Sightsavers School Eye Health Project in Singida Tanzania.

### Impact made by the project
The project supported 203,248 pupils (99,242M, 104,006F) out of the targeted 176,200 pupils translating to 115.4%. Out of this, 41,335 pupils (19,464M, 21,871F) were refracted surpassing the set target of 10,572 pupils; 46.6% increase. The project was able to reach 483 primary schools in Singida region that has 529 primary schools.

### What was the aim of the project
To contribute to the sustainable provision of school eye health in Singida region, Tanzania.

### Sustainability
To support the sustainability of the school eye health the project equipped three optical workshops; two district hospitals and Singida Regional Referral Hospital and trained 1,059 teachers (524M, 535F) on primary eye care and vision screening who will continue carrying out primary screening even after project close out. The project disseminated information on awareness creation, and increased demand for eye health services through quarterly review meetings, school-based outreaches and regional events like African child day that involve pupils.

### Local Standard Chartered engagement
- In October 2018, the project commemorated the World Sight Day in partnership with the Dar es Salaam Regional Authority and the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) team as the bank was also celebrating its 15th anniversary of the “Seeing is Believing” initiative. The SCB in-country team attended several international days e.g. International Day of the African Child, World Sight Day and World Braille Day. SCB carried out a field visit in October 2019 and attended a school-based outreach activity in Iramba District. During the visit, Sally Crook, Victoria Jory and Mariam Senziga from SCB interacted with the District Eye Coordinator and the principal optometrist (from Singida municipality) whilst they were undertaking refraction during a school screening.

### Objectives of the Project
- Strengthened human resources and health facilities to deliver refractive error services
- Girls and boys with refractive error and visual impairment access eye health services

### Provision of comprehensive eye care services

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<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
<th>Leading to...</th>
<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
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<td><strong>Increased demand and supply of eye care services.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Increase in number of front line staff and eye care workers equipped to perform primary screening resulting in a total of 203,248 pupils seen, 10,665 dispensed with spectacles and 8,465 treated for Ocular morbidity.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The availability of more professional eye care services provided at base and outreaches; bringing eye care to the doorstep of communities. This has also contributed towards the integration of primary eye care into primary health care.</strong></td>
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<td>Optical equipment was distributed and set-up at Singida Regional Referral Hospital and two district hospitals (Iramba and Manyoni). Equipment includes pattern-less lens edging machine, auto-lens meter, trial frame, optical frame heater, trial lens set, and lens edger.</td>
<td><strong>Increased number of children accessing a wide range of frame styles and color glasses for correction of their refractive error.</strong></td>
<td><strong>More children from different locations to improve their vision and avoid unnecessary drop-out cases due to avoidable blindness</strong></td>
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<td>The development and printing of 635 IEC materials, including: brochures, billboards, wall murals and banners.</td>
<td><strong>Increased awareness on eye health within the targeted communities. Some of the billboards are displayed along the main roads and health centres thus have a broader reach.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The community to change the negative attitude towards wearing of glasses among children under 13 years of age in the region.</strong></td>
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SiB contributed towards...

**Situation analysis**

**Target Population:** 176,200 pupils
- **Blindness Prevalence:** 5%

**Leading causes:**
- The causes of blindness in children are very different from the causes in adults. Unlike in adults, a delay in treatment can lead to amblyopia (lazy eye). There is a level of urgency about managing eye health and refractive error in children, as blind children have many years of blindness ahead of them.

**Provision of Comprehensive Eye Care services**

- **Refraction of 41,335 pupils (19,464M, 21,871F) with 10,665 (4,783M, 5,882F) being dispensed with glasses**
- **The improvement of their vision and resumption to normal life as a result their academic performance would improve.**
- **The reduction of avoidable blindness**

**Key service delivery**

- **55%**
  - **10,665 pupils (4,783M, 5,882F) were dispensed with glasses within the project period**

- **99.2%**
  - **8,465 pupils (3,912M, 4,553F) were seen and treated for OM over the two years**

**SiB Project**

**Implementing partner**
- President’s Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO RALG) Tanzania
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology
- Tanzania League of the Blind

**Total budget:** $375,000 USD
**Total SiB contribution:** $300,000 USD
**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Situation analysis**

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**Stella** is an 11-year-old pupil in standard VII from Ikungi primary school in Ikungi district. Stella is one of the pupils who benefited from school-based outreaches conducted in May 2019 and it was having difficulty reading written letters and participating in out of class activities with her classmates. Stella’s parents didn’t know where or how to get help until the project conducted outreach at her school.

Stella was screened, and her Visual Acuity read RE=CF 4M, LE=CF 3M. Based on the eye health clinical diagnostic made by the Optometrist, Stella was found to have myopia/short-sightedness – a problem that was solved by providing her with a pair of glasses. Upon being prescribed with a pair of spectacles -1.50DS BE, Stella’s visual acuity improved to RE=6/6, LE=6/6.

After receiving her new pair of glasses, a pleased Stella said: “I am happy because I will not be copying notes from my friends as I will be reading directly from the blackboard.”

**Name:** Stella George
**Age:** 11 years
**Location:** Ikungi Primary School - Singida Tanzania