



**IAPB COUNCIL OF MEMBERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

REGIONAL REPORTS ON VISION 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS - AFRICA

The Africa Regional report will be presented by the Executive Director of IAPB Africa, Dr Daniel Etya'ale in the absence of the Regional Chair, Prof Kovin Naidoo, who is attending the World Economic Forum in China. This report has been compiled through the collective effort of the Executive Director, Regional Chair; sub regional Co-chairs, and Partner organisations. It represents the broadest input that we have received to any report to the IAPB Board, and Council of members.

IAPB Secretariat

ADVOCACY

IAPB Africa has participated in various regional and global efforts and initiatives aimed at broadening the funding base of ongoing VISION 2020 activities or strengthening ties with partner NGOs. These included: Attendance in Baltimore at a landscaping meeting on the upscaling of cataract surgical activities across SSA, an initiative of ICO, sponsored by the Hilton Foundation.

A fact finding mission to Burundi and Rwanda on Result Based Funding (RBF), and the challenges and opportunities it offers for eye care and blindness prevention in those countries.

A follow up visit at The World Bank HQ – Washington, at the request and in collaboration with IAPB London office

Visit to Operation Eyesight HQ in Calgary and Meeting with their Board of Directors

Meeting with the new CEO of ORBIS, Dr Barbara DeBuono, to discuss major challenges and opportunities for eye care and blindness prevention in SSA, and areas of further collaboration with IAPB Africa

The African Council of Optometry (AFCO) meeting and scientific conference, held in Addis Ababa on 01-06, August 2011 provided another opportunity for advocacy among the many SSA optometrists in attendance. The main vehicles for these were

A Leadership Training Workshop on 2 August 2011

A position paper on the concept of SELF REFRACTION to be submitted to key organisations.

Discussion on strategies to improve in 2011 – 2012, the recruitment of those national associations and their members who are AFCO members yet

COLLABORATION AND WORK WITH PARTNERS

IAPB Africa was involved in, and contributed to the following meetings with partners

- WHO African Regional Consultation on the preparation for the Moscow Ministerial Meeting and the UN High Level Summit on Non Communicable Diseases, Brazzaville, Congo, 04 - 06 April 2011
- The Global Health Workforce Alliance – London , April 2011
- ICEH stakeholders meeting(?) London, April 2011
- ORBIS Consultation Comprehensive Childhood Eye Care, May 2011

AFCO

- New MOUs have been signed with partners Salus University who have agreed to provide scholarship support to some members of AFCO. The first Fellowship Exams Board meeting is to be hosted by the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE), who will participate in advocacy visits.
- EACO Strategic Planning Workshop, Nairobi , August 2011
- Allied Eye Health Professional Workshop for East Africa, Nairobi, August 2011.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Meetings attended by IAPB Africa include:

- IAPB Visit to WHO/AFRO, Brazzaville – Concept Paper – The paper was developed by IAPB and WHO. Given the deadlines to the Moscow Ministerial Meeting which took place in the last week of April, a decision was taken to have the concept paper go through the WHO system and be integrated into the NCD Strategic Document for input by the different units at WHO – March 2011

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- IAPB Africa participated in a Meeting involving the Ministry of Health Cameroon and (ICEE)focusing on Optometry School Training – July 2011
- AFCO has facilitated an online Masters' degree in Public Health at Salus University, Pennsylvania, USA.
- The list of members of the Working Group on HR for Eye Health will be finalised this month. This group will be working closely with IAPB Africa Secretariat, in all the preparatory activities related to the Africa wide consultation on HRD for Eye Health, and the subsequent development of a 5 year plan.

REGIONAL CHALLENGES

IAPB Africa

- The most pressing challenge at present is how to expedite the registration of IAPB Africa as a legal entity in South Africa. A key step in ensuring smoother operations within the country and more

especially, in ensuring the recruitment of the much needed additional support staff for whom funds have now been made available through ORBIS (Database and Web Support Officer), Fred Hollows Foundation (Programme Coordinator), Sight Savers, Light for the World and other members of the EU/SADEC Coalition (HR for Eye Health Coordinating Officer), can be recruited and made fully operational without further delays.

Subregional Reports

East Africa

ADVOCACY

Ethiopia

- ORBIS is working with the Ophthalmology Society of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind, to implement advocacy and public awareness activities.
- AFCO has successfully advocated for the regulation of Optometry, creation of public sector posts, provision of equipment and better salaries for the optometrists in Ethiopia.

Tanzania

- After hosting a workshop on translating knowledge from research into policy, The Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) prepared an issue brief on Malawi PHC to be presented to stakeholders later this year.
- ORBIS having engaged the National Eye Care coordinator (NEC) has established that developing a comprehensive plan for child eye health is a priority.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Subregion/ Country/ Province	Details
East Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Intervention on Uncorrected Refractive Error (NIURE), East Africa has introduced 34 vision corridors/self vision checking sites at health institutions where appropriate, refractive services are offered - In East, Central and Southern Africa, Sightsavers has supported, the NECs from 5 countries (Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Sudan, and Zambia) to attend GET 2020 meeting, Trachoma summit in Kenya, IAPB NGO Eye care forum, and NTD

	stakeholders workshop in Kenya.
Tanzania	- KCCO is helping to develop or expand child eye health programmes in 5 sites in eastern Africa. They also worked with other partners to conduct the 7 th Mwanza paediatric outreach for children with surgical conditions in the Lake Zone of Tanzania: More than 37,500 people have been examined and treated, and more than 5400 surgeries performed.
Ethiopia	- ORBIS has signed new agreements with Gondar University Referral Hospital to implement a four-year paediatric project. Discussions have been finalised with ICEE to develop a refractive error project, Water Aid International to implement a WASH programme in two areas, and HelpAge International to implement a cataract and trachoma programme. - ORBIS also sponsored the Ophthalmology Society of Ethiopia's Scientific Conference. - AFCO has engaged in Community Eye Health and Vision2020 Workshops for Ethiopian Optometrists at University of Gondar.
Sudan	- ORBIS has identified an opportunity to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan to address childhood blindness, and separately, Trachoma.
Uganda	- ORBIS has identified an opportunity to work in the South West Region, Mbarara Hospital or in Eastern Uganda, Torro Hospital. In consultation with the NEC, it has been confirmed that these are the 2 priority regions requiring paediatric services.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Country or Subregion/ Date	Description	Partners
Ethiopia April to June 2011	77 ophthalmologists and 298 other eye care workers trained in sub-specialty areas of ophthalmology, community eye health, research methodology, PEC, trichiasis surgery and eye banking. Refresher training conducted for 992 health extension workers and 1,318 teachers	ORBIS
	Training of optometrists Gondar and Hawassa Universities, taken over by the universities as regular training programmes.	ORBIS
Kenya	Workshop was held in Nairobi to develop a concept note on scaling up mid-level eye care professionals (MLECP) in Eastern Africa, with an	NIURE

