



Sight is a Right

May 4, 2026

Colombia 2026 Mission Report

Dear Sight is a Right Partners, Sponsors, Supporters, and Volunteers,

Our inaugural mission to Colombia was a great success. The team fell in love with the culture and the people – who were so kind and gracious to us. We amazingly served 2050 patients in two communities over 5 days, with our small team of 24 overseas volunteers. Many patients commented with gratitude that they had never received the free services we offered. Many wore glasses, but most of their glasses were old and needed to be replaced.



Our primary partners and sponsors were Policia Cívica de Mayores DEVAL, Policia Cívica de Mayores MECAL, Policia Nacional de Colombia – led and organized by Señor Christian Alvarez and Señor Enrique Villota.

Our volunteers, all from the US, flew into Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport in Palmira on Saturday, April 18th. All of our equipment and supplies were hand carried by the team into the country. We spent our first three nights in Palmira in an elegant home on a beautiful, gated compound. We split up the remainder of the mission, lodging at Club Campestre de Cali, La Torre de Cali, Hotel Azor, and Hotel Sonesta. On the second Saturday and Sunday we relaxed with excursions to a beautiful river, shopping in Palmira, and a hike to Cristo Rey for a breathtaking view of Cali.

Our first clinic was located in the town of Palmira at the Junta de Acción Comunal El Prador on April 20th and April 21st. Crowds formed each day for life-changing eye care services including health screenings, full eye exams with pathology, referrals, medications (predominately for glaucoma), pan-retinal photocoagulation (PRP) laser treatment, sunglasses, reading glasses, pre-made prescription glasses, and custom prescription glasses – where patients chose their own frames, to be delivered in ~2 months.



Our second clinic was held at Universidad de Santiago Cali from April 22nd to April 24th. Again we were met with large crowds each day providing all of the same services. The patients in both communities were a delight to serve.

Our doctors diagnosed a wide variety of ocular disease with almost 13% of all patients examined exhibiting a pathology. Most received referrals (~250 patients) for follow-up treatment of their condition, predominately cataract, glaucoma, and pterygium. Our patients exhibited a surprisingly small occurrence of diabetic retinopathy despite the relatively high prevalence of diabetes mellitus and hypertension in the population. They also exhibited a surprisingly small amount of pterygium considering that they reside in an area with a high UV index. As always, we counselled on the importance of wearing sunglasses, and made sure everyone left with a good quality pair as part of our complete care. Canes for the blind were also provided as needed.



Pathology Spotlight:

A 38-year-old female with diabetes presented to our Palmira clinic with advanced proliferative diabetic retinopathy in both eyes. Her right eye had already progressed to a macula-off tractional retinal detachment, resulting in severe vision loss. In contrast, the retina in her left eye remained attached, but was at high risk for similar progression. She reported ongoing follow-up with local eye care providers but had not yet received definitive treatment for either eye due to prolonged wait times for clinical and surgical care.

During the mission, panretinal photocoagulation (PRP) was performed in the left eye using a portable Norlase LION green argon laser. Treatment was directed to the peripheral ischemic retina to reduce angiogenic drive and mitigate the risk of neovascular complications, including vitreous hemorrhage and tractional retinal detachment.

