



A CSO outreach worker conducts a HIV Testing session in a drug den in Mombasa County. Those found HIV+ are linked to care immediately. All People Who Use and Inject Drugs (PWU/ID) benefit from a comprehensive package of services for HIV prevention. Photo/USAID

KENYA

HIV COMBINATION PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE AND INJECT DRUGS

Kenya has an estimated 1.6 million People Living with HIV (PLWH). The HIV epidemic is concentrated among key populations, including people who use and inject drugs (PWU/ID). There are an estimated 18,327 PWID in Kenya, with a HIV prevalence of 18 percent compared to 5.6 percent in the general population. In 2008, about 3.8 percent of all new adult infections were attributed to injecting drug use. With little access to health services and poor adherence to treatment, mortality among PWU/ID was high.

In 2014, Kenya's Ministry of Health, with Technical Assistance from UNODC and financial support from PEPFAR through USAID, initiated a four-year HIV Combination Prevention program with the overall goal of reducing HIV morbidity and mortality among PWU/ID in Kenya by enhancing access to comprehensive HIV prevention care and support.

OUR WORK

The project strategy is informed by the findings of USG/PEPFAR/CDC/ USAID Rapid Assessment conducted in 2012 which recommended the:

- Development of an effective public health multi-sectoral response which includes procurement and delivery of methadone
- Formulation of a strategy to make evidence-based Opioid Substitution Therapy(OST)/Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT)/Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) and referral and linking to (HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services available, accessible, and scalable to reach large numbers of PWU/ID.
- Development of an approach to strengthen the capacity of the health system to introduce methadone detoxification and maintenance treatment for those at risk of relapse.

The program aims to achieve above mentioned goal through implementation in four Key result areas, namely.

- i. Coordination and review of national policy, strategies and guidelines to enhance PWID access to evidence-based interventions
- ii. Increased access to a comprehensive PWU/ID package of HIV prevention, care and support
- iii. Policy makers and community support for PWU/ID. HIV prevention interventions strengthened
- iv. Improved national capacity to monitor and evaluate PWU/ID programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since July 2014, GoK-UNODC-USAID HIV combination prevention, treatment and care for PWU/ID in Kenya has:

- Supported establishment of program coordination committees at National and County levels, that also serve as program Technical Working Groups
- Developed the National OST and NSP guidelines, and county OST guidelines
- Established a national monitoring and reporting system for MAT including key indicators, and data collection and reporting tools.
- Developed the National Training Package for MAT and trained 20 ToTs
- Developed Rights based and health oriented training materials on HIV and Harm Reduction for the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Judiciary
- Helped establish and operationalize four MAT Sites (Mombasa-2, Kilifi-I, Kwale-I)
- Engaged and capacity built five Civil Society Organizations to offer comprehensive harm reduction services to PWU/ID (Mombasa-2, Kilifi I, Kwale- 2)
- Helped enrolled 2365 (F-225) PWU/ID on MAT, 82 percent of the them still actively accessing services
- Tested over 10,000 PWU/ID for HIV
- 541 HIV positive PWU/ID linked to ART treatment at the MAT clinics, CSO DICs and other ART sites of choice. Of these, 170 are virally suppressed
- Over 40 percent MAT clients economically empowered through vocational training, linkage to job opportunities or income generating activities
- Advocated for review of punitive laws and promotion of alternatives for incarceration, resulting in a notable decline in PWU/ID arrests and imprisonment. Lobbying and advocacy actions for policy change to accommodate decentralized dispensing
- Trained 40 training of trainers and reached 4580 pupils with Botvin Life Skills Training in 50 schools. Of these 1580 are in 18 schools at the coast

BUDGET: \$8M

DURATION

2014 – 2018, Extended to 2019

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

National, with direct implementation in Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale and Lamu Counties

KEY PARTNERS

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

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