

Welcome to the 3rd SiB newsletter!

It feels like a long time since many of us met in Kuala Lumpur back in June & much has happened since then. Phase 4 projects continue key activities to work towards eliminating avoidable blindness in their communities and it is fantastic to have this opportunity to share your experiences, as there is so much we can learn from each other.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome the new SiB Phase 5 projects to the SiB newsletter! For Phase 5 we now have both the standard \$1 million Type 1 projects set up as well as the new \$5 million Type 2 consortium projects, focussing on Child Eye Health (CEH). The 1st of these consortium CEH projects is in China & being led by Orbis. The 2nd consortium CEH project is in East Africa and actually been broken down into 2 consortium, the 1st being led by CBM and the 2nd by Brian Holden Vision Institute. Section 2 of this newsletter introduces the new projects already up and running & many of them have written a short introduction to their project. More Phase 5 projects will be commencing in 2014, so we will update you on these in the next newsletter.

The 3 themes of this newsletter are:

- Using Monitoring to enhance project performance
- Using final evaluations
- Standard Chartered Bank Volunteering Opportunities

Projects have sent across their key learnings on these 3 areas. I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone for sending in such excellent contributions. This newsletter is only meaningful if you send us your key learning from projects, & I'm delighted to inform you that this time we have more contributions than ever! I have tried to distribute this newsletter to all SiB partners whose email I have, but please do forward to people within your organisations – especially the project officers and partner organisations implementing the projects on the ground. We will also send to the Standard Chartered Bank in-country staff.

Sally Crook has written a piece on how we at SiB monitor project progress and I have also included the piece Jeanette McKenna presented at the KL workshop on the dos and don'ts of Standard Chartered Bank volunteering. Finally there are links on the newsletter to all the general SiB guidance – everything from taking good photographs for case studies, to top tips for writing SiB reports!

It is timely for this newsletter to be focussing on monitoring & evaluation because of the consultancy piece on measuring Impact/Value for Money conducted by Marshall Lee at the bank has been completed. Several of you met Marshall at the KL workshop in the summer & learnt of his interest in Seeing is Believing & Impact measurement. SiB/IAPB is currently working on it, reflecting on the data we collect from you and how we conduct & share our final evaluations. Thank you to everyone who sent Marshall information & gave your time, as it has been helpful & given SiB ideas.

The themes for the next SiB newsletter (in June/July 2014) will be:

- Networking & collaboration
- Advocacy.

Networking & collaboration can be in the context of NGO's working in partnership with other NGO's e.g. in consortiums in projects, or NGO's working in partnership with the Government. It could also include supporting collaboration between different Government departments e.g. health & education. With so many projects working in collaboration with various partners, it would be great to learn from your experiences. Advocacy was mentioned a lot in the KL workshop as a key strategy



for sustainability – particularly in many of the African countries, so it would be great to hear from projects how they have managed to achieve this & what the challenges to achieving this are (and how to overcome them!). We will be requesting contributions to the next newsletter with the February & May 6 monthly reports, so you have some time to prepare.

Finally, I would like to wish you all Seasons Greetings & a Happy New Year. Look forward to working with you all in 2014!

SiB Team