



The Fred Hollows
Foundation

CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2019



FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

Equity was at the heart of all that Fred did, and it remains the driving force behind his enduring legacy – a legacy that has seen sight restored to more than 2.5 million people, across more than 25 countries. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is, in many ways, a global call to promote equity in recognition of the disparities that exist between and within countries and the need for universal action to eliminate these differences.

The Foundation's vision of 'a world where no one is needlessly blind or vision impaired' aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their central call to leave no one behind. No one should have to live with avoidable blindness or vision impairment in the 21st century when we have low cost and proven solutions to hand, yet we know millions of marginalised people around the world are missing out. We all must do better and The Foundation is committed to playing its part and leading by example.

As we look to the future, The Foundation will be redoubling its efforts to scale up output in a way that reaches those who are currently being left behind in access to eye health services. Our long-term goal is in striving for zero prevalence of avoidable blindness and vision impairment around the world and if we are on track, the current prevalence gap between low and high income countries and women and men, will decline.

I am proud to offer this Contribution Report as both an affirmation of The Foundation's commitment to the SDGs and an effort to hold what we do to account. In doing so, it is my hope that The Foundation's public commitment will serve as an example to governments and civil society alike and demonstrate the transformative potential of eye health to achieving sustainable development for all.

Ian Wishart



Chief Executive Officer

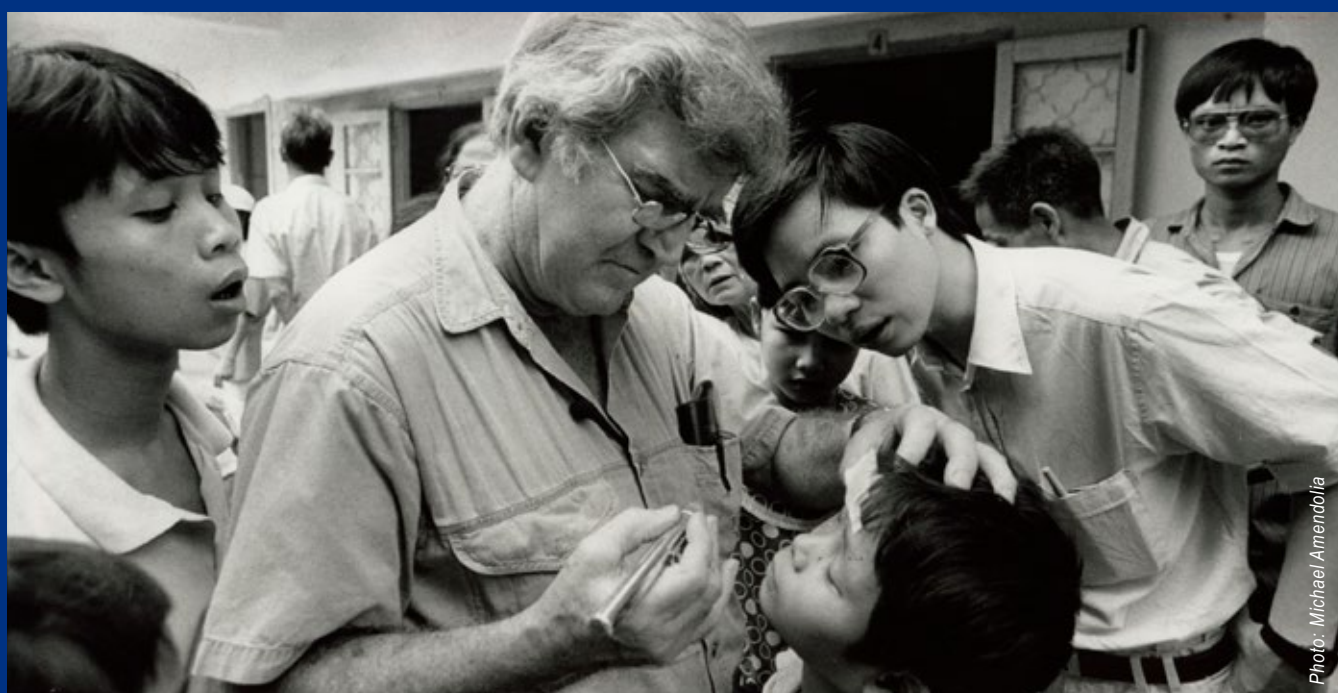


Photo: Michael Amendolia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The work of The Foundation, and the eye health and development sectors more broadly, will impact on and be impacted by the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Drawing primarily on programmatic data from 2018 and some key initiatives from 2017 and 2018, this report reflects The Foundation's pledge to better understand its role within the SDGs, and to lead by example through publicly committing to further strengthening our engagement. It describes our core contribution to specific SDG targets across The Foundation, illustrates how we are impacting the lives of real people on the ground, and provides public accountability for stepping up action in the coming years.

The work of The Foundation aligns most closely with the targets contained within Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Through our vision to see 'a world where no person is needlessly blind or vision impaired', The Foundation has contributed to health systems strengthening and capacity building in all countries in which we work and in influencing policy change around the world. Our efforts have had a significant and positive impact on access to health services and health outcomes, and stand at the centre of The Foundation's value in working towards achieving the SDGs.

However the flow-on impacts of The Foundation's work go far beyond good health. The Foundation has also made a tangible contribution to the pursuit of other SDGs, such as Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries, Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Together with Goal 3 at the centre, this suite of SDGs represent The Foundation's core contribution.

