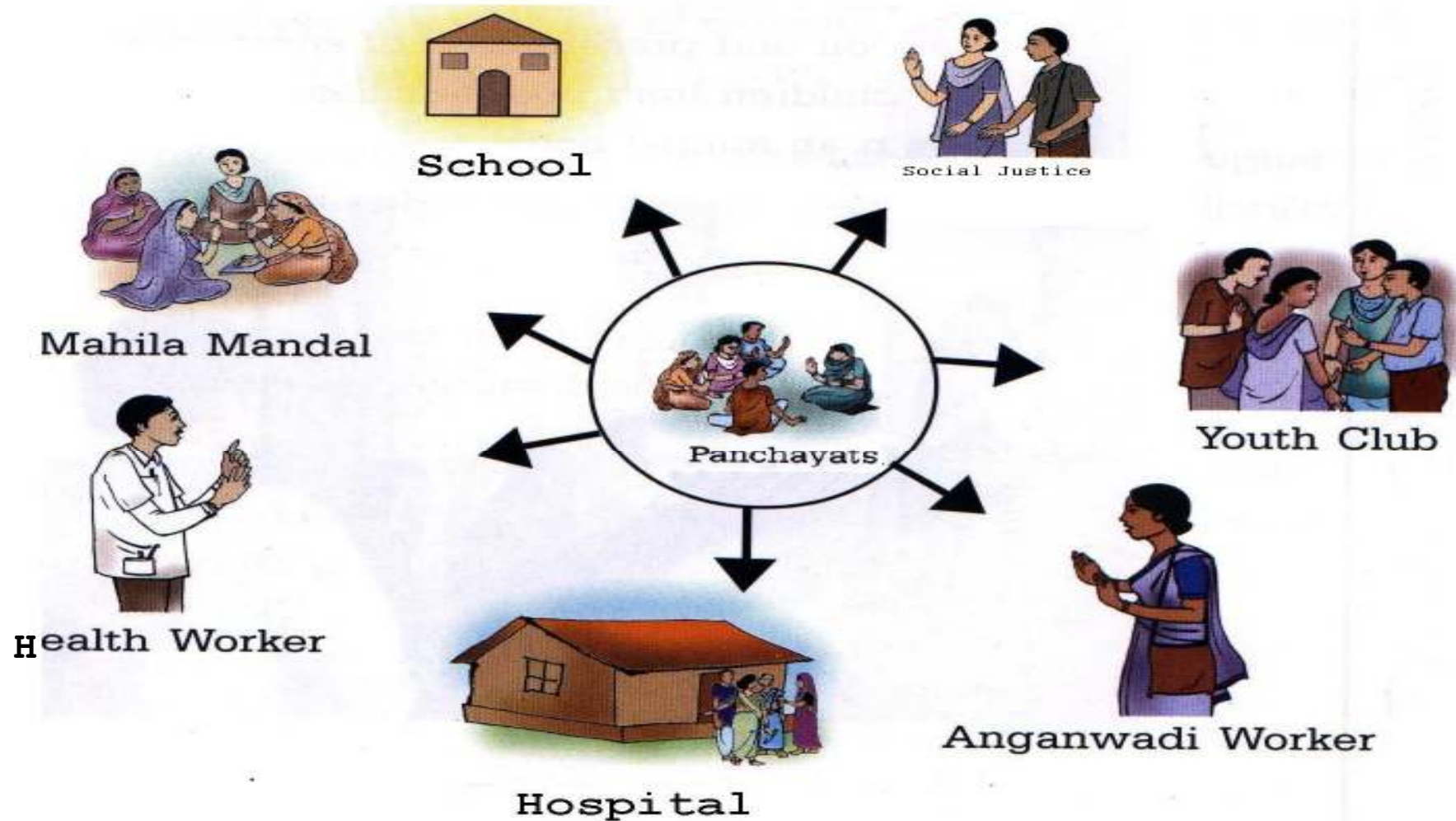
Partners & Projects

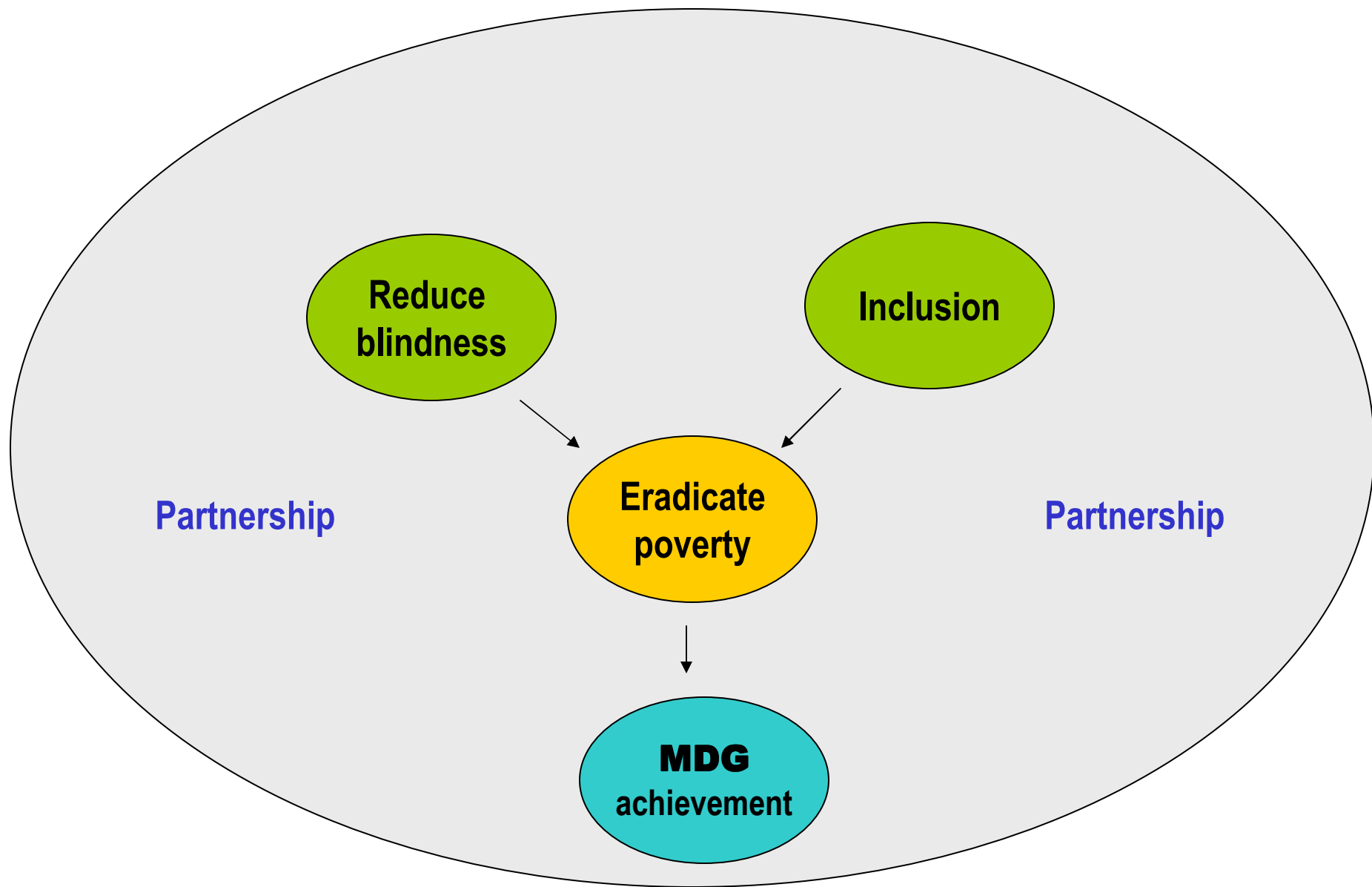
Total Partners: 100

- Hospitals
- Developmental NGOs
- Strategic alliances



Core Programme Aim: Convergence





Sightsavers Initiatives for Accessibility

Initiatives towards Accessibility

- Policies

- Organisational effectiveness
 - Promotion of culture
 - Employment of persons with disability
 - Accessible environment

- Programme
 - WHO framework for CBR, UNCRPD
 - Promotion of accessibility among partners and projects: culture, infrastructure, Braille/ large print, assistive devices
 - Initiation of accessibility focused initiatives
 - Raise awareness: events (eg Techshare India road shows), UNCRPD, etc
 - Intervention for low vision incl devices
 - *Development of the Dolphin Pen*





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Overview of Sightsavers Dolphin Pen



A truly unique collaboration to create
more affordable premium quality
assistive technology

What is the Sightsavers Dolphin Pen?

- Outcome of a unique collaboration between Dolphin Computer Access, RNIB and Sightsavers International
- High quality, portable, USB based screen reading and magnification solution created specially for developing countries
- High quality sustainable access solution



Why the Sightsavers Dolphin Pen?

- Historically access software has been very expensive, ~ 900 USD
- Many blind computers users surviving on demo software with no support or poor quality freeware
- Innovative collaboration with Dolphin and opportunity for other AT related projects in developing countries

How does the pen differ from other solutions like JAWS?