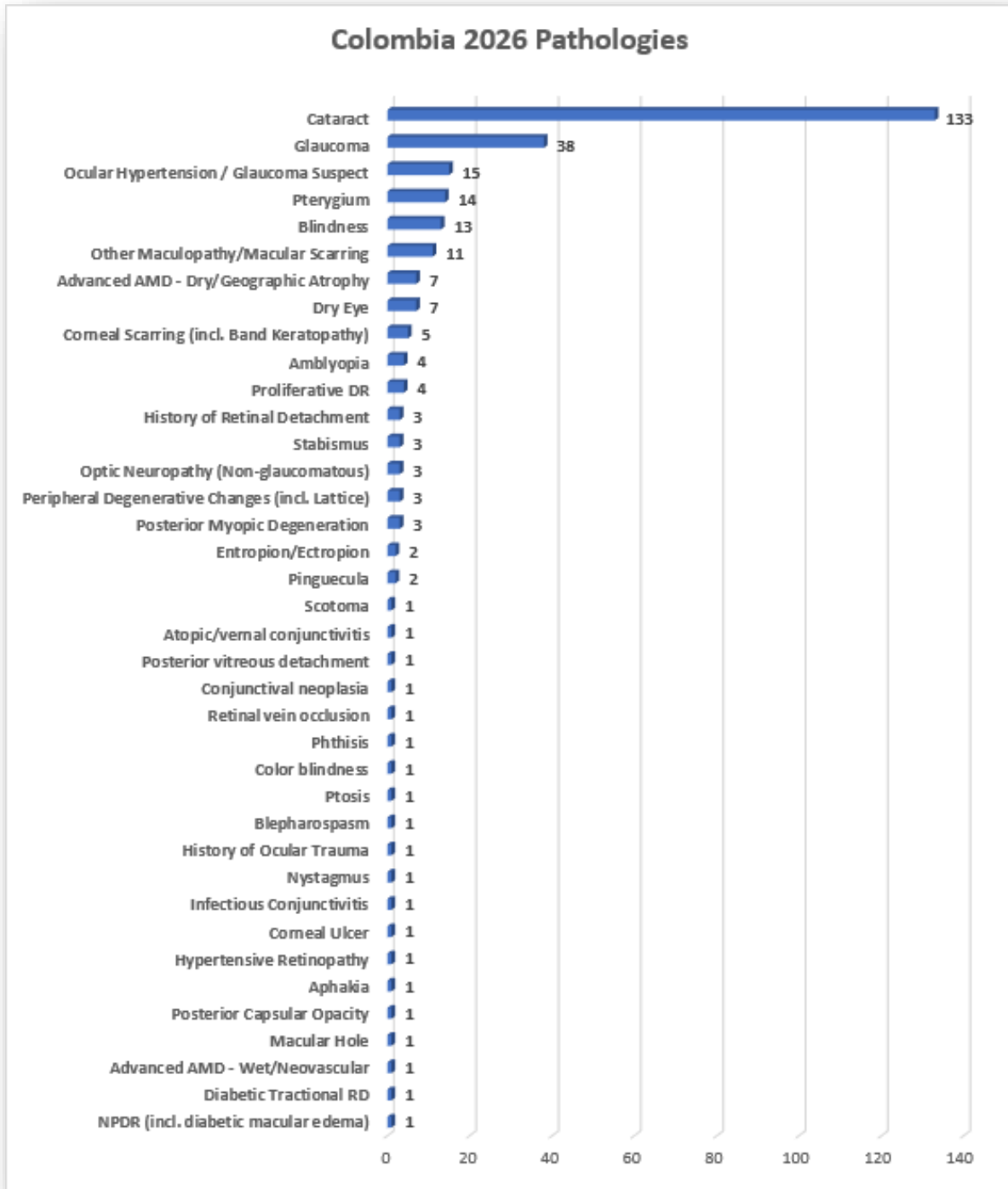
This timely intervention has the potential to preserve vision in the left eye and prevent the same devastating outcome observed in the right. This case underscores the critical importance of access to timely retinal care and demonstrates how targeted laser treatment, even in resource-limited settings, can alter the natural course of disease and prevent avoidable blindness.

The pathologies diagnosed are as follows:

| | Total | % All Pathologies | % All Pathology Patients | % All Patients |
|---|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Total Pathologies: | 290 | | | |
| Cataract | 133 | 45.9% | 49.3% | 6.49% |
| Glaucoma | 38 | 13.1% | 14.1% | 1.85% |
| Ocular Hypertension / Glaucoma Suspect | 15 | 5.2% | 5.6% | 0.73% |
| Pterygium | 14 | 4.8% | 5.2% | 0.68% |
| Blindness | 13 | 4.5% | 4.8% | 0.63% |
| Other Maculopathy/Macular Scarring | 11 | 3.8% | 4.1% | 0.54% |
| Dry Eye | 7 | 2.4% | 2.6% | 0.34% |
| Advanced AMD - Dry/Geographic Atrophy | 7 | 2.4% | 2.6% | 0.34% |
| Corneal Scarring (incl. Band Keratopathy) | 5 | 1.7% | 1.9% | 0.24% |
| Proliferative DR | 4 | 1.4% | 1.5% | 0.20% |
| Amblyopia | 4 | 1.4% | 1.5% | 0.20% |
| Posterior Myopic Degeneration | 3 | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.15% |
| Peripheral Degenerative Changes (incl. Lattice) | 3 | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.15% |
| Optic Neuropathy (Non-glaucomatous) | 3 | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.15% |
| Stabismus | 3 | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.15% |
| History of Retinal Detachment | 3 | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.15% |
| Pinguecula | 2 | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.10% |
| Entropion/Ectropion | 2 | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.10% |
| NPDR (incl. diabetic macular edema) | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Diabetic Tractional RD | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Advanced AMD - Wet/Neovascular | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Macular Hole | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Posterior Capsular Opacity | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Aphakia | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Hypertensive Retinopathy | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Corneal Ulcer | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Infectious Conjunctivitis | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Nystagmus | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| History of Ocular Trauma | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Blepharospasm | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Ptosis | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Color blindness | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Phthisis | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Retinal vein occlusion | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Conjunctival neoplasia | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Posterior vitreous detachment | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Atopic/vernal conjunctivitis | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |
| Scotoma | 1 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.05% |



