

Kenya





Nurse Elizabeth Michire counsels Mary* at a clinic in Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital in Nairobi. (Photo by Matt Hackworth/IMA World Health)

‘Health in the City’: Progressing toward the 95-95-95 targets in Nairobi

Health care in Nairobi faces several chronic challenges: a fluctuating population, numerous informal settlements, a high rate of HIV prevalence and an overburdened health system. Plus, the recent devolution of the country means counties are now overseeing their own planning, budgeting, supply chain and other administrative tasks related to the provision of health care instead of the national government. While this change allows for more tailored health care services, naturally there has been a learning curve.

In 2015, IMA World Health began implementing our first, full-scale USAID-funded project in Kenya. IMA's presence aims to support the country's most-populated county in delivering health services and helping local civil society organizations respond to the burden of HIV.

From Swahili meaning “health in the city,” the *Afya Jijini* program helps Nairobi City County deliver health services. The approach is altogether unique. Instead of implementing traditional individual public health activities, IMA has shifted the focus to implementing a set of well-defined activity models. While each of these efforts can stand alone,

the power is in scaling them up as one integrated package.

IMA and our partners in *Afya Jijini* began gaining momentum toward project goals early. One example: to improve maternal and child health outcomes, one of our first steps was to encourage and empower health facilities to see patients on weekends. In our first year, the project has 35 facilities open seven days a week in targeted neighborhoods in Nairobi, and they have seen an additional 10,000 patients—a remarkable accomplishment for all involved.

At the same time, we are reaching key populations that are vulnerable to HIV infection through highly-engaged, community-level organizations. These local groups engage communities of faith, commercial sex workers and men who have sex with men in order to reduce stigma, promote safety and prevent mother-to-child transmission.

While navigating all these changes and new ideas is challenging, one great aspect of a learning curve is the learning itself.

USAID/Kenya And East Africa *Afya Jijini*

\$34.9 million | USAID | 2015-2018

Afya Jijini is a three-year contract (with two option years) designed to strengthen Nairobi City County's institutional and management capacity to deliver quality health care services.

With IMA leadership and a strong consortium of partners, the project's strategic goal is to improve county-level institutional capacity and management of health service delivery through three primary objectives:

- **Increase access to and use of quality HIV services**
- **Improve access to and use of maternal, neonatal and child health services; family planning and reproductive health services; water, sanitation and hygiene; and nutrition services**
- **Strengthen county and sub-county health systems.**

Afya Jijini works through highly-engaged, community-level organizations to reach key populations that are vulnerable to HIV infection. These community groups educate and

engage a wide range of community members, including communities of faith, commercial sex workers, IV drug users and men who have sex with men, in order to reduce stigma, promote safety and prevent mother-to-child transmission.

The project saw early results. For example, to improve maternal and child health outcomes, one of the first steps was to encourage and empower health facilities to see patients on weekends. In the project's first year, 35 facilities expanded hours in order to open seven days a week in targeted neighborhoods in Nairobi, seeing an additional 10,000 patients as a result.

Additionally, more than 3,000 mothers were reached with focused antenatal care and other maternal, neonatal and child health services as a result of the availability of weekend services. An additional 7,000 children benefited from weekend child health interventions.



**DREAMS participants
Dolphine Kemunto and
David Okeri**

Empowering Girls and Women for an AIDS Free Future

Through the *Afya Jijini* Program, IMA uses the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored and Safe, or DREAMS, intervention in informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, with the goals of empowering adolescent girls and young women and reducing their HIV risk.

IMA implements DREAMS activities for AGYW aged 10-24 at established adolescent-friendly sites and safe spaces, addressing the structural factors that increase girls' risk

of HIV infection, such as poverty, gender inequality, sexual violence and a lack of education. The DREAMS team has enrolled more than 6,000 AGYW in the program, providing gender-based violence trainings to them, their male partners, and family members; conducting HIV testing services; providing cash transfers and education subsidies, connecting AGYW to vocational training and working with AGYW mentors to provide trainings on life skills, family planning choices and HIV prevention to their peers.



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As a member of the AIDSFree partnership, IMA World Health engages community health workers and religious leaders to help foster testing and treatment, with a special focus on youth. These faith leaders spoke about their efforts to reach commercial sex workers in Korogocho, one of Nairobi's toughest slums. (Photo by Matt Hackworth)

AIDSFree

Funding varies by program year

Under the global AIDSFree Project, IMA is implementing the community-level component of the Public-Private Alliance for Pediatric HIV, designed to strengthen access to and demand for family-focused pediatric care and treatment services in Nairobi. Through IMA's leadership and partnership with the Christian Health Association of Kenya, IMA is piloting a novel approach to engage religious leaders in the urban informal settlements of Korogocho of Nairobi.

Recognizing faith leaders' potential to influence behavior change and social norms, the approach trains Christian and Muslim leaders to become Pediatric HIV Champions using sermon and khutba guides to engage their congregations to increase community knowledge of and demand for HIV pediatric care and treatment services.

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