



**USAID CHILD BLINDNESS PROGRAM
GRANTEE QUARTERLY AND FINAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Grantee Information	
Grantee Name:	BLANTYRE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY(BICO)
Grant Number:	PGRD-14-0002-02
Grant Project Title:	Provision of eye glasses and low vision services to children in South East Zone of Malawi
Country:	Malawi
Reporting Period:	1 st April 2016 to 30 th June 2016

Instructions for Submission of a Quarterly Report:

At the end of each quarterly reporting period, please complete Sections I and III of this form with information about your project activities and monitoring and evaluation data during the quarterly reporting period. Please provide complete responses for all of the questions under each section. Please limit responses to Section I of your quarterly report to no more than 3 pages, excluding attachments and photos.

Instructions for Submission of a Final Report:

At the end of the last quarter of your project, please complete Sections I, II, and III of this form with information about your entire project from the start date to the end date of the grant agreement. For your monitoring and evaluation report, please provide cumulative data from the start date to the end date of the grant agreement, in addition to the quarterly figures. Please provide complete responses for all questions under each section. Please limit responses to Section I and II of your final report to no more than 6 pages, *excluding* attachments and photos.

Section I.

The following questions should be fully answered and the requested information should be completed when submitting both a quarterly and final progress report.

- 1. Activities and Progress** – *Briefly describe the activities performed during the reporting period in fulfillment of each objective and milestone specified in the Grant Agreement. Your activities should match closely the activities listed in your project work plan. Please indicate whether the activities were completed during the reporting period or are in progress. If the activity is in progress, please explain your progress towards completing them.*

Objective 1: Establish basic refractive and low vision services for children at Zomba eye hospital; including handling of emergencies

No activity was done under this objective this reporting period.

Objective 2: Increase uptake of children attending pediatric services in Zomba and referrals for cataract surgery for children in Blantyre

- Key activities done under this objective were as follows;
 - (a) Multi-media education campaign targeting parents, teachers and community members with pediatric eye care messages:

Some radio programs were aired with messages on pediatric eye care. One radio station, radio Maria was involved. Some jingles were developed and aired. These were also followed up with phone in programs whereby callers had a chance to ask questions on eyes care and the services being offered.

- (b) Conduct school and community screenings

Screening of learners in both in school (Primary and Secondary schools) as well as community was conducted in Machinga urban and rural respectively. The Community CBR volunteers who were trained by BICO conducted screening in their respective communities. The trained teachers did the same also in their schools within Machinga urban. This was followed by a screening exercise by a group of Optometry Technicians who assessed all the children available at the screening centres (Schools and communities) In total 90 children were assessed in Machinga rural 90 (M38 F52) out of this number 18 had refractive errors (M8 F10) and 7 (M5 F2) were booked for further low vision assessment; 1 (F) child was referred to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital for cataract surgery. The teachers in Machinga urban also reported to have identified over 200 children after school screenings. Further assessment was also done by a team of Optometry Technicians where 135 (M50 F85) children were assessed and out of this 39 (M15 F24) were found with refractive errors and out of this 9 (M1 F8) were booked to be further assessed for low vision. One child with cataract was given a referral to Zomba Central Hospital for further examination

- (c) Intensify counselling for parents and children

Counselling to learners was done during screening and distribution of glasses. Parents were also counselled on caring of glasses and some were counselled when their children were referred for cataract surgery at Queen Elizabeth Central hospital in Blantyre

Objective 3: Offer quality refractive & low vision services to children at Zomba eye hospital and in resource centres around Zomba

- Three main activities were done under this objective thus;

- (1) Procure glasses and low vision devices

Eye glasses were procured for children with low vision and refractive errors who were identified during school and community screening sessions. Blantyre institute for community Ophthalmology (BICO) also organized a distribution of glasses to learners in Mangochi on 28th April 2016. The following schools, Mchoka primary School, St Augustine 3 Primary School,



Mangochi Secondary School, Orama Private secondary school and St Monica Girls secondary school. A total of 32 learners (M14 F18) were given eye glasses.

(2) Weekly mentorship/training visit by optometrists and low vision coordinator

BICO low vision Coordinator was able to conduct supervise the Optometry Technicians during low vision assessment and screenings. This was done to improve refractive and low vision skills for the Optometry technicians

(3) One week workshop in low vision followed by refresher workshop in year 1 & 2

Blantyre Institute for Community Ophthalmology (BICO) trained some teachers in three locations namely Montfort Resource Centre (22nd April 2016) In Chiradzulu, Nazombe Resource Centre (30th April 2016) in Phalombe and Mponda TDC in (14th May 2016) in Zomba. Teachers who were involved in this exercise were the ones whose learners had received eye glasses and some devices from BICO through the low vision project. In total 34 teachers (M9 F25) attended this exercise. The main aim of these trainings were that teachers to know how they can help the learners with low vision to optimize the use of their vision devices like spectacle, optical and non-optical interventions (as prescribed by their eye care services) to achieve inclusive education.

OBJECTIVS OF THE TRAINING

- Explain what low vision is and illustrate that all children can be educated together at a local school, including a child that does not see as well as other classmates.
- Illustrate the importance and use of non-optical interventions for a child with low vision
- Explain usefulness of distance spectacles and magnifying devices for near vision tasks
- Illustrate the support needed by a child with low vision to learn at a local school and at home.

Objective 4: Offer community screening in children identified by teachers and CBR workers

One activity was done under this objective; Train 3 optometrists and 3 refractions, and 2 counsellors in community refractions and low vision.

6 optometrists 1 optometry technician and 1 BICO staff were trained on how to design trainings on low vision for both health and non-health staff. The training was facilitated by a low vision consultant, Karin Van Dijk from Netherlands.