As is typical of our clinics, many of the patients with glaucoma were not aware of their disease. They were slowly losing their eyesight, starting with their peripheral vision going inward, irreparably. It is a blessing to inform them of their condition and start them on eye drops which will save their remaining sight. Patients with glaucoma were given a 6-month supply of intraocular-pressure-lowering eye drops, and were instructed to follow-up with a local eye clinic.



The metrics for Colombia 2026 are as follows:

- Clinic locations in Palmira and Cali, Colombia
- 5 days of clinic from April 20th to April 24th, 2026
- Sight is a Right team of 24 from the United States:
 - 5 optometrists, 1 MD, 1 RN, 5 opticians, and 12 supporting volunteers
 - plus several local volunteers
- 2,050 vision exams performed
 - 930 at Palmira Clinic (April 20th – 21st)
 - 1,120 at Cali Clinic (April 22nd – 24th)
- 3 PRP laser procedures performed for proliferative diabetic retinopathy
- 1,039 pairs of prescription glasses:
 - 1,020 to be fabricated in the US and returned to our patients in ~2 months
 - 19 pre-made pairs distributed in clinic
 - Almost 51% of clinic patients required prescription glasses
 - This is the highest ratio we have seen for number of glasses per patient. We are not sure why this is the case.
 - This is a new record for glasses made for a clinic, exceeding our previous record by 121 pairs
- Distributed ~2,116 pairs of sunglasses
- Distributed ~1,734 pairs of reading glasses
- Distributed medications worth over US\$337,031
- Performed over 1,000 health screenings for hypertension and diabetes
- Referred ~250 patients for cataract surgery and other pathologies



The estimated value of goods and services delivered for our Colombia 2026 mission is incredibly **US\$884,646**.

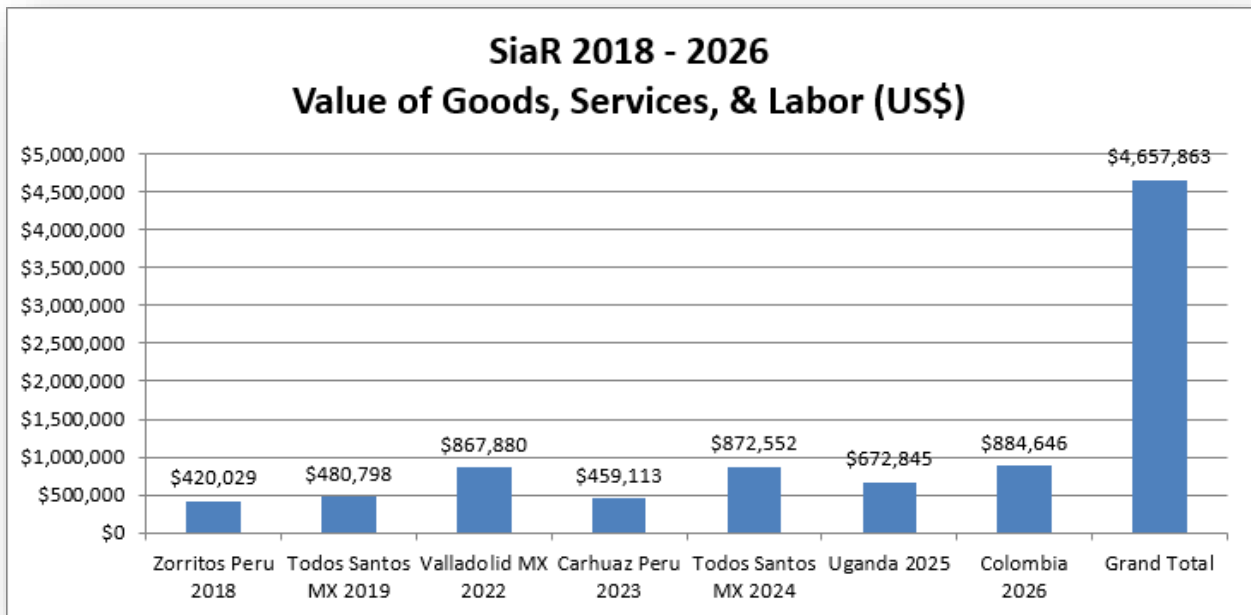
We dedicate all of this work, performed from our hearts, to the blessed memory of Paul Yizar. Rest in power!

