

# Emerging Technologies

UAVs for Improving Access to  
Reproductive Health Commodities

Emily Bancroft, VillageReach

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
— of the —

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH  
SUPPLIES COALITION**

10-14 OCTOBER 2016

**#RHSUPPLIES2016**

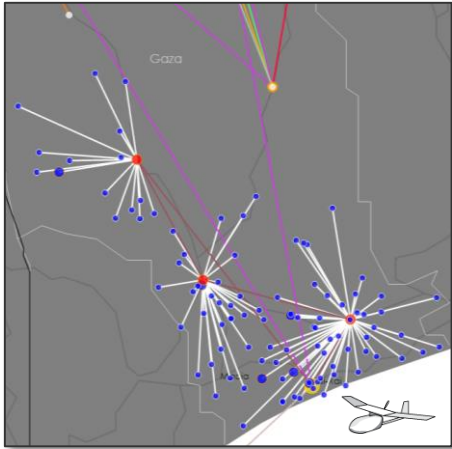


Photo Credit:  
© Matternet  
(Malawi 2016)



#RHSUPPLIES2016

# UAV Use Cases for the Last Mile



## Routine

- Integrated with existing transport systems
- Routine, predictable resupply
- Movement of diagnostics

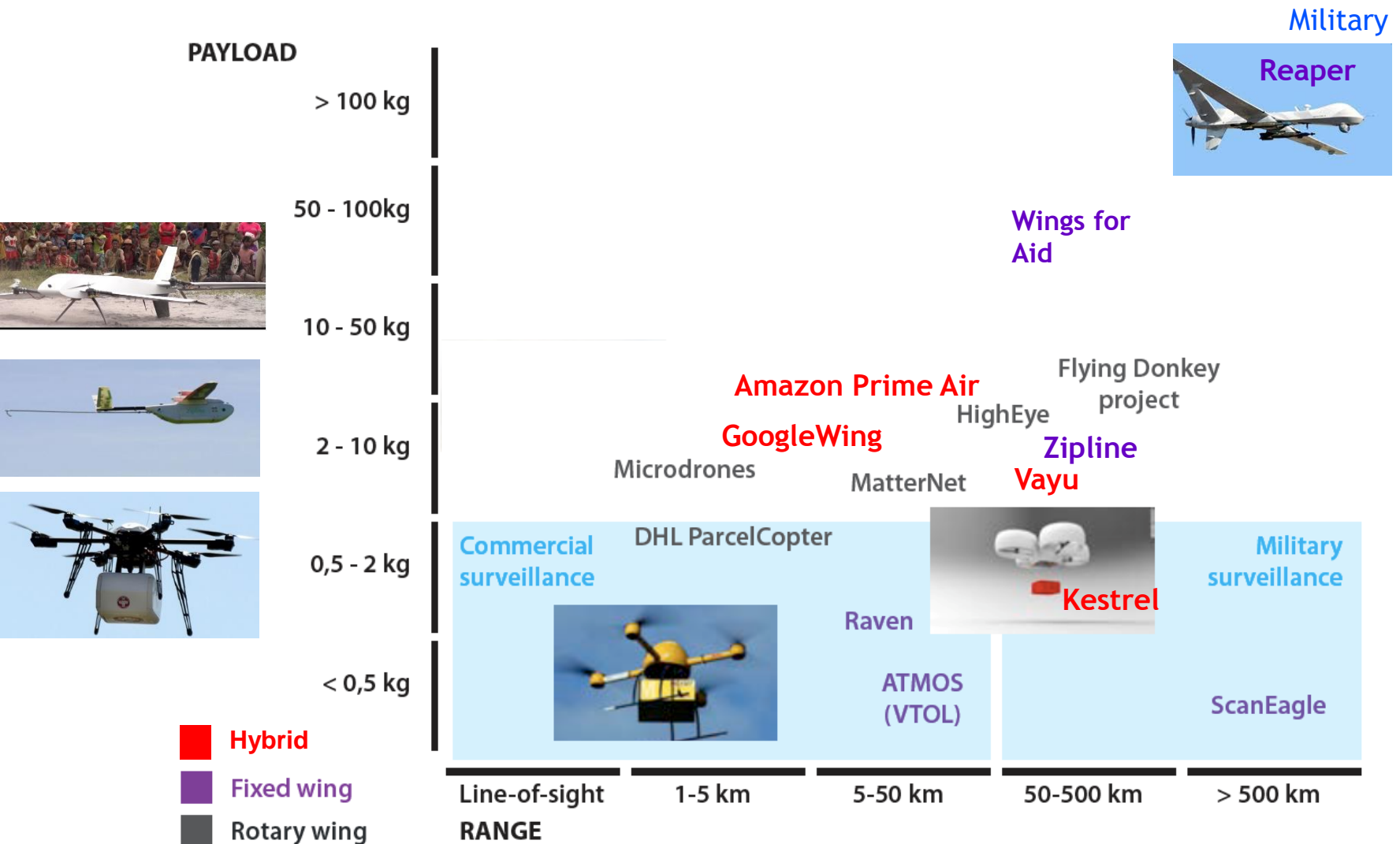
## On-Demand

- Daily service needs, forecasted on-demand
- Removes need for cold chain or other specialized equipment

## Emergency

- Post partum hemorrhage
- Blood
- Rabies vaccine or other hard-to-manage prophylaxis

