Preventing childhood blindness in underserved populations in Indonesia

**Impact made by the project**
This project embedded screening and referral procedures, paediatric services (school based refractive error (RE); community level Primary Eye Care (PEC); secondary level treatment including quality surgery), to an area where these services previously did not exist.

**Sustainability**
Follow-up surveys showed that 68% of the HKI-trained nurses and midwives reported on their own that they continued to screen children after the SiB project was completed and 57% of teachers continued to screen students for visual acuity.

**Local engagement by Standard Chartered**
At least 100 staff were involved in volunteering events such as World Sight Day, school screening and the Paediatric Ophthalmology clinic launch.

**Main objectives for the project:**
- Establish a sustainable school-based vision screening programme.
- Develop eye health screening and referral capacity within community health clinics serving the poor.
- Improve the capacity of eye health professionals to provide high quality comprehensive eye health treatment for children living in poverty.
- Increase awareness and demand for refractive services and early childhood vision screening through patient education, social marketing, and public media.

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**Paediatric Primary and Tertiary eye care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
<th>Leading to...</th>
<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness raising activities for 3 years</td>
<td>795,000 parents and children’s knowledge of the available eye health and services increased</td>
<td>Better awareness in the community about the available eye health services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trained 245 nurses and mid-level staff, therefore increasing their knowledge of eye health for children and enabling them to treat PEC problems</td>
<td>58,325 children visited primary health clinics. Children with basic problems were treated here while 2,189 children with complex eye problems were referred to the BKMM Tertiary Hospital</td>
<td>Capacity of primary health clinics enhanced. Children can now either get PEC treatment in their community or get referred up to the tertiary hospital for complex cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referral system for children strengthened</td>
<td>2,086 children seen by trained ophthalmologist at the BKMM Hospital</td>
<td>The BKMM Hospital capacity enhanced, so children with complex cases can be treated by qualified paediatric ophthalmologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>One ophthalmologist trained in paediatric ophthalmology. She can now conduct quality paediatric eye surgeries</td>
<td>Provided the BKMM Hospital with USD110,564 in equipment and USD44,923 in consumables, resulting in an increased capacity to conduct quality paediatric eye surgeries</td>
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School based screening and spectacle distribution

SiB contributed towards...

- Training of 1,469 teachers and Head teachers
- Links developed between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, resulting in optometrists visiting schools to refract children
- USD170,710 in SiB funds to purchase 22,151 spectacles
- Awareness raising activities among 58,325 parents, teachers and children on the importance of wearing spectacles

Leading to...

- 1,469 Teachers knowledge of RE screening and referral increased
- 109,172 children screened for RE by teachers and referred to Optometrist if required
- Optometrists visit schools to refract children and provide 22,151 spectacles to children
- Parents, teachers and children have better knowledge on importance of wearing spectacles

Therefore impacting...

- School screening system now in place, teachers supported by Head teachers and the Ministry of Education to continue screening and referring post-project
- Improved knowledge of eye health among people in the community

Key service delivery increase

The number of children screened increased from 0 in year 1 to 53,116 in year 3.

The number of child surgeries increased from 0 in year 1 to 124 in year 3.

SiB Project

Implementing partner: Helen Keller International
Total Budget: USD 1,222,619
SiB contribution: USD 978,109
Project Duration: Jan 2011 – Dec 2013
Location: Surabaya

Situation analysis

Target Population: 5.6 million in Greater Surabaya, 710,000 children in Surabaya city.
Blindness Prevalence: 27% of Jakarta adolescents have RE (Surabaya data not available).

Key learning from the HKI Indonesia Surabaya final report:

Teachers were far more likely to screen students for uncorrected refractive error in the successive year if their principal asked the teacher to screen students in that particular year.

In the future, HKI will work with the nurses and midwives to develop a system that improves the uptake of services at the secondary and tertiary levels, especially for the serious eye health conditions.