

Solomon Islands



Population¹	778,472
Prevalence of Blindness (Projection)²	1.8%
Prevalence of Diabetes (Projection)³	19.8%
Most common causes of vision impairment⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataract • Diabetic retinopathy • Refractive error • Trauma
Health expenditure⁵	US \$106 per capita (5% of GDP)
Key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health and Medical Services • National Referral Hospital • Regional Eye Centre • National Eye Care Coordinator

¹ Pacific Community, Pacific Data Hub, Mid-Year Population Estimate, <https://pacificdata.org/>

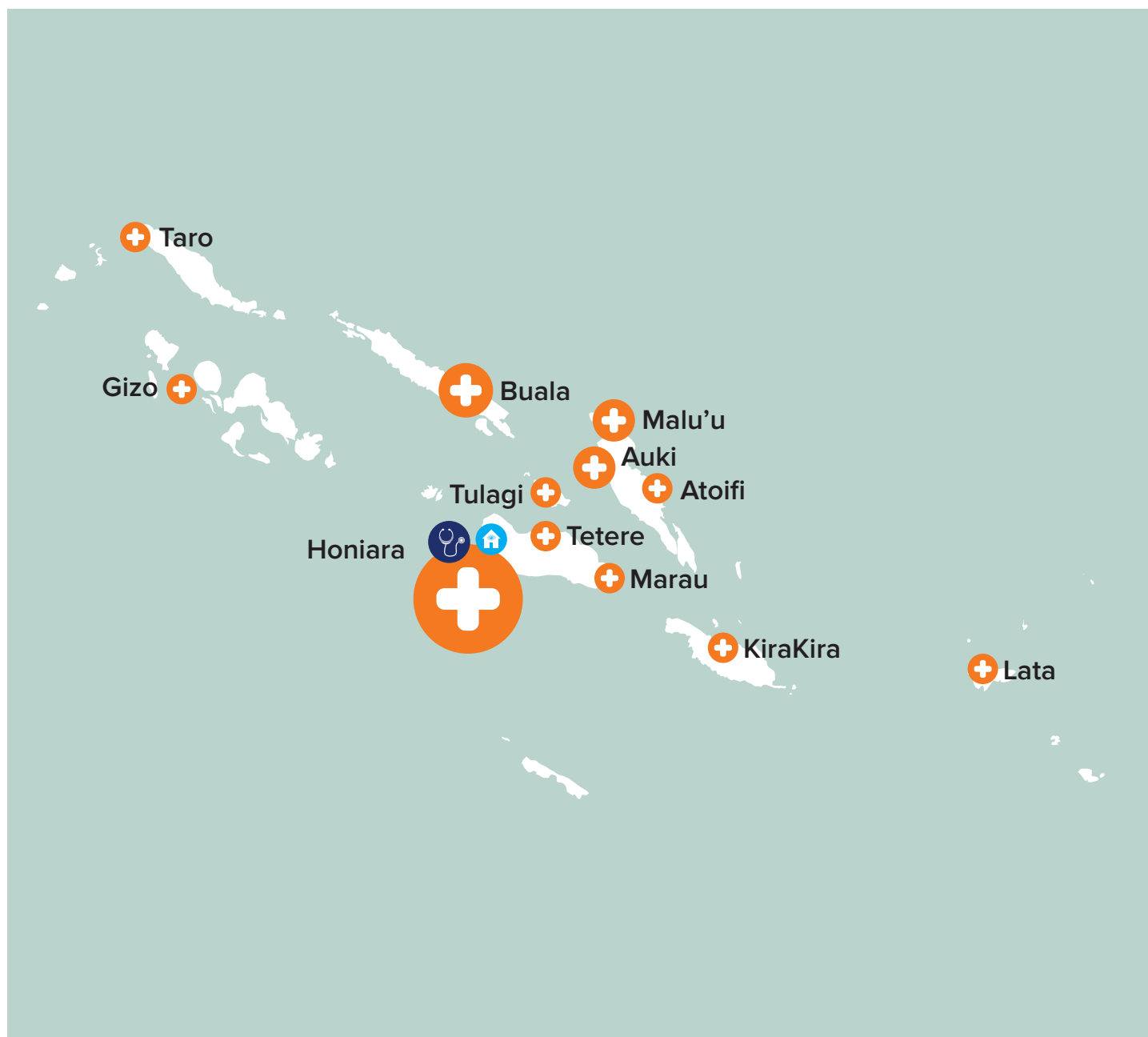
² Solomon Islands Government, <https://solomons.gov.sb/be-aware-of-your-own-eye-health/#:~:text=In%20Solomon%20Islands%2C%20the%20rate,to%20get%20their%20eyes%20checked.>

