



STATE HOUSE
Office of the First Lady
Republic of Kenya



BEYOND ZERO

INSPIRING ACTION. CHANGING LIVES.



**BEYOND ZERO
TECHNICAL
REPORT**

**2019
2020**

AN INITIATIVE OF
H.E. MARGARET KENYATTA
THE FIRST LADY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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A special thanks to all our sponsors67

Abbreviations

AIDS
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ARVs
Antiretroviral Regimens

AU
African Union

AYP
Adolescents and Young People

CARICOM
Caribbean Community and Common Market

CDF
Constituency Development Fund

CHS
Centre for Health Solutions

CHV
Community Health Volunteer

CHW
Community Health Workers

CIHEB
Centre for International Health, Education, and Biosecurity

COVID-19
Coronavirus Disease

CSOs
Civil Society Organizations

eMTCT
elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis

ECHN
Enrolled Community Health Nursing

EGH
Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya

FBOs
Faith Based Organisations

FGM/C
Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting

FOIA
Friends of Africa International

GBV
Gender Based Violence

HIV
Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HRH
Human Resources for Health

IAC
Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

ICPD
International Conference on Population and Development

JHIC
Joint Health Inspections Checklists

JHPIEGO
John Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics

KCB
Kenya Commercial Bank

KDHS
Kenya Demographic Health Survey

KENCO
Kenya Network of Cancer Organisations

MDGs
Millennium Development Goals

KMTC
Kenya Medical Training College

KQMH
Kenya Quality Model for Health

MOS
Medical Officers

NACC
National AIDS Control Council

NASCOP
National AIDS and STI's Control Programme

NCI-K
National Cancer Registry and the National Cancer Institute - Kenya

NCCP
National Cancer Control Program

NCCS
National Cancer Control Strategy

NCDs
Non-Communicable Diseases

NHIF
National Hospital Insurance Fund

OAFLA
Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS

OAFLAD
Organization of African First Ladies for Development

PEPFAR
President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

PCEA
Presbyterian Church of East Africa

PLWHAs
People Living with HIV/AIDS

HPV
Human papillomavirus

PMTCT
Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission

PTSD
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Project C.U.R.E
Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment

SBBC
Social Behaviour Change Communication

SCCA
Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer Conference in Africa

SDG
Sustainable Development Goal

SGBV
Sexual and Gender Based Violence

SRHR
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

STI
Sexually Transmitted Infections

TICAD7
Tokyo International Conference on African Development

UHC
Universal Health Coverage

UN
United Nations

UNAIDS
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNGA
United Nations General Assembly

UNICEF
The United Nations International Children's Fund

UNFPA
The United Nations Population Fund

USAID
The United States Agency for International Development

VMG
Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

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Foreword



Every year, we hear about challenges, and problems faced by communities and individuals. We also hear incredible stories about people's commitment and personal sacrifices that make a difference in their lives and those of their communities. We listen to these stories because they express resilience, humility, sacrifice, and love for humanity.

Since its beginning, Beyond Zero's mission has been to bring positive change into the lives of women, girls, and children. We desire to make vital contributions towards the National and County Governments' efforts in building resilient health systems and accelerating our National attainment of Universal Health Coverage.

Our work is also guided by Sustainable Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Beyond Zero is guided by three pillars: Quality, Demand and Inclusion. This report sets out to demonstrate how we have worked with our partners to support vulnerable and marginalized populations; expanded learning opportunities for health workers and improved the health and livelihoods of communities.

A few areas in particular stood out for us this year.

On **demand and access**, we continue to advocate for policy change and for the reduction of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) transmission from mother to child, as well as reduction of multiple risks of acquiring HIV among young people. We have worked with strategic partnerships in HIV programming to provide critical support for the development and launch of three elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis (eMTCT) business plans in three Counties this year, adding to the ten launched earlier. These efforts have helped accelerate Kenya's readiness for validation in 2022.

