AFYA UZAZI PROGRAM BRIEF

OVERVIEW

• Afya Uzazi Program is funded by USAID and covers four sub-counties in Baringo County. These are Baringo Central, Baringo North, Marigat and Mogotio, with an estimated target population of 383,481\(^1\). It also covers an additional two sub-counties in Nakuru, Kuresoi North and Kuresoi North.

• Afya Uzazi works with the County Government to ensure the people of Baringo get high quality health services. These include family planning, reproductive health as well as maternal, newborn, child health and adolescent health services. Other interventions focus on improving water, sanitation and hygiene at the household level.

• Over the past three years, through Afya Uzazi Program, USAID has invested about US$7 million to support various activities and interventions aligned with the county’s strategic priorities as outlined in the County Health Strategic Plan.

• USAID Afya Uzazi technical assistance and financial support is provided based on work plans developed jointly with the County and Sub-County Health Management Teams. Broadly, this support focuses on strengthening leadership and governance, improving quality of health services offered and empowering communities to seek the health services and promote disease prevention.

1) Supporting governance, leadership and coordination

USAID Afya Uzazi program has provided technical and financial support to strengthen policy frameworks that are critical to building a working health system. The project has supported the following activities:

  - Development and launch of key policy guidelines documents including: The County Human Resources for Health Strategic Plan, Workload Indicators of Staffing Needs and the Staff Attraction and Retention Strategy.

\(^1\) 2019 Census
- Participation of 24 senior managers in a results-oriented Leadership Development Program.
- Coordination of technical working groups focusing on maternal and child health, monitoring and evaluation, health commodity management.

Health Department managers and Afya Uzazi team at the Leadership Development Program graduation. Below: Some of the strategy documents developed with Afya Uzazi support.

2) Improving services offered at health facilities

Afya Uzazi Program directly supports efforts to improve and sustain quality services in 122 health facilities spread across Baringo in line with county priorities as outlined in annual work plans. Direct support to health facilities includes:

- Training and mentorship of health workers and support supervision alongside county teams.
- Provision of essential equipment procured with USAID support as per the recommendations of a needs assessment conducted in all facilities.
- Streamlining the health commodities supply chain by building capacity in forecasting and management of commodities to reduce stock-outs.
- Establishment of quality improvement teams.
- Improving collection, analysis and use of data to inform decision making.
In addition, the project has done the following:

- Provided funding for contracting of temporary staff seconded to health facilities to ease staff shortages. This is a stop gap measure as the county considers absorbing them into the regular workforce.

- Partnered with sub-county teams to organize integrated outreaches to offer essential services to communities that are far from health facilities. Over 19,000 women and children benefitted from 200 outreaches conducted in one year ending September 2019.

3) Improving health seeking behavior in communities

USAID Afya Uzazi program works with the county Community Strategy team to educate communities on health and to encourage people to take measures to prevent diseases and seek health services. Key activities include:

- Training of county health staff as trainers of trainers in various interventions.
- Strengthening the functionality of 24 community units (Mogotio 9, Baringo North 6, Marigat 5 and 4 Baringo Central 4).
- Training all 600 CHVs on family planning, community based maternal and newborn health, nutrition and WASH.
- Improving the quality and timeliness of reporting by CHVs to facilitate quick decision to address priority health concerns
- Implementing adolescent-focused model (Binti Shujaa) targeting pregnant and lactating girls 10-19 years (3,000 benefitting girls).
- Provision of job aids and reporting tools.
- Implementation of innovations to encourage social and behaviors change.
The following section presents the key achievements of the project in Year 3 of implementation.

(I) Maternal Health

Afya Uzazi works to ensure pregnant women have access to quality antenatal care and deliver safely in hospital. The project has also supported high-volume health facilities to provide life-saving emergency care during and after delivery. As a result of these efforts:

- 10,811 pregnant mothers received ANC services (including 3,000 adolescent mothers)
- 7,735 women gave birth under the care of skilled attendants in health centers and hospitals.
- All supported health facilities received essential equipment for maternal and child health procured with USAID support and distributed through Afya Uzazi and the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA).

RESULTS FOR YEAR 3 OF IMPLEMENTATION (2018/2019)

A couple show their certificate awarded for practicing healthy behaviors. A man tries a tippy tap he made to encourage his family to wash their hands.

Mothers during an outreach at Koitebes.
(II)  **Child Health**

Afya Uzazi is working with the county to promote child survival through vaccination and prevention and treatment of diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria.

- 10,699 children under one year were fully immunized
- 102,967 children under five years received vitamin A
- 17,533 children under five years were treated for diarrhea
- 10,572 children were treated for pneumonia.

(III)  **Family planning**

Afya Uzazi Program work with the county to improve access to voluntary family planning services by training health care workers and ensuring a reliable supply of the full range of modern contraceptive methods.

- 34,937 number of women received family planning services.
- 1,736 adolescents received FP services.

(IV)  **WASH**

Through the community-led total sanitation approach and school clubs, Afya Uzazi works with the county to promote use of safe drinking water and home hygiene, including use of latrines.

- In 2018 Kabarsel became the first village in Baringo County to be declared pen defecation free.
- By Sept 2019, 11 villages had been declared ODF and 300 were about to be declared.
- Children in 132 schools reached with messages on personal hygiene, handwashing, latrine use and menstrual hygiene.
Residents celebrate the first village to become open defecation free. First lady Ivy Kiptis rewards Marigat Sub-County Health Officer Roselyn Leiro during ODF celebration at Ndambul B Village.

(V) Training health workers

Afya Uzazi helps to build the capacity of health care workers at all levels through training and mentorship.

- 78 health workers received in-service training in FP/RH.
- 47 health service providers were trained on maternal and/or newborn health and nutrition.
- 207 individuals in target communities were trained to implement improved sanitation methods.
- 466 community health volunteers trained in child health and/or nutrition

A training session on group ANC for health workers from Baringo at the Afya Uzazi learning centre in Learning, Marigat.
Selected interventions in Baringo County

Community Champion Model (CCM)

Trained community health volunteers (CHVs) help pregnant women, mothers with young children and their male partners to adopt a set of behaviors for improving their health and that of their children. Successful participants get certificates and groups of families come together to celebrate adoption of health behaviors. So far, 4,000 parents and their children have benefitted from this intervention in 8 communities. Four villages have held celebrations for 600 model families.

The Binti Shujaa Model

Teenagers who get pregnant often miss out on health services. Young volunteer peer supporters known as Binti Shujaa are trained to find and link to health facilities adolescents (aged 14-19 years) who are pregnant and have babies. They also work with community leaders to enable the girls to return to school.

Mother-to-mother support groups:

Pregnant women and mothers are encouraged to join support group where they encourage learn from each other and health workers on good nutrition, especially for young children.

The Rotational CHVs Model:

To help ease the problems caused by health workers shortages, community health volunteers are trained to work in health facilities where they perform non-technical tasks such as weighing of children, providing health talks on basic topics and keeping simple records. The support of CHV allows health workers more time to focus on diagnosis and treatment.
The TBA Birth Companion Model:
TBAs have been engaged to stop home births. Instead they now counsel and escort women who trust them to deliver in health facilities.

For more information contact: Dr Boniface Maket, Chief of Party, BMaket@afyauzazi.org

Kabarnet Office:
Potter Business Center, 2ND FLOOR | Kabarnet.

Nakuru Office:
Westside Mall, 4th Floor, Kenyatta Avenue | Nakuru, Kenya
T: +254 51-2150000 | +254 51-2151121
M: 0710 150765/6/7/8/9 (Office)