The Foundation will continue to ensure our programs, advocacy, research and business practices maximise sustainable efforts towards ending avoidable blindness and vision impairment, aligned to these core SDGs. We will focus on reducing the equity gap between access to eye care services and those who need them, with a particular emphasis on addressing gender inequity. We will instigate policies and measurable business practices to achieve and promote low energy demand and low material consumption. And we will work in partnership across the eye health sector, and with others to improve our collective efforts, report publicly on our progress and review our approach in 2021 to ensure our efforts remain on track.





Photo: Michael Amendolia

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EYE HEALTH: THE FRED HOLLOWS FOUNDATION'S CONTRIBUTION

INTRODUCTION

Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal commitment to end poverty, protect the environment and ensure prosperity for all. The Agenda is framed by 17 global goals (SDGs), which encompass 169 targets and 232 individual indicators to guide action and monitor progress. The SDGs are the successor to the Millennium Development Goals applying to all countries, and will be pivotal in informing international aid and development agendas over the coming decade.


Eye health, blindness and vision impairment do not feature explicitly within the goals, targets or indicators, however, the relationship between eye health and broader health and development markers cannot be underestimated. Good vision is foundational. Without it, functioning in most aspects of occupational, familial, recreational and social life is more difficult, and even impossible. The impact of vision loss is exacerbated by social and economic disadvantage, and is most profound among the poorest and most marginalised.

Equity refers to the absence of inequalities that are avoidable, unnecessary, unjust and unfair. Equity is at the heart of all of the SDGs and their overarching principle of 'leaving no one behind'. Few have demonstrated a commitment to this principle more than the late Professor Fred Hollows. Fred was a true champion of equity and he firmly believed that everyone's sight was worth saving, famously declaring that "every eye is an eye". It is this spirit that has guided the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation and has seen us work alongside poor and marginalised communities to restore sight to more than 2.5 million people, across more than 25 countries.

The Foundation is committed to ensuring all its work contributes in a meaningful way to achieving the SDGs. Drawing largely upon 2018 program output data and a range of current initiatives undertaken throughout 2017 and 2018, this Contribution Report is the product of an organisation-wide mapping exercise. It offers insights into The Foundation's key business activities, along with a set of clear commitments over the next three years, representing our contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OUR CORE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The SDGs are indivisible - progress in one area can often catalyse success across others. That being said, different actors have unique contributions to make. As a Foundation with an eye health focus, our work contributes most substantially to the achievement of Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING







Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages

Our approach, whilst centred on avoidable blindness, will cut across many of the 17 SDGs, most notably:

5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
1 NO POVERTY 	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Reduce inequality within and among countries
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

While by no means an exhaustive map of The Foundation's activity, this report illustrates how The Foundation's work contributes to these SDGs and associated targets. The Foundation is committed to leaving no one behind, and ensuring that our services reach people in the greatest need with the least access to eye health. The flow on impacts of this commitment are far-reaching for the individuals, families and communities with which we work.



