Vietnam Comprehensive Eye Care Development Project

Impact made by the project
The project developed quality eye care services that are accessible to patients, especially the most vulnerable. The project’s investments have supported the Provincial and District eye care facilities across four Provinces to scale up their services to reach more people.

Sustainability
The project established the necessary physical facilities and supported increased numbers and strengthened capacity of public health care personnel, to adequately deliver eye care services.

Local Standard Chartered engagement
Ten events were attended by 106 Bank staff, including screening and eye care education for 3,107 students, screening 490 children and elderly people at social sponsor centres and 110th Anniversary of SCB presence in Viet Nam, and the CEO and SIB managers twice visited project sites. SIB and SCB logos and images were promoted in project activities and events.

1. Training
SiB contributed towards...

Training 174 staff of the provincial and district eye units, namely intensive ophthalmology, surgical skills, eye doctor, eye nurse, refraction, counselling and training skill

Training 3,196 commune and village health workers on primary eye care and communications skills.

Training 1,174 teachers on primary child eye care and refractive error screening

Leading to...

An increase in personnel for eye care and improvements in their knowledge and skills on eye care

Commune and village health workers were capable to conduct screening, referral and health education

Teachers were enabled to conduct visual acuity screening and eye care awareness raising to students.

Therefore impacting...

Two provincial eye units can deliver high quality eye treatment services, another two provincial eye units expanded to pediatric eye service and 10 district eye units conduct basic eye services. These services were not delivered before the project.

More eye patients in communities have increased access to eye screening, and are counselled and referred appropriately.

More students are screened and referred for further eye checks and prescribed with spectacles.

Main objectives for the project:

- To increase the number and skills of eye care service providers at all levels to improve the coverage, quality and sustainability of eye health services.
- To strengthen delivery of eye care services through improving available infrastructure and facilities.
- To build awareness of eye health and improve access to quality treatment for the main causes of blindness and vision impairment.
- To raise the profile of blindness as a public health issue and build local provincial support for eye health programs.
## 2. Equipment & Consumables

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<tr>
<th>SiB contributed towards...</th>
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<th>Therefore impacting...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishing 1 child eye exam room in Tien Giang Eye Hospital, 1 eye examination room and 1 operation theatre in Dak Nong province</td>
<td>The child eye care service in Tien Giang province and eye disease treatment in Dak Nong province are available.</td>
<td>The eye units offer quality eye care services and make them more accessible to people in the provinces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing 10 district and 4 provincial eye units with necessary ophthalmic equipment, and providing 183 tool kits for commune health stations.</td>
<td>The eye units are equipped to adequately screen, treat and refer patients</td>
<td>The quantity and quality of eye care services are improved at district and provincial level</td>
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## 3. Service Delivery Activities

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<td>Eye screening for 557,968 times of students</td>
<td>Students with eye conditions were promptly diagnosed and referred for refractive error correction or eye diseases treatment</td>
<td>Students are more aware of eye care and improved visual acuity to live and study better</td>
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<td>Providing 13,685 pairs of spectacles to vulnerable students</td>
<td>Students have better vision for studying and daily activities</td>
<td>Students can attain good educational outcomes and better lives</td>
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<td>Eye screening for 474,318 patients and 7,999 eye surgeries subsidized for children and the elderly</td>
<td>Thousands of elderly and children had their sight restored</td>
<td>The eye patients are able to live productively and usefully in their households and local communities. They can contribute positively to their socio-economic development and not be dependent on others</td>
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4. Awareness Raising Activities

SiB contributed towards...

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<td>Advocacy for approval of 2 five-year Provincial Blindness Prevention Plans</td>
<td>The eye care services have a strong foundation to be implemented over the next 5 years</td>
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<td>Airing 2,301 times of eye care messages and clips on commune radio</td>
<td>The population are encouraged to participate in screening and further treatment.</td>
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<td>Organising 198 school talks, 969 group discussions and 16 World Sight Day events</td>
<td>Avoidable blindness and visual impairment is better managed</td>
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<td>Delivering 89,378 eye health leaflets and posters, 1,080 DVDs to students</td>
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Key service delivery increase

- **17%** in the number of project subsidised cataract surgery
- **188%** in the number of subsidised spectacles to students

SiB Project

- Implementing partner: The Fred Hollows Foundation in Vietnam.
- Total budget: $1,238,689
- Total SiB contribution: $990,951
- Project Duration: Jan 2013-Dec 2016

Situation analysis

- Target Population: 4,621,129
- Blindness Prevalence: 11.4% of the population was either blind or vision impaired.
- Leading causes: Cataract remains the leading cause of blindness at 74%, along with post segment pathology, glaucoma and other corneal opacity.

Name: Le Thi Gon

- **Age:** 26 ages
- **Location:** Vinh Long

Ms. Gon underwent two cataract surgeries, and is now enjoying a new life with her sight restored.

At twelve, Gon developed bilateral cataract and epilepsy. Her family are poor farmers – they make a living from growing and selling onions and making ropes from coconut trees. Life is hard - their income is mere enough for buying their daily meals. Surgeries to restore Gon’s sight are out of question.

Thanks to the SiB project in Vinh Long Province, Gon received free cataract surgeries. Her sight has been restored and a new life has begun for her.

One year after the surgeries, she got married to a man who says he “loves her for her kindness.”

Gon still has to cope with epilepsy, but her sight has brought back her smile. She is now full of hope for herself and her new family.