



METRICS FOR MANAGEMENT

CASE STUDY: EquityTool: Wealth Assessment in Malawi

Location: Malawi | **Funding:** UK aid

THE CHALLENGE

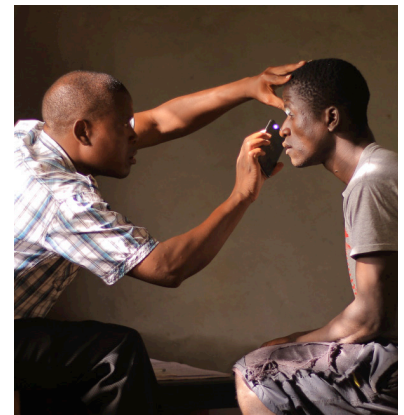
More than 50% of the population in Malawi lives below the national poverty line; 25% live in extreme poverty. Malawians face challenges in accessing health care, further exacerbated by gender inequalities and disabilities.

Sightsavers, an organization that assesses and improves vision care, initiated an eye health program, Coordinated Approach To Community Health (CATCH), which was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The goal was to increase coverage of eye health services in trachoma-endemic areas of Malawi and other parts of Eastern and Southern Africa. CATCH intended to reduce disparities by reaching people living in remote and rural areas, those with disabilities, and those with incomes below the national poverty line. Sightsavers sought to understand the sociodemographic and socioeconomic profiles of participants to ensure the program met needs for those underserved.

Collecting community and household wealth information, however, is rather time consuming and expensive.

THE SOLUTION

Sightsavers researchers found that using the Simple Poverty Scorecard (SPS) and Metrics for Management's (M4M) EquityTool produced complementary results. Utilizing both, CATCH researchers were able to determine the distribution of participants across wealth quintiles — augmented by insights on inequalities in gender, age, marital status, education, occupation, and disability. The study also provided valuable evidence for interventions in low- and middle-income countries.



Source of photos: Sightsavers, 2019

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