	agreement regarding the coordination of activities and formation of a consortium to apply for funding from the EU.	
	Ophthalmologists training support in University of Nairobi. (12)	Sightsavers
	Allied Eye Health Professionals in East Africa – up scaling training	ORBIS
	Support Training of OCOs/Cat surgeons and ophthalmic nurses in Kenya medical training college - 10+15	Sightsavers
Sudan	Support training of OCOs in Sudan – 2 students	Sightsavers
Tanzania	- Management Course for Ophthalmologists (April 19-23), Training MMed in Ophthalmology (including a RAAB in Burundi), VISION 2020 Team Training, Instrument Maintenance Course (June/July 2011) 17 instruments technicians from 8 different countries, and Translating knowledge from research into policy briefs	KCCO Aravind Eye Hospital
Tanzania	- Supporting 2 Ophthalmologist candidates training in Muhimbili - Support Training of OCOs/Cat surgeons and ONs KCMC Tanzania	Sightsavers
Uganda 1st of June	Optometry training at Makerere University “Core-stakeholders” Meeting, College of Health Sciences, Mulago hospital	NIURE
Uganda	Training of 18 OCO’s as Refractionists, and 3 spectacle technicians	
	Supporting 2 candidates Ophthalmologists training support in Mbarara	Sightsavers

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The NIURE reported - Monthly production of spectacles by the Entebbe optical workshop is reaching about 100 (By OCO/Refractionists, direct reporting at Entebbe hospital and school screenings).
- Sightsavers supported the rehabilitation of an eye unit in South Sudan and ongoing construction of an ophthalmologists training centre in Mbarara university

RESEARCH

Ethiopia

ORBIS is assessing the quality of cataract surgery done by cataract surgeons; and the cost to deliver cataract surgeon training vs. the benefit to rural communities. Research has also been conducted on the impact of Zithromax distribution programmes, alongside programme evaluations.

Kenya

- Sightsavers supported Research on Ocular Morbidity prevalence in Mbeere, and Trachoma prevalence/ impact assessment surveys in 5 districts in Kenya

Tanzania

- KCCO has engaged in the following research: Reducing barriers to use of eye care services by children, Situation analysis of non-physician cataract surgeons in Africa, Task shifting in eye care, Trichiasis surgery: Utilization of services and trichiasis surgeon productivity, Trachoma in Luapula Region, Zambia, Cataract surgical rates needed for Africa, Microfinance programmes to increase use of eye care services, a study of impact of training microfinance programmes in eye care promotion in terms of use of eye care services.
- Sightsavers supported Community health workers role in community directed treatment in Morogoro, and Neo- natal eye screening trial launched in Zanzibar

CHALLENGES AND BREAKTHROUGHS

Subregion/ Country/ Province	Challenges	Breakthroughs	Partners
East Central and Southern Africa	Eye health still not well prioritised and continue to be under funded.	MOH is increasingly recognising eye health and wider health decision makers are consulted.	Sightsavers
	Integrating eye health into Health systems has been slow due to historical reasons among others. This includes working with eye issues as a standalone and more driven by NGOs.	In a number of countries, national eye care coordinators are now on the driving seat and providing direction on how to move.	
	Some eye cadres like optometrists are still not recognised cadres in the establishment. This is applicable in 90% of the countries in ECSA.	Increasing shift from only blindness to eye health (ocular morbidity).	
	Different approaches by INGOS with some still favouring quick service delivery results including		

	eye camps.		
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Central Africa

ADVOCACY

Cameroon

- Optometrists have been recruited by the Ministry of Public Service for the Ministry of Health for the very first time. One of the newly recruited optometrists has been working in a Sightsavers supported project for many years.
- Eye health human resources have been integrated in the National Health Workforce Observatory.
- A National Eye Care Programme meeting was presided over by the Minister of Public Health in July 2011. As a result of the meeting regional focal points were appointed in the Far North and North Regions.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Cameroon

- Towards the improvement on service delivery, a Vision Centre is being set up at the Central Hospital in Yaoundé with support from the Lions Club and ICEE.
- ORBIS reported that in Ethiopia, 77 ophthalmologists have been trained between April 2010 and June 2011. In addition, 1,877,246 people have received Zithromax.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

VISION2020 Planning and Advocacy workshop on CFOAC training capacity upgrade,

Kinshasa, 15-17 March

16 Participants across 6 countries participated in this workshop that aimed at improving equity in the distribution of cataract surgeons and ophthalmic nurses trained in Central Africa. The successes of the workshop included:

- A SWOT analysis to identify barriers to increase uptake
- A schedule for increase of intake was agreed
- Identified that equipment and personnel needs to see an increase in quantities and quality of trainees.

Challenges include the misunderstanding amongst stakeholders on which of the training facilities to invest in. However, a consensus was reached.

- ORBIS has identified an opportunity to work with different partners to establish a Vision Institute in Yaoundé for training. ORBIS envisages involvement in the delivery of several training modules,

particularly in paediatric ophthalmology through funding fellowships, equipment, the delivery of Hospital Based Programmes and Flying Eye Hospital Programmes.

RESEARCH

Cameroon

A trachoma epidemiological survey was carried out in the Far North of Cameroon. The findings provided the evidence for the need to implement the SAFE strategy in the region which Sightsavers and HKI are partnering for.

CHALLENGES

Cameroon

- The big challenge for the National Eye Care programme is the lack of personnel and resources for effective coordination of activities.

Southern Africa

ADVOCACY

Botswana

- The National Prevention of Blindness (NPB) committee met with the directors of clinical services department in March to discuss the National Vision 2020 five year strategic plan (2007-2011), service delivery and strengthening of collaboration.

SOUTH AFRICA

- ORBIS hosted the Comprehensive Eye Care for Children in Sub-Saharan Africa Conference in Cape Town (May 2011), and recommended that eye care organisations should agree on an implementation plan, inclusive of an advocacy plan for child eye health, with plans to draft an Advocacy and Lobbying Plan with a focus on Child Eye Health during a two-day meeting to be held in December 2011.
- A working group of specialists has been set up to develop guidelines for the management of retinopathy of prematurity. Furthermore, the MOH has integrated an eye health focus into its PHC Model.
- ORBIS has signed an agreement with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and ORBIS to facilitate the implementation of a child eye health programme at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban.
- The implementation processes for the recently developed provincial eye health plans for the Eastern Cape and North West Provinces are on track – partners include FHF SA and Provincial MOH.

