Preventing childhood blindness in underserved populations in Indonesia

Impact made by the project
This project embedded expanded access to school-based refractive error (RE) services for children and assisted the government to develop the national guidelines; and expand access to diabetic retinopathy (DR) services to people with diabetes at the primary and hospital levels in innovative ways.

Sustainability
The government of Indonesia has requested HKI’s advice to share lessons learned from the RE and DR activities to develop and update national guidelines. In areas where the primary-level DR services were piloted, the hospitals have continued to provide outreach services.

Local engagement by Standard Chartered
From SCB, 77 staff were involved in volunteering events for DR and more than 400 volunteers were involved in school screening for RE. Ophthalmology clinic launch.

Main objectives for the project:
• To improve the vision of adolescent students, teachers and adults in Jakarta and its surrounding area by establishing school-based and community-based systems for identifying uncorrected refractive errors (URE), and providing free or low-cost corrective eyeglasses and referrals for further examination and treatment when required.
• To prevent blindness by expanding the locations where screening and treatment for diabetic retinopathy are performed.
• To increase community and health system awareness of the importance of URE among children and diabetic retinopathy among adults with diabetes in Jakarta and other urban centers in Indonesia.

DR and RE Activities

| SiB contributed towards... | Leading to... | Therefore impacting...
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<tr>
<td>Awareness raising activities for DR and RE for 3 years</td>
<td>More than 10,000 people with diabetes were screened for DR and more than 90,000 children with screened for RE</td>
<td>Better awareness in the community about the available eye health services</td>
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<td>Trained 3,354 people on eye health topics</td>
<td>Nearly 2,000 people with diabetes were treated for DR and more than 18,000 children received free eyeglasses courtesy of SCB</td>
<td>Capacity of hospitals to provide outreach services for DR enhanced</td>
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<td>Assisted the government to consider new models for DR services</td>
<td>More than 14,000 people were seen at the five primary health centres that provided primary eye care</td>
<td>The government is updating school-based RE guidelines, in part from lessons learned from HKI</td>
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<td>Built the capacity of five primary health centres to delivery eye care</td>
<td>More than two million people were reached through radio talk shows over the life of the project</td>
<td>The teaching hospitals for ophthalmology have now updated their curriculum for DR services based on lessons learned from HKI</td>
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<td>Provided the national government with the school-based RE guidelines for consideration for the national program</td>
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SiB contributed towards the project leading to improved awareness, trained people, assisted government, and built capacity. The project therefore impacted better awareness, capacity enhancement, and guideline updates.
SiB Project
Implementing partner: Helen Keller International
Total Budget: USD 1,258,421
SiB contribution: USD 997,159
Project Duration: Jan 2012 – March 2016
Location: Jakarta, Bandung, and Yogyakarta

Situation analysis
Target Population: one million children aged 11-15 in Jakarta with as many as 200,000 of them having RE. More than 300,000 people with diabetes may have DR in Jakarta, West Java, and Yogyakarta

School based screening and spectacle distribution
SiB contributed towards...

- Training of 960 teachers and primary health care staff on eye care
- More than 52,000 people with diabetes receiving literature on DR and the importance for annual screening
- USD134,756 in SiB funds to purchase 20,528 spectacles
- Students reached in 140 schools in the Jakarta area.

Leading to...

- Knowledge of RE screening and referral increased
- 415 children referred to an ophthalmologist for additional eye care
- Optometrists visit schools to refract children and provide 20,528 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 94,597 in year 3.

The number of people with diabetes screened in the primary level increased from 0 in year 1 to 4,627 in year 4.

Key learning from the HKI Indonesia final report:
Nearly 12% of people with diabetes in Jakarta at the primary level have DR, however more than 90% of them have never been screened for DR.

More than 26% of children aged 11-15 screened in schools have RE, but most of them have glasses that do not fit.

In the future, HKI will continue to work with the government to ensure that new and innovative approaches to eye health services for common eye conditions are included in the national guidelines.