district levels and strategic deployment of human resources (trichiasis surgeons), equipment, and consumables.

The prevalence of active disease has decreased to levels below the threshold recommendation for district-level mass drug administration (MDA), and so the programme has been able to stop this activity in 84% of the districts where trachoma is present (Figures 1 and 2). This has been due to the high annual rates of coverage with Zithromax® and tetracycline during MDA, strong data collection efforts, and conducting surveys to assess impact.

To address the F and E components, the PNLC conducted several different activities at the same time. These were:

- training for a variety of community groups and leaders (local women’s groups, religious/village leaders, and community volunteers) in trachoma prevention
- broadcasting of health messages on community radio stations
- development of a trachoma school health curriculum that is being taught in primary schools
- household latrine construction and community-led total sanitation. Since 2009, PNLC support has assisted in the construction of 53,090 latrines.

Future plans

The PNLC and partners will continue to build upon the gains made over the past 5 years and support the planning and implementation of SAFE strategy activities. The national programme is refining its surgical planning in order to reach the remaining 27,000 people estimated to need trichiasis surgery, thereby achieving the ‘elimination goal’ of less than one case of trichiasis per 1,000 persons.

Simultaneously, MDA to reduce transmission of trachoma will continue in areas where the prevalence remains high. Surveillance will also continue in areas where MDA has stopped. Social mobilisation and community sensitisation through radios, community volunteers, and women’s groups will play a vital role in supporting attitudes and behaviours that help prevent the transmission of disease, strengthen disease knowledge, and decrease the number of people who refuse treatment or surgery. Ongoing latrine construction will continue to provide household access to safe disposal of faeces.

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