

SAMPLE OF USAID CHILD BLINDNESS PROGRAM PROJECTS

CURRENT PROJECTS FOCUSING ON INNOVATION

B.P. Eye Foundation

Project Name: Student-Led Screening of School Children for Refractive Error Correction

Country: Nepal

Type of grant: Innovation

Grant period: October 15, 2014 – October 14, 2015

Purpose: Through this year-long project, B.P. Eye Foundation is further examining innovative ways to address the shortage of human resources in pediatric eye-care by empowering non-health personnel to conduct screenings among school populations. Operating within three districts of the mid-western development region of Nepal, the project will establish vision clubs at local schools and professionally train secondary level students in the vision clubs to conduct vision screenings. Upon successful completion of the training course, trained students will conduct vision screenings at their schools and appropriately refer children exhibiting refractive error or other eye issues for treatment by optometrists or local eye care centers. B.P. Eye Foundation will distribute glasses to those students with refractive error free of cost. A total of at least 10,000 children will be screened by the trained students with an estimated 1,200 children referred. A similar number of children reported to have normal vision by student screeners will be reassessed by optometrists to test for false positive and false negative referrals. B.P. Eye Foundation will methodically analyze results and perform statistical analysis to evaluate the validity of the screening conducted by trained students. Results from the project could have a significant impact on the ability to reach students with vision screenings in remote areas.

Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology – International (KCCO International)

Project Name: Increasing Global Knowledge Based on Best Practices

Type of grant: Innovation

Grant period: October 15, 2014 – October 14, 2015

Purpose: Under this project, KCCO International will conduct two thorough systematic literature reviews to enhance the body of information on the Continuum of Care (CC) for childhood blindness. The work will be done by a consortium of individuals and institutions in Africa, Asia and industrialized countries with overall scientific oversight from KCCO. The two specific activities conducted under the project include:

- 1) A systematic literature review and final summary publication regarding the CC for childhood vision loss, including: a) The effectiveness and efficiency of key informants in the identification and referral of children with severe vision loss or blindness; b) The effectiveness and efficiency of school screening (by school teachers) to identify and refer children in need of eye care services; c) The effectiveness and efficiency of different strategies to achieve good follow up after surgical intervention (including clinical, optical,

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rehabilitation, and educational). The published review will further inform and improve programs within the field.

- 2) An evaluation and publication on the use of mobile technologies for pediatric eye care. This evaluation will be conducted across the entire CC, including reporting systems for key informants, examination reports, surgical reports, follow up reports, automatic, SMS text messaging reminders for follow-up visits, or communication with schools regarding educational placement. Examples, such as mobile apps for mHealth in trachoma and other eye care fields will be examined for the potential to replicate elements of their achievements. Based on these efforts KCCO International will develop a basic application for a mobile device.

Orbis International

Project Name: Potentiating Rural Investment in Children's Eyesight (PRICE)

Country: China

Type of grant: Innovation

Grant period: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

Purpose: Orbis International, China, is implementing the Potentiating Rural Investment in Children's Eyesight Project (PRICE) to create, study and advocate for a model that can be adopted by the Chinese government to provide spectacles for all children sustainably. Orbis is using a randomized, controlled design to optimize the model of "free glasses for all with an optional upgrade." The selection of free spectacles and cost of the "upgrade" options will be varied between groups in order to find the optimal balance between high rates of purchase of upgrade glasses on the one hand and good acceptance and wear of free spectacles among those selecting these on the other. Surplus funds from the upgrade glasses can then be returned to the program to fund future school screenings ensuring the program is sustained in future years. PRICE is a collaboration of public, private, and research-based organizations including: rural government hospitals of the Chinese health care system, Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center (China's largest eye hospital), Stanford University, Brien Holden Foundation, and Luxottica.

ADDITIONAL SAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS

Consejo de Salud Rural Andino (CSRA)

Project Name: Childhood Sight Improvement Program

Country: Bolivia

Type of grant: Delivery and Expansion

Grant period: June 1, 2006 – November 30, 2008

Purpose: This project applied CSRA's Census-Based, Impact-Oriented (CBIO) approach to the development of a comprehensive pediatric eye care program in Montero, Bolivia. Grant supported activities included screening schoolchildren for visual acuity and basic eye conditions; screening of out-of-school youth through home visits; and providing eyeglasses or medical/surgical treatment. CSRA aimed to integrate these activities into the services provided by its three outpatient clinics offering care for sixteen surrounding low-income neighborhoods.

Perkins School for the Blind, Latin America

Project Name: Perkins Partnerships for Children, Latin America

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Countries: Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico

Type of grant: Delivery and Expansion

Grant period: November 1, 2007 – October 31, 2009

Purpose: Under this project, the Perkins School for the Blind provided direct education and rehabilitation services and support to 500 children with visual impairment and multiple disabilities. In coordination with Ministries of Education and regional NGOs, Perkins utilized grant funds to build special education capacity and advocacy skills among 140 teachers, 180 parents, 60 administrators, as well as other decision-makers. This grant contributed to strengthening the network of special education providers across Latin America.

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