

NEPAL NETRA JYOTI SANGH

National Society for Comprehensive Eye Care

PROFILE



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) was established in 1978 first and foremost as a labor of love for the people of our country. A group of nine dynamic and enthusiastic individuals, including physicians, social workers, and entrepreneurs, formed the organization to eliminate unnecessary blindness in Nepal. Their shared conviction was that everyone in the country deserved to have an Eye Care Centre for comprehensive vision care. At the time, there were only three ophthalmologists working outside of Kathmandu.

Today, thanks in part to our efforts, Nepal has 22 eye hospitals, 128 eye care centers, and 42 NNJS district branches to provide high-quality, affordable eye care services in every part of the country. NNJS now serves as a model for Nepal, and the rest of the world, as the largest eye care network in the nation.

Over the past four decades, Nepal has made significant progress in the development and delivery of eye care services in the country. Surveys show that the prevalence of blindness has declined by more than half, between 1980 and 2010. The National Trachoma Program, which was initiated in 2002, has ended trachoma as a health care problem in Nepal. At the time of our founding, trachoma had been the second-leading cause of blindness in the country, after cataract.

Today, NNJS strives to provide comprehensive eye care services in all hospitals nationwide, so that everyone may receive the care they need. We are also planning to launch special programs for addressing emerging causes of blindness and visual impairment, such as refractive error, childhood blindness, glaucoma, corneal ulcer, diabetic retinopathy, low vision, and rehabilitation services.

In the meantime, NNJS is committed to addressing the new challenges of the 21st century. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented disruption for the global health and development community. Many eye care service providers in Nepal are finding their work complicated by issues like border closures and financial hardship. However, our determination to serve the people of our country remains strong. NNJS will continue to seek and develop new and innovative ways for our fellow countrymen and women to receive the eye care they need, under any conditions.

To all of our many supporters, volunteers, staff, donors, and partner organizations, who continue to help us in every manner imaginable, we owe a debt of gratitude. It is our honor every day to perform such important and rewarding work. On behalf of the NNJS family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you, your families, your communities, and our beloved Nepal.

Warm regards,

Prof. Dr. Chet Raj Pant
Chairperson
Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh



CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prof.Dr. Chet Raj Pant	Chairperson
Prof.Dr. Tirtha Prasad Mishra	Immediate past chairperson
Mr. Shyam Kumar Pokhrel	Senior Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Shyam Sundar Udas	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Rabindra Lal Chaudhary	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Rishi Ram Paudel	Vice-Chairperson
Prof.Dr. Dil Bahadur Chhetry	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Sagar Pratap Rana	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Tilak Bahadur Malla	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Chakra Bahadur Singh	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Bharat Bahadur Chand	Secretary General
Mr. Drona Prasad Guragain	Treasurer
Mr. Hari Prasad Sharma	Secretary
Mr. Bishnudutta Joshi	Vice-Treasurer
Prof.Dr. Ghanashyam Bhattarai	Spokesperson
Mr. Krishna Kumar Giri	Member
Mr. Dhan Bahadur Basnet	Member
Mr. Chija Kumar Maskey	Member
Mr. Bhagwat Raut	Member
Dr. Gopal Prasad Pokhrel	Member
Dr. Nanda Shrestha	Member
Mrs. Manju Kandel	Member
Mrs. Bhagwati Sharma	Member
Mr. Yuddha Dhoj Sapkota	Member
Mrs. Asmika Rai	Member
Mr. Padam Narayan Chaudhary	Member
Prof.Dr. Sabina Shrestha	Member
Mr. Bam Dev Khanal	Advisor

GOALS

- To reduce preventable blindness throughout Nepal.
- To promote eye health awareness and health-seeking behaviors.
- To provide comprehensive eye care services at all eye hospitals in Nepal.
- To make integrated primary eye care services available at the local government level.
- To increase the number of trained doctors, nurses, and staff at all levels of eyecare services.
- To develop, strengthen, and advocate for public eye health policies.
- To facilitate research and monitoring that ensures quality eye care services for the people of Nepal.
- To provide basic ear care services at all levels.

