

REPORT ON COMPLETION OF MILESTONE 6

This report provides a narrative of initiatives and activities implemented by Blantyre Institute for Community Outreach (BICO) to achieve the milestone stated above. BICO did the following;

1. Completion of 10 screenings for least 500 children

Trained itinerant and regular classroom teachers in Lilongwe rural west conducted the initial identification of all children with various eye problems in schools. Names of all children who were suspected to have eye problems were captured on registers and these names were submitted to Special Needs Education Desk Officer for Lilongwe rural west who submitted to the BICO Project officer to organize an assessment of these identified children. Between January and February, 2018, assessments were done by a team comprising of Optometrists, Optometry Technician and Ophthalmic Clinical Officer on the registered children. After the evaluation some children with refractive errors were prescribed eye glasses, those with low vision were prescribed both eye glasses and other assistive devices. All other children who required surgical treatment or other medical attention for eye infections were referred to Lilongwe Central Hospital. A total of 1174 children comprising 511 males and 663 females were screened in Lilongwe rural west.

2. Eye glasses and other assistive low vision devices

In Lilongwe rural west, BICO has managed to provide eye glasses to children diagnosed with refractive error and Low vision as well as various low vision devices as shown in the following table.

Diagnosis	Males	Females	Total
Refractive error	97	126	223
Low vision	23	33	56

3. IMPROVED CLASS PERFORMANCE; A CASE STUDY OF TALANDILA EVANCE

Talandila is a 14 years old first born daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evance of Kachele village, Traditional Authority Tsabango in Lilongwe district. She was born with albinism and has been having problems with vision from birth.

She was enrolled at Malingunde resource center in 2017 due to her visual problems that were hindering her to learn properly in mainstream schools. On 19th January 2018, she was assessed by low vision therapist from Blantyre Institute for Community Outreach (BICO) and was identified to have low vision and was prescribed eye glasses to assist her in reading and seeing things at a distance plus hand and stand magnifiers to also assist her in reading books. After receiving and starting using eye glasses and the low vision devices, her performance in class has started to

improve. She is now able to read clearly as compared with the time when she didn't have these things. She is also able to do some other out of classroom activities i.e. sports as well.

Attached are some of the photos captured during the assessment.



Bruno Chimaliro, low vision therapist, captured while assessing Talandila Evance, with low vision, at Malingunde resource center.



Rodney Zimba, Optometrist captured during assessment of children at Mzumazi primary school, Lilongwe rural west zone.



Some of the children who benefited from the program captured after receiving eye glasses at Dzenza Secondary school.