



METRICS FOR MANAGEMENT

CASE STUDY: EquityTool: Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Humanitarian Project

Location: Ethiopia | **Funding:** Non-funded collaborative study, DevAxle and partners

THE CHALLENGE

The World Health Organization estimates that 600,000 to 1 million new cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) — a skin infection caused by sand fly bites — occur worldwide each year. Poverty increases the risk for CL through increased environmental exposure to nutritional deficits and lack of access to treatment.

The goals of the Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Humanitarian Project in Ethiopia (CLH-E) were to deploy CL testing at the household level, build testing capacity at local hospitals, and collect data on the cost for patients, travel distance, and financial equity of the populations served. CLH-E researchers reached out to DevAxle, a Nigerian development think-tank, to explore options for effectively gathering data and measure equity gaps. DevAxle had prior experience with Metrics for Management's (M4M) EquityTool and recommended using the tool to provide more comprehensive insights on

how equity and CL endemicity varied by location, by linking geospatial and equity data.

THE SOLUTION

The collaborative developed a field study connecting Geographic Information

Systems (GIS), disease burden, and EquityTool data in the target population. A clear trend emerged: as equity decreased, endemicity increased. Using M4M's EquityTool, data collection was easy, fast, and inexpensive — and helped improve program delivery, organizational effectiveness, and outcomes.



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