Nepal: Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme (EREC-P)

Impact made by the project
The project has established 5 new Primary Eye Care Centres and has exceeded every target set to deliver eye care service provision and awareness raising to people affected by blindness in Eastern Nepal.

Sustainability
The Seeing is Believing (SiB) Programme is embedded into the larger EREC-Programme and Vision 2020. Free services for the poor are subsidised by patients that pay and due to the large numbers of clients received there is a high level of cost recovery in place.

Local Standard Chartered (SC) engagement
SCB staff volunteered at the screening camps, helping to register and screen patients.

Main objectives for the project:
To significantly reduce the prevalence and number of people who are blind in Eastern Nepal and thus improve the quality of life and economic situation of persons with avoidable blindness and those at risk of blindness – through:
- Development and strengthening of the delivery of eye care service provision at primary, secondary and specialist service provision
- Development of cost effective strategies for the prevention and treatment of visual loss and avoidable blindness
- Recording of the changing patterns in eye disease to inform future planning

Building Capacity of NNJS Hospitals & expanding their Outreach Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
<th>Leading to...</th>
<th>impacting...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishing 5 new Primary Eye Care Centres, alongside the 2 base hospitals</td>
<td>The examination of 586,775 Nepali patients</td>
<td>Providing improved access to Eye Care services in the Region and surgery for 55,940 people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The screening of Nepali patients in 704 outreach screening camps and 28 surgical eye camps</td>
<td>Leading to the examination of 131,510 people in remote areas</td>
<td>1,613 people having improved eye health as a result of surgery undertaken in the remote hill region of Nepal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity-building support for the local partner Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS)</td>
<td>Review of manuals and helping set up a stronger and more robust Human Resources (HR) department</td>
<td>Strengthened country HR capacity and leadership</td>
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Strengthening the quality of service provision at the NNJS Hospitals

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<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
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<td>Construction of a Waste Water and Recycling System</td>
<td>Ensuring the hospital waste is managed in an environmentally friendly way: recycling waste water and generating biogas for the hospital canteen</td>
<td>Improvement in the hospital conditions, the environment and reducing energy costs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction of a pre-op accommodation unit</td>
<td>Provision of accommodation and food for poor patients and their carers.</td>
<td>Patients are provided with a safe and clean environment while they wait for surgery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction of a hostel for the training centre.</td>
<td>Provision of facilities for students and health professionals attending training programmes</td>
<td>Improving the uptake of training by professionals and strengthening the available HR.</td>
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Key service delivery increase

- in the number of Nepali patients referred from screening camps to the clinics: 13%
- in the number of eye health awareness campaign beneficiaries: 20%

SiB Project
Implementing partner: CBM & Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS)
Total budget: $1,261,411
Total SiB contribution: $1,009,128
Project Duration: 4 years
Jan 2009 – Dec 2012

Situation analysis
Target Population: 5.3 million
Blindness Prevalence: 0.7%
Leading causes: cataract, glaucoma, retinal diseases and corneal blindness

Chhedi Chy was diagnosed with Cataracts in both eyes in 2011. This had a huge effect on Chhedi’s life, preventing him from working and playing with his grandchildren.

Chhedi was referred to the Lahan Eye Hospital. His right eye was operated on almost immediately. After the operation, he said, “I can now fetch water with my grandchildren and can assist with clearing the land so that I can generate an income to support my family – I am so thankful.”

Name: Chhedi Chy
Age: 70 years
Location: South-east Nepal