IMPROVING WOMEN’S ACCESS TO EYE CARE: NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

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OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

1. Orbis gender-focused research: identifying the barriers to access & uptake

2. Addressing the barriers

3. What the numbers show
Delays in accessing eye health services – why?

- Home remedies
- Religious beliefs
- Waiting for eye specialist to visit the community
- Waiting for cataract to mature
- Poor counselling at diagnosis
- Fear or surgery & negative stories

Not accessing cataract surgery – why?

- Socio-economic & cultural barriers
  - Limited education levels
  - Limited decision-making autonomy in the household
  - Limited financial resources in the household
    - Travel costs
STRATEGIC GENDER INTERVENTIONS

• Collaboration with traditional leaders

• Female ambassadors - former cataract patients
  ▪ Facilitated films
  ▪ Counselling

• Community Health workers
  • Counselling

• Transport support
ARE WE SEEING A DIFFERENCE IN THE NUMBERS?

Proportion of cataract surgeries performed on females

- **2013**: 93% Male, 7% Female
- **2014**: 57% Male, 43% Female
- **2015**: 56% Male, 44% Female
- **2016**: 44% Male, 56% Female
Thank you