VISION

A Nepal where no one is blind due to avoidable causes and everyone can access comprehensive and equitable eye care systems in the country.

MISSION

To develop and provide a sustainable, comprehensive, and affordable eye care network committed to providing high-quality care without discrimination for everyone in Nepal.

IMMEDIATE FOCUS

- Increase cataract surgeries nationally by 40% over the next two years.
- Train at least 70 additional ophthalmologists in sub-specialties.
- Establish a cataract auditing system to monitor the quality and quantity of eye care, and achieve WHO-recommended benchmarks by the year 2022.
- Eliminate corneal blindness by 2030.
- Raise awareness of eye diseases and service availability to > 90% of the population by the year 2023.
- Reduce vision impairment due to URE below 2% and achieve glass usage coverage to more than 80% by 2023.
- Establish at least 100 ear care centres at the district level by 2024.
- Establish 350 integrated primary eye care centres at the local government level, and upgrade 33 eye care centres to surgical centre eye hospitals by 2024.
- Upgrade a tertiary eye hospital into a Centre of Excellence in each province of Nepal.
- Provide eye banking and cornea harvesting facilities in all Centres of Excellence by the year 2024.



OUR VALUES: WHAT NNJS STANDS FOR

TOGETHERNESS

- The NNJS family is committed to working with each other, solving problems collaboratively, and contributing to the effectiveness of the team.
- We stand committed to sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources to deliver high-quality results.
- We value, respect, and encourage diversity, and are impartial and non-discriminatory in all our activities to further the goals of inclusive working, partnerships, and collaborations.

EXCELLENCE

- We hold ourselves accountable to our patients, colleagues, supporters, and staff members and strive to achieve the highest quality of care.
- We strive for excellence through innovation, creativity, and spreading new knowledge.

INTEGRITY

- Our staff, colleagues, and volunteers are professional, open, honest, and demonstrate mutual respect.
- We accept responsibility for our actions and the resulting outcomes.
- We speak up when something appears wrong or inappropriate, even when it is difficult.
- We are accountable for continuously improving the quality of our services, and safeguarding high standards of care by creating an environment in which excellence in clinical care will flourish.

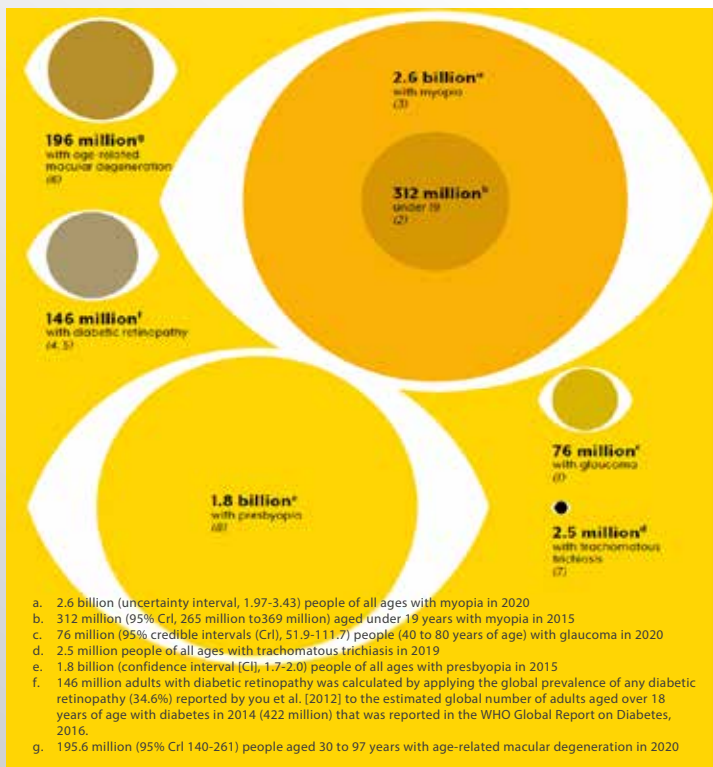
GOVERNANCE

- NNJS follows principles of good practice in governance.
- NNJS is accountable for continuously improving the quality of their services and safeguarding high standards of care by creating an environment in which excellence in clinical care will flourish.

