



JULIE AND SUMMIT SHAH FAMILY INVESTMENT

THASARA VISION CENTER, GUJARAT, INDIA

YEAR 2 UPDATE PREPARED BY SEVA FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER 2023

INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

\$28,600 RECEIVED NOVEMBER 2021

Establish a new vision center in Thasara to serve the people in the surrounding area, providing access to eye care services for 60,000 to 75,000 people.



See a video of the vision center

YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK

Thasara is a small town in eastern Gujarat, India. Due to local traveling patterns, many people come to Thasara or pass through it. The vision center provides services to the local population and many people who pass through this town and know about the eye health services provided. Due to the absence of comprehensive eye health services in Thasara and the surrounding 87 villages, Seva and its partner, Blind People's Association India, Ahmedabad (BPA), established the Thasara Vision Center. The vision center is a component of the BPA Porecha Eye Hospital system located in Bareja.

We are deeply grateful for the investment of Julie and Summit Shah. The Thasara Vision Center is now a reality!



Equipment and patient screening room in Thasara Vision Center.

On the cover: Kamlaben is screened at Thasara Vision Center and referred to Seva partner hospital for cataract surgery

The Thasara Vision Center (VC) began providing eye care services in March 2022. It is staffed by three full-time, trained staff: an optometrist, an allied ophthalmic professional, and an optician.

The details of patients screened and services provided in Year 2 are below.

PATIENT SERVICES AT THASARA VISION CENTER: JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

PATIENTS SEEN			GLASSES PROVIDED			TELE-CONSULTATION WITH HOSPITAL			CATARACT SURGERIES COMPLETED		
FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
1,206	1,639	2,845	151	232	383	238	241	479	69	74	143

Note: Data is based on reports received as of August 10, 2023

The VC listened to their clientele. When they asked for more cost-effective models of frames, the staff expanded the selection of eyeglasses. This proved successful, and more eyeglasses were distributed. Additionally, in consultation and with support from the referral hospital, the VC began a door-to-door campaign in ten villages near the VC. The campaign raises awareness about eye health issues and invites patients to come to the VC for eye examinations. The staff also perform basic eye health screenings during the door-to-door campaign. The staff are continuing the previous year's referral practices. For all VC patients identified in need of cataract surgery, the staff coordinate with the referral hospital to arrange for patient transportation to the hospital. Support of the patient's family is critical, so it is arranged for a family member to accompany the patient to the hospital. The VC also collects the telephone number of the patient or a family member for follow-up and continued care. The staff continue to support the patient post-surgery with any issues.





PRIORITIES LOOKING AHEAD

The priorities for the Thasara VC for the coming year include:

- Strengthen the work of Thasara VC by expanding the door-to-door screening campaign to additional villages
- Continue to serve the patients who come to the Thasara VC
- Improve community mobilization and strengthen the relationship with community leaders so eye care can be prioritized in local areas surrounding the VC

PATIENT STORIES

LIVES IMPROVED



MEET SHARDABEN

Sardaben, at the age of 60 years, came to Blind People's Association-managed Porecha Eye Hospital after being referred from Thasara Vision Center. She complained of vision problems in her right eye. She has a financial hardship and lives with her daughter-in-law and two grandsons.

After counseling, she agreed to receive cataract surgery. Sardaben was provided with transportation from the vision center to the eye hospital at Bareja. There, she received successful cataract surgery. Since her surgery, Sardaben has regained the vision in her eye and is very happy with the outcome and that she can carry on with her routine activities.



MEET KAMLABEN

Kamlaben is 65 years old and lives with her family of five. She complained about not being able to see clearly in both eyes. She encountered problems crossing the road. She could not identify her family members and had general problems with routine activities. She was diagnosed with cataract in both eyes. After counseling, she agreed to start with cataract surgery in the left eye. Transportation from the vision center to the eye hospital was arranged. Her surgery was successful, and she was very pleased with the outcome. She is now ready for surgery on the other eye in the coming months.