

# Advancing inclusive data at Sightsavers: 2024 annual review



March 2025



Sightsavers

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## Cover image

Portraits of Angeshita July at her house in Nyambiro village in Chikwawa.

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# Introduction

This end-of-year report details the progress Sightsavers has made with its inclusive data internal work plan for 2024, providing a comprehensive overview of the inclusive data initiatives undertaken across our inclusion and health programmes.

Our workplan plays a crucial role in tracking progress towards the strategic objectives outlined in Sightsavers' **Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan for 2024-27** and our **Vision and Approach to Inclusive Data**.

We made important overall progress with all our workplan objectives, including:

- Enhancing internal knowledge and practice
- Improving engagement with partners
- Strengthening reporting and accountability mechanisms
- Advocating for governments to enhance their policies, systems and processes in order to improve the collection, analysis and use of inclusive data

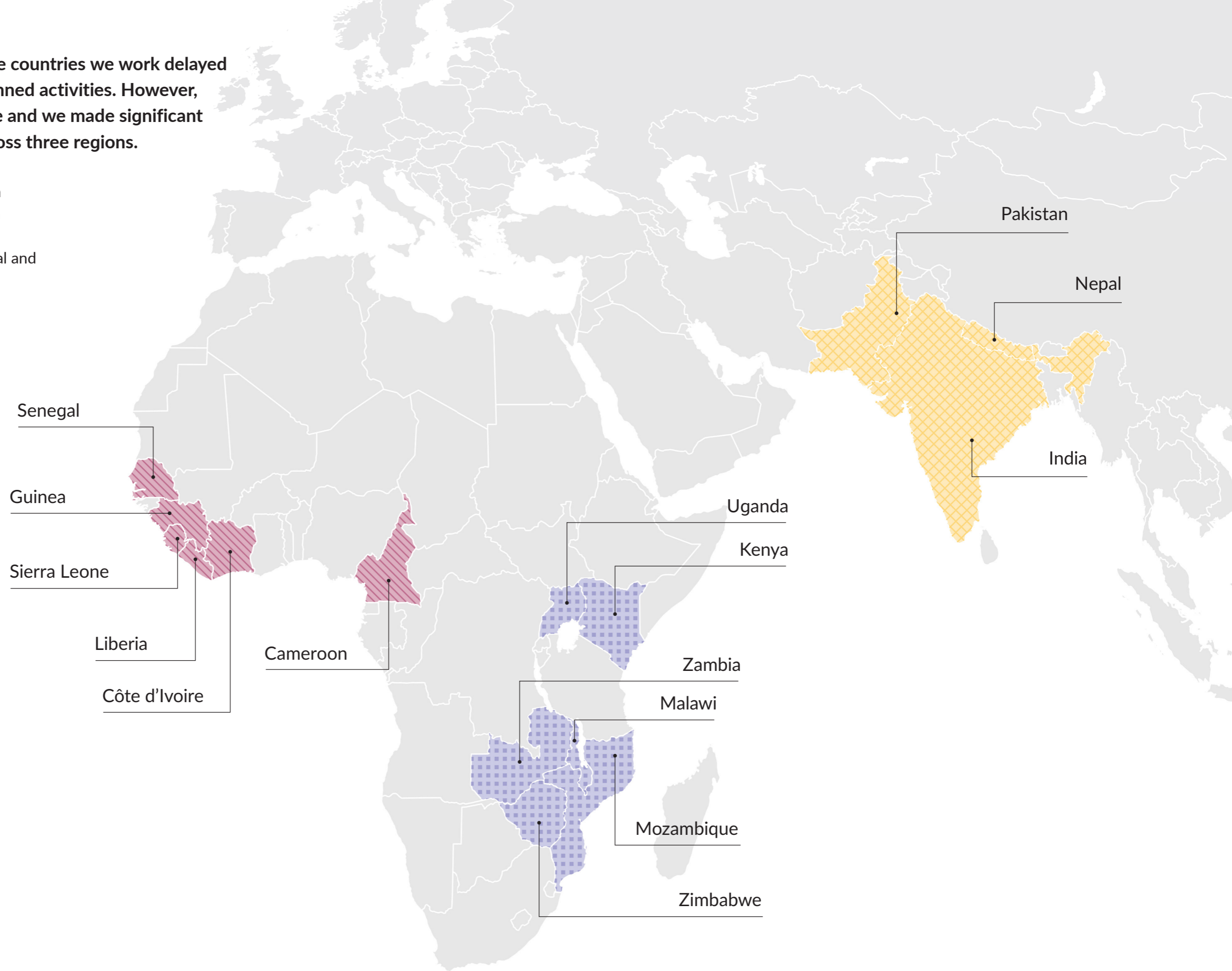


Patience Asantewaah a disease control officer at Daboase having a discussion with Alberta on how to manage and clean her leg. This is a routine to check up make sure the patients are going according to the disease management guide.

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Political instability in some of the countries we work delayed the implementation of some planned activities. However, the overall picture is still positive and we made significant progress in fifteen countries across three regions.

- Six countries in the West Africa Regional Office (WARO) region
- Six countries in the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region
- Three countries in Asia



# Key progress areas in 2024

111

Participants from government and civil society organisations attended workshops on inclusive data organised by Sightsavers

118

Participants attended Sightsavers' inclusive data network webinars

9

Inclusive data learning events were organised by Sightsavers, including workshops and webinars

## Objective one

Improve internal knowledge and practice to strengthen evidence and learning on how we collect, analyse and use inclusive data.

- ✓ We reviewed our inclusive data collection guidance notes and indicator reference guides. These help to ensure transparency, clarity and consistency in project design across our health and inclusion projects.
- ✓ We collected baseline qualitative data on the participation of people with disabilities in local development councils in **Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Senegal**.