- Provincial MOH Kwazulu Natal hosted a Strategic workshop towards Re-engineering of Eye Health Services, and new protocols are being developed that addresses the policy changes that directly affect eye health, MOH Eastern Cape engaged in the distribution of IEC material on cataract and RE. In Mpumalanga Province, Glaucoma detection is included in the screening projects, in the Eastern Cape, Provincial Eye Care Plan (2011-2015) is its final stages, School Health Policy.

ZAMBIA

- Sightsavers supported the development of the draft eyecare policy sent to the MOH for ratification.
- The first meeting for the 2011 World Sight Day was called upon by the Sightsavers Zambia Country Office.
- The NEC position in the MOH was established through the advocacy effort. Since the establishment of this office, the MOH has increased funding to the Eye Care Unit every subsequent year.
- The draft Eye Care Policy was developed and submitted to MOH for ratification.
- During the development of the Sixth National Development Plan, eye care issues were incorporated.
- The Government has introduced the Mobile Hospital concept to try and bring health services to areas without health infrastructure / facilities.
- ORBIS is currently working with the MOH in Zambia to determine the opportunity for operation of the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital in 2012, in support of the National Eye Care Plan.
- On 19th August, 2011, the World Report on Disability was launched at Ndonzo Lodge in Lusaka Zambia.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Subregion/ Country/ Province	Details
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataract Surgical Rate for 2010/2011 was 1156 per 1.8 million Population, the target of 2000 was not met due to shortage of consumables. • Cataract campaigns included: Masunga, 159 cataract extractions, a cataract campaign by the Chinese Ophthalmologists team at Princess Marina Hospital, 193 cataract extractions performed from 27th June-01st July, 2011.
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ORBIS reported that between January and July 2011, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, has carried out 139 paediatric surgeries.

<p>South Africa, MOH, Kwazulu Natal April 2010 to August 2011</p>	<p>Cataract surgery = 91501/ Glaucoma surgery = 1364 Diabetic Laser Treatments = 3244/ Refraction conducted = 60 181 Refractive Error Corrected = 38 249/ Other surgery = 5382</p> <p>Programmes with partners include:</p> <p>1. ICEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving Sight Project that aimed at strengthening RE services had been provided to 1 million people, who did not have access to eye care by 2009 and development of a refraction programme for the District Health system <p>2. Kwazulu Natal Eye Care Coalition (KZNECC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial hospital as the high volume cataract surgery as pilot site aimed at increasing the CSR - Major role is fundraising to support the public sector cataract services. - Granted funding from Discovery Health to support National Eye care coalition allowing expansion to other districts (ILembe, and Zululand). - Assisted in enhancing private partnership by hosting the Provincial Strategic workshop on the 7th to 8th July 2011. <p>3. ORBIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The strengthening of paediatric eye care services, training of a paediatric eye care team, strengthening of Referral System on the Primary Level - Engage the community on the primary level, to develop and implement innovative and practical ways of incorporating vision testing and public awareness - Working with organisations such as Children’s Radio Foundation and Day Zero to develop public awareness messages through radio and documentary film to incorporate into this project at the community level
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<p>South Africa, MOH, Mpumalanga Province April 2010 to July 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 1 Community Eye Care Project per month organized – screening, refraction, referral and free spectacles. - Screening 113787 (inclu Glaucoma), Refraction 18111, Spectacle 10880 and Cataract operations 3203 - Mid Year Vision 2020 Eye care Workshop conducted on 19 and 20 July 2011 at Nelspruit - HIV AIDS and Eye - Strengthened the MOU with ICEE and CEHI Cape Town. - Reviewing the existing MOU with SANCB for cataract tours. - Coordination and collaboration with Ster Kinekor Vision Mission Project, Nelspruit Lions Club Community Eye Care Projects and Nkomati Mines Community Eye Care Projects
<p>South Africa, MOH, North West Province</p>	<p>Procured equipment for hospitals</p>
<p>South Africa , MOH, Eastern Cape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cataracts surgery removal – 5 977 patients/ Refractions – 5 721 patients - Distributed 15 000 readymade reading glasses to district hospitals and complexes for dispensing to uninsured. - Mercy ship provided eye care services project in Port Elizabeth, Umtata and Queenstown (9 weeks)
<p>South Africa Eastern Cape FHF SA</p>	<p>For the period April – June, Fred Hollows Foundation South Africa (FHF SA) facilitated 3804 screenings, 479 cataract operations and the Qaukeni Pilot Project by FHF - The 6 Cataract Case Finders covered 102 villages during this reporting period, total screening of 796 people, referring 351 to PHC facilities and/or district hospital eye units.</p>
<p>Zambia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Kitwe Central Hospital: 1,105 children have been screened and 191 paediatric surgeries carried out between January and July 2011. - 30,543 adults and 3,728 children were screened for eye conditions. - A total of 901 Cataract Operations were conducted. Out of this number, 480 were male, 391 Female and 30 children. - ORBIS and the National MOH facilitated a Round Table Meeting in Lusaka in August, where an informal NGDO forum was established including a group that will map the current eye care activity in the country. Partners include MOH, ORBIS, Lions, Lions AID Norway and Sightsavers. - The implementation of the Trachoma elimination Programme started in Choma

	and Mfulira Districts. The SAFE strategy is being used to deal with Trachoma. District Task forces are in place and the formation of the National Task Force is in process.
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HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Country or Subregion/ Date	Description	Partners
Botswana	12 graduates of the 18-month advanced diploma in ophthalmic nursing at the Institute of Health Sciences Molepolole	Ministry of Health
	Training/workshop for community leaders from 3 districts on identification and referral of common eye diseases.	
	2 workshops for Primary School teachers on identification of common eye conditions and referral system - emphasis on identifying pupils with refractive errors.	
	3 training workshops for general nurses and medical officers on diagnosis and management of eye conditions - 40 participants	
	4 workshops for Health Education Assistants conducted on identification, management and referral of common eye diseases/conditions.	
Malawi	Support Training of OCOs/Cat surgeons and ophthalmic nurses in Malawi College of Health Sciences (20	Sightsavers
	New courses supported include Optical technicians training in Malawi	Sightsavers/ ICEE
Mozambique	Support Training of OCOs/Cat surgeons and ophthalmic nurses Mozambique 10	Sightsavers
South Africa	V2020 Planning Meeting and Integration of Eye Health into Health Systems. The workshop included attendants from 11 MOH within Southern Africa and various NGOs working in the subregion. In the feedback analysed by the Community Eye Health Institute (CEHI), the stated aim of the workshop (to initiate planning for better integration of eye care services into health systems) was noted as achieved by the participants. The outcomes noted involved: greater understanding of the concept and process required, the beginning of a foundation for integration in the 11	CEHI/ IAPB Africa