-  **5,306,365** people were screened for eye conditions
-  **163,960** cataract operations
-  **42,264** surgeries to treat trachoma
-  **125,619** pairs of glasses were distributed
-  **17,605** procedures to treat diabetic retinopathy

The Foundation's SDG contribution diagram

HOW IS FRED'S LEGACY CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELIVERY OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) AND THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL?

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages

Goal 3 calls for progress in all domains of health, across prevention, treatment and access to appropriate specialist and primary care services. SDG 3 indicators track progress related to reductions in the global burden of maternal and infant mortality, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and environmental diseases. Goal 3 also seeks to reduce disparities in health outcomes and access to health services which exist between population groups.

Achievement of SDG 3 would mean a world in which neither health outcomes nor access to health services are determined by who you are, where you live or your financial circumstances. The Foundation contributes to this through delivering eye health development programs across 25 countries and undertaking local, national and global advocacy and research initiatives which build capacity and help to strengthen national and local health systems towards universal health coverage for eye health across the world.

As we move forward into the future over the next five years, The Foundation's efforts will be focused around four impact goals:

- Effective cataract treatment is accessible to all;
- Trachoma is eliminated;
- Effective refractive error prevention and treatment is accessible to all; and
- Diabetic Retinopathy and other eye conditions can be affordably managed.

The Foundation will prioritise taking a health system strengthening approach aimed at improving equity, quality, efficiency and sustainability. We have a strong emphasis on engaging communities and patients, advocating for policy/priority change, and innovation to accelerate change.

Target 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide and one of 17 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that affect more than one billion people worldwide.

■ In conjunction with our partners, in 2018, The Foundation performed 42,264 surgeries to prevent vision loss from trichiasis, distributed more than 24 million antibiotics for bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* (which causes trachoma) and provided community-led total sanitation activities for 124,071 people as part of surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness and environmental improvement (SAFE).

■ The Foundation has led and contributed to global advocacy initiatives of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control to raise the profile of elimination efforts through the publication of *Eliminating Trachoma: Accelerating Towards 2020* (2016), by calculating Global SAFE Implementation Cost Estimates (2016), and supporting the development of a suite of preferred practices which underpin implementation of the SAFE strategy in all endemic countries and by all partners of the WHO GET2020 Alliance.

■ The Foundation has supported regional elimination programs and partnerships in Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Pacific; and is exploring opportunities to support the regional elimination of trachoma in the Americas.

■ In collaboration with global stakeholders, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and funded by the Wellcome Trust, The Foundation is working

to improve quality surgical supervision and patient outcomes and the transmission of trachoma in Ethiopia through the Stronger SAFE initiative.

■ The Foundation is working with our partners towards the elimination of blinding trachoma in Australia, where it remains endemic in some remote Indigenous communities. Australia is the only developed high-income country which has not yet eliminated trachoma.



Photo: Matthew Smeal

CASE STUDY **KEBEDE AND TEMESGEN, ETHIOPIA**

The people of Fiche, a small town north of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, live a rural and subsistence life. Poverty is widespread, and people have limited access to clean water. Trachoma is endemic across Ethiopia – a disease that, after repeated infections, leads to eyelids turning inwards and eyelashes scratching the eye’s lens, painfully causing irreversible damage and eventual blindness.

The Fred Hollows Foundation supports the training of trachiasis surgeons, who travel in small teams to remote villages for days at a time to undertake trachoma screening and, when necessary, perform trachomatous trachiasis (TT) surgery, to prevent further damage to the eye.

Temesgen Haily and Kebede Shebiru form the basis of one of these outreach teams. Between them, they have performed nearly 6000 TT surgeries. Such success has some awkward rewards. “Sometimes people approach me in different places like markets and they hug me,” Kebede said. “I ask myself, ‘Did I do this?’ It makes me very happy.”

Temesgen has had similar experiences. “People at the market got down to my leg and kissed my hand. I become teary because the people are very happy when they see you,” he said. “I am very, very grateful for the work I am doing for The Fred Hollows Foundation. It is satisfying because we know we are relieving someone from going deeper into poverty.”



