KOLKATA URBAN COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE PROJECT

Impact made by the project
The programme established 14 vision centres in the slums of Kolkata to provide primary eye care services. Strong partnerships were established with nearby hospitals, community-based organisations (CBOs) and government agencies. Advanced clinical services including cataract surgeries, glaucoma surgeries and DR/ LV services were also made available.

Sustainability
11 of the project’s 14 vision centres are self-sustaining and are running at a profit. Community people trained on basic screening by this project will be involved with these VCs.

Local Standard Chartered engagement
More than 200 volunteers from Standard Chartered participated in various activities including screening, awareness raising, counselling and advising on social marketing strategies.

Main objectives for the project:
- Increase awareness on eye health
- Increase accessibility of eye care services for 1.49 million inhabitants of Kolkata
- Training of human resources to provide sustainable eye care services in the project area during the project period and beyond.
- Establish and develop strong referral networks for both eye care and low vision and vision impaired (LV/VI) patients through which the community continue accessing services beyond the project.

Community screening and spectacle distribution

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
<th>Leading to...</th>
<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening of school children</td>
<td>84,361 children screened in schools by optometrists</td>
<td>Increased awareness of eye health which encouraged children to become ambassadors of eye health within their communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening of adults conducted by primary health care workers during community screening programmes and home visits</td>
<td>501,773 people screened at outreach camps</td>
<td>People identified with cataract referred for surgery to base hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision of free spectacles for poor children</td>
<td>28,742 poor children received free spectacles</td>
<td>The spectacle provision created demand for spectacles amongst urban slum communities. Children could learn more effectively in school and adults could undertake day-to-day economic activates.</td>
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<td>Increased range of spectacles to purchase</td>
<td>22,597 pairs of glasses sold to slum dwellers</td>
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**Situation analysis**

Target Population: 1.49 million
Blindness Prevalence: The prevalence rate of blindness in West Bengal is 1.1%.
Leading causes: cataract, refractive error, low vision and glaucoma

**SiB Project**
Implementing partner: Sightsavers
Total budget: USD 1,180,985
Total SiB contribution: USD 944,788
Project Duration: April 2010 to March 2015
Location: Kolkata

**Name:** Rupal Singh  
**Age:** 17 years  
**Location:** Kolkata

Rupal was identified with glaucoma. She was gradually losing her sight and was forced to leave school as it became impossible to continue her studies with diminishing vision. She was referred to a SiB-supported vision centre by a patient who got her eyes operated at the base hospital. Rupal immediately underwent a surgery that brought back her sight. Rupal is back to school now and is grateful for the life changing treatment she received.