- Costs around a tenth of the price of JAWS yet comes with full backup materials and voiced tutorial
- Software is on a pen drive so it is truly portable and will work on any PC running XP or Vista giving the user a unique level of mobility and independence

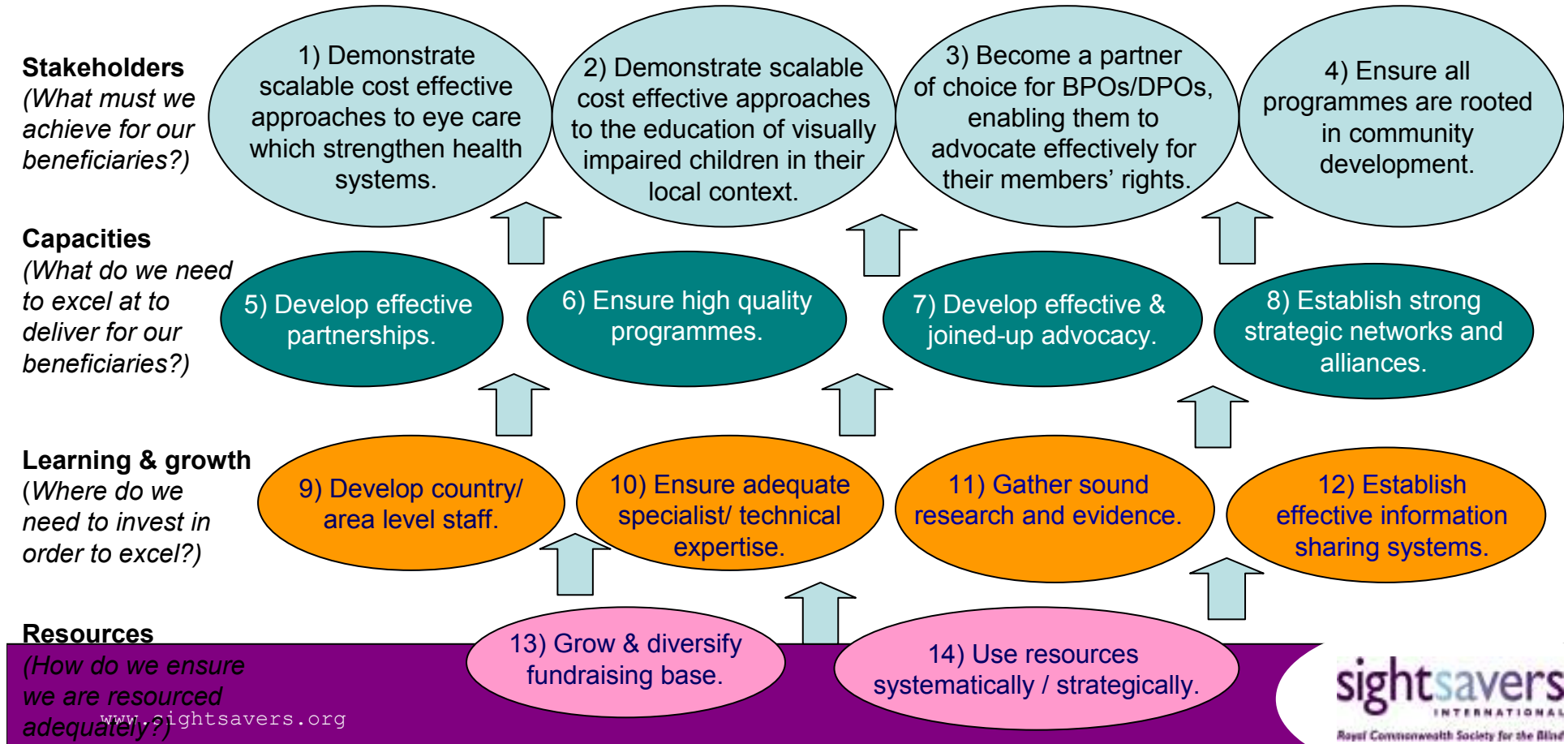


The Future

The Sightsavers SIM Card (Strategy Implementation & Monitoring Card) Part 1: THE MAP

Our vision: No one is blind from avoidable causes; visually impaired people participate equally in society.
Our mission: To eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

Governments ensure quality eye care is universally available as an integral part of wider health systems.	Governments ensure all disabled children receive a quality education within the wider education system.	People actively seek eye care services and enjoy a change in quality of life through community development programmes.	Visually impaired people are equal members of society and governments implement obligations under international conventions for disabled people.
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Future Plans

- Promotion of accessibility/AT as a priority
- To be embedded into all Sightsavers policies
- Mapping exercise on AT in India
- Sensitise key groups regarding inclusion and accessibility: corporates, publishing houses, educational institutions, others
- Promotion of employment of disabled persons
- Develop leadership among disabled people (DPOs & BPOs)
- Support more projects/initiatives to promote inclusion and accessibility
- Research cost-effective models/ devices towards accessibility

References

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Thank you