ACCELERATING HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY

Amplifying health outcomes by addressing mobility constraints in the last mile

Health and Humanitarian Logistics Conference
20th September 2021
16 YEARS OF IMPACT

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

- REACH **88% MORE PATIENTS** WHEN THEY USE A BICYCLE TO SPEED THEIR TRAVELS BETWEEN PATIENTS
- **95% RETENTION RATE** AFTER TWO YEARS WITH THE INCENTIVE OF BICYCLE OWNERSHIP

560,000+
TOTAL BICYCLES DISTRIBUTED
HEALTHCARE: 165,942

21 COUNTRIES
ACROSS AFRICA, ASIA & SOUTH AMERICA

2,500+
FIELD MECHANICS TRAINED

34 SHOPS
SUPPLY CHAIN SPARE PARTS
The Need

Last-mile mobility is often overlooked in development.

One billion people live in rural areas isolated by distance, terrain, transportation poverty.

In Africa alone, 70% of the rural population lack access to all-season road and transport services, primarily relying on walking.

60% – 60% of people in poor countries live more than 8 km from a healthcare facility.

Health - Women in Malawi cited distance as a leading reason for not accessing health services.

50% – 60%
Health Impacts Due to Lack of Sustainable Mobility & Rural Access

- Rural children are often half as likely to be immunized
- Rural African women walk an average of 108 minutes—while in labor—to access the nearest skilled birth attendant.
- Researchers estimate 75% of deaths across rural sub-Saharan Africa are related to distance.
- Maternal and infant mortality is particularly affected by substandard or unaffordable transport links
- Need to travel long distances to reach healthcare facilities, lack of available transportation are major barriers to accessing HIV treatment in sub-Saharan Africa
Bicycles Power Health Service Delivery

Bicycle Impacts

- Acquisition and retention of quality healthcare workers.
- Reduces waste in time and carrying capacity.
- Increases reach to distant clients and number of clients visited.
- Increases consistency of visits and continuity in communities.
- Healthcare workers use bikes to support their families
- Community access to health facilities
The Evidence

95% HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS WITH BICYCLES HAVE ACHIEVED A 95% CAREGIVER RETENTION RATE, COMPARED TO 50% IN PROGRAMS WITHOUT BICYCLES

88% WITH A BICYCLE, HEALTHCARE WORKERS REACHED 88% MORE PATIENTS
Independent Research Findings

“The Lancet”

• Geographical inaccessibility to health-care facilities and limited transportation are barriers to reaching 90% coverage and achieving HIV elimination in sub-Saharan Africa.

• Results obtained from geospatial modelling focusing on Malawi

• Bicycles reduce travel-time and increase access to healthcare

• Providing bicycles to rural communities in Malawi would be a cost-effective HIV intervention that could:
  - increase life expectancy for 1,000’s of people living with HIV; and
  - substantially increase the probability of eliminating HIV

Source: https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30351-X/fulltext
Implications for Policymakers, Researchers & Practitioners

- Bicycles are a “pro poor tool to increase health access equity”*
- High-quality fit-for-purpose bicycles can improve rural last mile access to prevention and care
- Increasing availability of bicycles in rural areas could increase a sub-Saharan African country's ability to treatment coverage and eliminate their HIV epidemic (Lancet)
- National health policies and strategies should integrate last mile rural mobility into policies and investments
- Embedding rural mobility into SDG 4
- Reduction in import duties to increase affordability of quality bicycles; UN role to support global compact

Thank You!

Please reach out to explore partnerships
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Video shown is available at: https://vimeo.com/266888914