



The Lea Toto program provides holistic care within the family setting for HIV-positive orphans. Photo:USAID

KENYA

Children of God Relief Institute

USAID, through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), supports orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Interventions emphasize family- centered, socio-economic services that meet children’s most critical needs by involving the public and private sectors in implementing creative and sustainable interventions.

The Children of God Relief Institute (COGRI) runs the Lea Toto (“raise a child” in Kiswahili) community based project in Nairobi County and the Nyumbani (“home” in Kiswahili) Village program in Kitui County. Both activities offer OVC support and HIV care and treatment services for children.

COGRI is one of the few programs in Kenya that solely implements specialized pediatric (under 15 years) and adolescent (15-19 years) HIV services. It was also the first program to provide HIV treatment to pediatric patients.

LEA TOTO PROJECT

The Lea Toto project was initiated in 1998 as a community-based activity where orphaned children could remain with their caregivers in their communities. Lea Toto provides services to families with HIV positive children in the main informal settlements of Nairobi and its environs. This activity first received funding from USAID in 1999. In the last 10 years, Lea Toto has grown from its first location in Kangemi to cover the following informal settlement areas in Nairobi: Kawangware, Kibera, Kariobangi, Dandora, Zimmerman, Dagoretti and Mukuru. Currently, the activity provides quality medical care, nutritional support and counseling services for just over 3,500 HIV positive children on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and enhances the capacity of target local communities to provide care and support to HIV positive children.

NYUMBANI VILLAGE

Nyumbani Village is a simulated village started in 2003 and first received USAID funding in 2006. It admits children who have been infected or affected by HIV and have lost both parents. These children may be admitted with or without their grandparent caregivers. The project utilizes elderly caregivers who have lost their biological children to care for the village children in a home setting.

The Nyumbani Village meets a special need for orphans who lack community support networks without institutionalizing them into traditional orphanages. Under the stewardship of elderly adults, Nyumbani Village provides a family setting for the children and ensures access to health care and education services both inside and outside the village. Nyumbani Village also provides HIV outreach activities, including: testing and HIV care and treatment to the surrounding communities.

NYUMBANI CHILDREN'S HOME

Nyumbani Children's Home is located in Karen, Nairobi, and also runs the Nyumbani Diagnostic Laboratory. The home provides care and treatment to HIV positive children from ages 0-23, and children live at the home until they are healthy and self-reliant. The home includes four cottages and a dormitory, a medical clinic, pharmacy, youth center, community center, playground, library, computer center, kitchen farm, water supply and green house. The site also has pig and poultry pens.

NYUMBANI DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

The Nyumbani Diagnostic Laboratory opened in 2011. It is an internationally accredited laboratory that provides scientists and medical staff high-tech tools to better diagnose and treat HIV/AIDS patients. The on-site laboratory allows more accurate and faster HIV/AIDS diagnosis and testing. The diagnostic capabilities of the laboratory now include:

- HIV viral load testing and counseling
- Immunology testing
- Hematology
- Microbiology and parasitology
- Serology
- Clinical Chemistry and Molecular biology

Clients of the laboratory range from private hospital laboratories, international NGOs, research institutions, and community based care programs. Walk-in clients are also served.

BUDGET: \$13.5 million

DURATION: January 2013-December 2019

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Nairobi and Kitui counties

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