	countries represented, and techniques for advocacy to improve integration. Presentations included those on Primary Eye Care, Health Systems Financing, Country Integration in Zambia, and Human Resource development.	
	Orientation Programme of Medical officers to eye health Medical Officer, Dr Ezeorakwa completed a 1 month rotation at Sabona Eye Centre, plans to register the doctor on a 6-month cataract course in Swaziland/ Dr Leanne Brady completed the 6 month cataract surgery training programme at Good Shepherd Hospital.	Fred Hollows Foundation South Africa (FHF SA)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaged in Re- engineering eye health services process - The Nursing college is in the process of getting curriculum approval for post basic ophthalmic nursing training from South African Nursing Council - All clinics have at least one PHC trained nurse - Curriculum for PEC training developed in partnership with ICEE - 940 PHC Nurses had been trained in PEC 	MOH Kwazulu Natal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointed 1 Cataract Surgeon at Bethal and 2 Optometrist - 1 Deputy Manager attending Diploma in CEH course at CEHI at University of Cape Town. - 3 Cataract surgeons attended Clinicians Community Eye Health training at CEHI UCT. 	Mpumulanga
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offered a bursary to a student doing BOptom. - 4 professional nurses doing post basic diploma in Ophthalmology 	North West Province
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of Optometrists– 4 Bursary holders expected to complete the course by end of December 2011. - Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) has trained 422 Primary health care nurses on Primary PEC - 9 nurses completed course in ophthalmic nursing. - District and sub district managers and provincial coordinators trained on 1 week comprehensive eye care management (FHF) - Provincial ophthalmic trained nurses trained on macular 	MOH/ Eastern Cape Province/ FHF

	<p>degeneration and retinitis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 Optometrists attended optometry and RE workshop in Durban during WCRE. - Ophthalmic trained nurses attended ophthalmic nurses' conference - Logistics for dispensing course for ophthalmic trained nurses is underway 	
	<p>Tele-ophthalmology: Dr. Siva Pillay, Superintendent General in the Department of Health, invited FHFS staff to collaborate with the Tele-medicine team to work on a plan for the development of a tele-ophthalmology initiative.</p>	MOH/ Eastern Cape Province/ FHF
Zambia	<p>3 ONs, 1 OMO, 1 theatre attendant, equipment technician trained, paediatric ophthalmologist at Kitwe Central Hospital completed 3 month paediatric fellowship (KCCO)</p>	ORBIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support of 2 ophthalmologists from Zambia training in Moshi -Support 6 candidates training in refraction -23 students training in optometry in Zambia at Lotus College in India. -2 students from Zambia sponsored for BSc in Optometry -New courses supported include optometrists technicians training in Zambia - Support Training of OCOs/Cat surgeons and ophthalmic nurses in Chainama college (12) - 23 Health workers and 29 Community Health workers were trained in Primary Eye Care (PEC). 	Sightsavers

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

Country/ Province	Description	Partners
Botswana	The centre of eye excellence ward was opened on February, 2011 at Serowe, with the donation of eye equipment at the amount of U\$ 38000.00.	Lions Club/ MOH
South Africa	Procurement of equipment at Midland Hospital (instruments upgraded), Empilisweni Hospital (new autoclave and operating table with the necessary training), Lilitha College of Nursing (ONS	FHF SA

	simulation laboratory), and diagnostic sets for the current pool of 10 ONS students purchased and delivered to the college.	
Mozambique	The construction of an eye unit in Nampula hospital.	Sightsavers
Zambia	-In Kitwe Central Hospital, Zambia, ORBIS has supported the purchase of a B-Scan, Visual Acuity Charts. -The construction of optometry training unit in Chainama – Zambia -Choma General Hospital and Mazabuka Hospital Eye Units were refurbished and operational. This will improve the quality of eye service delivery to the satisfaction of clients.	ORBIS Sightsavers

RESEARCH

Country/ Province	Details
South Africa	ORBIS in collaboration with ICEE, AVRI and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is engaging in joint research to establish the relationship between poverty and visual loss in South Africa.
South Africa - Kwazulu Natal	1. REFRACTIVE ERROR STUDY IN CHILDREN - MOH 5-15 year age group 4,890 participants Prevalence : 2.74% Visual Acuity <= 6/12 KZN Population (5-15 year old) - 2,381,100 Total people with Visual Acuity <= 6/12 = 65, 242
	2. RARE STUDY - MOH 15-35 Year age group 1641 Participants Prevalence of RE: 1.4% Population in age group in KZN: 4133600KZN Prevalence estimate: 57870
	3. PRESBYOPIA STUDY - MOH Prev. of Refractive Error with Visual impairment: 49.1% - KZN Estimate: 695 ,649 Prevalence of Cataract: 55.2 %(of 2.08%) - KZN Estimate: 16, 267 Glaucoma: 24.1% - KZN Prevalence: 7, 073 Diabetic Retinopathy: 6.9% - KZN Prevalence: 2, 033

	<p>4. RAAB STUDY - MOH</p> <p>Prevalence of RE Visual impairment: 49.1% - KZN Estimate: 695 ,649 Prevalence of Cataract: 55.2 %(of 2.08%) - KZN Estimate: 16, 267 Glaucoma: 24.1% - KZN Prevalence: 7, 073 Diabetic Retinopathy: 6.9% - KZN Prevalence: 2, 033</p>
	<p>5. KZN Child Eye Care Program(KZN CECP) - MOH</p> <p>5-12 Year age groups 10,707 Participants 16.8% Diagnosed with RE KZN Population in age group: 2,5 million KZN Prevalence of RE : 420,000</p>
South Africa - Mpumalanga Province	Participated in the research work of ICEE
South Africa - North West Province	Completed a RAAB with the assistance of the Fred Hollows Foundation South Africa
South Africa – Eastern Cape Province	Completed a RAAB
Mozambique	Sightsavers supported a RAAB in Nampula Province
Zambia	Researchers are compiling the Final Research report of a RAAB conducted the previous year by Sightsavers and partners. There will be a workshop to disseminate findings to stakeholders.

