



Zubaida Bibi

Patient – Pakistan-Australia
District Eye Care Program

Photo | Zubaida Bibi after her sight restoring cataract operation. Photo courtesy of *Mohammad Farooq*.

Thanks to the vision and determination of Professor Fred Hollows, more than one million people just like Zubaida Bibi, celebrate the precious gift of sight.

Zubaida, the millionth person whose life has been positively changed forever by The Fred Hollows Foundation, is now able to live independently.

Living in a remote rural village of Pakistan, about 40 kilometres outside of Lahore, forty year old Zubaida previously lived a life of dependency. As her sight gradually worsened she was forced to stop working and became totally reliant on her family.

Zubaida depended on her daughters for daily support. She was not able to walk by herself, prepare food or eat independently.

As the sole earner for the family, Zubaida's loss of vision also put a big strain on the family. Her daughters were not able to work unaccompanied in the local fields, her husband was unable to work as he suffered from tuberculosis and their seven year old son had just started school.

While modern cataract surgery costs as little as \$25 in some developing countries, Zubaida and her family simply couldn't afford the operation.

Thanks to The Foundation's extensive AusAID funded program in Pakistan these barriers were able to be overcome and the one millionth Fred Hollows intraocular lens (IOL) was inserted into Zubaida's eye in early 2003 - just over ten years after The Foundation was first established.

Zubaida visited Sheikhpura District Hospital with her daughter Abida, where Dr Abdul Bari performed the surgery.

The Fred Hollows IOL was inserted into her eye, literally "restoring light not only to her but to her entire family," said The Foundation's Pakistan Country Manager, Dr Rubina Gillani.

The operation was successful and within 24 hours Zubaida's sight was restored. Only a week later she was living independently again and life for her and her family had dramatically improved.

Zubaida now walks on her own, prepares food, provides for her family and smiles in the knowledge that her sight has been restored and her life changed forever.

For more info about our work in Pakistan visit www.hollows.org/pakistan