Title of project: Giving Sight in Gauteng

Impact made by the project
The project was implemented as a Private Public Partnership through which the integration of Primary Eye Care and access to refractive error services within the Primary Health Care level available in Alexandra and Hillbrow communities.

Sustainability
Gauteng Department of Health has assumed responsibility for services developed. This includes receiving and taking ownership of equipment donated by the project and also integrating optometrists within their staff establishments. These services are now included within the basket of services delivered at the clinics.

Local Standard Chartered engagement
The project team had regular engagement with the local bank which included updates on the project achievements and future plans. In addition bank staff volunteered at World Sight Day events and other community screening events.

Main objectives for the project:
- Increase the capacity of existing health personnel, and placement of appropriate human resources to improve eye health services within the DHS.
- Optimize available infrastructure to deliver appropriate, comprehensive and specialized eye health services within the DHS.
- Enhance screening and management of comprehensive eye health services and refractive errors in particular.
- Strengthen the District Health Information System (DHIS) by including eye health indicators in the District Health Information System (DHIS).
- Increase health promotion and awareness about eye health.
- Conduct Research, Monitoring and Evaluation to inform policy and planning.

Improvement of capacity to deliver eye health services

SiB contributed towards...
- In-service training of PHC nurses, school health nurses, nurse educators and Health promoters in primary eye health
- Continuous Professional Development courses in Low Vision and Paediatric Optometry to Optometrists in the public sector
- The supply of equipment for eye screening, optometry services and cataract surgery
- the project’ provided access to quality affordable spectacles and low vision devices

Leading to...
- 29 PHC nurses, and 70 Health promoters able to screen, refer and do health education
- 10 optometrists better skilled in management of paediatric optometry & low vision patients.
- 30 screeners with eye screening kits, 2 optometry clinics equipped
- 6 042 patients receiving spectacles, including 1 504 children, and 42 low vision devices to children.

Therefore impacting...
- MOH’s staff with improved skills to detect eye conditions early, provide better quality & timely intervention to the community including school children
- Public sector optometrists with improved competency in care of paediatric and Low Vision cases
- positively impacted 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...

Development of referral system for eye patients

Community based screening, eye examinations at clinics, treatment and referral

Leading to...

Improved patient flow for patients who were referred for further assessment

43,572 patients screened including 21,922 school children screened at schools and referred for further management as required

Therefore impacting...

Strengthened & streamlined existing referral systems

Revitalization of eye screening in clinics and community including schools.

Key service delivery in numbers

14,781 Patients received optometric examinations

6,042 Patients received spectacles and Low Vision devices

Giving Sight in Gauteng:

Implementing partners:
1. Brien Holden Vision Institute
2. Johannesburg Metro Health District
3. Gauteng Department of Health

Total budget: $198,750
Total SiB contribution: $159,000
Project Duration: 2 yrs (2016-2018)

Situation analysis

Target Population: 160,000
Blindness Prevalence: 0.75% as estimated by the National Department of Health

Leading causes: cataracts, RE

Name: Sphesihle
Age: 18 years
Location: Diepsloot, South Africa

Sphesihle, as all other learners in grade 12 is looking at a brighter future as she looks forward to the beginning of her final examinations

“Now that I have received help with my eye sight problems, nothing is impossible to achieve. I was very worried when I noticed that I could be having eye sight problems. I told my parents about it last year (2017). They promised to take me to an eye doctor, but it was hard because they didn’t have enough money for this type of service,” Sphesihle said.

The announcement of the school screening visit was the best news to her, as she could have her eyes examined and receive glasses.

“With my new glasses, now I am able to do everything for myself. I am very confident and positive I will get good results for my matric. Thank you all who have helped, people from this project who came to do eye test and I would love to share my progress with them in the future – thank you!” she concluded.