CHALLENGES AND BREAKTHROUGHS

Subregion/ Country/ Province	Challenges	Breakthroughs
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortage of staff at national level and district - Shortage of consumables - Lack of advocacy at higher level - Ophthalmic program not considered as a priority - No formal Non-governmental organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diabetic Retinopathy screening with 2 fundus /retinal camera in 2 referral hospitals - Development of optometrists job descriptions.

<p>South Africa, Kwazulu Natal Province</p>	<p>The Prevention of Blindness programme is coordinated together with Non Communicable Diseases and Geriatrics services by only 1 person at Province level; workload has resulted in superficial coordination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The improvement of RE services at all levels of care - Through partnership with ICEE and Standard Chartered Bank 1 million people had their vision improved - Training of PHC nurses on PEC
<p>South Africa, Mpumalanga Province</p>	<p>In the Shortage of Ophthalmic Doctors-strict rules of HPCSA for recruiting foreign doctors is a big challenge. Theatre time and consumables are other major challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impungwe Hospital Witbank theatre is approved for Cataract surgery outreach. - Planning for Cataract centre at Mapulaneng Hospital, Bushbuck.
<p>South Africa, North West Province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty in attracting ophthalmologists to the province resulted in a vacant funded post for more than a year. - Lack of funds to employ - Ophthalmic nurses that are trained are allocated to night duty due to shortage of nurses 	<p>Development of Provincial Eye Care plan</p>
<p>South Africa, Eastern Cape Province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of trained eye specialists - Lack of financial and material resources - Only 10 out 66 district hospitals provide eye care services through outreach services from Complex and Regional hospitals. 	<p>Cataract surgery targets are met 3 hospital complexes and 3 Regional hospitals provide eye care services including cataract surgery.</p>
<p>Zambia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Process of ratifying policies in MOH is slow and unpredictable. - Some eye positions are not recognized, which leads to misplacement of trained eye specialists despite spending resources training them. - Mortality rate as a result of eye diseases is perceived as being low, as is eye care by the MOH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional healers are participating in Eye Care Service delivery by identify and referring patients.

	- The inadequate numbers of eye health personnel still remains a challenge.	
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West Africa

ADVOCACY

Burkina Faso

Sightsavers received the authorisation to operate within the country on 25 July 2011, and participated in a meeting with the Coordinator of LFTW and CBM –possible partnership, interventions and integration of Sightsavers into the V2020 Committee.

Ghana

- The introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) which covers the cost of eye treatments and surgery has led to a noted increase in the number of people seeking eye treatments.
- Sightsavers - Provides fund for agreed on activities for the National Coordinating Secretariat, and supports comprehensive eye care services in the Eastern Region.

Guinea Bissau

Advocacy for the prioritization of eye health problems included:

- Secretary of State for Health (SSH), at the first supervisory visit conducted in April, sanctioned by a strong support to the Project Officer by the SES. The SES has made available to the PO the NTDS strategic documents, AIDS, Trachoma Control, and has facilitated the meeting with the Federation of disabled person, Civil Society Movement.
- The inauguration of the eye care unit of Quinara chaired by the Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau government and was attended by senior government, diplomatic corps, and representatives of ADB, UNICEF, and UNFPA.
- Contact taken with the Representative for ORANGE Guinea Bissau: involvement of the private sector in Eye Health.
- Advocacy towards the Federation for of Associations for Defence and Promotion of the Disabled : For their involvement and monitoring the implementation of UNCRPD
- The representatives of PNLO /TIDC conducted 2 major advocacy and awareness, 1 in Bafata and 1 in Gabu.
- Validation of the Strategic Document for the Reduction of Poverty DENARP.

Guinea

Advocacy efforts by Sightsavers new Minister of Health awareness on primary eye care and he has committed to support the CRO of Labe.

Nigeria

- The National Eye Health Programme (NEHP) obtained Ministerial approval on July 4, 2011 for change of name from the National Programme for the Prevention of Blindness in conformity with WAHO Regional Declarations.
- A visit from the CEO of Sightsavers (July 18-21, 2011) and Courtesy call on HMH represented by PSH (July 19, 2011) to highlighted the activities of Sightsavers in supporting the NEHP and reassured government of continued collaboration while requesting improved government support for coordination.
- As a result of successful advocacy by Sightsavers, the government renovated an eye ward and provided equipment for paediatric cataract services in Kaduna State, \$97,402 was released for the control of major NTD in the Sokoto state including trachoma and onchocerciasis, the furnishing of a 25 bed eye ward built by the state government and retired ophthalmic personnel were re-instated on an initial two year contract which averted the closure of some of the eye care units that would have been affected as a result of the retirement in Kwara State.

Liberia

The MOH reported advocacy for both resources and awareness: on the inclusion of Eye Health into the National ten years Essential Package of Health Services and Reactivation of Vision 2020 Taskforce committee in July 2011.

The Gambia

- Sightsavers engaged advocacy to the Minister of Health to lobby for more government support to eye health
- Used the National CBR Coordination Committee platform to track and follow-up on the process towards the ratification of the UNCRPD

Sierra Leone

- Advocacy plan for the country office and partners is in place and implementation ongoing and have resulted in the MOHS distributed to the Western Area, Southern Province and Eastern Province eye care projects 10, 30 & 38 new beds and mattresses and mosquito bed nets respectively.
- The District Council and MOHS have also provided accommodation for the EPECP programme manager in Kenema.
- Sightsavers have started discussions on the development of an eye care health policy. The draft TOR is being presented to the DCMO for his input and comments for finalisation.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Subregion/ Province/ Country	Details	Partners
Francophone West Africa	Outreach services and HRD through surgical skills upgrade.	Nadi Al Basaar
Burkina Faso	The development for a comprehensive eye care project in the Centre-Ouest region focuses on improving cataract, RE services, creating stronger referral and follow-up mechanisms. In October 2011, a RAAB will be conducted to accurately assess the epidemiology of Burkina Faso.	ORBIS
	Meetings conducted with Handicap International and HKI joint project , HKI involving the projects of HKI, domains and areas of intervention, funding received USAID for MTN control and collaboration, ABPAM – highlighting activities of ABPAM, possible partnership and interventions.	Sightsavers
	Sightsavers has engaged in: a workshop related NTD National strategic plan validation with stakeholders, a Meeting with OMS/APOC, National Programme of onchocerciasis control (MOH), a Meeting with the General Director of Health and the Director for diseases control, current Secretary General / MOH, and a Meeting with the Coordinator of Lymphatic Filariasis Programme. They also reported CDTI for onchocerciasis control: 30292 persons covered by the treatment in the health districts of Banfora and Mangodara in Cascades region.	MOH/ Sightsavers
Ghana	Seeing Is Believing Phase 4 (SIB 4) are at the final stages of signing anMOU. A 3 day 2 clusters workshop has been organized for 42 Ophthalmic as part of Phase 4 of the Seeing is believing Program.	OEU/ Sightsavers/ ICEE/ CBM/ ICEH
	Support of comprehensive eye care services in Western Region	OEU
	Support of comprehensive eye care services in Upper West and six districts in Northern Region	Swiss Red Cross
	- Low Vision Services have seen 179 patients assessed in Accra and	Sightsavers/

