

BICO 3RD QUARTER REPORT 2012

This report highlights the major activities that have been conducted by BICO in the third quarter of the year 2012.

TRACHOMA SURVEY IN NSANJE AND MWANZA DISTRICTS

BICO in conjunction with the Ministry of Health successfully conducted a Trachoma baseline survey in three districts in southern Malawi (Nsanje and Mwanza) in the month of July, 2012. The survey was funded by Sight Savers through the Ministry of Health.

The survey started in Nsanje on the 9th of July with training of the OCOs who were involved in data collection. The training was conducted in a hall at the central area in Nsanje district. The training took two days (9th to 10th July). On the first day of the training OCOs were grouped into teams comprising two and were familiarized to the questionnaires they used for collecting data. The OCOs were also taught how to examine and identify the common trachoma. Different sessions of the teaching were done and at the end of each session the OCOs were given a test to assess the understanding of what they were taught.

On the second day of the training, the OCOs were taken to the nearby village for pretesting of the questionnaires after which all OCOs and the trainers gathered again in the hall where the OCOs were asked to say their experiences as regards using the questionnaires and any problems they might have encountered in using the questionnaire.

Actual field work started early in the morning on the 11th of July, 2012 and took five days. For the first six days of the survey, the teams were operating from Nsanje district but on day number seven, the teams left Nsanje and spent a night in Chikwawa district. The next day the teams left early in the morning to collect data in the villages that are close to Chikwawa district which were difficult to access from Nsanje district.

The teams left Chikwawa district in the evening the same day for Blantyre where they had supper and then left for Mwanza district.

The teams arrived in Mwanza district on the 16th of July, 2012 and a meeting was held at Mwanza District hospital involving the team leader, supervisors, OCOs and drivers. At this meeting the teams were given the list of sampled households in the villages where the teams were going to do the survey. Actual field work in Mwanza started on the 17th of July, 2012 and finished on the 22nd of July, 2012.

The completed forms were entered in Epidata and the was done. Trachoma was found to be an endemic diseases in Nsanje but not Mwanza (see detailed report).

LOW VISION

LOW VISION TRAINING- 22-28 August, 2012

BICO organized low vision training for 8 OCOs drawn from various Central Hospitals in Malawi. The training started on the 22nd of August, 2012 and ended on the 28th of August and took place in the board room at Lions Sight First Hospital. The OCOs were trained by a Consultant from the Netherlands. Apart from the 8 OCOs there were also other invited observers who also attended the training.

The training started with class lessons on the 22nd of August, 2012 from 9am and then there was a break. Class room training resumed immediately after the break until 12 pm when the participants had to break again for lunch.

When the participants had come back from lunch, the training resumed at 1.30 pm until 4.30pm. A total of about 20 children were examined during the low vision training. The children that came were refunded transport.

On the 23rd of August, 2012, training started at around 8.30 am. The morning session was conducted in class. The afternoon session was both class and practical. The practical session was conducted at the clinic where participants were examining low vision children.

Training continued on the 24th of August in the morning and started with class lecture and then practical sessions were conducted at the clinic until 12pm when the participant had to break for lunch. Training resumed in the afternoon with practical session at the clinic. On this day 9 children who were booked for training from within Blantyre DHO came and were examined by the participants. The children came with two of their teachers.

On the 25th of August, a total of 5 children from within Blantyre were also seen by the participants. These children were refunded transport to their respective destinations.

On the 27th of August, six children from Montfort came to Lions Sight First Eye Hospital and were assessed by the participants.

The children were refunded transport to their respective homes. Five children from within Blantyre DHO also came on the 27th of August, 2012 and were examined by the participants.

The training ended on the 28th of August, 2012 in the afternoon with participants being awarded certificates by the consultant.

Since training was conducted in August, 2012, there has been data collection in three resource centres (Montfort, Nsiyaludzu and Ekwendeni). Data entry is currently being done.

TASKSHIFTING

BICO is conducting a Task shifting project in Mulanje and Machinga districts whose main aim is to assess the productivity of health workers (MAs, Nurses and Patient Attendants) in eye care in health centres. To do this, the health workers in the health centres in the two districts were trained in eye care by the OCOs in 2010. After training the health workers, an enhanced supervision was started in Mulanje district while in Machinga no supervision has been done since training. This was done to compare the productivity of the health workers in the two districts; where in Mulanje they were trained and were also being supervised while in Machinga there was no supervision after training.

The table below shows a summary of the supervision visits to the health centre in Mulanje district from 2010 up to date.

Summary of supervision visits to Health Centres in Mulanje since October 2010

Name of HC	Dates Visited	Number of visits
Chambe	25/11/2010, 28/04/2011, 14/07/2011	3
Kambenje	25/11/2010, 28/04/2011, 29/09/2011, 15/12/2011, 02/08/2012	5
Muloza	18/11/2010, 07/07/2011, 08/12/2011, 10/05/2012	4
Namasalima	18/11/2010, 21/04/2011, 07/07/2011, 22/09/2011, 08/12/2011, 01/03/2012, 10/05/2012	7
Mbiza	11/11/2010, 30/06/2011, 15/09/2011, 01/12/2011, 07/05/2012, 19/07/2012	6
Thuchila	04/11/2010, 20/01/2011, 26/01/2011, 07/04/2011, 08/09/2011, 21/05/2012, 17/07/2012	7
Chinyama	11/11/2010, 30/06/2011, 18/08/2011, 05/04/2012, 21/06/2012	5
Namulenga	04/11/2010, 07/04/2011, 08/09/2011, 26/04/2012	4
Lujeri	28/10/2010, 31/03/2011, 31/03/2011, 01/09/2011, 17/11/2011	5
Mimosa	28/10/2010, 31/03/2011, 28/07/2011, 16/06/2011, 13/10/2011, 15/03/2012	6
Mulomba	21/10/2010, 24/03/2011, 09/06/2011, 25/08/2011, 14/11/2011, 28/06/2012, 13/09/2012	7
Chonde	02/12/2010, 07/06/2011, 06/10/2011, 21/12/2011, 24/05/2012	5
Bondo	09/12/2010, 28/07/2011, 13/10/2011, 31/05/2012	4
Naphimba	09/12/2010, 01/09/2011, 17/11/2011	3
Nkomaula	15/11/2010, 20/05/2011	2
Dzenje	30/12/2010, 17/03/2011, 18/08/2011, 05/04/2012	4
Milonde	23/10/2010, 08/04/2011, 08/04/2011, 11/08/2011, 29/03/2012, 14/06/2012	6
Mpala	23/12/2010, 11/08/2011, 29/03/2012, 14/06/2012	4
Thembe	17/03/2011, 02/12/2011, 16/02/2012	3
Namphungo	05/05/2011, 07/06/2012	2
Chisitu	07/06/2011, 06/10/2011, 21/05/2012	3

The final assessment of the two groups is planned to take place in November, after which analysis will be done and results disseminated.

CANADIAN STUDENTS TRAINING

BICO trained four Canadian optometry students in the month of September, 2012. This training programme is conducted yearly. The students were trained by Dr. Kalua (Ophthalmologist) at Lions Sight First Eye Hospital. These students also had opportunity to community eye care with Dr. Kalua.

MONITORING OF TRACHOMA MDA IN CHIKWAWA

From end September till mid October, BICO is taking part in monitoring the coverage of the Trachoma MDA with Zithromax :this exercise took place during last week of September.