



A New Vision

2016 | 2017

NEW SIGHT

Restoring Sight | Renewing Lives

Dear donors, supporters, volunteers and friends.

After a hectic past 4 months and busy end to 2016, we here at A New Vision (ANV) are delighted to reconnect with you all and share our news as well as some inspiring stories about some of the people we've recently met. In the last 4 months, we administered 6 cataract surgical outreach events, screened the eyes of 12,000 people, completed 4,846 cataract surgeries and given community education to 450 people. A monumental effort by all of our team including many volunteers, our surgeons, paramedics, anesthetists, nurses, core team members and more.

In September 2016, we went to Central Java with an ambitious plan to conduct 2,000 surgeries. We are aware that cataract surgical outreach rarely takes place in that province and expected many potential patients - people suffering from cataracts who'd never before had an opportunity to have their eyes examined, much less their cataracts removed. Concurrently, we knew that there was likely to be poor community awareness of the fact that cataract blindness is curable - and that many people may in fact be unaware of the cause of their blindness. We needed to find a way that was both innovative and inexpensive to reach the public.

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New Chapter, New Life with Mutikun

ANV
AT-A-GLANCE


45
LOCAL SURGEON
& PARAMEDIC
TRAINED


50,000
SCREENED


19,000
SURGERIES
PERFORMED


5,000
COMMUNITY
EDUCATION

... Continued from page 1

We were so fortunate that Tanty Endowati - a friend and ANV volunteer - introduced us to Rusmin, the owner of CPP Radionet. CPP Radionet operates 8 radio stations across Central Java. Rusmin sprang into action and anyone who listened to the radio in Central Java during that period would have heard news of our event broadcast at least hourly. Rusmin also aired a Q&A session, where he interviewed ANV Director Effi Jono on questions pertaining to eye health, cataract blindness, prevention and available cures. Incredibly, thousands of people came to the screening after listening to the radio. 40% of the surgeries we eventually did in Central Java, were direct referrals from our radio advertisements.

This outreach way exceeded our expectations with the number of surgeries we conducted reaching almost 50% more than our original target. We carried out 2,817 surgeries over 8 days, in two separate Central Java towns - Magelang and Purwokerto. This outreach was in fact the largest ever in Indonesia, and perhaps Asia/the world. We are still investigating whether perhaps we set some kind of record and will update you via our website with any news regarding this. Due to the unexpected volume of patients, we found ourselves very short of funds and wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sanwah, KCL Consulting, Sushi Sushi, Italmec, May Kwok and friends, friends of Tan Ching Khoo and Lee Siew Yian, and many generous individual donors who answered our call for donations.

There are several people who we absolutely could not have done without over this period. Firstly, Tanty Endowati who connected us with Rusmin, worked as our ground coordinator and who has allowed us to store some supplies in her home, saving us money in storage. She also gave us monetary donations and deployed her whole family and staff to help at the event. Next the Magelang Search and Rescue Team who were rallied to action by Rusmin - members of this team came in droves to volunteer at the hospital, from morning till midnight, day after day. And finally, Doctors Heriyanto and Aditya, both from Dr. Soedjono Hospital in Magelang, went beyond the call of duty in providing unlimited help, as we required it, from their hospital.

After Central Java, we proceeded to Bandung in West Java, for the third outreach sponsored by local company Indorama. 651 surgeries were completed there with Indorama generously deploying over 100 staff to volunteer. We are pleased to report that this event ran extremely smoothly. Our thanks are extended to the Lohia family and Indorama for their continued gener-

osity and championing of our mission to provide free cataract surgery to the vision impaired with in Indonesia.

As soon as the outreach wrapped up in Bandung, the team of surgeons and anesthetists moved to Surabaya in East Java. Here, together with local foundation, Yayasan Abdi Husada Utama, we conducted 451 surgeries. We had originally planned for a one day 200 surgeries and had not call on most of our reliable volunteers to join. With the number higher than expected, it was extremely tiring for the small team on the ground.

After a 2 week break, the last outreach for the year was held in North Sumatra in the towns of Padang Sidempuan and Medan. PT Agincourt Resources has been sponsoring our North Sumatra outreaches every year since 2011 and for the sixth year running, did so again. Their support is hugely appreciated and we are proud to say that this year at our outreach in North Sumatra we completed 927 surgeries.

The entire team worked incredibly hard over this period. In total we were on the road for over 45 days across a period of three months with a lot of logistical and administrative work to do between trips.

After a 3 month rest, we were ready to start again and headed back to East Java in April 2017. We completed 509 surgeries at our 4th outreach in Jombang, a small regency in East Java. This event was made possible largely by a handful of donors to whom we'd like to express our gratitude. Thank you to Cargill, Allergan International Foundation, VisionQuest (who raised their funds via 6 cyclists who rode from Bangkok to Phuket), Detroit2Nepal Foundation, brides and grooms of a generous Solemnizer in Singapore who donated in lieu of service fee, Roger Lim, Judy Tai and many more generous individual donors.

