# Fostering Equity in Neglected Tropical Disease **Services through a Community-Led Approach**

## **UGANDA**

Closing the Gaps in Trachoma Mass Drug **Administration Access and Uptake** 





**GOAL:** To achieve the "last mile" in trachoma control and elimination in Uganda by reaching key populations that are often missed in service delivery by a fragile health system.

Objective: To integrate and mainstream gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) considerations, approaches, and capacity to reach the "last mile" in NTD control and elimination.

Applying WI-HER's iDARE™ Methodology to Act | East GESI Behavior Change Activity in Uganda

# National/ Regional

### **District**

## Health **Facility**

# Community

- Conducted a GESI assessment
- Established a cadre of national GESI trainers trained on operationalizing GESI assessment findings
- National GESI trainers capacitated district health, NTD, WASH, and health education officers on GESI assessment findings
- District GESI team is established
- Local health workers, called Root Agents, are identified by District GESI team
- District GESI team and Root Agents work together to review data to determine gaps/refusals; form cohorts to conduct root cause analysis
- District GESI team and Root Agents select. mobilize, and train community influencers to become a Behavior Change Team (BCT)
- BCT members design their own solutions to address local root causes
- BCT members test solutions, measure. document results, and adapt as needed

#### PLANNING MEETINGS

District officials share key learnings from the district and community levels with national stakeholders to inform broader NTD response strategies

# Act to End

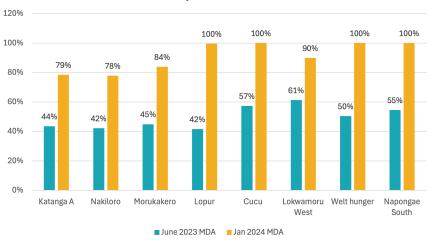
### **COACHING & DEBRIEF MEETINGS**

Influencers, Root Agents, district officials identify community needs for further support, co-create, improve local solutions for follow-up





### Village MDA Coverage Before and After GESI BCA **Implementation**



### **IMPACTS AND ADAPTABILITY**

- More equitable service delivery, reaching populations who are consistently missed by the health system like short-term laborers, street children, herders, migrant farmers, people with disability, and miners.
- Learnings and local solutions have been institutionalized into national policies such as the Uganda NTD Sustainability Plan 2020-2025 and MDA Training Curriculum.
- Other non-NTD programs such as HIV, ANC, post-COVID back to school campaigns, and child protection campaigns have leveraged community influencers from the behavior change teams for community mobilization efforts.



