

# Improvement of low vision support system in Uganda

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## Background

All international programmes of Visio are intrinsically linked to the development or reinforcement of services for people with low vision in different countries with different challenges.

To maximize impact for the beneficiaries, different relevant aspects within the VIP system are linked: identification and screening – assessment – early intervention – education – rehabilitation – work – lobby and advocacy. The programme interventions are at strategic, management and operational level. Starting point of each programme is a shared ambition. From the very beginning stakeholders are actively involved and encouraged to work together in reaching the overall purpose in a sustainable and tailor-made way. In Uganda Visio started a programme on the enhancement of quality of low vision services in 2016.

## Purpose and beneficiaries of the Uganda programme

Development of low vision support system in Uganda to enable partially sighted youngsters to participate and live their life to their full potential.

## Beneficiaries of the programme

Partially sighted secondary school students from 13 till 22 years old.

## Main results/activity areas

1. Development and implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation System to monitor the progress of visually impaired secondary school students.
2. Sensitization of caregivers about the capacities of the VI children
3. Empowerment of low vision youngsters.
4. Partially sighted students of secondary schools with VI unit are properly screened, assessed and provided with devices. Development and implementation of tools for screening, referral and follow up of VI students.
5. Professionalization of educational professionals, healthcare and rehabilitation professionals. Used methods: Training of trainers, training on the job, coaching, workshops, peer review meetings and curriculum development.
6. Improvement of the resource rooms for blind and partially sighted students in secondary schools and teacher training lab at Kyambogo University.
7. Strengthening of organisational and management capacities to be able to implement developments.
8. Promoting network and enhanced cooperation of stakeholders in the screening and assessment, management, education and rehabilitation of low vision learners in the secondary schools.



## Main Stakeholders

- Kyambogo University, department of Special Needs and Rehabilitation
- Visually Impaired Youngsters
- Parents and caretakers,
- Ministries of Healthcare and Education
- Eye care units of private and public hospitals
- Secondary Schools with VI units
- Makerere University, optometry department
- Brien Holden Vision Institute