

Title of project: East Africa Child Eye Health

Impact made by the project

A commitment from MOE and MOH to collaborate and incorporate eye health within the broader school health policy. The attention to eye health in the 0-5 year olds under the MCH programme was revitalized.

Sustainability

Recognition by the MOE of the importance of eye health for all children and education for severely visually impaired children has the potential for possible scale up of pre-school and school based screening while strengthening the capacity of MOH by providing critical equipment in the eye units and training key personnel will ensure continuity of better quality services in the public hospitals for all children.

Local Standard Chartered engagement

The bank in all the three countries played a central role in coordinating inter-consortium engagements, actively participated in field monitoring visits, annual regional consortium meetings, advocacy, WSD celebrations and organized fund raising events such as the annual Nairobi Marathon.

Main objectives for the project:

1. Improve the quality of eye health services and access for all children aged 0-15 years.
2. Establish the School Eye Health Programme as a sustainable and efficient model of delivering eye health services to children.
3. Improve the quality of early intervention and education of blind and visually impaired children by ensuring that the children receive necessary specialized educational support.
4. Evaluate the model approaches for promoting child eye health in East Africa, document and publish the findings to inform future strategies and replication.
5. Embed Child Eye Health (CEH) in the policies and programme work of the Ministries of Health and Education

Improvement of capacity to deliver child eye health services

SiB contributed towards...



training primary school teachers in CEH, eye screening and education methods for visually impaired children



upskilling of eye health cadres, general nurses, MCH nurses and CHWs in CEH and eye health education



the supply of CEH clinical equipment and consumables



the project's purchase of quality affordable spectacles and low vision devices

Leading to...

195 teachers of severely visually impaired or blind children upskilled in teaching methods, and 4,665 teachers able to screen & detect eye problems among sighted children

19 OCOs and optometrists better skilled in paediatric refraction & low vision, 93 OCOs, ONs & OAs refreshed in CEH, 424 general nurses, 427 MCH nurses and 837 CHWs able to screen, refer and do health education

20 eye units at district hospitals better equipped with critical clinical equipment

7,034 children's receiving spectacles and 933 low vision devices to correct their vision through

Therefore impacting...

Better awareness of CEH among teachers, eye screening in schools, better teaching for severely visually impaired & blind children

MOH's staff with improved skills to detect eye conditions early, provide better quality & timely intervention to the children

positively the quality of eye health clinical assessments for all children in the catchment areas

Development of a more streamlined system of accessing affordable quality spectacles and low vision devices in public hospitals

Improving access to eye health services and information

SiB contributed towards...

Leading to...

Therefore impacting...



school screening activities and referrals by teachers

2,648,912 school children screened for various eye conditions and those with problems referred to health facilities

MOE's acknowledging the importance of screening children's eyes, teachers' role and inclusion of eye health in new strategic plans for school health



development of referral protocols and patient tracking procedures

better follow up of 84,179 children who were referred for further assessment

Strengthened & streamlined existing referral & follow up systems



hospital based screening, surgeries, treatment

1,975,435 children aged 0-5 yrs screened in MCH clinics and a total 324,005 treated for various conditions

revitalization of eye screening in MCH clinics and increase in early identification and treatment of various conditions



CEH health education, promotion and developing IEC material

1,808 children trained as vision champions and 1,381,255 adults received CEH education

Increasing the level of CEH awareness among both children and adults

Key service delivery in numbers

↑ **2,648,912** in the number of children screened in school

↑ **1,975,435** in the number of 0-5 year old children screened in MCH clinics

SiB Project

Implementing partners:

1. Brien Holden Vision Institute
2. Fred Hollows Foundation
3. African Vision Research Institute
4. Light for The World
5. Operation Eyesight Universal
6. Perkins International
7. Masinde Muliro University
8. Optometric Assoc. of Uganda
9. Ministries of Health and Education in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

Total budget: \$ 2,250,000

Total SiB contribution: \$1,800,000

Project Duration: 4 yrs (2013-2016)

Situation analysis

Target Population: 5 million children

Blindness Prevalence: 0.03%

Leading causes: cataracts, RE



Name: Ayesigamukama

Age: 9 years

Location: Mbarara district, Uganda

Ayesigamukama's class teacher had classified him as a slow learner. The training of primary school teachers in Mbarara district in child eye health under the SiB Child Eye Health project was a blessing for Ayesigamukama. After routine screening of children's vision in the school, he was among those children who failed visual acuity. When asked, he said his vision had been like that since the age of 5 years but he was unable to prove to his parents, friends, relatives or his teachers. The teacher therefore referred him to Kamukuzi district eye unit which had been renovated and equipped by the SiB project. The OCO working there had been trained in low vision and paediatric refraction at Masinde Muliro University in Kenya under this project so he was able to thoroughly examine Ayesigamukama. After the examination, he was found to have severe refractive errors. Although this problem can easily be corrected with a pair of spectacles, Ayesigamukama's refractive errors were so severe that he needed very high power lenses of -9.00 DS in both eyes. The project therefore made a special order for him and he received his spectacles within one month. His teachers admitted it had never occurred to them that Ayesigamukama might have a serious vision problem. They always believed that problems at home were the reason for his poor performance and was using poor vision as an excuse.