TRANSPARENCY

- All the volunteers and staff are open, transparent and honest.
- All the volunteers and staff communicate actively with stakeholders about NNJS activities.
- NNJS makes information publicly available.
- NNJS is a transparent organization and committed to making information publicly available.

GLOBAL BURDEN: SELECTED EYE CONDITIONS THAT CAN CAUSE VISION IMPAIRMENT



The World Report on Vision

BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT IN NEPAL: FACTS AND FIGURES

- An estimated 130,000 persons are blind (PVA <3/60) in one or both eyes due to age-related cataract representing almost two thirds of all causes of blindness.
- An estimated 1,013,041 children under 16 years of age (prevalence among under 16 age group assumed to be 10% based on different studies varying from 3 to 20%); 1,164,053 persons between 16-35 years of age have uncorrected refractive error for distance (estimated prevalence 15%) and 3,716,970 people over 35 years need presbyopic glasses (prevalence 59.6%).
- There are an estimated 30,240 blind children in Nepal and 3 times as many (90,000) children have low vision at the present time.
- An estimated 100,000 Nepalese 30 years and older have glaucoma; three times as many (300,000) are glaucoma suspects and are at risk of developing glaucoma. There are therefore 400,000 people with definite or probable glaucoma.
- About 230,000 people of all ages are reported to have low vision in Nepal.
- Estimated 100,000 have diabetic retinopathy and estimated number of people blind due to Diabetic Retinopathy is 20,000.

Source: Mid Term Review of VISION 2020



ASHMITA'S STORY

When little Ashmita was one year old, her parents noticed that something was wrong. Their sweet, playful daughter was struggling to see, and a cloudy white patch had developed over both her eyes. Her parents took her to a doctor who told them that Ashmita had cataracts. Without medical treatment, she could lose her sight forever. But her parents could not afford the procedure. What could they do to help their daughter, they wondered.

Thankfully, one day a field staff member from the Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital (SCEH) in Lahan visited their house. She screened Ashmita and urged her parents to take her to SCEH. There, the doctors carefully performed the cataract removal surgery, at no cost to the family. The little girl could see clearly again! Her parents were overjoyed.

The Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) is a non-profit, non-governmental, humanitarian organization dedicated to providing quality eye care to everyone in Nepal. We run hospitals and eye care centers like SCEH, so they can help people in their communities - like little Ashmita and her family. We believe that no one in our country should go blind from avoidable causes.

"I'm so happy for my daughter's vision," said her mother. "Now she can play, and she has a bright future ahead!"



WHERE WE FIT IN

We align ourselves with the principles of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), set forth by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and National Health Policy 2076 of Nepal. We strive to integrate our systems within this framework. We pursue practical and strategic opportunities to support the integration of eye health services into primary healthcare.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Our impact in 2020 despite Covid-19 pandemic

1,317,632 people screened
Giving them access to the care they deserve

121,362 people underwent eye surgery
Giving them the gift of good sight

More than **600** trainings for eye care professionals delivered
Enhancing their capacity to serve more

More than **3000** eye glasses prescribed,
Enhancing their better vision

Year	OPD	Eye Surgeries including Cataract
2019	33,23,044	2,65,978
2020	13,17,632	1,21,362

REWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

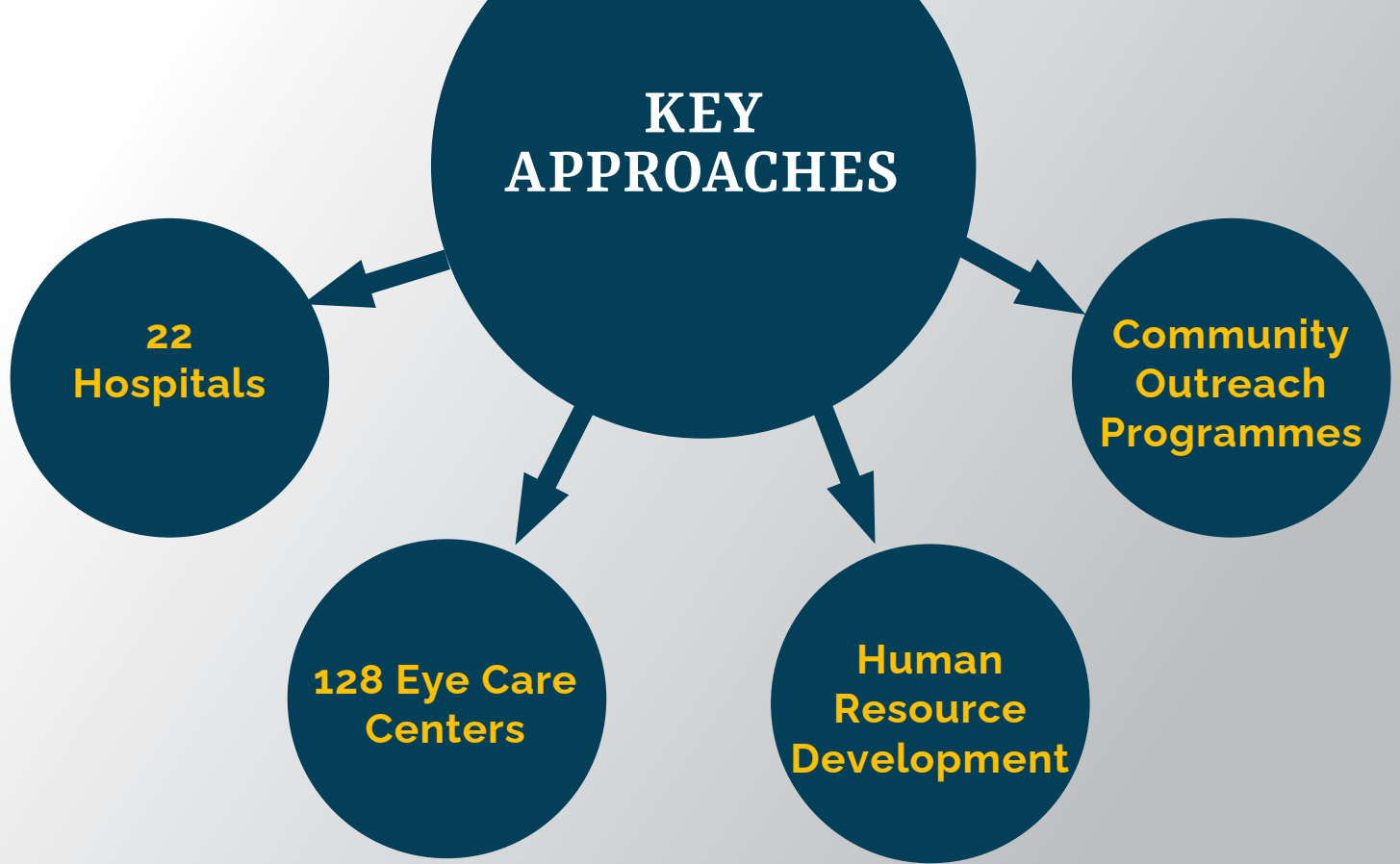
Key Rewards and Recognitions NNJS received

- NNJS received the most prestigious **The António Champalimaud Vision Award**
- NNJS received Social Welfare Council's '**Tulsi Mehar Social Service Award**'
- **Ministry of Health and Population Nepal** honored NNJS for eliminating trachoma from Nepal
- **World Health Organization** also honored NNJS for its efforts in eliminating trachoma from Nepal
- NNJS received **Healthcare Leadership Award** for outstanding contribution in promoting inclusive healthcare
- NNJS received **Mrigendra Samjhana Chikitsa Guthi** (Mrigendra Memorial Medical Science Guthi Award) for increasing health service networks across Nepal



"We should not let anyone get blind and we should not let anyone have eye disability in this country."

Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel,
Patron, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh.



Prof. Dr. Tirtha Prasad Mishra,
Immediate Past Chairperson, Nepal
Netra Jyoti Sangh

"What NNJS today has been possible because of the enormous peoples' participation, devotion, donation, diversity and unity among them. This has been increasingly bringing together the talent, motivation and selfless sacrifice from volunteers, health professionals and other staff to make enormous impact in securing the vision of people."

Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh has always remained honest and accountable in its actions and service delivery. We have always provided the most economic and effective eye care options to the patients across the country.



Mr. Shyam Kumar Pokhrel,
Senior Vice Chairperson,
Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh



RAAB SURVEY

Blindness rate comparison among 7 provinces of Nepal (RAAB Survey 2019). The figures apply to people above 50 years of age estimated as both eyes blind.

	Total		
Provinces	N	%	95% CI
1	7,136	0.96	0.61 – 1.19
2	9,511	1.25	0.94 – 1.68
Bagmati	5,403	0.65	0.50 – 0.84
Gandaki	3,791	0.95	0.70 – 1.30
Lumbini	11,479	1.75	1.40 – 2.20
Karnali	1,805	0.95	0.67 – 1.34
Sudur Paschim	1,506	0.60	0.42 – 0.86
National	40,230	1.05	0.93 – 1.18



"We are working hard to make eye health services available to the largest number of people and ensure that no citizen live with blindness just because they do not have money and accessibility. We are expanding hospitals, human resources and eye care centers across the country especially to serve the people in need."

Mr. Bharat Bahadur Chand,
Secretary General,
Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh

 NNJS'S EYE HOSPITAL
 NNJS'S EYE CARE CENTER

KARNALI INTEGRATED EYE AND EAR CARE PROGRAM

With support from CBM & BMZ, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) has introduced an Integrated Eye and Ear Care Program in Karnali Province to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance accessibility of eye and ear care services
- Ensure availability of eye and ear care services
- Promote the rights of persons with disabilities

The program will cover the entire 10 districts of Karnali province by implementing 2 multi – year projects (2021 – 2023) that include:

- HEALTH RIGHT: Inclusive Eye and Ear and Hearing Health in Karnali of Nepal
- SAMBHAV: Right to Sight and Sound

REACH PROGRAM

To address the visual impairments due to uncorrected refractive error (URE) in children, NNJS with the support of Orbis has launched the “REACH”, a bespoke IT solution paperless program in Nepal. Through the implementation of this REACH model, all the downstream partners are able to screen and treat the children’s eye condition. A standardized IT-enabled data management system, REACHSoft deployed across all the project sites has empowered the concerned stakeholders to advocate for better school eye health program in Nepal.

This initiative aims to reduce visual impairment due to URE by undertaking 8,08,292 pediatric screenings among school-going children between 6-18 years of age.

By the end of May 2021,

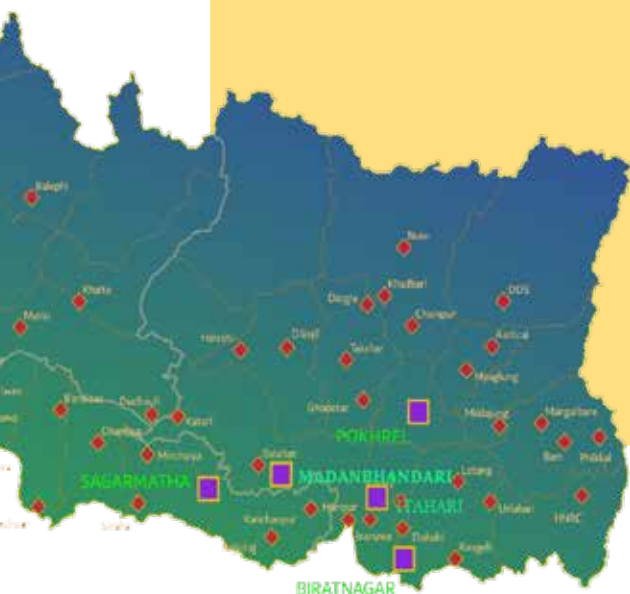
Number of Children screened - **480,495**

Number of Spectacles provided - **12,055**

Number of Surgery performed -**117**

"Periodic follow-up after service delivery, re-interventions and systematic data management system have added to the uniqueness of the program."