	<p>57 children examined in the Wa School for the Blind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trachoma dissemination workshop was organised in the Upper West and Northern Region to disseminate the goals and objectives of the National Trachoma Surveillance Plan. - An MOU (Oct 2010 - Sept 2013) signed between the Ghana Health Service (GHS) and ICEE, which covers the operation of 2 Vision Centres at Nsawam District and Volta Regional Hospitals in the Eastern and Volta Regions respectively. 	MOH, ICEE/ GHS
Guinea	<p>No of people examined: 6,285 No of people treated: 4,037 No of cataract operations performed: 489</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From 4th to 6th May workshop in Fria on NTDs - The project of Elimination of Blinding Trachoma in BoKe, Faranah and Labe Regions of Guinea and a joint monitoring by DRS, PNLOC and Sightsavers is planned 	Sightsavers
Guinea Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of 2011 budget of the Trachoma Control Project with an allocated amount of 65,788 £ 	Sightsavers
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surgical eye camp at Redemption hospital in May 2011 and restored sight to 45 patients. - Preparation is being made to set up the Optical Unit in the Southeast for delivery of Optical services. - NTDs and budget planning for it is on going to begin integrated treatment in Liberia for the first time - In July 2011, the National 10 year Health Plan was launched which Eye Health, NTDs and Onchocerciasis 	Mandingo Association/ Sightsavers/ MOH
Nigeria	<p>Engagement in Vision 2020 workshops for Optometrists in 3 locations in Nigeria</p>	AFCO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donation of the 2011 consignment of Zithromax - Participation in the meeting organized by WAHO on Improvement of Cataract Surgical Rates (CSR) for the sub-region, 12-14 July 2011, and hosted the National Conference of the Optometrist Association of Nigeria, July 14-17, 2011, Abuja. 	ITI/ MOH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eye Care Programme output statistics from April 2010-August 2011 – totals for eye care programmes in Cross River State, Kaduna, Kwara State, Sokoto State, Zamfara, Kebbi State 	Sightsavers

	<p>Trachoma as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of Persons screened: 188,238 No of Persons treated: 139,951 - Cataract Surgeries: 10, 257 Trichiasis Surgeries: 5,328 - Other Surgeries: 9,609 Antibiotic treatment of Trachoma: 309,314 - No of Persons refracted: 11,995 	
The Gambia	<p>The partner supported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the number of operations performed over the same period last year from 1796 to 2114 - More Cataract surgeries done compared to the same time last year (1693 Vs 1954) - More people having received RE services compared to the same time last year (1657 Vs 1975) - Onesight/Luxottica as foreign partner, with whom we signed an MOU for a 3-year Optical Services Project in The Gambia - Another MOU to be signed soon with MoH in respect of the 3-year Trachoma Elimination Project 	Sightsavers
	<p>A Workshop to Validate Best Practices of Cataract Surgery for Improved Cataract Surgical Rate the Region was held in The Gambia 12th to 14th July 2011.</p>	
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The programme Manager from the CBR programme, Director of SLAB and other 2 members attended the 5th African Forum meeting held in Accra in July. - Training of PHU staff to provide screening and early detection of eye problems for referrals - Provision of free eye care services to children under 5, lactating and pregnant women. - Inclusion of eye care into the basic package of essential health services and integration of eye care into PHC - Surgical outreach to remote districts of the Eastern province of Kailahun and Kono and also school health screening 	Sightsavers

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Country or Subregion/	Description	Partners
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Date		
Burkina Faso	CDTI approach / Activities related to onchocerciasis control: Training of trainers : 20 persons - Training of supervisors of the CDTI : 24 persons and treatment of 30292 beneficiaries - 303 community distributors trained under new programmes	Sightsavers
Ghana	30 ophthalmic nurses, 60 Doctors of Optometry to complete one year post qualification internship, 25 optometrists recruited by the MOH, 3 ophthalmologists qualified as Members of the Ghana Postgraduate College, 15 in training, 45 optical technicians in training, Refresher course for 110 ONs, MOH approved a proposal for the training of cataract surgeons	MOH
Guinea Bissau	- Formative supervision on KPI tool (April) towards the Administrative assistant of NECP , in charge of the collect - Review of the KPI management tool (April -July)	Sightsavers
	- Training of 54 technicians in nursing from the 34 health districts of Gabu and Bafata for the implementation of the TIDC strategy and LF treatment. - 2.016 volunteer community distributors trained by nurses In total there were 403.589 persons identified and 344.023 were eligible for treatment.	Sightsavers
Liberia	- Current HR: Ophthalmologists 9, Cataract Surgeons 6, Ophthalmic Nurses, 15, currently operating cataract: 11 (5 ophthalmologists and 6 cataract surgeons), Optometry Technicians: 2 (including 1 currently in Training – Sightsavers) - Support for the internship training of 2 students returning from The Gambia, with a diploma of Cataract Surgery and, a 1 year training as Optometric Technician. - Training of trainers workshop concluded in July 2011 of health workers to train Community Directed Distributors and to provide oversight responsibilities in monitoring and supervision of CDTI	MOH/ Sightsavers
Nigeria 6-8 June	Capacity Building Workshop for Research, 5 MOH, University trainers, research institutions and NGOs.	WAHO, CBM, Sightsavers,