- ✓ In November 2024, we published a research paper on the **assessment of the education management information system** in Sierra Leone and its potential to enhance disability inclusion.
- ✓ We reviewed the incorporation of inclusive data in our learning questions across our education, social inclusion and health thematic areas, and identified areas which we will improve in 2025.

## Objective two

Work with local, national and global partners to increase awareness and the capacity to collect, analyse and use inclusive data to improve service delivery.

- ✓ We launched the Sightsavers Inclusive Data Network in June 2024, featuring a **webinar** series that included 118 participants comprised of Sightsavers staff as well as our partners CBM Global, the International Disability Alliance (IDA), and Humanity and Inclusion. Together, we discussed case studies on supporting disability-inclusive national data systems in **Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Nepal and Pakistan**.
- ✓ We collaborated with the IDC Secretariat and the **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data** (GPSDD) to share insights on developing and implementing IDC action plans. We also organised training on localising inclusive data for our data values advocates.
- ✓ In April 2024, we collaborated with GPSDD to publish a blog on our experience in **localising inclusive data across two local councils in Cameroon**. Additionally, GPSDD's November Data Values Digest featured a blog highlighting **Sightsavers' successful inclusive data advocacy in Pakistan**, which led to the incorporation of disability-disaggregated data in **Pakistan's 2023 population census** for the first time.
- ✓ In **Cameroon**, we supported the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development to join the IDC network and completed a situational analysis on the inclusivity of its current data systems and processes. The findings of this analysis will inform the development of the ministry's IDC action plan and advance the localisation of disability disaggregated data.
- ✓ In **Sierra Leone**, we collaborated with the GPSDD and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to review their national IDC action plan.
- ✓ In **Liberia**, we held workshops in all fifteen counties to introduce the IDC to local eye health stakeholders including the National Statistical Office and the Ministry of Interior and Health. These workshops culminated in a resolution document signed by all fifteen counties, calling on the government to join the IDC network to accelerate implementation of the local development act by making use of disaggregated data.



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Josephine Conteh, student and youth disability advocate, with Alusine Brima Conteh, OPD leader, mentor, and neighbor to Josephine Conteh, having their weekly mentoring session at Josephine Conteh's in Karene.