³ Diabetes Federation Atlas, <https://diabetesatlas.org/data/en/>

⁴ IAPB World Vision Atlas, <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>

⁵ WHO Global Health Expenditure Database, https://apps.who.int/nha/database/country_profile/Index/en

Eye care workforce



5 active eye doctors*
(of which 4 are Foundation-sponsored graduates)

Honiara: 5



36 active eye nurses*
(of which 32 are Foundation-sponsored graduates)

Atoifi: 1 / Auki: 2 / Buala: 3 / Gizo: 1 / Honiara: 23 / KiraKira: 1 / Lata: 1 / Malu'u: 1 / Taro: 1 / Tetere: 1 / Tulagi: 1



1 eye clinic supported by The Foundation

Regional Eye Centre, Honiara

* This number can fluctuate annually and does include private practitioners.

Eye care training outcomes

In total

5 Foundation-sponsored eye doctor graduates⁶.

1 Foundation-sponsored trainee eye doctors⁷.

42 Foundation-sponsored eye nurse graduates⁸.

In 2023

1 eye doctor graduated with a Master of Medicine in Ophthalmology from Fiji National University.

2 eye nurses graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Eye Care from Fiji National University.

The National Eye Conference conducted at the Regional Eye Centre was attended by 55 local eye care clinicians from across the country.

2023 Key Highlights

9,784 consultations provided.

1,744 diabetic retinopathy screenings conducted.

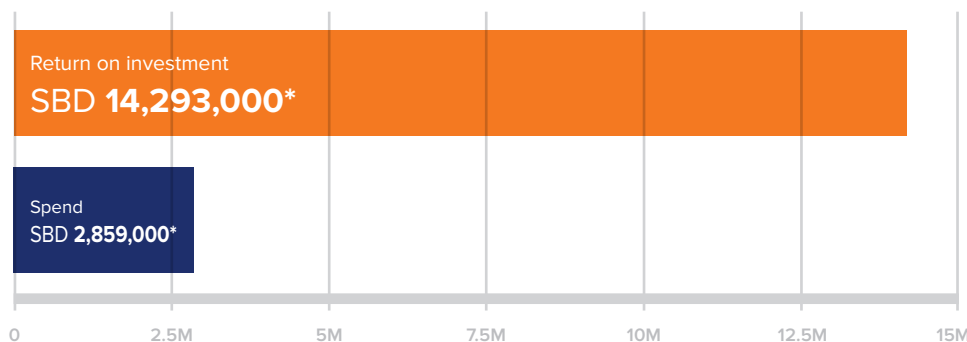
822 sight-saving surgeries performed.

335 diabetic retinopathy treatments provided.

1,483 spectacles were dispensed.

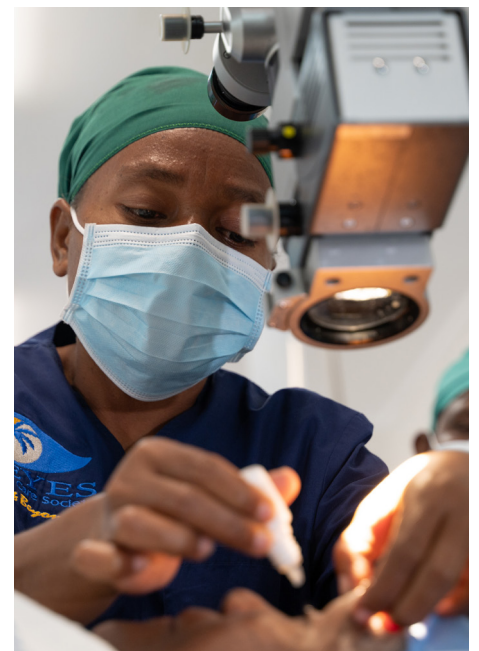
13 outreaches made eye care services accessible to remote communities across Solomon Islands.

Return on investment 2023



Programme funding in NZD was \$564,000* with a return on investment of \$2.8 million*.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust funded a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)⁹ that measured the economic benefit of investing in vision. The study demonstrated that for every \$1 invested in tackling avoidable blindness in the Commonwealth, \$5 is returned in economic value.



⁶ Completed Masters of Medicine in Ophthalmology. First eye doctor trained in 2009.

⁷ Completed Post Graduate Diploma in Ophthalmology.

⁸ First eye nurse trained in 2006.

* These figures are approximate.

⁹ PriceWaterhouseCoopers 2018: Investing in vision making a difference across the Commonwealth, www.hollows.org.nz