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USAID CHILD BLINDNESS PROGRAM

DELIVERY & EXPANSION AND INNOVATION

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In order to address child blindness in eight (8) regions of northern Tanzania, the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) strategically chose to work with schools that can easily spot children that need eyeglasses. KCCO's two-year program focuses on training and strengthening the capacity of 250 teachers in public schools. The work is monitored by education officers to ensure the quality of the teachers' work. Properly trained, these teachers can appropriately refer children with severe vision problems to regional hospitals. An estimated 1,500 children will be screened for eye care conditions and 270 will receive additional services. The project will also use local and mainstream programs as venues to disseminate education about children in need of eye care services.

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Physicians for Peace (PFP), a non-profit organization based in Virginia, is working in partnership with its local counterparts, PFP-Philippines, by boosting organizational capacity and strengthening the foundation of its vision care program. Efforts include conducting a baseline assessment of capability to identify areas of improvement, such as how to better motivate volunteer optometrists in outlying rural areas of the country. These efforts will help inform action plans that will ultimately lead to better care and expanded eye care services.

Aravind's Eye Hospital (AEH) two-year project in India is working to determine if preschool children can efficiently and effectively be screened for poor vision. Eye care professionals often miss preschoolers because most screening is done once children enter kindergarten. This project will engage members of the community to develop a referral network to screen children 40,000 children in three districts. The project will use relatively new vision screening technology that allows the children to be screened quickly and without discomfort. Services for the children referred from screenings will be made available and the project will start a campaign to improve awareness of eye problems in children, among general physicians, pre-school teachers, pediatricians and the community at large.



World Gospel Mission (WGM) will be expanding coverage of quality eye care services throughout the Nyanza and S. Rift Valley provinces of Kenya. WGM's collaboration with CBP and USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) is building and equipping a new hospital.

CBP's role is providing essential ophthalmologic tools and supplies. Equipment for the hospital includes exam chairs, floor units, lamps and ophthalmoscopes. These resources will double the capacity of the services the current hospital can provide thereby significantly increasing availability of eye care services for children and other vulnerable populations in Kenya.

Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) is a public health eye care and research institute with research, programming and collaborations around the world. KCCO is conducting work that directly contributes to CBP's goals to increase knowledge sharing and the use of best practices. Specifically, KCCO is examining the efficacy of community health workers and volunteers to identify children with severe vision loss or blindness and refer them to receive appropriate care. KCCO will also examine the latest research regarding the use of school teachers to screen, identify and refer children in need of eye care services. Further, research will explore different strategies to achieve the best follow up possible after eye surgery. The creation of mobile technologies in all aspects of monitoring a child's progress through the eye care system to ensure

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follow up visits, proper examinations and timely transport will be an innovation created specifically under the KCCO CBP project.



The Aravind Eye Hospital (AEH) based in India will focus its efforts on diagnosing and increasing the treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a disease in premature babies that could lead to blindness. AEH will be implementing a telescreening program called ROPE-SOS (Retinopathy of Prematurity Eradication – Save Our Sight) throughout Special Neonatal Care. The main goal of this program is to perform ROP screening in 10 underserved and rural areas. Initially, AEH will train technicians to use a retinal camera and the retinal images will be transmitted real-time through broadband internet to a remote ROP expert. Babies identified with this blinding disease will be immediately referred to the base hospital, or if the child is too sick to travel, prompt onsite laser treatment will be delivered by the ROP expert with a portable laser tool.

CBP is collaborating with the College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central & Southern Africa (COECSA) to address child blindness in northern Tanzania through the capacitation of Assistant Medical Officers (AMO) and sub-specialty training for ophthalmologists. In support of the Child Blindness Prevention Program in Tanzania, COECSA will train AMO's in pediatric eye care for the early identification of eye patients and proper follow-up care. They will work closely with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College as needed for definitive diagnosis, treatment and/or surgery.