Photo: The Fred Hollows Foundation

CASE STUDY CHEA SAROM, CAMBODIA

Chea Sarom is one of only two ophthalmic nurses at Kampong Chhnang Eye Hospital and one of the first eye health workers trained by The Fred Hollows Foundation in Cambodia.

Sarom joined the Hospital's eye unit in 2003, and saw it grow from a small outpost to a large multi-storey facility, thanks to The Foundation's investment. The hospital provides eye care services for half a million people across an area of 5,500 square kilometres.

Sarom's work includes cleaning a patient's eyes and sterilising equipment before surgery and conducting screenings. Holding a specialty nursing role in her hometown is highly coveted among her peers. It means Sarom is a role model for other nursing graduates in the region and a clear example of how The Foundation's work to train local staff enriches careers and helps communities.

"I'm very happy to work at the eye unit, because I can help restore sight to people in the community," she said.

Target 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

In addition to trachoma, The Foundation's priorities in 2017 and 2018 included cataract (the leading cause of blindness globally) and diabetic retinopathy (the leading cause of blindness among working age adults). Together with uncorrected refractive error, these three conditions form the key areas of focus in non-communicable disease for The Foundation.

■ Working with local partners in 2018, The Foundation contributed to the screening of 5,306,365 people for eye conditions, 163,960 cataract operations, 42,264 surgeries to treat trachoma, the distribution of 125,619 pairs of glasses and 17,605 procedures to treat diabetic retinopathy.

■ The Foundation has led and contributed to a global advocacy initiative uniting leading agencies from across the diabetes and eye health sectors to address the rising prevalence of diabetic blindness. In 2017, the Initiative launched a high level statement to promote integrated care for diabetes and eye health by the four

leading global diabetes and eye health peak bodies. In 2018, *Integrated care for diabetes and eye health: A compendium of good practice* was launched and a pilot advocacy initiative in Bangladesh, led by a coalition of local stakeholders, achieved Government endorsement of the first *National Diabetic Retinopathy Action Plan and Strategy*.

■ The Foundation is actively investing in research to calculate the costs of diabetic retinopathy and better equip governments to understand and address the broader economic and social impacts of this irreversible condition.

Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Universal health coverage (UHC) is the overarching goal of our work. Ensuring that all people can access the eye health services they need without suffering risk of impoverishment from catastrophic out of pocket expenditure is a vital aspect of ending avoidable blindness. The Foundation has been working with national governments to improve cataract surgical coverage, cataract surgical quality outcomes and ensure appropriate financing mechanisms are in place to support access and control costs to both health systems and patients.

■ Effective health financing plays a critical role in advancing progress towards UHC and ensuring financial risk protection. We are working to support the development of strong, equitable and effective financing mechanisms through three main channels: working with governments to implement appropriate, effective and efficient measures to include eye health services within national insurance schemes; fostering improved literacy within the eye health sector to better understand the mechanics of effective health financing for eye health; and pioneering innovative health financing models to unlock new sources of funding. We are conducting

evaluations of financial barriers and risk protection in accessing eye health services, particularly for cataract surgery, in a number of our partner countries. This includes exploring the impact of national health insurance development and how strategic purchasing arrangements may improve financial access and risk protection.

■ In collaboration with partners in 2017, we laid the foundations for one of the first health Development Impact Bonds (the Cameroon cataract Development Impact Bond) and other potential social enterprise models in eye care.

Target 3.12 Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.

■ With our partners in 2018, The Foundation has contributed to the training of 57,074 people, including: 142 surgeons, 1,108 clinic support staff, 48,035 community health workers and 7,789 teachers

■ The Foundation provides Fellowship support for ophthalmologist sub-specialty training through both the International Council of Ophthalmology and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.

HOW IS FRED'S VISION CONTRIBUTING TO BROADER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The Foundation's work is focused on the development of eye health services and strengthening health systems, the benefits of which extend far beyond good health. Restoring sight allows individuals and families to return to work or school, and overcome the inequality and exclusion that blindness and vision impairment often perpetuate. The work of The Foundation impacts on, and is impacted by, the pursuit of SDGs outside of what we would typically consider health domains.

