

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR END TERM EVALUATION OF SCHOOL EYE HEALTH PROGRAM IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY, KENYA.

1. Project background and context

Operation Eyesight Universal (OEU) is an international development organization that is engaged in evolving and implementing innovative approaches with the objective of the elimination of avoidable blindness. OEU works collaboratively with partner hospitals in South Asian and Sub-Saharan African nations to develop strategic programs that focus on achieving people-centred, high quality, comprehensive, and sustainable eye health services.

OEU Kenya's programming is aligned with Kenya's National Strategic Plan for Eye Health and Blindness Prevention 2020-2025. It is anchored in the National Health Sector Strategic Plan and National Health Policy (2014-2030), whose goal is to provide the highest attainable standard of health care to all Kenyans. OEU supports the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Eye Health and Blindness Prevention by working closely with the Ministry of Health through its Ophthalmic Services Unit (OSU). At the county level, OEU works closely with Departments of Health and Education for implementation of general eye care services.

In January 2021, OEU received funding from USAID's Child Blindness Program to implement the *School Eye Health Program, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya*. The project's objective is to screen 80,000 students and 3,000 teachers from Turbo, Soi and Ainabkoi Sub Counties of Uasin Gishu County, Kenya, through the use of Peek Vision, a smartphone-based technology used to identify individuals with eyesight problems. This eye health program was designed to train teachers to use smartphone technology to identify children with visual impairment, and to refer those with vision problems to the nearest eye health facility or outreach clinic for treatment, refractive services and in more complex cases, for further referral for specialized treatment, including surgery, low vision aids or other rehabilitative treatments. This program was aimed at refining and strengthening the tracking system for child referrals and follow-up mechanisms to ensure children identified as having a vision impairment receive appropriate eye health services. The program was designed to be an effective platform to promote prevention, early detection and treatment of common eye disorders. Operational research to assess the extent of adherence to wearing eyeglasses among school-going children who have been screened and supplied with eyeglasses was also embedded into the program.

The goals of this program were:

1. To reduce the prevalence of avoidable blindness and visual impairment of school-going children in the sub-counties of Turbo, Soi and Ainabkoi in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

2. To further refine an effective and efficient model for eye health screening using Peek Vision technology for eye health screening, referral and treatment, for primary- and secondary-school aged, school-going children in Kenya.

The key objectives of the program were:

1. To build the capacity of the health care and health education system in Uasin Gishu County, to provide high quality vision services for children.
2. To screen school-going children and their teachers for un- or under-corrected refractive error and other vision impairments, and to refer and provide appropriate high quality eye care services.
3. To reduce the stigma of poor vision and the wearing of eyeglasses, and to reduce preventable eye conditions in children.

The following is a brief summary of the project.

Project location(s)	Uasin Gishu County
Project name	School Eye Health Program, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya
Funded by:	United States Agency for International Development – Child Blindness Program
Project duration	Two years: from January 2021 to January 2023.
Implementing agency and partners	Operation Eyesight Universal in collaboration with Peek Vision and the Uasin Gishu County Departments of Health and Education
Commissioning organisation/contact person	Operation Eyesight Universal Alice Mwangi, Country Director, Kenya mwangia@operationeyesight.com

2 End Term Evaluation objectives and scope

2.1. Objectives

The overall objective of this evaluation is to assess the extent to which the program has met the project goal, outcomes, objectives and outputs over the project duration in the project coverage area and examine the extend of impact of the project to the target beneficiaries against the set objectives.

Additionally, this evaluation aims to:

- Evaluate stakeholder engagement and effectiveness of the partnership between Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Teachers' Service Commission.

- Analyze the process of vision screening: specifically, the process of the identification of children with un- or under-corrected refractive error and other vision impairments, and the referral and treatment processes. This evaluation will also assess if the key targets were met during the implementation period.
- Evaluate the accuracy of eyeglass prescriptions, and the efficiency of optical supply.
- Measure the extent to which the interventions have achieved or are likely to achieve the intended, immediate results (i.e. to what extent Primary Eye Care has been integrated into the Primary Health Care system).
- Assess the program for gender and social inclusion (i.e. the systems, tools and trainings involved).
- Evaluate criteria of relevance, scale up, sustainability, and impact of the project.
- Generate key lessons and identify promising practices for learning to improve future program interventions.

