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
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: PROMOTE EYE HEALTH

• 1,462 radio announcements broadcast
• 62,500 brochures distributed on “Common Children Eye Health Problems” and “Childhood Blinding Diseases”
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
• 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