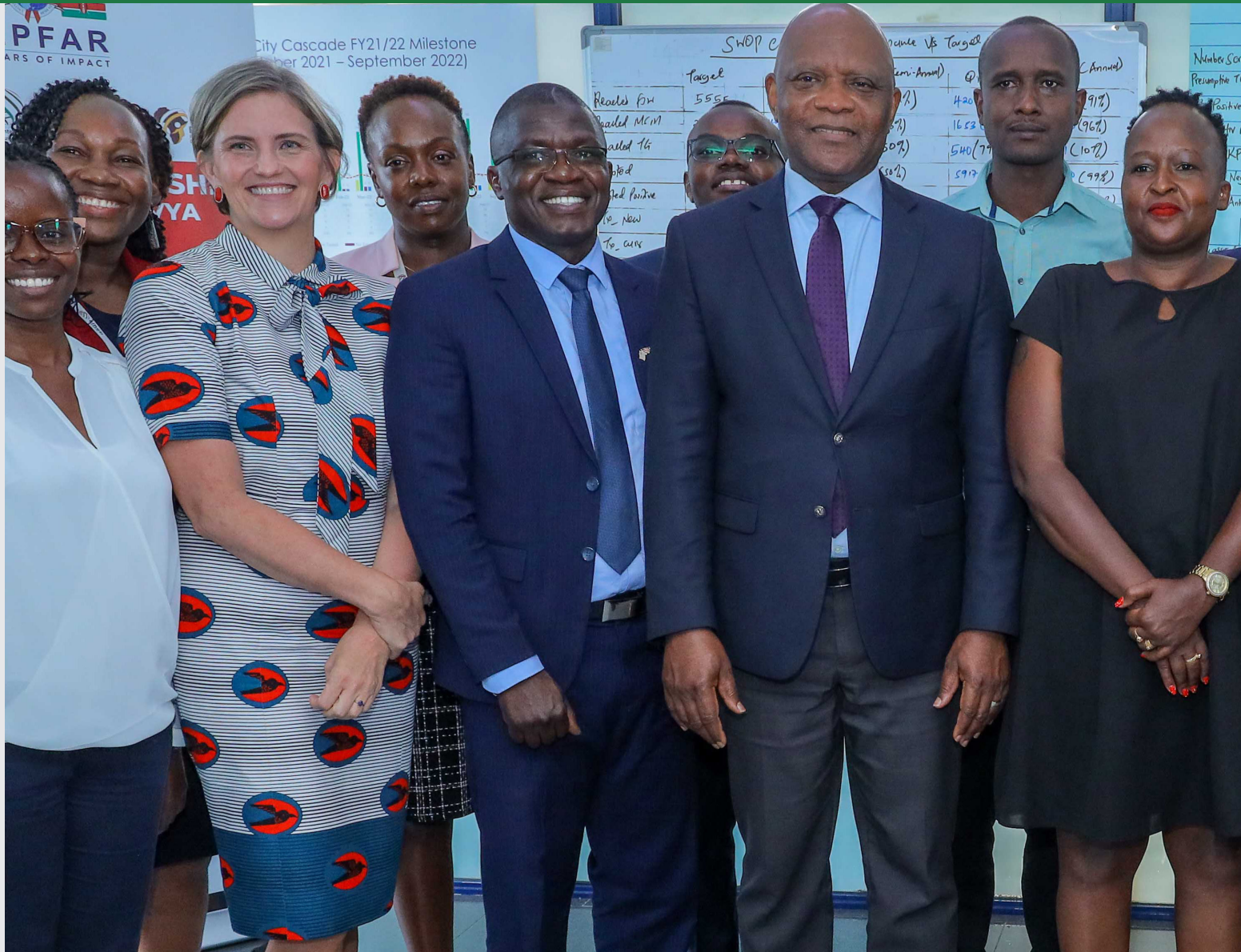




AT A GLANCE

January/February Newsletter



CIHEB-Kenya hosts US Global AIDS Coordinator

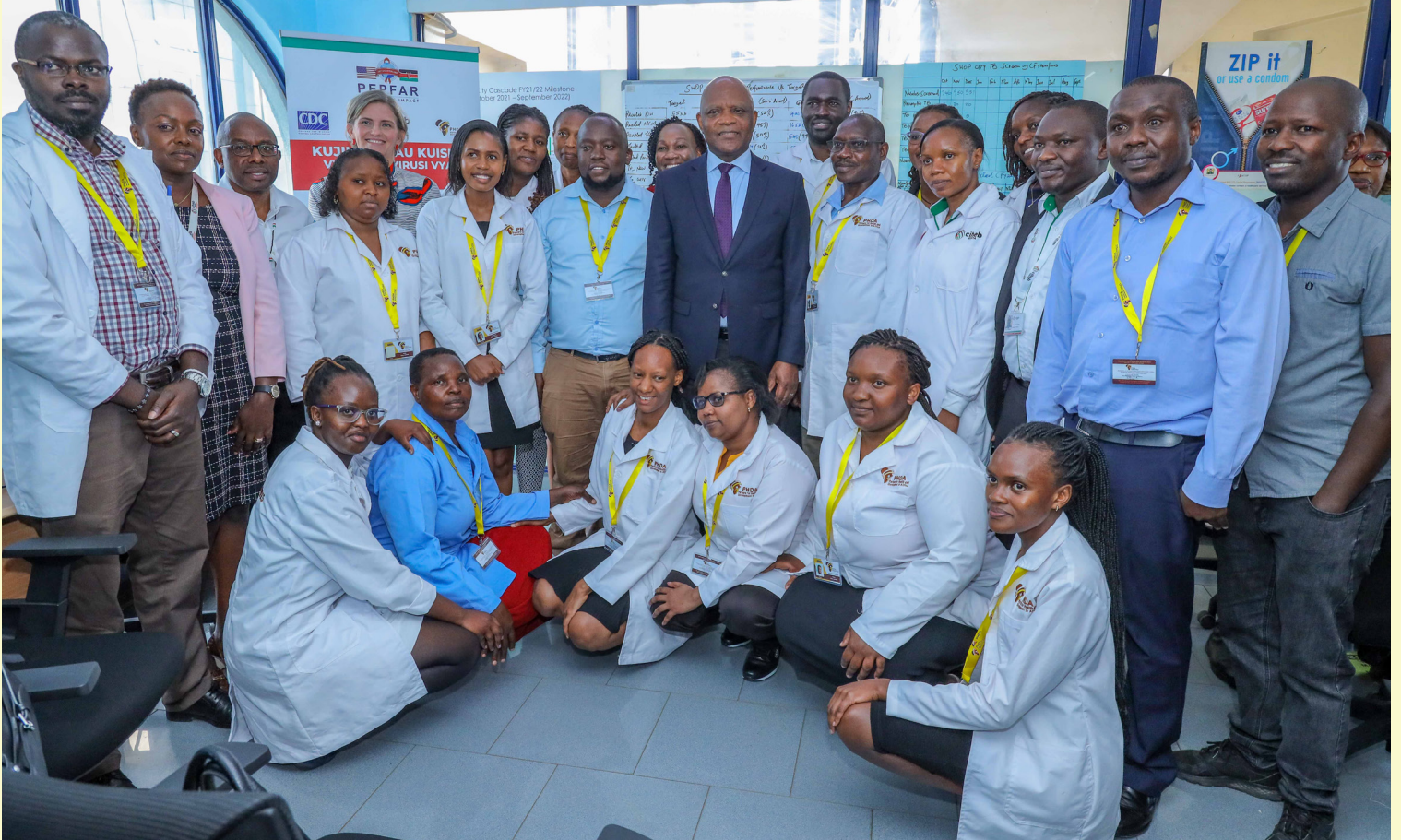
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CIHEB-Kenya hosts the US Global Aids Coordinator in Nairobi



CIHEB-Kenya was honored to host Ambassador Dr. John N. Nkengasong, the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Health Diplomacy, in one of our key populations clinics, SWOP City Clinic on January 25, 2023. The purpose of the site visit was to understand the health services provided for this population in the facility.