# What is the state of the industry?

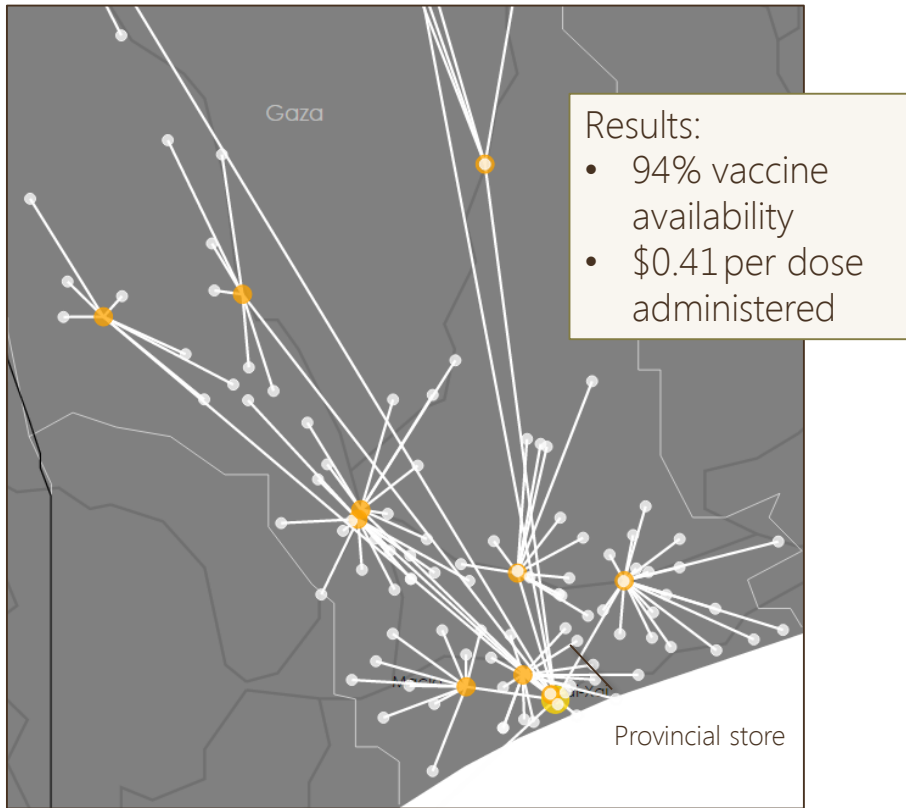




# HERMES Simulation used to Assess Potential UAVs Benefits for Vaccine Delivery

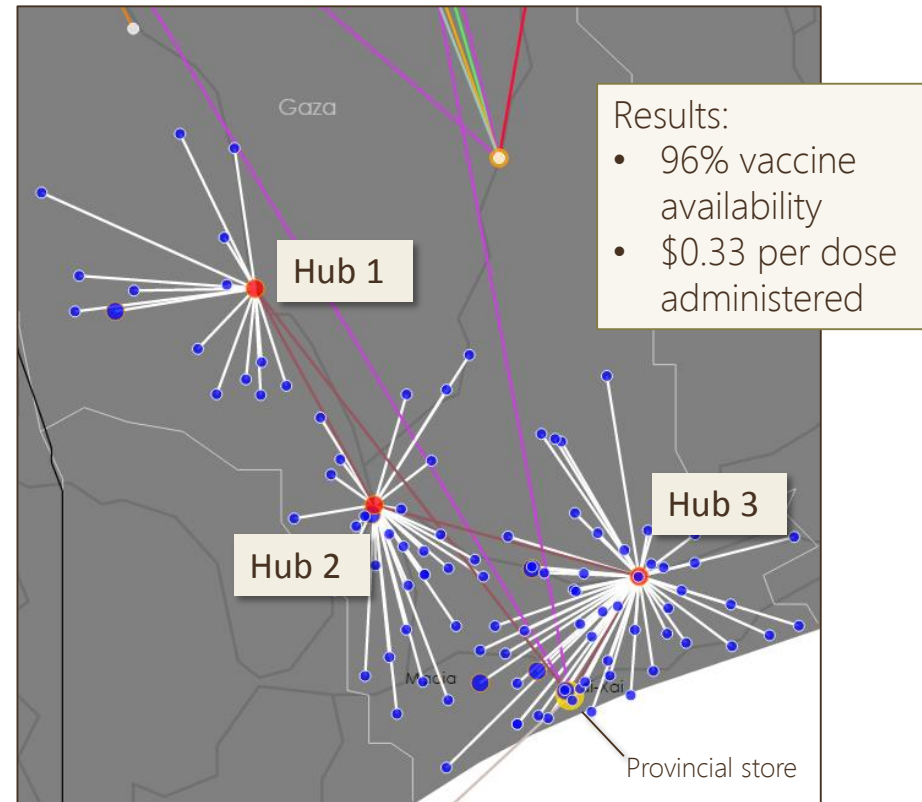
Results published in July 25th issue of journal *Vaccine*

## TMLTS for All Locations



- District stores (12)
- Health Centers (123)