Orbis International is strengthening treatment and prevention of child blindness in Northwest Ethiopia. To do this, the organization will be training and educating 96 teachers, parents and volunteers to screen 23,000 children and identify those in need of vision care. They will also be equipping facilities with appropriate supplies to increase treatment, and conducting a large-scale multimedia education campaign with eye care messages targeted to 40,000 community members.



Elim Eye Hospital in Nigeria is working in partnership with the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital and Mercy Hospital to increase their capacity to deliver quality pediatric eye surgeries, including cataract. A total of 2,500 children will be examined and cared for and 260 children will benefit from high quality cataract surgery and refractive services. The project will increase the capacity of the pediatric surgical team by enhancing the facilities and improving community outreach. This includes training of a pediatric ophthalmologist provided by Emory University, new equipment and supplies, and better transport between the outlying Mercy Hospital and the central hospital, Elim.



Orbis international is conducting one of CBP's Innovation Projects. The project is a randomized controlled trial, PRICE (Potentiating Rural Investment in Children's Eyesight) across 125 schools in two provinces of China that will screen 10,000 children. The project is structured to find a model to maximize the number of children receiving eyeglasses. Parents can select free eyeglasses or chose from a variety of upgrades. Surplus

funds from the upgrade glasses can then be returned to the program to fund future school screenings to ensure that even the poorest children receive quality eye glasses and that the program is financially sustained. If the model is successful, Orbis plans to advocate for the model at the national levels with developing countries.



The Aravind Eye Hospital in Coimbatore, India is one of a few CBP projects that will screen over 100,000 children in order to find those in need of eye care. The central goal is to reach the most severely vision impaired and blind children that are often hidden from society. These children have, for the most part, never been examined by an ophthalmologist; once examined they can receive proper care. In some cases children who were thought to be blind can have their vision restored.

The creation of a rehabilitation center with a full-time therapist for those children who are irreversibly blind or cannot be treated is also being funded as part of this project. The center will provide vision training, early intervention and comprehensive rehabilitation. This involves such activities as helping a child learn to recognize shiny objects or stimulating their brains to understand the shape or orientation of an object.



The B.P. Eye Foundation was awarded a CBP Innovation Grant to test student-to-student eye screening. The goal is to increase successful screening. The project is being carried out in three regions of mid-western Nepal. The validity of the screening will be assessed by comparing the

results of the students against those of an optometrist. The trained students will screen approximately 10,000 children. A subset of 1,200 referred and 1,200 non-referred cases will be tested for false positive and false negative referrals. Ultimately, around 1,200 children expected to need eyeglasses will obtain them through the project free of cost. As a model program, results will be shared with the eye care community and, if successful, the model will be replicated.



Helen Keller International (HKI) will expand its model

ChildSight school-based vision screening program to in three poor peri-urban western districts of Hanoi, Vietnam and establish the full continuum of pediatric eye care services within the area. HKI

will screen approximately 20,000 schoolchildren in 24 schools and subsidize around 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses to children that need them. Overall, the proposed program will strengthen the pediatric eye health capacity at Son Tay Hospital by developing an integrated, sustainable system for identification, treatment and referral for children who need eyeglasses, as well as for children with more complex eye disorders.

Orbis International, in partnership with the Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI), will build the capacity of the National Center for Maternal and Child Health (NCMCH) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and five other regional hospitals. Capacity building will include training, school and other screenings, and optical shop management necessary for sustainable delivery of quality services. This capacity boost will help train 173 providers in pediatric care screen around 100,000 children and correct refractive error in 18,000 of them.





The Child Sight Foundation's project encompasses a wide range of eye care activities in four districts of northern Bangladesh to alleviate child blindness. These include the selection and training of 1,500 community members to identify children in need of eye care services. The project will establish 30 eye care camps to treat the children who are referred. An estimated 10,000 children referred by the trained key informants will be screened by an ophthalmologist. They will also provide 4,000 eyeglasses, 500 low vision devices and 500 white canes to the most severely vision impaired and blind children.