		ICEE, AVRI
Nigeria	<p>Kaduna State Eye Care Program:-1 Diploma in Ophthalmology, 2 nurses Cross River State Eye Care Program - 2 Diploma in Ophthalmology, 2 ONs (theatre), 1 equipment technician, 3 nurses Sokoto State Eye Care Program: - 3 Doctors – Diploma in Ophthalmology, 6 ONs, 9 Nurses trained as Lid surgeons, 33 health workers trained for mass drug administration of Ivermectin and antibiotics, 77 school teachers trained on school eye health, 300 community volunteers trained on co-administration of Ivermectin and antibiotics for Oncho and trachoma control</p> <p>Kwara State eye care programme: - 1 Diploma in Ophthalmology, 2 Community ONs (and 2 on training), 1 equipment technician, 3 optical technicians</p> <p>Zamfara State Eye Care Program: - 1 Diploma in Ophthalmology, 2 Optometrists trained in Low Vision, 2 ONs (theatre), 10 ONs trained as PEC trainers, 50 Community Health Extension workers 43 community volunteers and 20 teachers trained on PEC, 428 Front Line Health Facility Workers (FLHFWs), 1,650 teachers and 2,200 community volunteers trained on co-administration of Ivermectin and antibiotics (Zithromax and tetracycline) for Oncho and trachoma control</p>	MOH/ Sightsavers
The Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of an Ophthalmologist in Nigeria for the National Programme. - Training of 2 Gambians Optometrists in India from October 2011 - Training of 2 Gambians of the Optometry Technician and Cataract Surgery Courses respectively - Arrangement for the visiting Lecturers from Onesight to teach certain modules of the Optometry Technician course from 2011 to 2013 	Sightsavers
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the V2020 committee meeting reactivated, HRD is a key issue - Absorption of remaining 20% staff not on government payroll is ongoing. - One Refractionist/Optometric technician returned from a 1 year 	Sightsavers

	<p>course in the Gambia and is currently on a year internship at the WAECF in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 additional candidate will pursue an advanced Diploma in Optometric Technician in The Gambia. - 13 SECHN ONs are on internship and 8 presently in training at the Ophthalmic training programme at the Faculty of Nursing, COMAHS in Freetown. - The MOHS is developing a 3 HRH plan for Health, which includes eye health based on the V2020 framework prepared by NECP - 40 PHU staff were trained in basic eye care services and equipped with visual acuity charts to screen eye patients and refer. - The Ophthalmologist has secured sponsorship to pursue a year MSc in Public Health for Eye Care at the LSHTM. Replacement during his absence is under discussion. - The Finance department held a two-day financial management and budgetary review workshop for all partners. - Plans for in-service training for teachers in mainstream schools where blind and low vision children attend are ongoing between Milton Margai School for the Blind, Sightsavers, the Project Manager and Chief Education Officer. - Discussion with the Njala University to develop curriculum for the training of OCHO has started. - Sightsavers Country Office staff is engaging in development to improve their capacity to deliver. This includes training at the Institute of Public Administration and Management, University of Sierra Leone (IPAM, USL) on Basic orientation and Office skills, Project Management and M&E, HRD, leadership skills. Finance staff has registered with ACCA and Institute of Chartered Accountants Sierra Leone (ICASL) for specialised accounting qualification, NTD training of trainers' workshop targeting DHMT and MCHAide Training Coordinators in Bo, Inclusive Education workshop by EFA coalition. 	
Togo	1250 Communities Distributors and 25 health works has been	Sightsavers

	trained/retrained on community based activities in first half yearly.	
West Africa Subregion	VISION 2020 coordinator post - Dr Sacko will remain until the end of this year, after which a decision will be taken.	WAHO

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Country or Subregion/ Date	Description	Partners
Ghana	Building of built 4 new eye clinics in the Eastern Region.	Sightsavers/ Standard Chartered Bank
	refurbished an operating theatre and a clinic for Takoradi and Bibiani Hospitals' eye clinics respectively in the Western Region	OEU/ Standard Chartered Bank
	Donation of 2 table top high speed autoclaves to 2 eye care centres	Rotary Club Accra West
	Procurement of equipment for glaucoma screening and purchase of equipment for all Regional Hospitals and some district hospitals	MOH
	Building of a new ophthalmology department at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital for the delivery of ophthalmic training	Moorfields Eye Hospital/ West African College of Surgeons
Guinea	Through consistent advocacy, the French NGO "Voir la Vie" has agreed to equip the ophthalmology unit of the Mamou hospital.	Sightsavers
Nigeria	New eye units were opened at Sankwalla, Cross River State and Kaura Namoda (Zamfara State) to increase access to services	Sightsavers
The Gambia 15-16 July	Advocacy meeting for the inclusion of Eye medicines and consumables into the national list of essential drugs	MOH
	Extension of the Optical Clinic and refurbishment of the Theatre and Ward at the Brikama Eye Unit, provision of modern ophthalmic equipment and consumables to the Optical Workshop at SZRECC, refurbishment of the Basse Eye Unit	Sightsavers

RESEARCH

Subregion/	Details
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Country/ Province	
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benin Oncho team has conducted epidemiological evaluation in 10 new villages, entomological evaluation in January 2011, captured black flies have been sent to Ouagadougou in Multidisease Surveillance Center (MDSC), and is involved with APOC on Survey of movement of black flies between Benin and Nigeria.
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A RARE survey was also conducted in the Volta Region between April and June 2011, supported by the ICEE. - OEU through Concern Universal has conducted a baseline survey in 3 of its partner hospitals of the Seeing is believing Phase IV (SIB 4) project. The survey was carried out at Walewale District Hospital, Ejura District Hospital and Apam St. Jude Catholic Hospital.
Liberia	<p>A RAAB national survey plan is ongoing. The Technical Committee commission by the Vision 2020 Taskforce in preparation of the RAAB is to be conducted in Liberia 4th quarter of this year.</p>
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Federal MOH, Sightsavers, ITI and the Centre for Disease control (CDC) is carrying out a 3 year research study for the validation of the use of Sentinel site methodology to evaluate the impact of MDA on active trachoma in Gwadabawa Local Government Area, Sokoto State. - Hosted the Research Workshop of the IAPB for West Africa during June 6-8, 2011. - Sightsavers is collaborating on Research as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Calabar - prevalence of childhood blindness in Cross River State funded by Bausch and Lomb and Lions Club International. 2. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health, Sokoto State and Sightsavers to conduct a three year sentinel trachoma survey in Sokoto State 3. Supporting the conduct of trachoma prevalence survey in Sokoto and Zamfara States 4. With the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention - Vision and Eye Health Research (VERG) Group, University of Calabar to build capacity for research
The Gambia	<p>Sightsavers supported a study in 4 Districts to determine the most cost-effective treatment for active trachoma using mass Zithromax treatment - part the Programme for the Rapid Elimination of Trachoma (PRET).</p>
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RAAB survey report has been shared with the partners. The recommendations are now used as evidence base for our concept notes and will be also utilised for the

	<p>proposals, planning and advocacy for eye health in Sierra Leone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KAP survey ToRs for eye health services and disability is being drafted for implementation in the last quarter of the year, which will be combined with the CBR project as they do not have funding to implement on their own. - Inclusive Education Project (IEP) strategic evaluation ToR has been developed in consultation with the Regional Office and QMEL.
Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Togo Oncho team has conducted in March, April, May and June 2011 epidemiological evaluation in 47 villages.