Saving lives through improved response time using technology is a priority, especially for women and children. The Point of Care technology is an example of how we can ensure efficient diagnostics, with a reduction

from 60 days to 24 hours, resulting in earlier treatment initiation for infants. The Hemafuse surgical device improves access to blood and safer surgical outcomes during birth emergencies. The donation of these technologies to our health centres has assisted in reversing life-threatening experiences for expectant women. I thank the partners who have assisted in making this equipment available.

We remain committed to reducing the burden of cervical cancer through advocacy, promoting prevention behaviours and encouraging community uptake of screening services and early diagnosis. At the Beyond Zero Medical Safari's, we have seen the urgency for cancer screening services, and our commitment is to scale up our work with our partners so that more women, men, families and communities can access these services.

The impact of the Medical Safaris is captured in the life changing stories shared by women and girls whose dignity has been restored and lives changed following surgical fistula repairs. This work has been made possible through advocacy and our collective resource contribution. I want to especially acknowledge the bravery and willingness of the women and girls who have come forward and given courage to the many more women undergoing this suffering.

In recent times, worrying trends are still emerging around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - one of the most severe forms of gender-based violence (GBV). This practice poses risks to the health and lives of its victims. Besides curtailing a girls' opportunity to realise her full potential, our women are also subjected to severe birth complications or death. I will continue to speak against FGM both nationally and globally, as well as, advocate and support initiatives towards ending FGM by 2022.

Partnerships have been critical in helping amplify our work. This year's Beyond Zero Half Marathon 2020, our anchor resource mobilisation activity, was successfully held on the 8th of March. The uniqueness of the 5th edition of this half marathon was the commitment by participants to run for a self-selected cause under the hashtag "I WILL RUN". I believe this collective commitment demonstrates Kenyan's philanthropy, our positive spirit and solidarity.

Unfortunately, our lives changed immediately thereafter. The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has affected us dramatically, as a country and globally, requiring us to ensure that our future work is adapted to the pandemic context. This unprecedented global pandemic has presented major challenges, risks and uncertainties.

While we do not have all the answers, we have witnessed amazing determination and resilience from our health workers who are our frontline soldiers. We applaud and thank you for your willingness to serve. I also thank those who have supported the National emergency efforts to protect the lives of Kenyans.

The multiple impact of the pandemic will be felt on our health systems and our social economic, and mental health. It will require a collective resolve to expand our support and to examine how we will continue to support and protect our health workers - particularly nurses and community health workers.

We shall however not lose sight of our collective commitment in *leaving no one behind*. Our sense of urgency is to scale up our efforts for a more inclusive health system. We shall work towards cascading our investment in remodelling and upgrading health centres so that they can better respond to the needs of the communities they serve.

We shall also focus on the Adolescents and Young people, our demographic dividend, to address issues they are facing around health.

We look forward to increasing our knowledge through application of data, technology and innovation to leapfrog our journey to universal health coverage.

I look forward to working with you.

H.E. Margaret Kenyatta
First Lady of the Republic of Kenya

Statement by Toyota Kenya Limited



Since its inception in 2014, the Beyond Zero Initiative has proven to be the biggest contributor to the achievement of one facet of Universal Healthcare in Kenya; maternal health, playing a huge role towards the country's push to meeting Sustainable Development Goal number three of Good Health and Well-being. Some of the targets under this goal include the reduction of global maternal mortality ratios and to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age.

After a five-year focus on improving maternal health in the country that included the donation of mobile clinics across all 47 Counties, the Beyond Zero Initiative kicked

off its next phase this year with the inclusion of more health and social targets. These targets, including zero female genital mutilation, zero HIV infections, zero child marriages, access to better health, early cancer screening, healthy lifestyles for the elderly and acceptability of the differently-abled children, goes to show the great vision of the Initiative's Patron, Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya.

It is on this basis that Toyota Kenya was delighted to continue this partnership with the Beyond Zero Marathon, an activity anchored on the Beyond Zero Initiative. The new health and social targets not only demonstrated an inclusive look at the country's healthcare eco-system, it also gave participants an opportunity to run for causes close to their hearts.

At Toyota Kenya, our operations are guided by our Kaizen philosophy that advocates for continuous improvement; where we continuously look for ways to advance, grow, better lives and impact positively on our environment and people. Our partnership embodies the synergies between the Beyond Zero philosophy and Toyota Kenya's Kaizen strategy.

