



HIMALAYAN CHILD BLINDNESS ALLEVIATION AND EYE HEALTH INITIATIVE

HIMALAYAN CATARACT PROJECT ▪ TILGANGA INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

2009 A2Z Child Blindness Program Partners Meeting

NEPAL

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Tertiary Eye Hospital –
Tilganga Institute of
Ophthalmology,
Kathmandu
- 6 Community Eye
Centres (CECs) in rural
mountain districts



Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology



PROJECT APPROACH

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen capacity of existing eye care providers at all levels to:
 - Prevent eye disease
 - Promote eye health
 - Provide treatment
- Train & utilize community volunteers



Community screening

PROJECT APPROACH

OBJECTIVES

- Promote blindness prevention at community level
- Use existing infrastructure and maximize its use



Screening in Rasua, Nepal

RESULTS: PREVENT EYE DISEASE

- 700 volunteers, school teachers, health post managers and drug retailers trained to recognize childhood eye disease
- 336,944 children screened



Female Community Health Volunteer Training, Nuwakot Community Eye Centre

RESULTS: PROVIDE TREATMENT

- 10,735 refraction activities
- 326 cataract surgeries
- 625 other surgeries
- Further training for 2 pediatric nurses, 2 nurse anesthetists and 1 orthoptician in India

Child referred to Tilganga from CEC



CHALLENGES

- Shift from Training to Implementation
- Coordinating HR training without detracting from organization's capacity
- Concurrent time frame of major expansion at Tilganga



DEBATE

- Should the pediatric team at tertiary level be exclusive to pediatrics?



Pediatric ophthalmologist Dr. Ujjowala Shrestha examining a patient at Tilganga

CONCLUSIONS & WAY FORWARD

- Energy around pediatric eye care
- Expand into four additional rural districts
- Establish a Society for Pediatric Ophthalmology in Nepal and coordinate efforts with other pediatric programs