He was accompanied by representatives from PEPFAR Kenya office led by Lindsay Little, PEPFAR Kenya Deputy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Kenya) led by Dr. Jennifer Galbriath, Nairobi City County led by the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Health, Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, CIHEB-Kenya team led by the CEO, Dr. Emily Koech and the Program Director, Dr. Rebecca Wangusi, Dr. Joshua Kimani, Clinical Director at the Partnership for Health Development in Africa (PHDA) the organization subgranted to manage the program and Key Populations community representatives.

The Ambassador walked through the clinic observing the services provided include condoms information, demonstration on use and provision, HIV testing services, STI screening and treatment, risk reduction counseling services, comprehensive HIV care including antiretroviral therapy, family planning counseling and service provision, screening and treatment for tuberculosis, HIV pre and post exposure prophylaxis, mental health support and referral as appropriate, cervical cancer screening and treatment and gender-based violence services.



Dr. Nkengasong appreciated the Key Population community for taking leadership in their spheres of influence despite the healthcare delivery challenges. This was further captured in his comments, "On my visit to SWOP City Clinic in Kenya, the courage and resilience I saw among people who shared their stories of hardship and hope with me is a testament to why we need to work harder to end stigma and discrimination faced by key populations living with and at risk for HIV."

CIHEB-Kenya, the prime recipient of the grant from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has partnered with Partners for Health and Development in Africa (PHDA) to provide HIV prevention and treatment services for key populations. The clinic boasts of easy accessibility to members of the KP as it is adjacent to key hotspots in Nairobi's city centre and currently serves 4263 Female Sex Workers, 931 Men who have Sex with Men, and 722 Transgender active participants.



CONNECT Introductory Meeting with the CECM Health in Naitobi County

CIHEB-Kenya's #CONNECT Program held a collaborative meeting with Nairobi City County Chief Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health, Wellness, and Nutrition, Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, and other senior members of the County Health Management Team.

The CIHEB-Kenya delegation led by Matthew Kimani (Finance & Admin Director representing the CEO) and Dr. Rebeccah Wangusi (CONNECT Program Director) took the Dr. Nyalita through CONNECT Program's achievement to date in the county and outlined key areas that needed focus and support from both the county. Dr. Nyalita and her team appreciated the program's role collaborating with the county and other partners in spearheading Nairobi City County's effort towards HIV and TB epidemic control.

CONNECT's goal is to accelerate sustainable, high-quality, comprehensive HIV prevention, care, and treatment services to achieve the 95-95-95 targets and HIV epidemic control and transition to sustainable service delivery models in Nairobi County through its direct support to 65 health facilities xxx DIC for KPs including 1 for PWID and 30 wards where it implements the DREAMS program supporting HIV prevention initiatives for vulnerable adolescent girls and young women

CIHEB-Kenya signs an MoU with Kisumu County to Strengthen HIV and TB Service Delivery



The goal of CIHEB-Kenya's ENTRENCH program is to provide evidence-based technical support to Kisumu County Government while strengthening health systems through an integrated and sustainable model that will build the capacity of the county health management team to provide oversight and technical support for HIV/TB activities in their health facilities. This includes enhancing the counties' capacity to coordinate, manage, and lead HIV/TB service provision, sustaining the gains made, and reaching the last mile of epidemic control.

To clearly articulate the roles of Kisumu County government and CIHEB-Kenya in this partnership, a memorandum of understanding was signed on January 25, 2023.

The event was graced by Kisumu County Executive Committee Member of Health, Dr. Gregory Ganda, Acting Chief Officer Health, Dr. Ojwang' Lusi, CIHEB-Kenya's CEO, Dr. Emily Koech and Director for Finance & Administration, Mathew Kimani and Kisumu County Health Management Team members.



This MOU is made to promote collaboration in the areas of health systems strengthening in support of HIV and TB services in the county by implementing and expanding the delivery of quality health care, continuous capacity-building programs through structured mentorship, training and education, and strengthening the health care delivery systems among others.

Kisumu County Health Department is the main beneficiary of the program and the recipient of the support to strengthen oversight and quality assurance roles for HIV and TB services delivered within the County's healthcare facilities supported by the program.



