**SIGHT FOR CHILDREN AND PEOPLE AGED OVER 50 IN THE MEKONG DELTA**

**Impact made by the project**
Children and people over 50 in Can Tho City and Ca Mau province of the Mekong Delta region with visual impairments or other avoidable eye-health conditions are identified and diagnosed and have access to quality, affordable eye-care services.

**Sustainability**
The project established a tertiary level Pediatric Eye Care Centre (in Can Tho Eye Hospital and in Children Hospital) and 10 Vision Centres in 2 provinces of Can Tho and Ca Mau in Mekong Delta region with fully equipped, trained human resource and accredited by issued operation licenses. 
Eye screening for schoolchildren has been performed systematically in Can Tho and Ca Mau supported by the Guideline from the provincial Departments of Education and Training. Eye care networking connecting all districts of Can Tho and Ca Mau and with surrounding province was established and supported by the local policy.
All of those lift barriers to patient acceptance of care, also reduce costs for children and parents to access to service and therefore increases demand for and use of refractive and pediatric ophthalmology services, so that the newly established service is sustainable.

**Local Standard Chartered engagement**
Annually, SCB staff invited to participate in a regular monitoring visit to observe the project’s achievements and evaluate the success of project activities. In addition, the bank’s staff assisted directly in eye-health activities at schools and in communities. The bank’s staff also assisted campaign with vision screening in schools and community. SCB staff also had invited to join Orbis’s Flying Eye Hospital program in Hue and Binh Dinh Province (from 19th August to 6th September).

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**Main objectives for the project:**
- A tertiary level Child Eye-Care Centre, with fully equipped, child-friendly facilities and trained medical teams, is available to provide comprehensive, quality pediatric ophthalmology services for the Mekong Delta region (implemented by Orbis).
- A quality, sustainable refractive service is available and accessible for all children with visual impairments in three districts of Can Tho, especially girls and the poor (implemented by HKI).
- A quality, sustainable refractive service is available and accessible for all children and people over 50 with visual impairments in Ca Mau province, especially females and poor people (implemented by ECF).
- Advanced knowledge and practices necessary for the effective prevention and treatment of pediatric eye conditions and refractive errors are present within local populations (implemented jointly).

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**1. Training**

**SiB contributed towards...**

Training provided for **102** staff (**50% female**) of the Hospitals, Vision Centres in Can Tho and Ca Mau, including super pediatric specialist, pediatric ophthalmologists, eye nurses, anesthesiologists, refraction technicians.

Training provided for **732** (**46% female**) commune health workers, school health teachers on eye diseases, refraction, counseling and referral, screening organization, and communications.

**Leading to...**

The eye care workforce in Can Tho is capable to detect and treat children eye diseases; Staffs of the District Health Centre in Can Tho and Ca Mau are capable to provide refraction service for children and elder.

Eye school screening/ Community eye screening programs was implemented annually by the trained school teachers / commune health workers in Can Tho and Ca Mau to identify children with refractive error and other eye problems and refer for further treatment.

**Therefore impacting...**

A tertiary level Pediatric Eye Care service for children is available in Can Tho. In addition, 10 Vision centres were established and regularly deliver quality refraction services for adult and children in Can Tho and Ca Mau province.

All children in Can Tho and surrounding province at risk of blindness caused by ROP, cataract, strabismus, refractive error, and other eye diseases have been early detected and treated on-time.

Increased coverage of quality refraction services for children and adults in Can Tho and Ca Mau province from less than 10% when project began to 70% at the end of the project.
2. Equipment & Consumables

SiB contributed towards...

Renovated and built 2 Child friendly Eye Care Centres in Can Tho Eye hospital and Can Tho Children Hospital; Built new and renovated 4 Vision Centres in Can Tho and 6 Vision Centres in Ca Mau province.

Provided equipment for 2 Pediatric Eye Centres/ Children Eye Care Unit, including essential equipment for children eye examination, pediatric eye treatment, and operation theater. Fully equipped 10 district vision centres with necessary eye screening, refraction, spectacle grinding equipment.

