

The Download October 2022

In this issue we are highlighting fieldwork from some of the countries we work with.

Thank you to Zambia and Ethiopia for sharing their experiences - we hope you enjoy them! If you would like to share your work or have ideas for future issues, please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

The Tropical Data team will be getting together in-person for the first time in 3 years for planning meetings this week. One of our focuses will be learnings and improvements to the Tropical Data service. If you have any thoughts or feedback, please get in touch!

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Photo from our last team planning meeting in 2019. Cake is a very important part of the process!



Supporting SAFE in Zambia

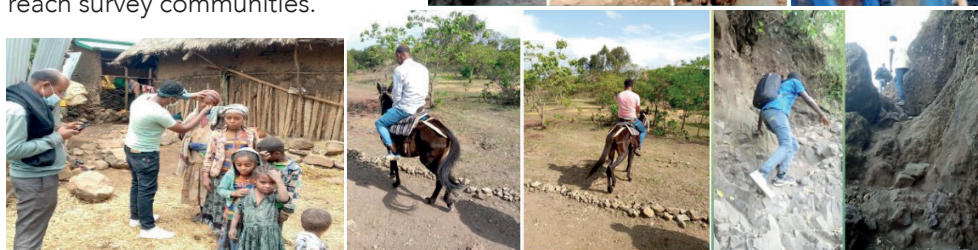
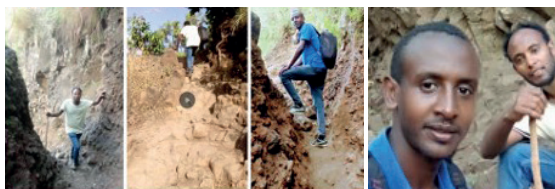
Our colleagues from Lions Aid Norway outline some of their work on trachoma, from MDA to impact surveys, conducted earlier this year.

Click [here](#) to view the full article.

Surveys in Oromia, Ethiopia

Our colleagues from Fred Hollows Foundation have shared some of their experiences in Oromia which you can read [here](#).

As you can see here they have faced lots of challenging environments in their efforts to reach survey communities.



TO DATE

49
countries
supported

3,100
EUs supported

9,874,402
residents
examined

Shadowing the teams during Trachoma Impact Surveys (TIS) in Gurage Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia



Ashenafi and Kibru in the field with the lead survey supervisor Feyera

An overview of the work

In 2022, Orbis International in Ethiopia planned to conduct TIS in 39 districts of 12 zones in the SNNP region and Southwest Ethiopia. To reach each zone and district successfully, Orbis Ethiopia in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau recruited 20 graders and 20 recorders, as well as three technical supervisors and one regional survey coordinator.

For a successful logistic implementation of the survey, 24 vehicles are being mobilized. The team is also assisted by the sub-district's health focal persons and health extension workers in the respective areas.

Meet one of the teams

Meet Ashenafi and Kibru, one of the teams supporting this survey. Ashenafi, who is a grader, is an Ophthalmic Nurse by profession. It is his 4th time participating in surveys. Kibru, a data recorder, just started working for Orbis this year but has previously worked as a recorder for surveys in other regions of Ethiopia.

Kibru said, "The geographical coverage of some areas has been a little challenging, especially some districts we have passed through last week. In some communities, each house had three fences and are located very far away from each other. Climbing through each fence was required to get into the next house. On top of this, it has been raining nonstop, most teams have fallen through the mud. Thankfully no one was hurt."

Ashenafi added, "In most rural villages, there are not many places to stay for the night. But the community was generous enough to let us stay with them until we finished the survey and could go

back to town. Yesterday, we identified 8 cases of TT which we have referred to a health center."

Supervision

Feyera lectures Ophthalmic Nurse students at Wollega University in Oromia Region. His role as a supervisor in the surveys is to visit the teams regularly to make sure they are in the right clusters (villages), to assess if the team is following protocol, and to check data are being collected and submitted correctly through Tropical Data. Along with the other supervisors and regional coordinator, he plans the team's next move.

Feyera said GPS helps to monitor the teams. The quality of data collected are also checked. Three times a week, they also receive feedback from the Tropical Data team in Atlanta on data collected.

Feyera says: "The team has been enthusiastic and hardworking so far. For that, I would like to thank each team member for their dedication and patience shown throughout the survey."

Click [here](#) to view the case study.



TROPICAL DATA

Tropical Data helps countries to collect high quality data by providing epidemiological, training, logistical and data management support to national programmes carrying out all types of cross-sectional surveys on trachoma. More info at: www.tropicaldata.org