Over the years, our support to the Beyond Zero Initiative has been in form of sponsorship to the Marathon, both in cash and in kind as the transport partner during the marathon. Our staff have been involved by signing up and running in the Beyond Zero Marathon.

On this journey to bettering healthcare provision in the country, we appreciate the role of healthcare professionals who ensure that the beneficiaries of the Beyond Zero Initiative receive the care required across the country. Toyota Kenya will continue supporting the healthcare sector through the provision of motoring options suitable for various functions across the sector, as has already been demonstrated through the fabrication of the Hiace and Land Cruiser (LC79) into ambulances.

Arvinder Reel
Managing Director & CEO, Automotive Kenya

Statement by Kenya Commercial Bank PLC



Partnering for Progress

We are pleased to have partnered with the Beyond Zero Initiative since its inception. We gladly acknowledge that this has significantly enabled the extension of healthcare to mothers and children in all the Counties in Kenya. When the initiative started, it looked like a dream, but now everyone appreciates the efforts of working with both local and international partners to raise funds for this objective to be a reality. Through this program which is aligned to the BIG 4 Agenda, the efforts are reaching the most vulnerable members of our society including the elderly, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons living with disabilities and mothers and children who could not previously access proper medical services from even the nearest medical facility.

At Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Group, we believe responsible business is about a healthy, productive society capable of driving the economic development agenda for this country and well-being of families. As such, this program has been an excellent vehicle for us to touch and to transform the lives of communities in which we operate. We see the program as a game-changer in maternal and child healthcare and a significant pillar towards achieving universal healthcare.

Joshua Oigara
CEO & MD

Statement by Chief of Staff



Over the past year, Beyond Zero has stepped up its efforts to deliver on its mandate. The Strategic Framework 2018-2022 is our guiding document in setting direction for our work that prioritises nine core intervention areas. These areas respond to the evolving needs of national, continental and global issues that affect people's lives as articulated in various developmental blueprints. At the global level, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, at continental level, Agenda 2063 the Africa We Want and our national developmental blueprint *Vision 2030* and its Third Medium Term plan, *Transforming Lives: Advancing socio-economic development through the "Big Four"*.

The planning and coordination of all Beyond Zero's programs has benefited from the partnerships we have built over the years - these partnerships have contributed immensely to the growth of this Initiative. We cannot do our work alone. We count on you to help us make a difference in the communities we serve and extend our gratitude and appreciation for your continued support.

We appreciate the importance of accountability by demonstrating the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in the execution of our partnerships and work. We value this principle and it has played a key role in our planning and programming. We are fortunate to draw on the wealth of experience and expertise of sector players nationally and internationally.

The strength of the partnerships, the professionalism of the technical teams we work with, along with the Secretariat have all contributed to what has been achieved over the years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly shifted the ways in which we interact, requiring adaptations that accommodate the dynamic nature of these unprecedented times. We are reflecting on ways to innovate new strategies that strengthen community resilience. While it may be challenging, we have seen optimism, stronger commitment and a promise of embracing this new way of working.

In the next year, we plan to build on our work and invest our resources in areas and communities who are most in need; while staying true to our mandate laid out in the Strategic Framework.

