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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*An outreach worker conducts HIV testing in Mombasa County. Those found HIV-positive are linked to care immediately.
Photo credit: USAID*

KENYA

HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

Approximately 1.5 million people in Kenya are living with HIV. The HIV epidemic is concentrated among key populations, including people who use and inject drugs. It is estimated that 27,014 people in Kenya use and inject drugs. The prevalence of HIV in this group is 18.3 percent compared to 4.9 percent in the general population. With limited access to health services, stigma and social exclusion and a punitive legal environment, adherence to treatment among this group is poor resulting in poor treatment outcomes and increased risks of mortality.

OUR WORK

The project is designed to achieve the following key results for people who use or inject drugs:

- Develop, review, and provide coordination of national policy, strategies, and guidelines to enhance access to evidence-based interventions.
- Initiate and scale up access to a comprehensive package of comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment care and support services, targeting people who use and Inject Drugs
- Strengthened support from policy makers and the community for HIV prevention interventions.
- Improved national capacity to monitor and evaluate HIV programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since inception, the program has:

- Build technical capacity of Kenyan Government and CSO service providers in establishing, running, and monitoring of MAT services including training of Trainers for medically assisted therapy.
- Established national policy and guideline documents to support medically assisted therapy and

HIV service provision in the country to people who use drugs.

- Nationally, supported enrollment of 8,266 people who use drugs in medically assisted therapy. Of these 4,193 are enrolled at USAID established sites with 71.3% actively accessing services top date.
- Conducted HIV testing for over 10,000 people who use drugs, with 663 HIV-positive individuals identified and linked to antiretroviral therapy treatment and prevention services.
- Established a national monitoring and reporting system for MAT.
- Established five medically assisted therapy sites in Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, and Lamu and four dispensing sites.
- Economically empowered over 40 percent of medically assisted therapy clients through vocational training and linkage to job opportunities and income-generating activities.
- Conducted economical evaluation and developed costing models to guide policy makers on resource allocation for medically assisted therapy service scale up.
- Built the capacity of civil society organizations to offer comprehensive packages of HIV and harm reduction services to People Who Use Drugs.
- Worked with the Law enforcement and the criminal Justice System, to promote treatment as an alternative to punishment for petty drug offenders with opioid use disorders.
- Established technical working groups at national and county levels for improved coordination.
- Developed key national guidelines and policy documents.

BUDGET: USD \$9,422,768

DURATION: 2014-2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

National, with work in Mombasa, Kilifi, and Kwale Counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

USAID Stawisha Pwani & UNODC

KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health (NASCO, NACC, PPB)
- Ministry of Interior (NACADA, County Commissioners, Judiciary, Law Enforcement)
- County Departments for Health

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