A Decade of Unite For Sight-Sponsored Eye Care in Ghana: Socioeconomic Impact on the Lives of the People

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Outline

1. Program Growth
2. Capacity Building
3. Awareness Creation
4. Pillars of Success
5. Challenges
6. Way Forward
7. Conclusion
1. Program Growth (Accra)

Rural deprived communities

- 2006    8 Comm.
- 2008    20
- 2010    30
- 2012    37
- 2015    20
Clinic Outreach Locations

- Friends Eye Centre
- Charity Eye Clinic
- North Western Eye Centre (St Thomas)
- Crystal Eye Clinic
2. Capacity Building

A. Local volunteers trained 37 communities 2 – 3 volunteers/comm. capacity passed on to community members

B. Capacity of local professional staff
3. Awareness Creation

- Early reporting of complaints
- Reduced usage of Traditional Eye Med (TEM)
- Stigmatization reducing
- Children are being brought early
- People are reporting even long after being discharged from UFS care, with simple complaints
4. Pillars of Success

a) Continued financial and material support from Unite for Sight
b) Dedicated local staff
c) Wise use of funds
d) Mutual trust
e) Incentives for local volunteers
Pillars of Success

Dedicated Expatriate volunteers
(Global Impact Fellows)
Cultural Exchanges bring confidence in locals
5. Challenges

- Rough terrain
- Van used not 4x4, needs frequent maintenance
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Van 8yrs (2007-2014)
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Van 3yrs old now
6. Way Forward

- Still many more unreached poor communities
- With more resources team could be expanded
- Motorbikes
- Request from Afram Plains
Afram Plains

- 200 communities
- Population of 230,000
Afram Plains
7. Conclusion

Thousands eyesight restored, empowered;

- To return to work
- To take care of their families
- To go to school
- Improved quality of life
- Alleviation of poverty
Thank you