

# Sustainable Development Goals

RPLF may update associated targets at any time.



God created the earth, each of us on it, then gave us dominion over it. As believers in Jesus Christ, we believe it is our duty to seek the highest standards of excellence not only in eyecare, but in integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our efforts to create a world where everybody sees better both physically and spiritually through eyecare, education and discipleship. SDGs are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by addressing the global challenges we face. Ret.Pray.Love.Foundation has taken strategic direction of ensuring that the underserved people of often times isolated communities, are provided access to no cost comprehensive eye exams, vision care services, glasses, ocular health public education training, continuing professional education, and discipleship training. Through our Service-Learning Mission Trips, Eyecare Health Campaigns, Continuing Education and Discipleship Conferences, we are actively contributing and supporting the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals of Good Health & Well-Being, Quality Education, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, Responsible Consumption & Production, and Partnerships for the Goals. Now is the Decade of Action - ten years to change the world. Little by little, we can make an impact. Together, we must act now. This is *our* commitment to further strengthen Ret.Pray.Love.Foundation's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals to build foundations for a peaceful, prosperous, and a people-first sustainable planet.

## Description/Achievement of Initiative.

The world's largest unaddressed disability is uncorrected *poor vision*. Sadly, 1 in 3 people simply cannot see the world clearly which equates to approximately 2.7 Billion people worldwide. Most have lived with visual impairment all of their lives and are needlessly suffering because they do not know that solutions exist. Despite most governments' efforts through their Ministry of Health Departments, an enormous number of unreached vulnerables (including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children) due to crises, inaccessible topography, distance from major metropolitan areas, and the lack of financial freedom to seek ocular health services unfortunately still lack access to eyecare services and education.

Our mission...create a world where everybody sees better both physically and spiritually through eyecare, education and discipleship.

Our goals while in the mission field are to empower people to self-manage ocular health needs, to partner with local health authorities to foster empowerment of Public Service Education programming and to promote sustainable relationships to grow the program in future years, and to partner with faith-based local leaders to form a bridge between physical health to spiritual well-being through prayer and connection to a local church.

## Implementation Methodologies.

Ret.Pray.Love.Foundation's approach to sustainability uses a blended bundle of strategies to address multiple implementation barriers to target determinants at any level of the social ecological model. Examples of our approach include use of evaluative and iterative strategies, adaptation, ongoing training, educational materials, interactive assistance,

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developing interrelationships, patient engagement, media usage, infrastructure changes, and innovative financial strategies.

## **Arrangements for Capacity-Building and Technology Transfer.**

RPLF's vision is to create a world where everybody sees better through eyecare, education and discipleship. Our goals are:

- Providing free eye care to under-privileged nations.
- Utilizing personal gifts to share the Gospel.
- Forming a bridge from physical health to spiritual well-being through prayer and connection to the local church.
- Partnering with local health authorities, facilities, and spiritual leaders.
- Empowering people to self-manage ocular health needs.
- Making better eye care providers through education and interactive/hands-on learning.
- Opening the spiritual eyes of the Optometry profession toward compassionate clinical care.
- Developing corporate partnerships to share in our mission.

Achieving a diverse funding base for our budget, ongoing missions and conferences, and our future is essential. RPLF's committed leadership invests their time, talent and treasure in the Foundation and seeks to secure innovative sources of support that are in line with our Mission, Vision, Values and Goals. The quest for financial stability and fiscal security is being built through an integrated strategic planning process to ensure that Ret.Pray.Love.Foundation will not only maintain its present function but will also continue providing the countries and communities we serve with needed and valued services.

RPLF equips its Visionary Volunteers to achieve our organizational goals with the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes through the creation, implementation, monitoring and review of Stateside and International training programs and continued support.

RPLF adapts its programming to changed social dynamics and focuses on general education and continued professional education development upon the advantages of the information it receives to provide a framework for international cooperation and partnerships in "building an information society for all." RPLF's focus is on ensuring that all people have access to information they can use to enhance their lives.