1
NO
POVERTY



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The Foundation contributes to ending poverty in many ways across our country programs, in our global and national level advocacy, and in many of our research projects. Since its inception The Foundation has prioritised ensuring that our services are accessed by poor and marginalised communities, who otherwise would not be able to access comprehensive eye care.

Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

■ The Foundation's Indigenous Australia Program (IAP) advocates for and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and controlled health services, and self-determination. IAP does not compete with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations for funding as a fundamental principle of practice.

■ The Foundation contributes to the training, development and supply of workforce in remote and underserved areas in Australia, and increased access to services such as cataract surgery and diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment.

5
GENDER
EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Closing the gender gap in access to eye health is an immediate area of focus for The Foundation. Globally, women are 1.3 times more likely to be blind than men – meaning 55% of people who are vision impaired worldwide are women. In recognition of this disparity, The Foundation is prioritising gender equity and working to promote gender equality through our programs, in our public communications and in our business practices and has launched a whole of organisation gender strategy.

Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.



CASE STUDY MONOWARA, BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, it is estimated that women are up to twice as likely to be blind as men. Despite women over 40 representing the greatest proportion of females who are blind, the likelihood that they will be able to access treatment decreases with age. Women who live in rural areas or are part of marginalised groups are particularly affected.

The Foundation has partnered with local NGO, Pariabar Kollyan Samity (PKS), to help deliver our 'Restoring Vision to Marginalised Women and Children in Rural Bangladesh' project.

Supported by the L'Occitane Foundation and the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), the innovative project has integrated eye health services into maternal and child health clinics for the first time in Bangladesh. These clinics see women from diverse age groups, backgrounds and

locations – many of whom are from rural areas or marginalised groups. The women and children visiting these clinics are often accompanied by older family members, who are particularly at risk of developing eye health issues. Monowara, an elderly patient of the clinic initially came to accompany her daughter, Munni, who had just given birth to a baby girl. While there, Monowara found that eye health had been integrated into the clinic's services.

Monowara received cataract surgery at a government hospital 13 years ago. The surgery was unsuccessful and she never went back, resigning herself to a life of poor vision.

The clinic's triage nurse, who had been trained in basic eye care by The Foundation, informed Monowara that the clinic would soon have a fully functioning operating theatre. If Monowara wanted, she could undergo surgery again.

Women have a higher incidence of blinding trachoma because they are over-represented in caring responsibilities and are typically less likely to have access to screening services and treatment for most major causes of avoidable blindness. To reduce this burden, The Foundation is prioritising women and girls through screening and treatment of all priority eye conditions:

■ In 2018, 51% of all surgeries and treatments were performed on female patients.

■ The Foundation has launched the *She Sees* gender fund to enable The Foundation's goal of closing the gender gap in blindness around the world.

■ To encourage gender mainstreaming across the sector, The Foundation collaborated with other eye health and international health NGOs to produce *Eye Health for Women and Girls. A guide to gender-responsive eye health programming.*

Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

■ The Foundation is working towards a target of 50/50 gender representation on our Board of Directors and Executive Management Group (EMG). Currently we have just under 45% female board representation, and approximately 50% female representation on our EMG.

■ In 2017, the EMG commissioned a *Gender Equality Report* to contextualise and formalise our commitment to gender equity. The outcomes of this are ongoing, but have already led to a revision of our global parental leave policies, additional support for parents added to our Travel Policy, and Unconscious Bias training and a Gender Workshop undertaken by senior management.

■ The Foundation has contributed to the promotion of women in eye health and ophthalmology through ongoing participation in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) Gender Equity Work Group, which facilitates shared learning, exchange of good practice and guides IAPB's advocacy efforts on gender equity.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Education, especially for children in primary and secondary years, provides an essential foundation for economic participation across the life course. Good vision is critical for participation in education and the lifelong benefits it provides to individuals, their families and communities.

Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes.

■ In recognition of the unique outreach potential of schools, working with partners in 2018 The Foundation trained 7,789 teachers in basic eye care and screening and delivered health promotion programs which have educated about 5 million school children and community members in eye health since 2017.