2.2. Scope of Evaluation

This evaluation will cover the entire program period. It will assess project performance and outcomes at all levels. It will also assess outcomes at the county departments of health and education; both at the schools and at the eye units.

The evaluation will also assess the impact of the project on both primary and secondary beneficiaries; school going children, teachers, teacher screeners, ophthalmic workers, health workers, parents and guardians, and local residents, as well as stakeholders at the County Departments of Health and Education.

The physical scope of this work took place in the Uasin Gishu County of Kenya, specifically in public primary schools in Ainabkoi, Turbo and Soy Sub Counties, and public secondary schools in Ainabkoi and Turbo Sub Counties. Additionally, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and Huruma Sub County Hospital, facilities where children were sent to receive eye care services, will also be evaluated.

Evaluation criteria

The consultant will be guided by the key elements below. In addition to the outlined key questions, the consultant may develop other relevant questions that will provide the necessary information for the evaluation.

3.1 Relevance

1. To what extent are the objectives and design of the project fitting with the current national policies?
2. To what extent was the project strategy and activities implemented relevant in responding to child eye health needs in Uasin Gishu County?
3. To what extent do achieved results (project goal, outcomes and outputs) continue to be relevant to child eye health needs?

4. Was the project relevant to the project target group identified needs?

3.2 Efficiency

1. How efficiently and timely was this program implemented and managed in accordance with the project documents?
2. Was the process of achieving results efficient? Specifically did the actual or expected results (outputs and outcomes) justify the cost incurred?
3. Could other more efficient ways and means of delivering better results (outputs and outcomes) with the available inputs have been used and yielded better results?
4. What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the project's implementation process?

3.3 Effectiveness

1. To what extent did the project achieve its overall goal, outcomes, objectives and outputs?
2. Were the strategies adopted and inputs identified realistic, appropriate and adequate to achieve the results?
3. How effective was the project in responding to the needs of the beneficiaries, and what results were achieved?
4. What internal and external factors influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the planned and unplanned outputs and outcomes? How were these factors influencing the achievements or non-achievement of the project goal, outcomes and objectives?

3.4 Sustainability

1. Local ownership: to what extent is local ownership evident? Assess the partnership and collaborative efforts between the various key stakeholders.
2. To what extent has the project established processes and systems that are likely to support future School Eye Health Programs?
3. To what extent will the county sustain eye care services initiated under this project?
4. Assess the sustainability potential of the project in the following areas: Ability of teachers to continue with school-based eye health screening, ability of the relevant health facilities to continue offering eye care services to children with the same level of quality after January 2023. Consider political, financial, institutional, economic social and/or environmental issues.

3.5 Impact

1. To what extent did the project have positive, intended or unintended impact(s) on the primary beneficiaries? What are the key changes in the lives of the children? Please describe these changes. Indicate if there has been any school performance improvement among the child beneficiaries.
2. Were there any improvements in the level of awareness of eye health among the school community (i.e. children, teachers and parents)?
3. Were the results achieved in a manner that built ownership and capacity of the County Government and relevant agencies?

3.6 Knowledge Generation

1. What are the key lessons learned? Of particular interest to OEU are lessons surrounding partnerships, continuum of care, integration of child eye care services in primary health care and the approach of providing of refractive error services, as well as any other relevant lessons that can be shared with other stakeholders in education and eye health
2. Are there any promising practices? If yes, what are they and how can these practices be replicated in other projects and/or in other countries that have similar interventions?
3. What outstanding issues still require action and commitment from county and national-level stakeholders?
4. What are the recommendations for similar projects and partnerships support in the future?

4. Audience for the End Term Evaluation

The evaluation is commissioned by Operation Eyesight Universal as the Grant Manager of the USAID Child Blindness Program-supported School Eye Health Program. The end term evaluation report will be acted upon by Operation Eyesight Universal, the USAID Child Blindness Program, the Kenyan Ministry of Health (through their Ophthalmic Services Unit), and the Uasin County Department of Education to see how they might be able to scale the School Eye Health Program to the remaining sub counties. The report will also be shared with Uasin Gishu County Leadership and the National Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education as an advocacy tool for future programming.

