Impact made by the project

The project generated demand for eye health services, increased partner capacities in high volume activity, and significantly reduced the magnitude of cataract in the target slum localities.

Sustainability

Many of the Community Based Organizations we worked with in this project have incorporated primary eye care related messages into their regular programmes. Dhaka City Corporation’s Mohanagar General Hospital agreed to dispense spectacles at a rate without profit margin due to our advocacy efforts.

Local engagement by Standard Chartered

Over 150 staff volunteered across a range of activities, such as the project launch, school screening, outreach screening, in the VCs, World Sight Day activities. Bank staff in Bangladesh also supported the VC business planning.

Main objectives of the project:

Overall to contribute to the elimination of avoidable blindness in Dhaka city by 2020 by:

- Increasing demand for eye care services in the community and encourage preventative eye care measures
- Enhancing the partners’ capacity in providing services
- Reducing the prevalence of cataract in the project area
- Increasing the use of refraction and low vision services

School based screening and spectacle distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
<th>Leading to...</th>
<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainings in eye health for staff at various levels of the health system</td>
<td>3,111 professionals (e.g. refractionists, ophthalmologists, nurses, community workers) have enhanced knowledge &amp; skills on eye health</td>
<td>Improved visual outcomes of cataract patients after surgery (in line with WHO recommended targets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screened 20,959 school children by school teachers</td>
<td>17,942 students were referred for examination by a refractionist</td>
<td>Increased number of referrals of children with eye problems to eye hospitals and further treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment of USD 656,375 for medicines and consumables</td>
<td>32,333 cataract surgeries</td>
<td>A significant reduction of blindness prevalence in the Dhaka slums</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Situation analysis

**Target Population:** 12 million

**Blindness Prevalence:** The prevalence rate of blindness in Bangladesh is 1.53% of the population above 30 years. The major causes are cataract, refractive error and childhood blindness.

---

### Project Details

**SiB Project**
- **Implementing partner:** Sightsavers
- **Total budget:** USD 1,657,222
- **Total SiB contribution:** USD 1,000,000
- **Project Duration:** October 2008 – December 2014
- **Location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

#### Community based screening and spectacle distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
<th>Leading to...</th>
<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 VCs established and supported with setting up their business plans</td>
<td>14,741 patient provided with vision screening and spectacle dispensing services</td>
<td>Improved provision of low cost services in direct vicinity of the clients</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1 research conducted in collaboration with James P Grant School of Public Health and BRAC University | Evidence on the following questions:  
- Why do urban poor seek and afford eye care?  
- Accessibility of Eye Care Service in an urban setting in Bangladesh | Dissemination of findings within the eye health sector and use of results to improve future programming |

---

**Name:** Amena Khatun  
**Age:** 90 years  
**Location:** North Pangaon, Keraniganj (outskirts of Dhaka)

Amena earns a living breaking up large pieces of stone into smaller pieces which are sold onto construction workers. She only takes home around 200-300 taka week – no more than £2.50. Yet she relies on this work to get money for food so she can eat.

Amena isn’t sure how long she has had cataract for. She knows it was bad for almost a year, and for two or three months she was completely blind: “when I was eating I couldn’t even tell what was on my plate until I had tasted it. I was thankful that my family helped me, but I wanted to do things for myself.”

Amena had her first eye operation in August 2014. The outreach was carried out by a Sightsavers-supported Vision Centre programme in partnership with Bashundhara Ad-din Hospital. “I am so happy with the service I received. I have no money, so I was very happy that I didn’t have to pay anything. When my work has finished I will go and have the left eye operated on.”