Target 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

Target 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

■ Through our partner organisations in 2018, The Foundation helped to equip 360 schools with basic eye care and screening materials.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

The Foundation contributes to reducing inequality in many ways across our country programs, in our global and national level advocacy and in many of our research projects. In addition to a strategic focus on gender equity, The Foundation is also prioritising reducing the gap in access to eye health services between low and high income countries as a priority over the next five years as it works towards zero prevalence in avoidable blindness and vision impairment.

Our work in Australia to close the gap in eye health between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians provides an example to demonstrate our targeted efforts in combating inequality.

Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

■ In Australia, The Foundation is an active member of: Vision 2020 Australia; The Close the Gap Campaign; State Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health committees; and regional collaborations. Through these coalitions, we advocate for sound policy decisions that champion the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Foundation has developed an advocacy strategy, focusing on influencing policy changes relevant to workforce, access to cataract surgery and diabetic retinopathy treatment, culturally-safe health care and the elimination of trachoma.

■ IAP has an employment target of 50% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Foundation more broadly has also committed to increasing the employment rate of self-identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. By December 2020, we will strive to achieve a workforce outside IAP that represents the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, currently 3.3%.

Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

■ The Foundation has supported the Close the Gap Campaign since its inception. The Campaign seeks to close the health and life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, and ensure that by 2030, any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child born in Australia enjoys the same opportunities as other Australian children to live a long, healthy and happy life.

■ The Foundation has had a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in place since 2009 to mobilise staff to support reconciliation and encourage practical internal measures which contribute to closing the gap.

■ In 2018, The Foundation made a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and has provided support to Reconciliation Australia.



Photo: Mary Tran

CASE STUDY EVELYN, AUSTRALIA

Evelyn is an artist from Wilora in Central Australia. Born around 1940, she raised her family of six before starting painting nearly 20 years ago.

Painting is inextricably linked to Evelyn's family and culture. She was taught by her aunty and her paintings are bold and rich with colour. Evelyn exclusively paints her plant totem, the Bush Yam, which has been an abundant source of food and water for her people, the Anmatyerre, for thousands of years.

A few years ago, Evelyn's ability to paint was threatened when her sight was affected by cataracts. "I was doing paintings all over Australia when my eyes started to go blurry. I thought I could see smoke. I was very worried," she said.

Since her husband passed away, Evelyn has relied on her daughter, Rachael, for care.

Rachael knew the importance of getting help. After receiving a diagnosis of cataract at a local clinic, Rachel drove her mother to Alice Springs for

treatment at an Intensive Eye Surgery Week held at Alice Springs Hospital.

Outside of Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, 15,000 Aboriginal people, including Evelyn, live in 301 communities. Amongst these communities, at least 11 different languages are spoken.

Language barriers have contributed to hospitals being alienating places for many Aboriginal people. In recent years however, positive strides have been made to address these barriers through the delivery of culturally-appropriate health care.

Twenty-four hours after her surgery, Evelyn left the hospital excited to make the most of her restored sight. "I'm looking forward to seeing my six grandchildren clearly. I'm looking forward to painting again and passing it on to my granddaughter. I'm looking forward to cooking and cleaning and also making damper and going hunting for goanna and bush tucker. I'll be able to track the goanna again!"



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The Foundation recognises the cross cutting nature of sustainable consumption and production and its impact on the SDGs. Our global procurement policy specifies the objective to support the achievement of the SDGs and the revised internal procurement framework and selection criteria considers the most positive environmental, social and economic outcomes across the full life cycle of a service or product.

Target 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

■ The Foundation is driving systemic change and building capacity within the sector through our internal UN 10 Year Framework of Programmes expert in sustainable procurement and through its membership of the One Planet Network. Activities have included six multi-sector masterclasses in sustainability and/or sustainable procurement practices, delivered nationally and internationally.

Target 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

■ As a core member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Sustainability Work Group, The Foundation is participating in a global education program focused on responsible and innovative waste practices in eye health. In the 12 months from inception in 2017, the Sustainability Work Group has produced two peer reviewed case studies, delivered three workshops and successfully proposed a sustainability themed global eye health Council of Members meeting in 2020. The Sustainability Work Group represents global leadership in eye health.

Target 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

■ The Foundation has adopted the sustainable procurement ISO 20400 as the global best practice standard to underpin internal procurement decision making. The Foundation will use our experience to demonstrate to local and national partners at the health systems level options to inform improved resource usage and consumption through to end of life. Through targeted strategies particularly on gender and indigeneity in our core programmatic areas, we are also creating proactive economic empowerment opportunities in local communities.



Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The Foundation recognises that it cannot achieve its core mission of ending avoidable blindness by working in isolation. All of our programs are delivered through local partners, as our strategic approach to program implementation and capacity building. There are cascading benefits of all eye health interventions. In recognition of this, The Foundation pursues strategic global partnerships with organisations which either share, or can contribute to, our mission to end avoidable blindness. Our current partners include governments, non-government organisations, philanthropic organisations and the private sector, through coalitions built around mutually-beneficial objectives. We are committed to constantly reviewing the efficacy of these existing partnerships and horizon scanning for new partnerships.

Target 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.

■ The Foundation is involved in a number of civil society collaborations, including the Campaign for Australian Aid, which seeks to mobilise public support and advocates directly to the Australian Government and Parliamentarians around fulfilment of official development assistance (ODA) commitments, and was a key supporter of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

■ The Foundation is actively advocating domestically and globally with partners, such as Vision for the Commonwealth, to advance eye health as a priority within broader aid and development agendas. This advocacy was rewarded in early 2018 when the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) released a statement committing to take action towards achieving access to quality eye care for all, the elimination of trachoma by 2020 and to report progress at future CHOGMs.

■ In the 2017/18 financial year, The Foundation undertook 16 projects supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) with total Program funding of AU\$7.9 million.

Target 17.3 Mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

■ The Foundation received AU\$89 million in funding from fundraising and multiple donor sources in 2018 to enable our programs across the 25 countries in which we work. The Foundation's major institutional donors for 2018 were: the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), the Government of the United Kingdom, the United States Government, The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust and Standard Chartered Bank's *Seeing is Believing* initiative.

OUR FUTURE COMMITMENT

As demonstrated in this report, the role of The Foundation's work and indeed the transformative value of eye health within the larger movement towards a sustainable future for all, cannot be understated. We are committed to doing more, strengthening our engagement and playing a leadership role within the eye health sector and beyond.

Looking forward to 2023, The Foundation is committed to leaving no one behind in access to eye health and has placed a renewed emphasis on equity at the heart of our new strategic plan. We will build on our knowledge and understanding of how we and how eye health more broadly contributes to the SDGs, and we will embed this learning across our program, advocacy, research and business operations. We will share what we have learned, collaborate and partner with others to ensure eye health is promoted and recognised as a cross-cutting issue that both contributes to and is impacted by the SDGs.

Over the next three years, Goal 3 will remain The Foundation's unique value offering, and we will focus our efforts on scaling up access to eye health services and strengthening health systems as part of universal health coverage along with progress towards the other core SDGs. In particular, we will work to ensure effective access to cataract treatment, the elimination of trachoma, effective refractive error prevention and the provision of glasses and will work to ensure diabetic retinopathy and other eye conditions can be affordably managed.

CLOSING

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an invaluable and transformative opportunity to build a better future for generations to come. The late Professor Fred Hollows dreamed of an equitable world and achieving the SDGs would make his dream a reality. The Foundation is committed to playing its part in achieving the SDGs and will lead by example, working collaboratively with governments, eye health stakeholders, across sectors and community groups working to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

Specific activities will include:

- Develop internal communications tools to educate and socialise our role within the SDGs;
- Championed by the CEO, establish an SDG plan of action;
- Build processes into existing systems to gather data and monitor progress against our core set of seven SDGs;
- Implement policies and business practices with measurable targets and tangible actions to reduce energy and material consumption;
- Support country teams to engage with national SDG movements and policy dialogues, including Voluntary National Reviews and reporting to the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- In partnership with the IAPB, Sightsavers International and other IAPB members, lead eye health sector awareness and engagement, and lift the profile of eye health within broader civil society and multi-national platforms;
- Identify and establish shared-value partnerships with the private sector that advance eye health within the labour market and broader community, leveraging commitments to corporate sustainability and social responsibility; and
- Demonstrate and share innovative approaches for sustainable financing for eye health programs that catalyses multi-sectoral engagement and scales up eye health services.



Photo: Michael Amendolia



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