5. Methodology

This is a mixed-methods approach evaluation, and both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used. The evaluation will be carried out in conformity with full usage of all ethical principles, standards and practices. The consultant will lead this assignment, seek approval from respective hospitals, coordinate all the evaluation activities, and be responsible for the deliverables of this assignment.

The consultant shall jointly, with Operation Eyesight Universal, identify comprehensive participatory methodologies when undertaking this evaluation. The methodologies must include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Literature review: preliminary analysis of available data and reports, project proposal, quarterly and annual reports and output statistics
- Use of semi and structured questionnaires
- Key informant structured interviews with Ministries of Health and Education officials at both national and county levels, as well as ophthalmic workers, teachers and other stakeholders
- Focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders
- Direct observation and any other methodology as proposed by the consultant

The consultant will prepare all evaluation tools involved in this evaluation. They will define an appropriate sample size using scientific methods, ensuring that selection bias is avoided, and making certain that the evaluation meets certain principles of participation, including involving both male and female, adult and child beneficiaries in the data collection and analysis, in the formulation of recommendations, and in the sharing of feedback. This program has been implemented in partnership with several stakeholders, therefore stakeholder participation is fundamental to the program evaluation.

6. Duration and Phasing

It is envisaged that this assignment will be completed over a total of twenty working days. The following amount of time will be allocated at each stage:

- Review of project documents – 1 day
- Preparation of the evaluation methodology – 1 day
- Interview with project stakeholders – 2 days.
- Data collection in the field – 7 days
- Data management and analysis – 3 days
- Report writing – 3 days
- Report debriefing for validation – 2 days
- Dissemination of findings – 1 day

The Consultant is expected to share a detailed workplan as part of their proposal for undertaking this assignment.

7. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Ethical Approval: Seek the necessary approval for purposes of evaluation clearance.

Evaluation Protocols: Design the protocols and instruments necessary to conduct the evaluation, which will include appropriate sampling and targeting of areas, as well as individuals who have received prescription eyeglasses.

Manual of Practice: Detail the agreed-upon methodology and tools, schedule and people to be interviewed.

Draft Report: The Consultant will submit a draft evaluation report to the OEU Kenya Country Director for review.

Final Report: Within one week of receiving the Country Director's comments on the draft report, the Consultant will submit a final report to OEU.

Dissemination: To effectively disseminate findings of the model for wider learning on approaches for reducing the prevalence of childhood blindness among school-going children as well as to advocate for further support for the School Eye Health Programs.

8. Logistical Support

Operation Eyesight Universal will make all logistical arrangements, and local travel arrangements where necessary for the Consultant.

9. Required Qualifications

The individual consultant or consultancy firm shall have a demonstrated competence in having undertaken similar duties before. The consultant must demonstrate knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Experience in conducting end term evaluations for public health programs;
- Knowledge of the regional dynamics in the health sector in Kenya;
- Strong analytical, writing and presentation skills.

Essential qualifications include:

- Relevant qualification in any of the following fields: Social Sciences, Public Health, Development Studies, Community Eye Health, or any other related field.
- A minimum of ten years proven experience in the design and conduct of end term evaluations for health programmes.
- Comprehensive working knowledge of at least five years in Strategic Planning and Evaluation in the health and development sector.
- Demonstrated evidence of having completed similar assignments.
- Working knowledge of the eye health sector in Kenya is an added advantage.

10. What to include in the application

- The application should contain a technical and financial proposal. The technical proposal should clearly indicate an understanding and interpretation of the assignment in the context of Kenya, the methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment, time frame, and activity schedule.
- The financial proposal should include the daily rate in Kenyan Shillings, as well as an indication of all other support costs that may be involved to successfully undertake this assignment.
- This is a competency-based selection. The application proposals should be accompanied by the following documents to exhibit key competencies and credentials of the applicants:
 - Up-to-date CV reflecting relevant experiences and qualifications.

- Cover letter stating the applicant's motivation to undertake the assignment.
- At least three reference contacts for the most recent relevant work completed.

11. Application procedure:

Application documents, including tax compliance certificates, should be submitted via e-mail to KEInfo@operationeyesight.com. Contact Caroline Ikumu Tel: +254 722240479 for any enquiry.

Application deadline: 14th October 2022

Only shortlisted candidates/firm will be contacted.