To our long term partners Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, the Fred Hollows Foundation, HelpMeSee, and everyone who has supported our work, donors, volunteers, influencers, supporters - thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are excited to inform you that Channel 8 Singapore TV is going to air a documentary on our work in mid May 2017. We hope that this piece will provide you, our readers, donors, volunteers and supporters with even more evidence of the incredible impact of your generosity. We look forward to sharing the link to this documentary when it becomes available.

Cover Story :



New Chapter, New Life with **Mutikun**



Mutikun is 30 years old and has had impaired vision since he was just 7. When he attended our outreach event, he could only see shadows.

Although physically young and strong, Mutikun could not contribute financially or in other ways to his family consisting of his parents and 5 siblings.

Helping his family farm their rice paddy was challenging and dangerous - he'd often fall and knock into the buffaloes. But Mutikun's family was too poor to afford surgery for him. Cataract surgery for both eyes, done at an Indonesian hospital by local doctors costs around USD\$1500, (around SGD\$2100). Rice paddy farmers are among Indonesia's poorest, with each farm earning, on average per month, SGD\$188 (Jakarta Post, 6/1/2017).

One month post surgery, Mutikun's vision is not perfect at 6/60 (meaning he can see from 6 metres away what someone with perfect vision can see from 60 metres away). It is common to expect a less hopeful prognosis in adults with long term untreated cataracts extending from childhood. Nonetheless, Mutikun said proudly, I can walk steadily now and help my brothers in the field. His reclaimed vision has made a huge difference to his sense of self and ability to contribute to his family's work.



A New Vision

**TOGETHER WE CAN END
AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS**

anewvision.org



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Singapore Co. Reg. No.
201112819E

If you would like to know more about this, or any other of our ongoing work, please drop us a line at we@anewvision.org

A young boy by the name of **BAGUS ROHMAN**



11 year old Bagus is a young man who was always at the top of his class until he developed cataracts in both eyes. He was visibly teary when he told us at ANV that he missed being able to read. Bagus' parents found a local eye doctor to assess why his eye sight was deteriorating. The doctor explained that Bagus had cataracts and that he should undergo surgery to correct them. But surgery did not proceed, due primarily to the high cost, (an estimated IDR\$20 million – USD\$1,500) but also they were told there was a risk that the cataracts could return in 6 - 12 months (something that is in fact highly unlikely for someone like Bagus). Resolving that there was very little possibility to cure his cataracts, Bagus' parents did their best to help him in other ways.

His Mum read his textbooks to him, and Bagus would listen and try to memorise them. His Mum also asked his teachers to give him some extra attention in class. As a result, Bagus managed to maintain a reasonable performance in class—although he was no longer a top student.

When Bagus' parents heard about ANV's free cataract surgery, they decided to attend and

find out more. His Dad brought Bagus along and they saw Dr. Blanche (ANV volunteer from Singapore National University Hospital). Dr. Blanche urged Bagus to immediately undergo surgery because his cataracts were still in good condition and should be easy to remove. The likelihood of him achieving perfect vision post surgery was considered to be high. But Bagus' Dad, remembering the risks the other doctor had mentioned, was unsure and continued questioning Dr. Blanche.

Whilst Bagus was keen and ready to proceed, his Dad decided to give it a day to think through. The next day though, they returned to the hospital. Bagus was so eager to have his vision restored that he did not need any persuasion to go under local anesthesia, nor did he flinch when each anesthesia needle went into his eyes – a daunting experience for anyone, particularly children.

We were all in awe of this incredibly brave and resolute young boy, Bagus. The day after surgery, eye patches removed and vision already massively improved, Bagus was all smiles and told us that the one thing he couldn't wait to do was to read his books, all by himself.

A Mother's Plight for sight!



INTI HARYANI is a 40 year old Mother who has been blind due to cataracts since she was 35.

When we first met Inti, she constantly looked down, averting her eyes, and spoke very softly. It was clear that she had lost her self confidence. Inti was housebound, unable to leave unless she had someone to



accompany her and reported that she cried frequently, feeling powerless and incredibly sad. Sad for so many reasons but most of all that she couldn't see the face of her 7 year old son and felt that her blindness robbed her of her ability to

care for him in the way she felt a Mother should. She felt useless. "I cannot help him do his homework. How can I help give him a good future?" Inti asked.

A day after surgery, Inti's vision was restored to 6/9 (close to perfect) in both eyes! We met again a month after surgery and Inti told us that she had already started looking for a job. While visiting her, she cooked a delicious meal for us and it was obvious, compared with our first visit, that her home was now well organized and a safe and nurturing place for her son.