Leading to...

The Pediatric Eye Care facilities are available in Can Tho.

The Vision Centres are available in 4 districts among 9 districts of Can Tho, and in all 6 districts of Ca Mau province.

Therefore impacting...

A tertiary level Pediatric Eye Care service for children is available in Can Tho with 10 Vision Centres connected.

The successful experience of integrated Vision Centres service into District Health Centres’s function was adopted by local government to scale up into entire the province.

3. Service Delivery Activities

SiB contributed towards...

132,613 Eye screening for students at schools

Eye examination for 22,611 children uptake at hospitals

Eye screening for 14,016 session of elders in community

Total screening = 169,240 49% of them are women

Leading to ...

1,846 children had sight restored/blindness prevented by eye surgeries including 80 premature infants were avoided permanent blindness

14,891 children got vision improvement and eye protection thru medical treatment sessions;

30,121 children and adults got vision improvement by glass prescribed; 8,513 adults and 7,390 children received spectacles supplied

51% of them are girls and women

Therefore impacting...

Increased number of children and adult have access to quality, affordable eye-care services to avoid blindness and improve sight, especially girls and the poor.

(From 0% before the project began to 59% increased in 3rd year vs 1st year)

A guideline was regulated for the referral mechanism from community level to provincial level in providing paediatric eye care in Can Tho

Children and adult with eye conditions were identified and referred along the well-established referral pathway.
4. Awareness Raising Activities

SiB contributed towards...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29,926</th>
<th>direct counseling sessions were conducted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>112,858</td>
<td>times people reached through communication events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108,16</td>
<td>pamphlets, leaflets were produced and distributed to targeted groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,506,307</td>
<td>Estimated people exposed to mass media, newspaper, bulletins that conveyed the eye health messages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading to...

Children, Parents, Childcare givers, elder people, clinicians, policymakers and decision makers understood practices necessary for the effective prevention and treatment of paediatric eye conditions as well as the refractive error

Therefore impacting...

Behavior of eye protection and the demand for seeking eye health services among the intervened communities were increased

A favorable policy environment for eye care services as well as children eye care was improved in both Can Tho and Ca Mau.

Key service delivery increase

| 49% | Increased in the number of school and community screening, from 36,563 in 1st year to 54,510 in 3rd year |
| 151% | Increased in the number of refraction, from 4,004 in 1st year to 10,062 in 3rd year |

SiB Project

Implementing partner: Eye Care Foundation, Hellen Keller, Orbis International in Vietnam

Total budget: $1,000,000

Total SiB contribution: $800,000

Project Duration: April 2016-September 2019

Situation Analysis

Target Population: 2.4 million in Can Tho and Ca Mau, 17.5 million people in Mekong Delta region

Blindness: the visual impairment rate among adults aged over 50 is 13.2%, with 29.8% caused by uncorrected refractive errors

Childhood blindness is in desperate need of attention in Vietnam, including the Mekong Delta, with the country having the fourth highest prevalence of childhood blindness in Asia (0.79%)

Name: Mai Thanh Dai    Age: 9
Location: Hau Giang province

Dai was diagnosed with cataracts at birth, and for the first nine years of his life he struggled to see. His poor vision affected all corners of his young life. His walk to school was dangerous, and he had to spend most of his days inside the house – so he wouldn’t get hurt when playing outside.

When a child like Dai has cataracts, every minute really does count. The longer they have to wait for treatment, the lower their chances of having their sight restored.

Dai was at risk of going permanently blind, which could’ve stopped him getting the education he needed, or finding employment as he got older.

When Dai’s mother heard that there was an Orbis supported hospital that could provide treatment – free of charge – she was overjoyed. She wasted no time in getting Dai to the hospital, so that he could get the life-changing cataract surgery they would have otherwise not been able to afford.

The impact of the surgery has been immense. Dai told us: “I am able to see everything very clearly and don’t have any more problems going to school!” Thanks to project supported by SiB, Dai and many other people can see and will be able to see their future clearly.