Sight is a Right has no paid members or staff. We are a 100% volunteer organization:

- We were able to realize ~US\$83.10 in support for every US\$1.00 spent (overall value)
 - Our total overhead for goods and services delivered is only 1.2% (cost)
 - This means 98.8 cents of every dollar spent went directly to provide goods and services



- We have delivered over US\$4.657 million in goods, services, and labor since our first mission in 2018. This includes serving 16,461 patients and distributing 34,980 pairs of glasses.



This outreach could not be accomplished without the tremendous support of our partners, sponsors, supporters, and volunteers.

Huge respect to our primary partners and hosts Señor Christian Alvarez and Señor Enrique Villota. We greatly appreciate your hospitality and all of the support you provided to ensure our mission was a huge success. Your dedication and love for your people is readily apparent. I know this mission was a dream of yours, and it has been a great honor for us to partake in it. Your trust and support is greatly appreciated. Keep doing great things for the people of Colombia. You both have powerful servant hearts. We were proud to serve with you and the police of Cali and Palmira.



Much respect to our many local volunteers who helped in both clinics with translation and many other tasks. Your assistance allowed us to serve and communicate with many more patients which allowed us to achieve the numbers we did.

Many thanks to our stateside supporters and sponsors – ABB Optical Group, Eye Believe Foundation, Drs. Travis and Jenna Zigler, americares, Quest Vision Care Specialty Lab, Michael Walach, Great Shape! Inc. iCARE, National Vision, Eight to Eighty Eyewear Inc., Restoring Vision, Dr. Tim Lynch, Yetta Jean Stern, Kurt Fischer, Leon & Robyn Andris, Cheryl Goldberg, and Brenda Travis. Your steadfast sustenance makes all of this work possible.



Huge thanks and appreciation to our local supporters and sponsors:

- In Palmira: Policia Cívica de Mayores DEVAL, Policia Cívica de Mayores MECAL, Policia Nacional de Colombia, Personería Municipal de Palmira, Fundacion Palmira Nuestro Territorio, Panaderia la Gondolita, Empresa LISSTOS, Licores Tijuana, Junta de Acción Comunal El Prado, and Hacienda El Incanto.
- In Cali: Universidad Santiago de Cali, Club Campestre, Hotel Torre de Cali, Hotel Azor, Hotel Sonesta, Fabio Prado, Librería Nacional, Carlos Gómez, Colombina César Caicedo, Mario Córdoba, Juancho Correlón, Mario Casafranco, Andrés Alzate, Jhon Jairo Ramírez, Mauricio Mejía, Fundación Cívica de Cali, and Diego Pardo.

Big up to the board members of Sight is a Right for your stewardship of our small but highly effective organization: Dr. Alex Pinhas, Jason Forbes, Dr. Kathy Ward, Dr. Craig Bowen, and Dr. Gabriela Miller.



And finally, deep, heartfelt gratitude and respect to all of our Sight is a Right Colombia 2026 mission team volunteers who travelled far, donated to our cause, and worked tirelessly to serve a grateful and deserving community with grace and love: Alexander Alvarez, Dr. Alexander Pinhas, Alison Fleming, Amy Arcand, Ashley Lacourse, Bella Fidalgo, Ben Shoop, Eduardo Garcia, Eryn Halford, Dr. Gabriela Miller, Jamita Yizar, Joanne Harris, Joseph Smith, Dr. Khanh Le, Lisa Jackson, Marjorie Murrey, Myles Stith, Neal Arcand, Dr. Neerja Lyder, Philip Lynch, Sean Lynch, Dr. Stephanie Emmert, and Dr. Timothy Lynch . You are my heroes as well as heroes to the people of Palmira and Cali. I love you all for your inspirational, selfless service to others, and your willingness to do what few others are willing to do. Keep being awesome!



“Humans are divided into different clans and tribes, and belong to countries and towns. But I find myself a stranger to all communities and belong to no settlement. The universe is my country and the human family is my tribe.” – Khalil Gibran

We look forward to serving many more communities in the years to come. At Sight is a Right we believe that healthcare is a fundamental human right that should be available to everyone regardless of their economic circumstances. We identify underserved communities throughout the world and provide them with free healthcare services, with the primary focus of eye care. Everyone deserves vision!

Blessings and thank you,



Steven Stern

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Sight is a **Right**

