

'Pono Letlotlo' Project Improving services to prevent blindness and visual impairment in Botswana

Impact made by the project

The impact of the project is improved access, establishment of services and trained eye care workers, laying a good foundation for future prospects of investment and development.

Sustainability

The improved services are aligned with the objectives of the National Plan for Eye Care 2015-2019

Local Standard Chartered engagement

Staff were involved as; subjects for care staff training, in RAAB and World Sight Day activities and on national radio raising awareness of services

Main objectives for the project:

Establish effective leadership and management by MoH for new and improved services in the public sector focusing on people with diabetes, people with refractive error and children.

Increase and improve provision of Diabetic Retinopathy Services in Botswana

Establish national programme for assessment of child eye health in Botswana

Increase and improve optometric services in the public sector and build referral pathways for patients with RE

Developing capacity for new and improved services for eye health

SiB contributed towards...

Leading to...

Therefore impacting...



Training ophthalmic nurses and community health and education workers

Ophthalmic nursing services providing services to detect and refer primary school children for management of sight threatening conditions

All young children as a national children's vision service is established for vision screening and referral.



Training ophthalmic nurses and doctors in diabetic retinopathy

Five DR screening and two DR treatment centres established with trained staff and adding 12,000+ to DR register

All people with diabetes as national diabetic retinopathy service established



Designing and providing children's vision assessment kits to nearly 600 health and education staff

Vision tool added to national child health card, and early child vision assessment kit created for Botswana

- Over 8,000 pre- and early primary children already screened and those with sight threatening conditions referred.

Developing infrastructure for and awareness of new and improved services

SiB contributed towards...

Leading to...

Therefore impacting...



Establishing Botswana's first and only public sector Vision Centre

New public sector refraction services and spectacle supply & commitment by government to provide free spectacles to certain groups

Children, elderly and vulnerable groups who now have access to free and low-cost services previously unavailable in public sector



National TV, radio, press and poster campaign

More than 1.7million people reached by publicity campaign

Demand for eye care services with the majority of the population aware of new services

Key service delivery increase

↑ **752%** in the number of people with diabetes being screened for retinopathy

↑ **75%** in the number of ophthalmic nurses providing screening and referral services for pre and early primary school children.

SiB Project

Implementing partner:
Addenbrooke's Abroad
(Cambridge University Hospitals)

Total budget: \$600,000

Total SiB contribution: \$500,000

Project Duration: 3.5 years

Situation analysis

Target Population: 2.1million

Blindness Prevalence: 5.4%

Leading causes: cataract,
diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma



Name: Boemo Gaobotse

Age: 13

Location: Gaborone

Boemo's sight problems were detected during an outreach screening visit to her school. She was referred to an Optometrist and her new glasses were cut at the new Vision Centre and provided free. She spoke at the project closing event about the difference the glasses were making, and made an impassioned plea for all children in Botswana to have access to spectacles