

A2Z Child Blindness Program Refractive Error Case Study

Amanda Marr
11.2.09



Global Burden of Pediatric Refractive Error

- Affects more than 12M children (5-15 yrs)
- Includes myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism
- Girls at a higher risk than boys in every region of the world and all ages
- Increasing in school-age kids, esp. in Asia



Featured A2Z Grantees

- Fred Hollows Foundation Vietnam
- Himalayan Cataract Project
- Seva Cambodia
- Seva Nepal





School and Community Screening Strategies

Org	Teachers	Comm health volunteers	Trad healers	Outreach/commune health workers	Drug retailers/comm leaders
FHFV	X	X		X	
HCP	X	X	X		
Seva Cambodia	X	X		X	
Seva Nepal	X	X	X	X	X

Program Strategies to Address Challenges and Barriers

- Dispense glasses at screening site
- Offer variety of frames
- Educate children and parents
- Train FCHVs and provide services at the community level

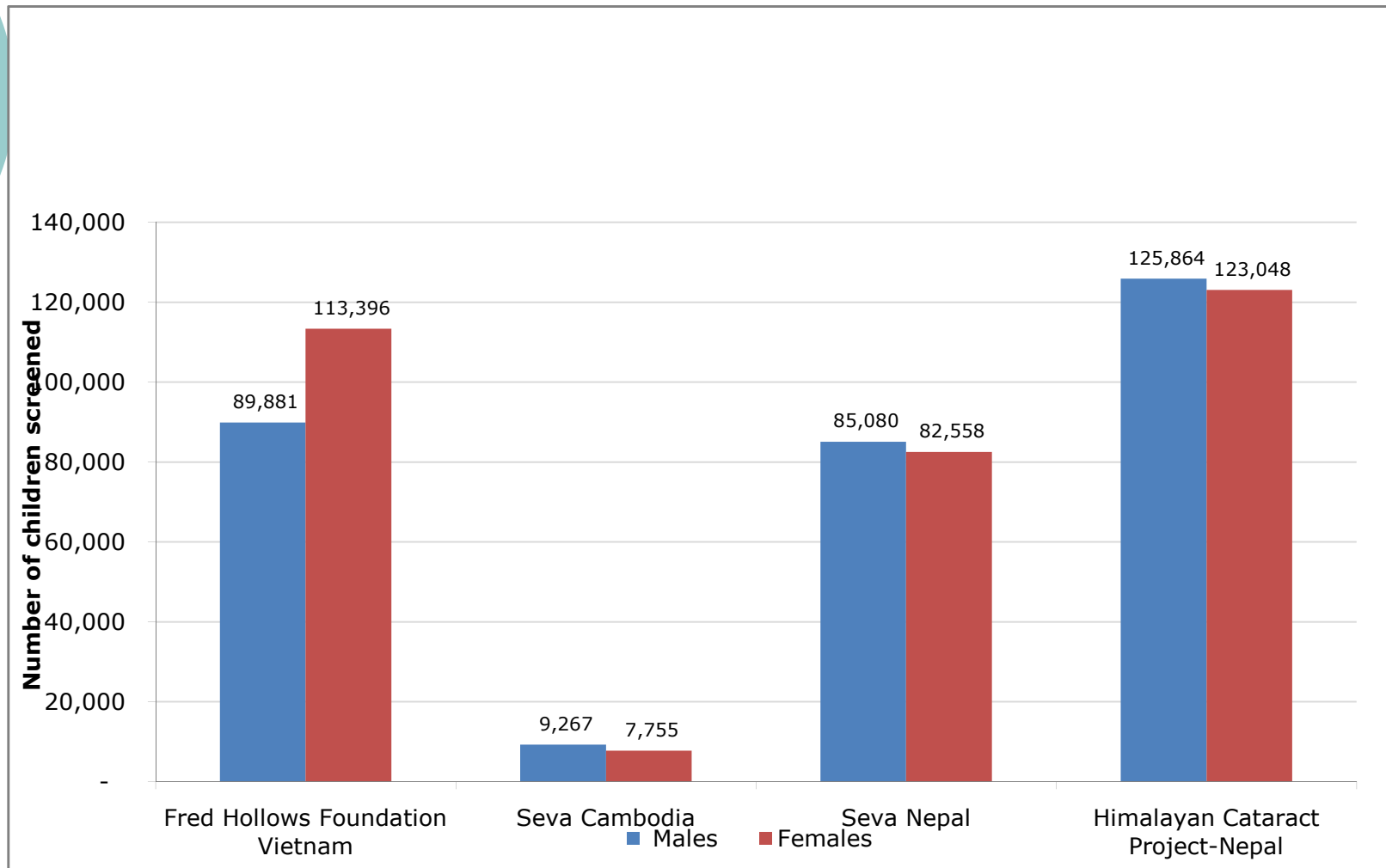


Results

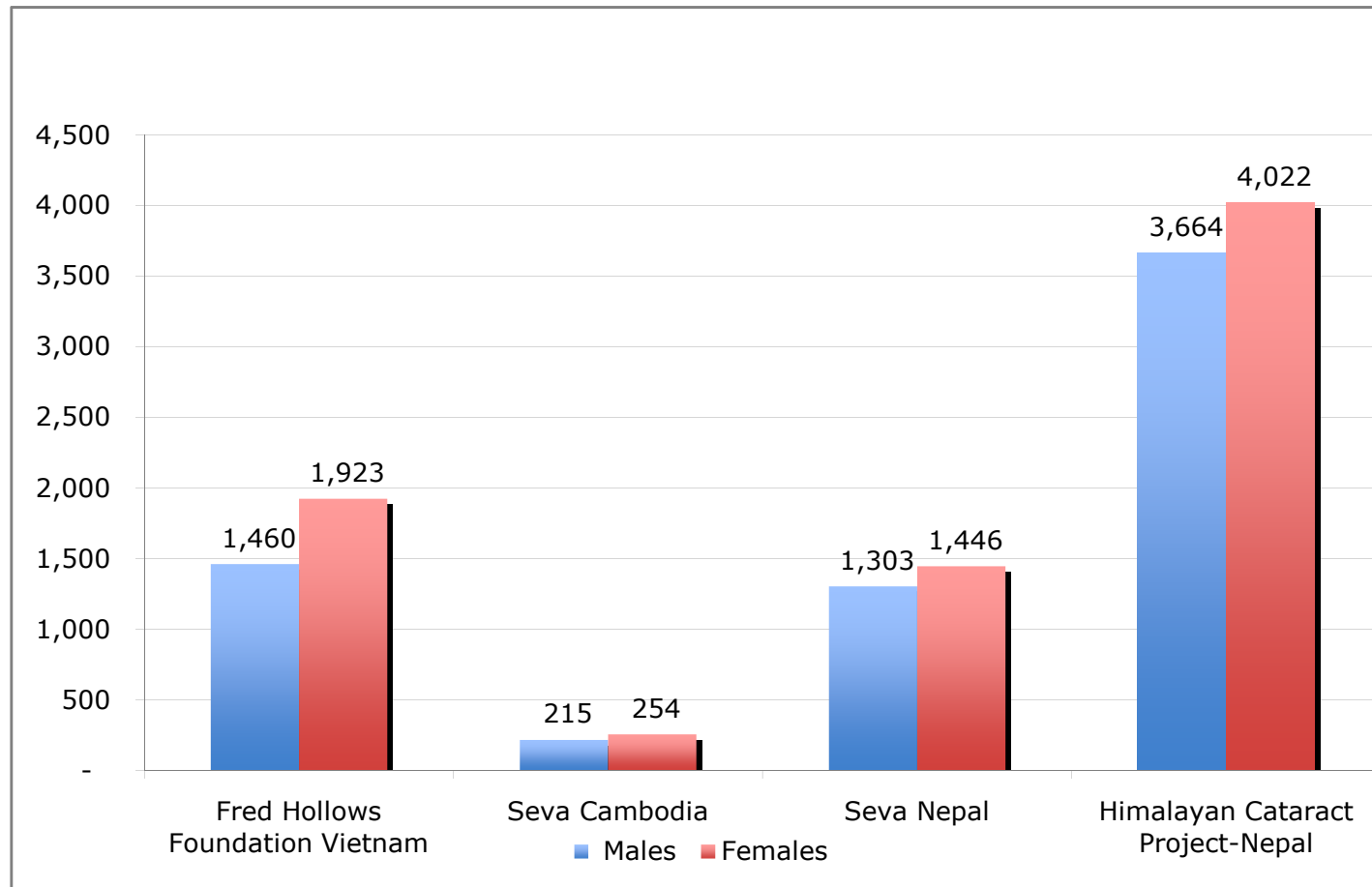
- 636,849 children screened
- 6,282 children provided with glasses
- For every 100 children screened, one received glasses



