

BICO CONDUCTS 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 will be entered in Epidata and then analysis will follow.