- Ranjan Shah, Program Manager



NNJS EYE HOSPITALS



Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel Eye Hospital, Dhankuta



Lamahi Eye Hospital, Lamahi



Chhanda (Kale babu) Narayani Eye Hospital,
Kapilvastu



Butwal Lion Eye Hospital, Butwal



Fateh Bal Eye Hospital, Nepalgunj



Geta Eye Hospital, Dhangadhi

NNJS EYE HOSPITALS



Rapti Eye Hospital, Dang



Lumbini Eye Institute and Research Centre, Bhairahawa



Palpa Lions Lacoul Eye Hospital, Palpa



Himalaya Eye Hospital, Pokhara



Hiralal Santu Devi Pradhan Eye Institute, Bharatpur



R.M. Kedia Eye Hospital, Birgunj



Sagarmatha Chaudhary Eye Hospital, Lahan



Biratnagar Eye Hospital, Biratnagar



Gaur Eye Hospital, Gaur



Kirtipur Eye Hospital, Kirtipur



Dr. Binod Neeta Kandel Eye Hospital, Nawalparasi



Mahendranagar Eye Hospital, Mahendranagar



Itahari Eye Hospital, Itahari



Thori Eye Hospital, Parsa



Dhawalagiri Eye Hospital, Baglung



Madan Bhandari Eye Hospital, Udayapur

NNJS FOUNDING MEMBERS

Late General Rabi Shamsher Rana

Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel

Late Mr. Mani Harsh Jyoti

Late Mr. Badri Bikram Thapa

Late Mr. Anang Man Sherchan

Late Mr. Banwari Lal Mittal

Late Mr. Tola Ram Dugar

Late Mr. Raj Krishna Shrestha

Late Mr. Kamal Mani Dixit

"It thrills me when I see blind kids who come to hospital and return with their vision back and with big smile on their face. This always keeps me awake to be more committed and gather commitment from our colleagues and partners, and stay focused and organized in meeting our goal."



Dr. Sailesh Kumar Mishra,
Executive Director,
Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh

NNJS OTHER PROGRAMS



National Eyesight Program



Government Supported Programs



National Eye Health Education Program



Community Based Rehabilitation Program



Post Validation Trachoma Surveillance Program



Nepal Low Vision Program



Ear Care Program



Research and Monitoring Program



PARTNERS

Seva Foundation, USA/Seva Canada Society
 CBM International
 Norwegian Association of Blind and Partially Sighted
 Eye Care Foundation
 Orbis
 International Agency for Prevention of Blindness
 Lions Club International
 World Health Organization
 Johns Hopkins University
 DAK Foundation
 Fred Hollows Foundation
 RANZCO
 See International
 Welcome Trust
 DFID, UK
 Sight Life
 Social Eyes
 Proctor Foundation
 Give Sight Global
 PEEK Vision
 ICEH, UK
 Charity Vision International
 ASCEND Nepal
 Act to East NTD
 Nepal Red Cross Society
 Karuna Foundation

SUPPORTED NNJS IN PAST

AOCA and NIPPON 24 hours Television
 Norwegian Church Aid
 Operation Eyesight Universal
 Swiss Red Cross
 Dark and Light Blind Care (Light for the world)
 Help Me See
 Japan International Cooperation Agency
 Champalimaud Foundation
 International Trachoma Initiative
 USAID Envision
 Help Age International
 INFIL Foundation
 Helen Keller International
 IRIS Asia
 OPC, France
 DISVI, Italy
 Open Oog Foundation, The Netherlands
 BCCI and ICCI, Pakistan

Thanks to Government of Nepal, Government of India, Government of Japan and Government of Pakistan for supporting NNJS eye care program.



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