We asked Inti what her favorite activity is now that her vision is restored and she said, "EVERYTHING. I could not do anything before. Now I can and I love doing everything."



Hope is in sight for **Latifa!**



LATIFA is 53 year old. She is blind. She lives with her husband. Her husband has been bedridden for the past 6 months from advanced pneumonia.

The couple is dependent on her old mother who lives nearby, for food and to get by. What would happen to them when her mother passes on?

Luckily, this predicament is now averted with Latifa's sights restored.

"I would like to run a small stall out of our house, so I can make a living whilst looking after my husband too". She said.

A NEW VISION FOR NEPAL: REBUILDING SCHOOLS AND ESTABLISHING HEALTH POSTS

As many of you will recall, in April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake. Close to 9,000 people lost their lives and 22,000 people were injured. Many buildings were destroyed—including heritage buildings, monuments, schools and private homes.

Nepal is a country with special significance for us at A New Vision. Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Nepal has been a close partner of ours' from the very beginning, with Dr Ruit of Tilganga being one of ANV's founders. We have many friends in Nepal and were therefore delighted and grateful when the Singapore Red Cross decided to partner with us to support the rebuilding of Nepal.

As an organisation, rebuilding is not our specialty, but we joined forces with incredible partners - the Detroit2Nepal Foundation (D2N.org) and dZi Foundation - both of whom have done notable work in Nepal over the past 6 years.

Our immediate focus was to rebuild schools in order to try to return normality to the lives of effected children as quickly as possible. Our region of focus has been the Khotang district—a very remote area in eastern Nepal reached by plane followed by car followed by a day walk.

We completed construction of three schools in the district in September 2016, while seven more schools continue to be in the process of being rebuilt. In addition to the schools, two health posts - locations where local people effected by the earthquakes can attend for low cost medical treatment - will be completed in the coming months.

On May 4th 2017, to commemorate the second anniversary of the Nepal earthquakes, the

A Homeless Lady Gets Hope in Sight!



Tan Swie Lan, this inspiring woman, Tan Swie Lan who is in her 70s, heard about our cataract surgical event in Central Java over the radio. Homeless and taking shelter at her neighbour's house, Mrs Tan has no other family members.

With her vision limited to just shadows (hand movement) Mrs Tan's resolve to see again was so great that she took a bus to our screening place all alone and arrived stumbling at the front gate. Guide dogs, white canes and other devices for the vision impaired that we in the developed world take for granted are simply unattainable for the very poor in countries like Indonesia. Their lives are far more drastically impacted by their vision loss due to the

lack of visual aids combined with a rudimentary lifestyle.

Although she has no material possessions to speak of, Mrs Tan is a woman of immense dignity. At lunch, as we did for all of our patients, we brought her a lunchbox of rice. Ten minutes later she said, reaching into her pocket to retrieve a few old crumpled notes, "Someone gave me a packet of rice. I haven't paid for the rice yet, how much do I owe?"

Everyone at the event was charmed by this inspiring and very kind lady. She made friends at the outreach and although she arrived alone and blind, she went home with both new sight and new friends - many of whom live in the same village as her.



Taken in front of A New Vision's booth at the exhibition



From left: Chokpa Sherpa (dZi Foundation), Richard Keidan (D2N), Raju Tuladhar (D2N), Lee Siew Yian (A New Vision), Hon. Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman (Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence), Mr Tee Tua Ba (Chairman, Singapore Red Cross) and Mr Benjamin William (Secretary General, Singapore Red Cross)

Singapore Red Cross staged an exhibition in Kathmandu: "Partnerships for Humanity: Rebuilding in Nepal". The guest of honour at this exhibition was Singapore Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Hon. Dr. Mohamad Maliki

Bin Osman. We (ANV) are honoured to have been invited to showcase the rebuilding work we supported. We thank the Singapore Red Cross and the people of Singapore whose donations made this work possible.



RESTORED SIGHT, RESTORES RELATIONSHIP

MUHAMMAD HIKALANA - Ljust 20 months old and the younger of two children in his family. His parents Andri Wijaya and Elawati brought him to ANV outreach in November 2016.

It was when Hikalana could not reach out and grasp his toy that his parents realized their son was vision impaired. Andri however earns a living running a motorbike repair shop and in a good month, he could earn USD\$45 but an average month, just USD\$20. Heartbreakingly, with such low wages, Andri realized he could never afford cataract surgery for his son.

Elawati tries her best to be a good mother, engaging the little boy and speaking to him all the time. The impact of her care is obvious with little Hikalana presenting as an active and smart toddler.

With his sight now fully restored, Hikalana has a much brighter future ahead!

Dr. Teguh Metaputra, the surgeon who operated on Hikalana optimistically said, "He may one day be the leader of our country. You never know." And it's true, you never do know!

BE A PART OF US!

Please write to us if you'd like to know more. Do something life changing - join us as a donor or volunteer.

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