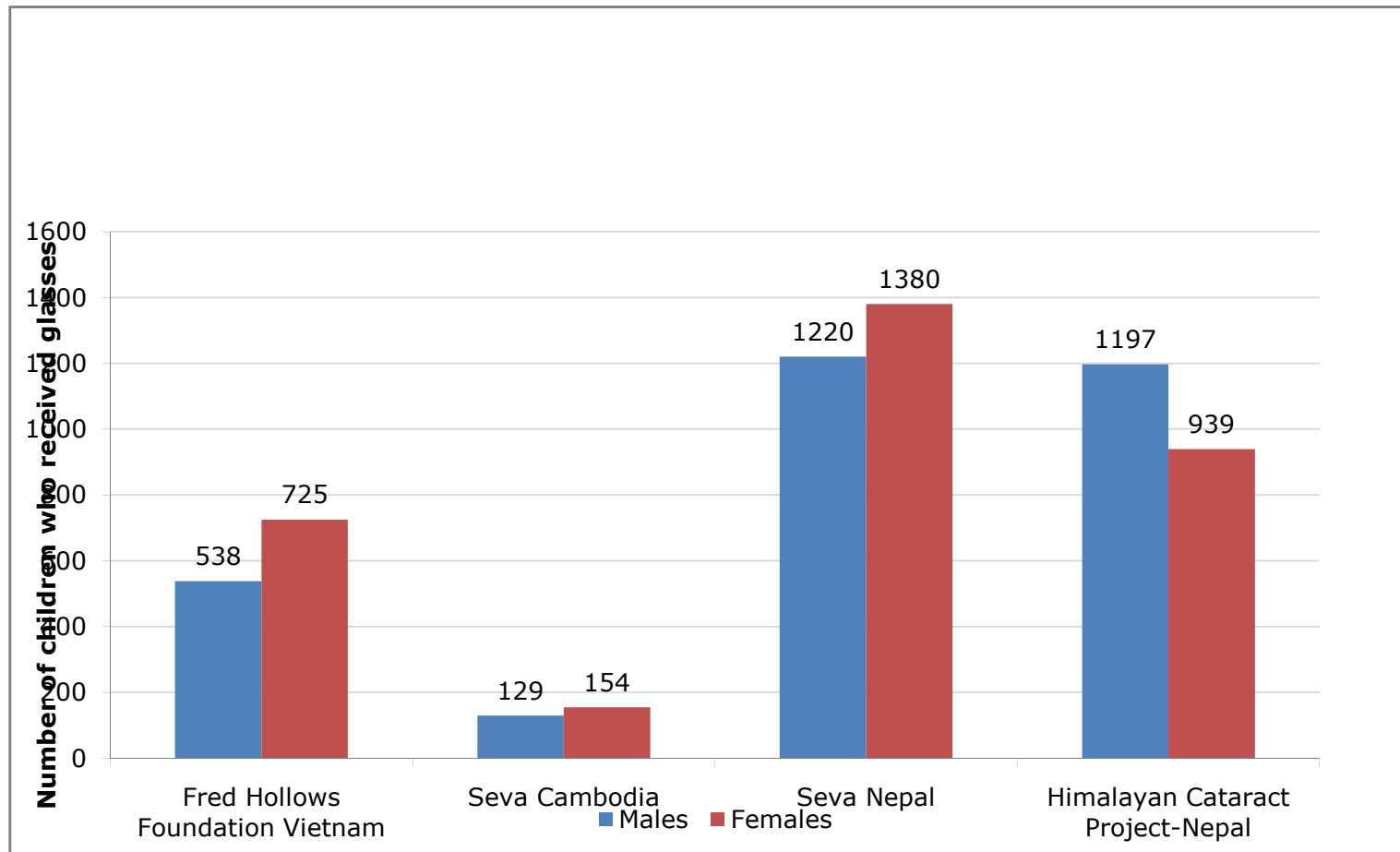
Vision Screening by Gender



Detection of Visual Impairment by Gender



Provision of Eyeglasses by Gender





Lessons Learned

- Screening efficacy varies with an individual's attitude, motivation
- More cost effective to have community members do screening before trained professionals
- Collaboration between education and health sectors and network from primary to tertiary levels are key to success

Ensuring Future Success of Programs

- External funding to reach poor children
- Selection criteria for training participants
- Inclusion of pediatric eye care as a regular part of training



Further Recommendations

- Regular follow-up, counseling, “whole family approach”, community eye health education
- Comprehensive strategy of school and community screening
- National guidelines for vision screening programs