ENTRENCH is supporting HIV and TB service provision in 76 facilities in the county including for KP in 5 drop-in clinics and 1 drop in clinic for people who inject drugs. Program further collaborates with OLPS to reach OVCs and NRHS for KPs.



ENTRENCH, acronym for Enhancing Technical Responses to HIV Epidemic control through Nimble County Health systems a program funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Kitui County Government to Strengthen Healthcare Delivery at the Community Level through Community Health Volunteers

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) led by the Program Director Dr. Jennifer Galbraith accompanied by the PEPFAR CDC implementing partners in the county CIHEB-Kenya, CHAK and LVCT made a courtesy call to Kitui County Governor, His Excellency Dr. Julius Malombe, EGH, to discuss healthcare delivery in the County.



Dr. Malombe who was accompanied by CECM Health Ruth Koki, CECM Finance and county health officers and directors and members of county health management appreciated CDC and implementing partners for the support they have given the county and spearheading HIV epidemic control efforts. He reiterated his commitment to enhancing preventive and promotive health and strengthening the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) Model.

“We are glad to report that the national government will match the county government for every amount of money we spend on paying or compensating community health volunteers,” he said.

The Governor further reiterated that his government is keen on preventing disease of public health concern in the region and especially on eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission.



Dr. Koech noted that CIHEB-Kenya has been supporting Kitui County for the last two years, with 112 million set aside this year to support programmatic activities and hiring 146 healthcare workers and an additional 202 volunteers, including peer educators, mentor mothers, and adolescent and young person champions in Kitui County.

CIHEB-Kenya's, PACT Imara program supports the provision of comprehensive HIV and TB prevention and treatment services for general in 80 facilities and for key and priority populations in 3 drop in clinics and through community outreaches, in Kitui County



Finance and Administration team Planning Meeting

DREAMS made me a Successful woman

Celine shares her story of how the DREAMS Project part of CONNECT Program has changed her fortune.

Celine is 22 years old and the firstborn in a family of five children. She was born and raised in Fuata Nyayo village in Nairobi South Ward. She was enrolled in the Nairobi DREAMS project in 2016 while in Form Two (Second Year of High School). Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-Free Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) is a community-based PEPFAR initiated program providing a comprehensive package of layered biomedical (sexual and reproductive health), social (social asset building, education subsidies) and economic interventions (economic empowerment) that not only targets the AGYWs but their families, communities, and male partners. With funding from CDC, CIHEB-Kenya through the CONNECT program has subgranted Hope worldwide Kenya to implement the DREAMS program in 30 wards in Nairobi county.



Celine interacting with a customer as she sells a gas cylinder

Her confidence and self esteem grew by engaging her mentor

Before the project, Celine had no aspirations for her future. During her school break, she would idle at home, watching television, and would sometimes help with household chores. She discovered the project through word of mouth from her friends in school. Joining the DREAMS project was exciting and empowering since she was able to attend social asset-building sessions and receive interventions such as financial capability and entrepreneurship training, cash transfers, and My Health My Choice sessions. Her confidence and self-esteem grew by engaging with her mentor.

DREAMS program supported her high school education and after completing high school, she became more involved in the project. She later received vocational skills training in hairdressing and got employed at a salon after completing her course in 2019. She hones her skills by braiding her mother and sister's hair.

Celine was engaged and trained as a DREAMS mentor for the 9-14 years age cohort. She has mentored 60 girls, 17 of whom have graduated from the project.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the sessions transitioned to online meetings which was difficult for Celine as she didn't enjoy staying at home. Celine loves keeping busy, and thus during the lockdown, she was employed on a short-term basis in the HOPE worldwide Kenya Nairobi South site office as a receptionist and store-keeper.

In 2021, she received additional responsibility to support data collection in the DREAMS site office. She earns an average of KES 26,000 per month and supports her parents to pay for her sister's school fees. She also pays for her own education, as she is studying for a Diploma in Social Work at the Kenya Institute of Professional Studies. DREAMS project further supported her by paying for her first semester school fees.