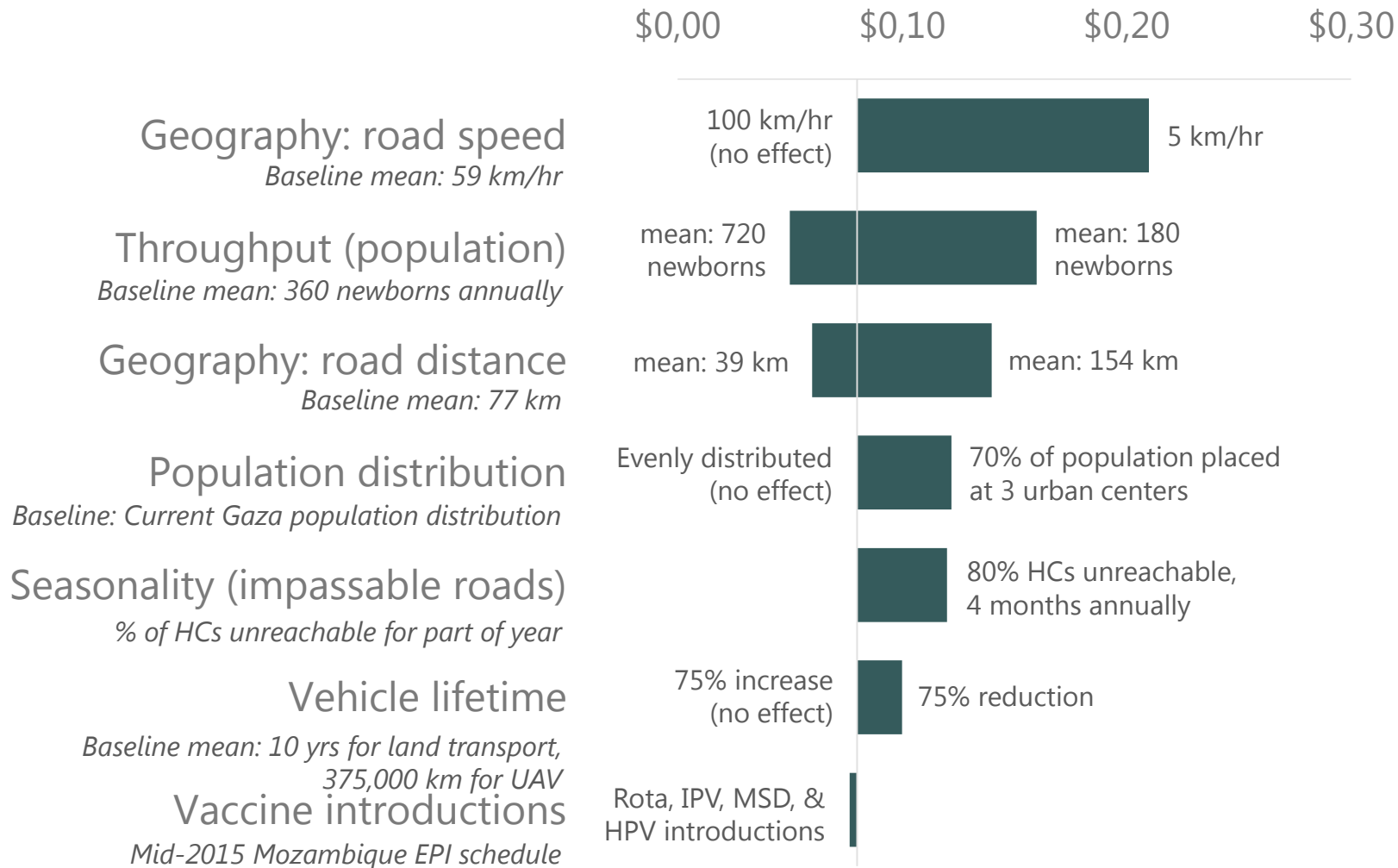
## UAS for Selected Locations (and TMLTS for Remaining Locations)



- District stores without hubs (3)
- District stores with hubs (3)
- Health Centers (123)

# What Factors Made the Most Difference in Cost?

Logistics Cost Savings Per Dose Administered (USD)



# Challenges UAVs Face

## • Technology

- Distance vs. Power
- Distance vs. Weight
- Transmission signal
- Battery charge & materials
- Collision avoidance automation

## • Economic

- Cost of drone
- Infrastructure
- Pilot training
- Maintenance
- Additional system devices

## • Cargo

- Fragile
- Sensitive to temp
- Expensive
- Limited space
- Limited weight
- Biological/biohazard

## • Political

- Regulations
- Military connotations
- Security - national, personal data
- Public acceptance
- Growing local technical capacity

## • Environment

- Bad weather
- Terrain/topography
- Animals & Birds
- Human interference

## • Social/Community

- Evolving perceptions (military → healthcare)
- Accidents - people & property
- Security - national, local
- Knowledge

# Relevance for RHSC SSWG

Are UAVs are a good option for reproductive health commodities?

- Current system constraints
- Volumes, shelf-life, handling considerations
- Considerations around reliability vs cost

How could the SSWG help?

- Thought leadership of RH use cases
- Small scale studies (e.g., costing analysis)
- Join the UAV Payload Delivery Working Group (industry, implementers, and donors)



An optional slide, to be used for conclusions, quotes, etc.