



**sense**  
international

# Achieving more, globally

Our impact 2023/2024



# Stronger, together

Reflections from Richard Kramer, our Chief Executive



We've reached even more people this year, which is so important as we begin to better understand the scale of the barriers, inequalities and exclusion faced by people with deafblindness.

Lack of credible data is one of the key reasons for significant gaps in law, policy, and services for people with deafblindness. We're proud to have supported the Global Reports on Deafblindness, which present some of the only data available. The second of these, published in 2023, provides valuable insight to raise awareness and understanding of deafblindness. In turn, that allows us to continue to break down barriers and unlock potential, so people with disabilities can thrive.

We're also proud to have ensured people with deafblindness are at the heart of our decisions and influencing. Our advocacy is driving change in national laws, policies and budgets, and improving support for people with deafblindness and their families, for generations to come. As highlighted in this report, this means we are building a sustainable infrastructure for meaningful inclusion of people with deafblindness.

As I reflect in my last few months as CEO of Sense and Sense International, I am so proud to lead an organisation with such a strong impact.

By working together, we can achieve lasting change for people with deafblindness in the world's poorest countries. Join us to show that, when people with deafblindness are included, we all have a stronger future.

Find out more about the difference we're making

→ [senseinternational.org.uk/our-impact](https://senseinternational.org.uk/our-impact)

## Thanks from our Chair, Rex Shah

It would not be possible to deliver this incredible work without the dedication of our staff and teams in the UK and across the world. Their commitment and hard work are immense, and I thank them all.

Together with our partner organisations, much has been achieved over the last year. Working side by side with organisations led by people with disabilities and their families, we are delivering life-changing programmes in eight countries.

There's still more to do, but as we celebrate our 30th anniversary milestone, we're even more determined to continue to challenge the systems and break barriers to enable more people with deafblindness to reach their potential.



This year we increased our reach through programmes in early identification and intervention, inclusive education, vocational skills, and training and advocacy.



Innovating, informing and influencing are a huge part of our work, ensuring we build the most sustainable impact across the countries we operate in.



# Our year at a glance



**70,887**

children screened for deafblindness ensuring we reach children as soon as possible. 967 children received early intervention therapy and support.



**5,585**

children with deafblindness supported to access education and realise their right to learn.



**1,180**

young people with deafblindness were supported with vocational training or opportunities to earn across our eight countries.



**9,178**

people were trained to support people with deafblindness, including parents, teachers and health workers.



**£3.1 million**

was raised by amazing supporters like you.



**92p** in every **£1**

raised was used to support and advocate for people with deafblindness. The other 8p was used to generate more funds to further our work.



**2,200**

hours were given by volunteers directly supporting our training and work with people with deafblindness.




**4 out of 60**


recommendations submitted to G20 leaders at 2023's G20 Summit referenced persons with deafblindness.




Two occupational therapists hired by our early intervention project in Kenya are now fully integrated into government payroll, with **two** more in the process of being recruited.




In Nepal, following tactile sign language workshops conducted by our partners, the Ministry of Education has committed to sustaining the programme and allocating budget.



In Peru, we received an award recognising our educational inclusion project for children in **eight** neglected regions of Peru.

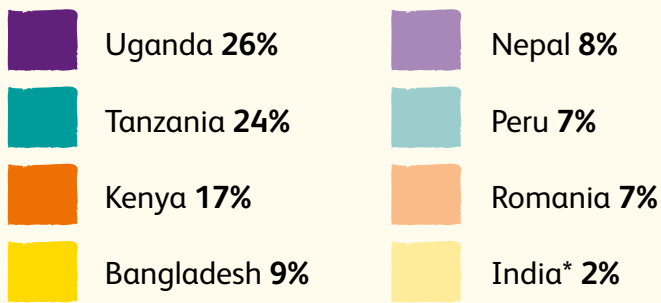


In Romania, we're supporting **44** people with deafblindness to establish the country's first Association of People with Deafblindness.



The National Centre for Special Education (NCSE) in Bangladesh has incorporated deafblindness in their draft Bachelor of Science Education curriculum, so, for the first time, education on deafblindness will be included in the curriculum.

The split of our expenditure between the countries where we work was as follows:



\*Sense International India is an independent charity that raises its own funds. Its expenditure on programmes in India is not included in these figures. Sense International UK is represented on the Board of Sense International India, and we work together to implement programmes in Bangladesh and Nepal.

## And to all our supporters...

## Thank you

With very special thanks to:

- Active Citizens Fund Romania
- CareTech Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Deaf Child Worldwide
- Educational Opportunity Foundation
- Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission
- Halcrow Foundation
- Hodge Foundation
- John and Sarah Rockliff (Friends of the Reed Foundation)
- John Lewis Partnership Foundation
- Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa
- Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.
- Medicor Foundation
- MJB Charitable Trust
- MTN Foundation
- Nelumbo Foundation
- Orange Foundation Romania
- Rupin and Madhavi Vadera
- Sunil Shah
- Synevo Romania with the support of Medcover Association
- Terry Williams
- The Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada
- The Hollyhock Charitable Foundation
- The Priory Foundation
- The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation – Latin American Children's Trust (LACT) Programme
- The Souter Charitable Trust
- Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust

# Giving every child the right to an education

**Tanjin's early years were marked by isolation and hardship, but all that changed with support from Sense International.**

Tanjin was born with complex disabilities, including partial vision, partial hearing and difficulty using his hands. Living in a family of four in Bangladesh, his parents faced constant financial strain. Despite their deep love and care for Tanjin, they struggled with how to best support him, and they felt lost.

At school, Tanjin was often left alone in a room, secluded and disconnected from his peers. At home, he experienced discrimination from neighbours and the shame his parents felt meant he was excluded from social gatherings.

That all changed when one of our deafblind field educators came into contact with Tanjin. He supported him with regular occupational therapy and nutritional advice to improve his health conditions. He also worked with him


to develop essential life skills, including the everyday tasks we all need to do, like eating and bathing, as well as communication, orientation, mobility, and pre-school skills.

The outlook for Tanjin began to change immediately. Day by day, the once lonely and isolated boy was transforming into a confident child, ready to embrace the world.

In January 2023, Tanjin was enrolled into a mainstream school with support from our team. He is now flourishing, is enjoying going to school like the other children his age, and has made new friends to play with.

Tanjin's progress has brought hope and joy to his family, proving that, with the right support, every child can learn and thrive.

To see more stories about our work visit  
→ [senseinternational.org.uk/our-stories](https://senseinternational.org.uk/our-stories)



**“We are so grateful to Sense International and the Centre for Disability in Development for their support of our son. We want Tanjin to receive higher education and lead a dignified life in society,”**

Tanjin's parents

It's because of your generosity that we're able to support people with deafblindness, and their families, at every stage of life. Right across the globe. Thank you.



To learn more about the work you've helped us carry out over the last year, head to our website via the QR code or URL below:



[senseinternational.org.uk/our-impact](https://senseinternational.org.uk/our-impact)



## We're Sense International

Our vision is of a world where all people with deafblindness are equal and active members of society. We are dedicated to supporting people with deafblindness to live, learn and thrive.

We work across eight countries: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda.

If you, or someone you know, needs this information in a different format, such as large print or braille, please contact our supporter services team using the details below.

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