### Objective four

Continue to advocate for governments and development organisations to improve their policies, systems and processes aimed at collecting, analysing and using inclusive data.

- ✔ We collaborated with the National Statistical Office and organisations of people with disabilities to support the inclusion of the Washington Group Questions (WGQs) on disability in **Uganda's 2024 population census.**
- ✔ In **Côte d'Ivoire**, Sightsavers, working with the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, developed an advocacy plan to enhance the collection and use of disability-disaggregated data. This included joining the IDC.
- ✔ We supported voluntary national reviews (VNR) on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in **Guinea, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe.** The need to improve the availability and use of disability-disaggregated data was emphasised in the **Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe** reviews.

### Objective three

Diversify resource mobilisation, engage new supporters and strengthen Sightsavers' reporting and accountability mechanisms in order to meet our commitments on inclusive data.

- ✔ Our inclusive data workplan was put in place. This was the first internal workplan to be collectively owned by teams across Sightsavers. The plan offers a structured approach by directing inclusive data activities across different teams each year.
- ✔ We integrated inclusive data questions into the new Sightsavers project design process checklist. This important addition will enable project design teams to discuss relevant categories for data disaggregation when they are designing projects.
- ✔ **India** has improved data disaggregation within its management information system, and inclusion programmes now collect gender-disaggregated data.



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Isha Kamara talks with grader Ibrahim Sellu before an eye examination

# Ongoing Challenges

We encountered the following three challenges while implementing our 2024 inclusive data workplan:

## 1. Political instability

Changes in government across **Senegal** and **Sierra Leone** delayed programme operations in the first half of the year. This proved to be a significant challenge to implementing inclusive data initiatives.

## 2. Collection and use of disability disaggregated data

The collection of disability-disaggregated data using the WGQs and their integration into national data systems remains an ongoing challenge.

## 3. Capturing inclusive data activities

Our 2024 internal workplan did not fully capture all of the inclusive data activities across Sightsavers. This meant that some achievements were overlooked during knowledge sharing events and reporting. In 2025, we will conduct a mapping exercise and create a central process for capturing ongoing inclusive data activities.

# Lessons learned

The following three areas have been identified as important learning points to help us improve in the future:

## 1. Advancing collaboration

Launched in 2024, the Sightsavers' Inclusive Data Network has significantly enhanced collaboration and learning among inclusive data stakeholders, both internally and with key partners such as **CBM Global** and **Humanity & Inclusion**.

## 2. Work planning

The creation of our inclusive data internal workplan has proved to be decisive and valuable, enabling teams to identify priorities both within their own teams and within others. The workplan has also been highly

effective as a tool to monitor and report on progress towards our organisational goals on inclusive data.

## 3. Localising inclusive data

Ongoing decentralisation processes across West and Central Africa provide a unique opportunity to localise inclusive data. Decentralisation mechanisms provide a framework for engaging with local actors to enhance inclusive local development through the collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data.

# Our plans for 2025

The following are key areas of work that will be integrated into our 2025 plan:



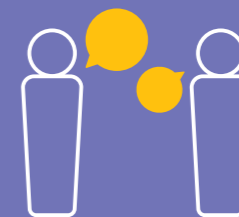
**Research in Mozambique on disability and economic status following cataract surgery and advancing our thematic learning questions on inclusive data**



**Developing national IDC action plans in Cameroon, finalising the reviewed action plan in Sierra Leone and engaging national stakeholders in Liberia**



**Advancing the disability data project in collaboration with **CBM Global, IDA** and the **Center for Inclusive Policy****



**Engaging with external partners at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) to share our commitments, progress and learning on inclusive data**

We work with partners in low and middle income countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

[www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org)

Read Sightsavers' vision and approach to inclusive data at [www.sightsavers.org/programmes/inclusive-data](http://www.sightsavers.org/programmes/inclusive-data)



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