Vitamin A supplementation to prevent childhood blindness

A Case study

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Operation Eyesight India
Components of an urban slum eye care program

- **Eye care**
  - Identification
  - Referral
  - Treatment/ follow up
  - Establishment of vision center

- **Integrating primary eye care into primary health care**
  - Immunization, Vitamin A Supplementation
  - ANC/ PNC
  - Environmental sanitation

- **Socio economic development**
  - Networking
  - Micro-skills development
How VAS works in slums?

- Data on children 6-11 months and 1-5 years in slums
- Procurement of Vitamin A from Vitamin Angels
- Health workers work in conjunction with ICDS and Primary health care workers to avoid duplication
- Vitamin A supplementation every 6 months to all children 6-59 months
- Complete tracking of children
- Documentation and reporting
Vitamin A supplementation

- **Curative Vitamin A doses:** Complete door-to-door survey and identification of children with vitamin A deficiency

- **Prevention of Vitamin A deficiency:** Universal Vitamin A supplementation i.e. to all children 6 months to 5 years

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project area</th>
<th>Coverage for VAS in May 2012</th>
<th>Total U5 Children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shahabad Dairy slum, Delhi</td>
<td>1,971 (91.5%)</td>
<td>2,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rasoolpura, Fatehnagar slums, Hyderabad</td>
<td>4,957 (97%)</td>
<td>5,105</td>
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PEC into PHC

- Continuous health education sessions for women/ mothers of U5 children led to improved KAP on Nutrition
  - Vitamin A, nutrition and diarrhea management
  - Family planning and pregnancy care supported by information on environmental sanitation and personal hygiene
- Trained and committed PHC workers leading to integration of PEC into PHC on a sustainable basis
Changes observed

- Good rapport with PHC/ICDS staff
- Increased ICDS centers
- Decreased respiratory infections among children
- Decreased diarrheal episodes
- Children operated for bilateral cataract (Hyderabad 8, Delhi 11)
- Children provided with spectacles (Hyderabad 36, Delhi 48)
Upscale to hospital outreach

Hospital based community eye health projects:

- Building capacity of community health staff
- Ensure VAS to all children in hospital outreach areas through HBCEHPs
- VAS is needed only 2 times in a year (at 6 months interval)
- Work in coordination with local Gos/NGOs and CBOs
- Hospitals can prevent childhood blindness!
OEU’s community level intervention

- 12 Hospital based community eye health projects
- 3 Urban slum community based eye health projects
Thank You !