

Initiative increases access to health and services for Communities in Kenya

The Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES) strives to find innovative ways to make it as easy as possible for the people of Kisumu County to access high-quality medical care. The team took a step forward with the launch of CHI's Community Health Campaigns in the informal settlement area of Obunga in Kisumu East.

The Community Health Campaigns offer a convenient way for people to access healthcare services through health fairs right in their own community. FACES and local partners have teamed up to deliver multi-disease health services including HIV testing and counseling; linkage to HIV services; screening and referral for tuberculosis, malaria, hypertension, diabetes, fistula, and cervical cancer; and referrals for voluntary medical male circumcision.

Nearly 7,000 clients were seen by the end of April. Among the 3,899 clients eligible and tested for HIV, 49 were newly diagnosed with HIV and 78% have already been linked to care. The team will continue to follow up with the clients. We've also collected 107 sputum samples for tuberculosis testing. There will be over 40 Community Health Campaigns through June to serve Obunga residents.

FACES is a HIV care component of the Research Care and Training Program (RCTP) domiciled within the Centre for Microbiology Research (CMR) at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The programme has been pivotal for conducting of a number of research trials, capacity building by training for research and care, and for the implementation of FACES.

The programme has which is a collaboration between the KEMRI, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), the University of Nairobi (UON) (www.uonbi.ac.ke) and University of Washington (UW) has received the support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Bixby Centre for Global Reproductive Health and Kenya's Ministry of Health.

Knowing your HIV status is the first step in the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals and it is paramount to the HIV care cascade. To bolster HIV status knowledge, FACES has rolled out Partner Notification Services (PNS) at all 61 of our supported care and treatment sites. PNS is a targeted approach to reach individuals at high risk of HIV. When patients test positive for HIV, trained counselors build a relationship with patients to ensure they are counseled about HIV and linked to care. Their contacts are determined and informed without exposing the patient's name, and tested for HIV.