Subject Area of Training	Start Date of Training	End Date of Training	Number of Female Participants	Number of Male Participants	Total Number of Participants	USAID Funds Expended (USD)
Training of trainers to develop Malawi trainers on Low Vision for non- health staff	8/06/2016	10/06/2016	1	7	8	\$889.70



One week workshop in low vision followed by refresher workshop in year 1 & 2	22/04/2016	14/05/2016	25	9	35	\$978.36

Objective 5: Build capacity of BICO in refraction and low vision program management

The main activities done under this objective were:

- (1) Record data for all children accessing program/set up data base
Database was developed and set in Zomba. All children accessing services at the eye hospital are being captured onto the database.
- (2) BICO staff participated in distribution of eye glasses and community plus school screenings.

2. Key Achievements –

- Functional theatre unit and team able to handle minor child cases in Zomba.
- Eye clinic room in Zomba has been equipped with some pediatric refractive and low vision equipment
- Children are able to access glasses and low vision devices

3. Challenges Faced – *Please identify any challenges/risks affecting project performance, adherence to the Annual Work Plan achievement of project objectives or M&E targets during the reporting period. Please describe your proposed actions to address these challenges/risks, and include a status update on issues addressed in previous quarterly reports.*

Delay in transfer of funds from of funds from PGRD/USAID to BICO. Since the contract was signed in August, so far no funds have been transferred. BICO has on several occasions tried to engage PGRD but has not received any satisfactory response. As a result of lack of funding, there was a delay in roiling out activities.

4. Activities and Milestones Planned for the Next Quarter – *Briefly describe the project activities planned for the next quarter. Note that this question should only be answered when submitting a quarterly report. Do not respond to this question if submitting a Final Report*

Activities	Months			Milestone
	J	J	A	
Orient Ophthalmologist, cataract surgeons and nurses to pediatric ophthalmology services in Blantyre				5 children per week with emergency sight threatening conditions managed by competent refractive and low vision team
Procure Theatre equipment in Zomba				1 Functional theatre unit and team able to handle minor child cases in Zomba
Procure outpatient equipment in Zomba				1 Eye clinic room equipped with pediatric refractive and low vision equipment
Conduct a multi-media education campaign to target parents, teachers and community members with pediatric eye care messages:	x	x	x	10 children attending eye unit in Zomba every day
Intensify Counselling for parents and children	x	x	x	2 children referred to Blantyre every week
Conduct school and community screenings	x	x	x	50 children attend eye examinations and refractions/low vision assessment weekly.
Procure glasses and low vision devices	x	x	x	1000 children able to access glasses; 200 children able to access low vision devices
One week workshop on refraction followed by refresher workshop in year 1 & year 2		x		5000 children refracted; 1000 children provided with glasses
One week workshop in low vision followed by refresher workshop in year 1 & 2		x		5000 children refracted; 1000 children provided with glasses
Weekly mentorship/training visit by optometrists and low vision coordinator	x	x	x	8 optometrists and refractonists equipped with pediatric refractive and low vision skills
Retrain 8 itinerant teachers; Train 100 teachers to identify visually impaired children			x	24 screening sessions conducted
Train 3 optometrists and 3 refractions, and 2 counselors in community refractions and low vision		x		6 Optometrists and low vision technicians able to examine and correct children with refractive errors and low vision;
Workshop Training in refraction and low vision			x	1 Workshop Training in refraction and low vision facilitated by BICO
Biannual visit of eye team to resource centres within Zomba catchment area				BICO facilitates 4 visits to resource centres



Record data for all children
accessing program/set up data base

x **x** **x**

Mobile health database established at BICO

- 5. Success stories** – *Is there a story you would like to share with us that highlights your achievements? We will post many of these stories on our website and share them with others who want to see the progress CBP grantees are making in support of eye care to children. Your success story should include a description of the problem encountered, the step you took to resolve it, and a description of the end result or benefit. What was learned? What was the impact? We encourage you to provide photos that accompany your story. Please keep in mind the following guidelines for high quality photos:*
- a. When taking digital photos, set camera to take high resolution photos (high resolution is very important—it means better quality photos.)*
 - b. Use a flash, even outside. This is called “fill flash,” and ensures that your subject’s facial features are illuminated properly.*
 - c. Hold your camera still while you take the photo to ensure perfect clarity.*
 - d. When downloading and sending the photo, please send a jpg version and maintain a resolution of at least 300 dpi (dots per inch.)*

Section II – Final Report Questions

Please respond to the following questions only when submitting a final progress report.

- 1. Capacity Building** – *Please describe how the project led to capacity building of your organization. This may include enhancements to: programmatic, managerial, human resources, administrative, technical systems or facets of the work.*
- 2. Sustainability** – *Please provide a description of how the project will continue to operate after the project end date.*
- 6. Lessons Learned** – *Please describe any lessons learned from your project that might be useful for other eye care programs or providers.*

	Indicator	Baseline Value	Project Period of Performance:								Target	
			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5	Q 6	Q 7	Q 8		Cumulative
5	Number of children with refractive error whose error is corrected (received eyeglasses)		0	155	98							1000
	• Sex (M/F)		0	M 53 F 102	M36 F62							50% males
	• Age Range (0-14 y.o.)		0									0-14
6	Number of people reached with USG supported child blindness messages		0	49	16,301,431							800,000
	• Sex (M/F)		0	M=23 F=26	M=8006715 F=8303716							50% males
	• Age Range (0-14 y.o.)		0	0								50% below 14 years
	• Type of message		N/A	Low vision and services available	Eye care problems & available services							N/A
	• Target audience		N/A	teachers and PEAs in Zomba	The whole population reached by the radio							N/A

