

**Aim of Project:** To determine both the incidence of Presbyopia and the functional impact of Presbyopia in Nicaragua. The Protocol was designed by the WHO and was administered in a number of developing countries in Asia and Africa. Professor Kovin Naidoo recently finished doing this protocol in South Africa and he will be the lead investigator on this study/program. We plan on doing the more detailed study that not only looks at presbyopia but also measures the levels of refractive error in the population over 35 years old.

**Specific services to be provided:** We estimate that about 3,000 pair of spectacles will be dispensed. In addition, we will obtain incidence numbers that will be helpful in planning for all of the Latin American region, and we will train the trainers that can then train staff to do vision screening and presbyopia lens dispensing.

**Expected outcomes (the impact sought or expected from the Project):** Immediate impact will be the 3,000 pair of spectacles provided for those examined. The long range outcome will be developing a protocol for training screeners that can be used in other regions of Nicaragua and ultimately in other countries in Latin America.

**Strategies (brief description of approaches and activities, other NGOs/organizations involved, collaborations):** We have staff in Nicaragua that have been in contact with the Minister of Health. We have been closely collaborating with Dr. Kovin Naidoo of ICEE and he will be providing the initial training for the study workers in Nicaragua. We plan on approaching the faculty of the Optometry School that was started a few years ago in Leon, Nicaragua for their assistance. Project Manager is Dr Larry Hookway, Immediate Past President of VOSH/International.

**Budget (staff, equipment, other direct program and overhead costs):**  
The South African study had a budget of \$80,000. We have some staff already available that will not need to be funded and we have readers and frames and lens blanks so we are budgeting \$60,000 from this OGS grant and will use other funds if the expenses exceed the \$60,000.