

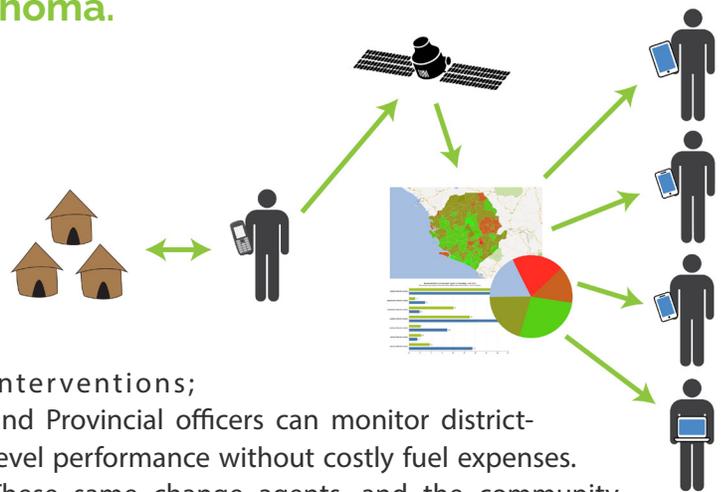
TRACHOMA PREVENTION

Data brings a new set of eyes on trachoma.

Trachoma is Zambia's leading cause of preventable blindness. To eradicate the disease, Akros has teamed up with Sightsavers Zambia, with support from DFID, to implement a data-driven response to healthy hygiene behaviors as part of a four-pronged SAFE strategy, including surgery, mass drug administration (MDA), and promotion of face washing and environmental cleanliness.

The program piggybacks on Zambia's mobile-to-web WASH MIS, built and expanded with Akros support, now active across all rural districts. The WASH MIS protocol delivers monthly indicators on sanitation and water access into a cloud-based server housed at the Ministry of Local Government and Housing (MLGH). To include monitoring of face washing and environmental (F&E) monitoring, village-level committees conduct monthly inspections of children's faces and record the number of children appearing with and without faces clean and free of mucous and flies. A volunteer, community WASH advocate then visits the village, recording the data into a basic mobile phone with a user-friendly application. The data is then sent over mobile network to the Ministry's cloud-based server and aggregated in DHIS2.

The platform builds out indicators of facial cleanliness coverage, showing a percent of cleanliness within each village. Data is then automatically redirected to community change agents. Chiefs learn which villages are performing well, and those that still need support, through tablets; District health officers have access to dashboards with real-time sanitation indicators throughout their service area, enabling targeted



interventions;

and Provincial officers can monitor district-level performance without costly fuel expenses.

These same change agents, and the community volunteers equipped with mobile phones, receive SMS reminders of upcoming MDAs in their area and are advised to encourage participation.

To bolster F&E messaging, a targeted behavior change campaign is underway. Stickers on hand washing stations remind users that they should also wash their face, teachers are crafting necklaces containing soap charms with their students to discuss the importance of sanitation, village headmen are receiving counseling on trachoma prevention, radio spots are promoting MDA participation, and community health clinicians are receiving job aides about eye health. With active F&E monitoring taking place in these same communities, we know in a near real-time fashion when interventions are working, and when they aren't. This enables the campaign to adjust sails quickly and improve interventions throughout implementation.

Akros envisions a future free from trachoma, and with mobile-to-web F&E monitoring eradication is in sight.



AKROS

Akros strengthens national health systems in developing countries.

Learn more at www.akros.com