The 2009 A2Z Child Blindness Program Partners Meeting
November 2—3, 2009
Washington DC

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Background: USAID Child Blindness Program

- Program originates through Congressional directive
- $20m to 25 NGOs implementing activities in 58 countries
- Child Blindness Program managed under A2Z: The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project at the Academy for Educational Development (AED)
USAID/A2Z Child Blindness & Eye Health Grants Fund: 2005-2010

- To date, five competitive cycles have been coordinated

- $6.4 million in total grant awards

- 3 Types of Grants:
  - **Organizational Development (OD)** – 1 year grant, from $25,000 – $50,000
  - **Service Delivery (SD)** – 2 year grant, from $100,000 - $500,000
  - **Refugee Service Delivery (RSD)** – 2 year grant, $200,000
A2Z’s Role

- **Grants fund management:**
  - Develop request for letters of interest / proposals
  - Coordinate review panel
  - Develop subgrant agreements
  - Disperse grant funds

- **Results Reporting**
  - Cumulative summary of quarterly activities
  - M&E
  - Financial status

- **Documentation & Communication**
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Case studies
  - Conference presentations
  - Website features
As of October 2008: 32 grants awarded to 23 organizations working in 25 countries throughout Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.
Child Blindness & Eye Health Grants Fund: Priorities

1) Expand delivery of high-impact direct services (screening, treatment, and rehabilitation)

2) Scale-up innovative approaches to service provision and project implementation

3) Contribute to global knowledge base on effective approaches to large-scale pediatric eye care projects
Overall Program Results

Personnel trained to perform screenings and/or refract...

13,539

Himalayan Cataract Project - Nepal

HKI - Niger
Overall Program Results

Individuals who received vision screening...

CSRA - Bolivia
1,869,920

VisionSpring - India
152,963
Children referred by screening for additional services (refraction, medical or surgical treatment)...

Overall Program Results

Fred Hollows Foundation - Vietnam

FUDEM – El Salvador

75,093
Overall Program Results

Children whose refractive error is corrected (received eyeglasses)

ICEE – South Africa

23,566
Overall Program Results

Children having received cataract surgery…

Fred Hollows Foundation - Vietnam

2,443
Overall Program Results

Children who are blind or with low vision having received therapies and/or low vision devices...

Perkins - Philippines

Perkins - Guatemala

ICEE – South Africa

3,440
Overall Program Results

Awareness raising and policy/advocacy...

Child Sight Foundation - Bangladesh

Fred Hollows Foundation - Vietnam
Overall Program Results

Provision of essential equipment…

- 18 Perkins Braillers
- 8 Ophthalmoscopes
- 6 Retinoscopes
- 6 Autorefractometers
- 6 Tonometers
- 5 Operating microscopes
- 5 Slit lamps
- Also: Yag laser; pediatric anesthesia equipment; Diode laser; B-Scans
2009 A2Z: USAID Child Blindness Program – Grantee Experience Survey

BACKGROUND

- March 2009
- Web-based specialized informant survey
- Objective: To increase A2Z/USAID understanding of the field experience of organizations delivering pediatric eye care services under the A2Z Child Blindness Program
- Respondents = 41
- Content & descriptive analysis techniques used to identify common trends and themes
Survey Findings

Project successes: Expanded services and capacity building

- Despite the brief implementation period (~2 years), the most mentioned project success were expanding direct eye care services (59%) and capacity building (39%)

  “This has provided the platform for enhancing our services both at the base hospital and in outreach activities, especially on conducting camps exclusively for children.”

  “Taking services to the doorstep”

  “Training community workers from rural areas”

  “Motivated teachers are accomplishing action plans to incorporate eye care into general curriculum.”
Partners posed project implementation challenges

- When asked about project implementation challenges, respondents named one or more local partners (34%).

  “Working with government health providers.”

  “Working across two government departments – department of health AND the department of education”

  “Working with government authorities”
Identified barriers to service: ‘Accessibility’ & Follow-up

- In regards to service delivery challenges, the leading replies fall under the category of ‘accessibility’ (44%). Organizations experienced difficulties in reaching beneficiaries or beneficiaries faced barriers reaching services offered.
- Follow-up was the second most mentioned service delivery challenge (30%).

“It is difficult to connect to communities due to distances of the schools and communities.”

“Access to children: Transportation of vision screeners to school.”

“Follow-up sessions are critical to ensuring positive outcomes. But many families cannot afford to travel long distances multiple times.”