7th West Africa VISION 2020 NGDO Coordination Group, Conakry, Guinea, April 11-12 2011

- Representation included 14 participants from 7 NGDOs (Sightsavers, CBM, SRC, Light for the World, HKI and two new partners, NADI AL BASSAR from Tunisia and the Prevention of Blindness Union (PBU), including WAHO and IAPB. Key findings include: MOH in Francophone countries are still not recruiting optometrists in the public sector, Ghana reviewed its activities using the monitoring indicators developed in 2008, and NEH Committees/V2020 Committees in many countries are inactive.

The activities of Nadi Al Basaar within the field of eye health include the following:

- 9-14 April - Meeting of West African NGOS in (DESSO), Guiney, Conakry
- 22-23 April - El Najda : Number of Cataracts 71 Number Of Patients 236
- 5^{ème} Journées Culturelles « le comité de la vie associative et culturelle » Faculté de Médecine de Tunis, Stand Nadi Al Bassar
- 24April - Najda Tataouine and Consultation in El GrineKasserine
- 27-28 May - -Najda Sidi Bouzid
- 11 June - -Najda Menzel Temime
- 29-30 June– Reception organised by the Islamic Bank Award Nadi Al Bassar, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 26 April - Prevention of Blindness National Committee Meeting at Ministry of Health
- 7-10 May - 117th French Society Of Ophthalmology, Paris
- 21-29 May - 5thCataract Campaign Cameroun (Yaoundé) - 344 cataracts
- 21 May - Algerian Society for Low Vision and Rehabilitation
- 3-4 June - 14th Al Bassar Course in collaboration with Alexandria University + MEACO(MEAVRS, MEAG, STO)
- 9-11 June - 1st Palestinian International Society Meeting
- 16-18 June - 30th STO Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Tunisia

- 23 June – 2 July – Medical mission in rural cataract surgery in Burkina Faso
- 1-9 July - Medical mission in rural cataract surgery in Guinea Bissau
- 20/ 28 July – Consultations for the elderly
- 29 July – Consultations in SidiThabet– Tunisia
- The Al-Basar Team worked with the Eye Unit Team at the Tamale Teaching Hospital on July 29th and 30th 2011. 4252 people were screened, 216 cataract operations and 14 pterygium excisions. Follow up on August 21 and 22 2011 by 2 of the Al-Basar ophthalmologists with the local ophthalmologist.

CHALLENGES AND BREAKTHROUGHS

Subregion/ Country/ Province	Challenges	Breakthroughs
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection from facilities - No ophthalmologists in Volta and Upper West Regions - Ageing eye nurses - Inadequate/no funds for planned activities - Lack of basic equipment in some facilities - Low morale of staff - Young ophthalmic nurses preference to pursue degree programmes in unrelated fields because of lack of career progression - Human resource, especially Ophthalmologists and optometrists concentrated in urban cities. - Service outputs especially cataract surgeries still not meeting set target 	<p>Trachoma is on the verge of elimination in Ghana evident in the incidence in children 1-9 years having dropped to less than 5%. Other contributing factors include: A national plan for trachoma surveillance, the Trachoma Control Programme conducted a series of house to house case search for trachoma trichiasis, case search for TT and TF in 58 randomly selected communities in all 29 districts of the Northern and Upper West Regions. Data entry complete and analysis is ongoing.</p>
Guinea Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralized coordination - Greater integration of eye care in the health system - Monitoring of eye care activities by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eye health has been highlighted to the government and partners at the opening of Quinara Eye Care Unit - The Minister of Health has shown his

	health officials of the decentralized level	<p>willingness to meet with Sightsavers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sightsavers has greatly increased its visibility, several media pages have been devoted to R.O.P.O speech (opening) - Formal meetings scheduled with stakeholders.
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure timely procurement of consumables and equipment by government and partners - Ensure adequate funding from Government - Final evaluation of Boke and Labe eye care project 	The use of the cost recovery account for carrying out the Labe eye care activities
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor coordination and lack of regular report from eye health implementers - Insufficient number of trained human resources and unequally distribution of those available contribution to the slow level of integration - The lack of baseline data before the development of the National Eye health strategic plan made the plan difficult to measure cataract impact - Difficulty to procure eye equipment and consumables (IOLs,) in country and the available ones are very expensive - The lack of ophthalmic training program in-country and regular refresher courses for eye health workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both Eye health and NTDs are part of the Essential Package of health services that have been prioritized in the 10 year Health plan of Government. - The road condition in the Southeast posed serious challenges in reaching remote areas. Limited human resources and lack of road worthy vehicles continue to pose challenges in increasing CDTI treatment coverage; however, The President has announced the contracting Southeast road pavement.
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funds to execute planned activities of the programme - No project vehicle - No data tool - Lack of a uniform policy on eye care 	

	<p>financing in Cross River State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Huge discrepancies between the remuneration of doctors in the state government service and those in the federal government service - High turnover of government officials - Maintaining the current cost of services when programmes are completely devolved to partners - Frequent strike action by health workers to demand for increased remuneration - Inadequate financial support from partners 	<p>Sightsavers after supporting the Kaduna eye care programme for 20 years agreed that the programme will be devolved to partners at the end of 2011.</p>
The Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate programme staff in the country Office - Difficult working relation with Manager of NECP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoBSE championing the scaling up of IEP
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding gap to effectively implement our projects particularly CBR and IE and also the HSS for eye health to have a wider coverage and improved accessibility to services. - However efforts are being made in consultation with the RO and funding team to explore possibilities of fund raising opportunities. - Technical assistant is also required to support the country team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy to support the Sierra Leone programme - Fundraising opportunities such as development of concept notes and proposals - Mapping of donor agencies, partners and linking with the wider health and development partners.
Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To bring Sightsavers and government of Togo through Ministry Social Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Office to sign agreement. - Develop Concept Note on Social Inclusion for Kara Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improve collaboration between Sightsavers and HDI (Health and Development International) which is leading NTD in Togo	
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