New models to improve access to health care

Like everyone, Felista, who is featured in centre pages of this newsletter, is interested in getting health care at a cost she and her family can afford and close to where she lives. Afya Uzazi program recognizes this and works with local communities and partners and county governments to ensure people at the grassroots, especially women and children, have access to quality health services and actually use these services.

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Afya Uzazi helps to improve access to quality, client-centered health services, especially women, children, adolescents and youth in six sub-counties of Baringo and Nakuru counties.

The project recognizes that meeting the challenge of providing access to affordable health care requires innovative, cost-effective solutions that are grounded in local realities and pegged on global practice.

Over the past year, Afya Uzazi project has rolled out game-changing approaches that are responsive to the needs of individuals, communities and county priorities. These interventions include the Champion Community Model, in which communities set and pursue realistic health targets for different age groups, for men, women and youth.

Other interventions include Centres for Exchange Learning that cut down costs and multiply benefits, optimizing integrated health outreaches that bring services closer to people (see page 2-3) and mainstreaming quality improvement processes at different levels. In the Kuresoi sub-counties, the project is implementing a population, health and environment (PHE) intervention that will generate lessons for scale-up.

At the core of the Afya Uzazi overall strategy are cross-cutting interventions that focus on youth, gender interventions, building local capacity and implementation science, which is manifested in a robust research and
Immunization is a basic health service that is available for free in dispensaries, health centers and hospitals throughout Kenya. But in some places, mothers face many challenges getting this essential service because they live far from health facilities.

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Afya Uzazi Program is working with the county governments of Baringo and Nakuru to improve access to quality services at health facilities and through integrated outreaches to areas that are hard-to-reach due to vast distances to facilities or rough terrain.

Afya Uzazi has mapped over 150 sites where teams visit to offer health education and provide services such as antenatal care for pregnant mothers, immunization, family planning and treatment for common illnesses.

Women and children benefit most from outreaches by USAID's Afya Uzazi Program and counties.
Outreach services saved Felista money, gave her a chance to advise others

Felista Taila (right), a 39-year-old mother of four, has experienced these challenges first-hand. A couple of weeks ago, she spent nearly Sh3,000 on fare to reach a health facility so that her last born child, three-month-old Fidel, could get vaccinated.

Twice, she had to take a motorcycle taxi (boda boda) to a far-off health facility because the road to the one nearest her home had been flooded after heavy rains cut off all transport.

Felista lives in Kabuswa village, 40 km from the Mogotio Sub-County headquarters in Baringo County over rough, hilly terrain. This scenic area experiences extremes of dry spells and short intense rains.

“We cannot get health services easily when it rains heavily because we can’t cross the flooded river to the health center … we have to pay a lot money to take a boda boda [to another facility],” says Felista.

Felista is lucky. She could afford the fare.

Many women cannot.

Their children miss out on immunization that would protect them against childhood killer diseases such as tuberculosis, whooping cough, measles and pneumonia.

Through health outreaches organized with USAID support and the county government, Afya Uzazi project is helping to provide services such as immunization and family planning to mothers like Felista and their children close to where they live.

The outreaches are monthly, assuring mothers of timely vaccination of their babies.

While at the outreach clinic Felista, a believer in family planning and role model in her village, took time to talk to other women about the importance of modern contraception, one of the services offered.

“If you have six or seven children, it is very expensive to feed them … It would take over Sh200 for a single meal and most people here cannot afford,” says Felista.

Felista’s is helping to increase the number of women accessing modern family planning methods.

Read full story on Medium: https://medium.com/@afyauzazi
Highlights of quarterly data

Afya Uzazi Program measures its performance and outcomes using a variety of indicators. Each quarter we highlight performance in a few of these indicators.

- **190 (100%)**: Health facilities with capacity to manage acute undernutrition
- **5068 (98%)**: Number of children 12-23 months of age who received measles vaccine by the time they were 12 months of age:
- **4876 (98%)**: Children age 12-23 months of age who received third dose of DPT
- **4714 (91%)**: Children under one fully immunized

**43 (100% of target)**: Number of supported facilities that provide appropriate life-saving maternity care

**13,657**: Couple-years of protection (CYP) achieved in family planning services

**11,203 (114%)**: Households with soap and water at a handwashing station

**2412 (50%)**: Number of births in a given year attended by a skilled birth attendant

About Afya Uzazi:

Afya Uzazi, meaning healthy parenthood in Kiswahili, is a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International development (USAID) under award No. AID-615-A-16-0011. Afya Uzazi aims to increase access to quality family planning/reproductive health, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (FP/RMNCAH) in focus sub-counties of Baringo North, East Pokot, Marigat, and Mogotio in Baringo County and Kuresoi North and Kuresoi South in Nakuru County.

This publication does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the US Government.

Resources: Featured Blog

**Health information systems for program evaluation**

Strong health information systems (HIS) can help evaluators. Evaluators can discover what aspects of HIS need strengthening. This combination can be a good match and a cost-effective one, say Manish Kumar and Heidi Reynolds in a recent blog. But to achieve the best synergies, HIS planners need to hear what evaluators are discovering about how HIS can improve. And, evaluators can make use of HIS data to inform their studies. Read full blog:


Partners:

Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Living Goods International and Kisumu Medical and Education Trust (KMED), working in collaboration with the national Government of Kenya and County Governments.

Contact: Dr Boniface Maket, Chief of Party, Afya Uzazi, Westside Mall, 4th Floor | Kenyatta Avenue | Nakuru, Kenya | T: +254 51-2150000

Produced by: George N. Obanyi, Communication Officer gobanyi@fhi360.org