The number of comprehensive eye examinations performed, vision screenings, eyeglasses prescribed, eyeglasses dispensed, sunglasses dispensed, safety glasses dispensed, low-vision diagnoses, eye disease diagnoses such as dry eye, cataracts, pterygia, glaucoma suspect and diagnoses, Diabetic Retinopathy suspect and diagnoses, artificial tears and medications dispensed, and the number of referrals made to local providers for medical consultations

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and surgeries including: cataract, strabismus, glaucoma, retina, laser treatments, pterygia grafts, and other minor surgeries are tracked and categorized each day. Also tracked are age ranges and genders. RPLF shares clinic metrics with local and national government healthcare officials without compromising patient confidentiality.

## Coordination Mechanisms/Governance Structure.

Achieving the aspirations of the goal and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires coordinated efforts among all partners involved at all levels. The nature and dynamics of existing eyecare health services, education and long-term sustainable development varies across diverse country settings. While respecting this diversity, RPLF seeks to ensure participation by local leaders and governments, avoidance of duplicate efforts, and strengthening coordination mechanisms to secure high-level support, inter-governmental cooperation, and adequate funding.

While mission teams inherently have a tendency to try to retrofit community and stakeholder support, Ret.Pray.Love.Foundation encourages an open and inclusive multi-level participation in the destination we serve so the host community plays a vital role in setting the strategy, delivering actions and activities, and monitoring progress. All partners are able to provide input approving, supporting, or disagreeing with any given action, and may also possess knowledge that our leadership may be unfamiliar with. We require a sustained process of interaction and coauthoring and capacity to control or prevent damaging practices or activities.

## OUR COMMITMENTS...

**#3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.** RPLF strives to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages through eyecare, education and discipleship. We strengthen the capacity of all countries served for early warning, risk, reduction and management of ocular health risks.

**#4 - QUALITY EDUCATION.** More than 80% of what our children learn is through sight and yet 30% of the world's children have a vision problem. Our programs equip children from disadvantaged communities to see clearly, to perform better at school and to improve educational outcomes. *Having the opportunity to see will ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.* RPLF's professional education programming substantially increases the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states. Our Optometrists personally advocate at global, national and local levels to make vision a priority in school health programs as well as in local communities. By 2030, RPLF seeks to have substantially increased the number of youth and adults who understand self-managed

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ocular health education and to have eliminated gender disparities for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

**#8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.** Close to 30% of the world's workforce has poor vision. And over half of those are aware they have a problem and it can be corrected with glasses. By correcting vision in women, men, young persons and persons with disabilities, RPLF empowers them to achieve full and productive employment, decent work, education and training which then leads to higher levels of economic activities, productivity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and an increase in per capita economic growth.

**#10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES.** As believers in Jesus Christ, RPLF adheres to a Standard of Excellence we pray gives glory to God. Our policies and programs are universal in principle, paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized, while empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. By bringing our inclusive eyecare clinics, self-managed ocular health PSAs, professional continuing education programs, and discipleship training programs where the need is greatest, RPLF is able to positively impact individuals and communities while encouraging local government, health and spiritual leaders to regulate, monitor and ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities.

**#12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION.** By streamlining our resources and consumption practices, efficiently using energy and water, recycling waste and up cycling reusable items, adopting energy-efficient technologies, and reducing our carbon footprint overall both in the office and in the mission field, RPLF strives to lead by example while achieving responsible consumption and production patterns consistent with the goals set by the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development.

**#17 - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS.** Partnerships between governments, business and civil society are proven to be the most effective way to achieve strong development outcomes. By strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, RPLF provides assistance in developing solutions, engages in dialogue with public and private stakeholders, promotes advocacy and raising awareness, provides expert consultancy services and collaborates with the academic world to generate new ideas for joint solutions, among other initiatives.

RPLF Visionary Partnerships can enhance progress in all development areas. Collaborations, communications and coordination of all internal and external participants creates a greater impact with available resources in the country and community with which we have partnered.