She also pays for her education as she is studying for a Diploma in Social Work from the Kenya Institute of Professional Studies

To further hone her entrepreneurial skills, in 2021, DREAMS supported Celine with a start-up kit of KES 15,000 to establish a gas distribution business.

as to diversify her gas suppliers. Through the entrepreneurship skills she gained in the project, she has better relations with her customers, and keeps proper records for her business.

Celine pursues her dreams as she helps other girls in her community. She envisions starting a hotel business and operating it with her mother in future, as well as continuing to expand her gas distribution business.

"DREAMS has empowered so many girls and has helped reduce rape, HIV, and child abuse cases. Because of it, I'm a successful and empowered young woman. I am very grateful for the support I have received." She says.

Giving girls a chance to achieve their DREAMS

Determined
Resilient
Empowered
AIDS-free
Mentored
Safe



CONNECT Program meeting to discuss expanding the DREAMS project's geographic reach to new wards to decrease HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) (10–24 years) in Nairobi's informal settlements.



Migori County DREAMS cross-learning meeting among CIHEB-Kenya staff working across the supported dream sites in the County.



CIHEB-Kenya participates in KP implementing partners meeting held in Kisumu in January 2023.



NASCOP team together with CDC Western Kenya team, JOOTRH staff and ENTRENCH Kisumu team during a recent visit to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital



Ian Leboo, a Research Assistant from the TRACK Program emerges 1st runner up in a KEMRI hackathon during the KEMRI Annual Scientific Conference (KASH) 2023.



Finance and Administration Team Planning team during a breakout session to discuss Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation per department



CIHEB-Kenya Key Populations Engagement Forum in Kisumu

CIHEB Kenya's Key Population program team in Kisumu joined other KP partners in the county in a joint Peer Educators Performance Review meeting.



in the meeting were Civil Society Organizations Kisumu Sex Workers Alliance (KISWA), Kisumu Male Sex Workers Organization (KIMASWO), Men for Positive Living (MOPLS), AFYA MTAANI and implementing partner (ANZA MAPEMA) who have been collaborating with the ENTRENCH program in providing services for K.P.s within Kisumu County.

Peer educators were appreciated for their performance last year. The event aimed at cross-learning amongst our peer educators, reviewing their performances, and fostering proper systems and best practices for peer educators' management.



High Level Technical Visits to JOOTRH and Manyatta Dice.



On January 26, 2023 a collaborative visit was made to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital by representatives from the Division of National AIDS and STI Control Program (NASCO), Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Kenya) and CIHEB-Kenya to review the services offered at the Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) Clinic and Drop in Centers (DiCe) for people who inject drugs (PWID).

The clinic provides comprehensive harm reduction services for PWID including condom distribution, HIV testing services, antiretroviral therapy, prevention, screening and treatment of TB and sexually transmitted infections, prevention, screening, vaccination and treatment for hepatitis B and C, targeted information education and communication and opioid substitution therapy using methadone. The program has further integrated gender based violence, mental health, and HIV vulnerability screening and service provision into the MAT clinic.



The team made a courtesy call to the hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. George Rae, who appreciated the services that CIHEB-Kenya, with funding from CDC, has been providing at the MAT Clinic and en-

couraged the team to consider conducting operation research on MAT as this is fairly new, not well documented and dynamic.



The ENTRENCH Program Director, Dr. Anita Nyabiage, noted that at MAT center, JOOTRH, working with CIHEB-Kenya, uses various strategies to retain clients. These include building the capacity of Peer Educators through training and mentorship to support and follow-up their peers, strengthening the linkage between the center and PWID DiCe at Manyatta to ease tracking of missed appointments, sensitization of law enforcers on MAT care, and establishing support groups coordinated by a local PWIDS Civil Society Organization (CSO).

As of September 29, ENTRENCH program was providing services for 593 PWIDS in Manyatta DICE, of whom 133 were actively accessing MAT services at JOOTRH and 64 were on HIV treatment.

Following the training of HIV testing counselors between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, on safe and ethical index testing and SNS, six and two HIV-positive individuals were identified through these testing modalities, respectively.