Constance Gakonyo
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady



Introduction to Beyond Zero

Our vision and mission

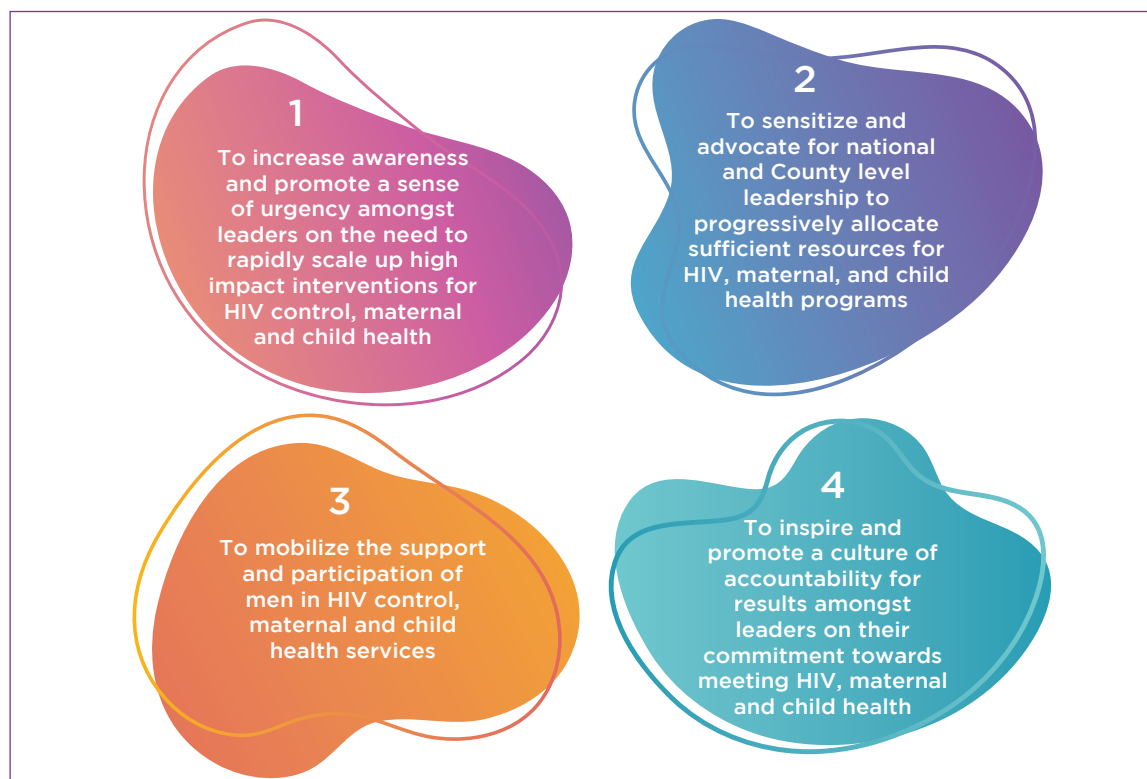
Beyond Zero was conceived in June 2013 when Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, made a public commitment to heighten advocacy efforts aimed at reducing preventable maternal and child deaths, as well as eMTCT. This defining moment was during the First Lady's inaugural participation at the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) Conference.

On 24th January 2014, Beyond Zero Campaign was launched with the First Lady as its founder and Patron. Its ambitious mission was to give every pregnant woman and her unborn child the hope of living and saving children from HIV infection. *The Strategic Framework on Engagement for HIV Control and Promotion of Maternal, New-born and Child Health 2013-2017* was formulated to guide the implementation of this Initiative.

The Beyond Zero Initiative serves as an advocacy platform that complements Kenya's commitment to invest in and improve the quality of life for its citizens as highlighted in Kenya Vision 2030, Kenya's development blueprint. Vision 2030 aims at providing high quality and affordable healthcare to all citizens, especially women, children, youth, and vulnerable populations. Working with all stakeholders in the public and private sector, the Initiative is catalytic in nature.

It inspires action by political leaders, partners and communities through simple and focused health messages that emphasize preventive and inclusive approaches.

The Initiative leverages on the First Lady's convening power to mobilize partners and broad coalitions of political and public support to influence positive change in existing health and community systems¹. It is guided by the following four objectives:



The work of Beyond Zero in implementing these objectives has been informed by its Strategic Frameworks: *The Strategic Framework on Engagement for HIV Control and Promotion of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2013-2017* and *The Strategic Framework for the Engagement of the First Lady in the Promotion of Health Lives and Well-being of Women, Children and Adolescents, 2018-2022*.

¹ Community systems are community-led structures and mechanisms used by communities through which community members and community-based organizations and groups interact, coordinate, and deliver their responses to the challenges and needs affecting their communities. Many community systems are small-scale or informal https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/6428/core_css_framework_en.pdf

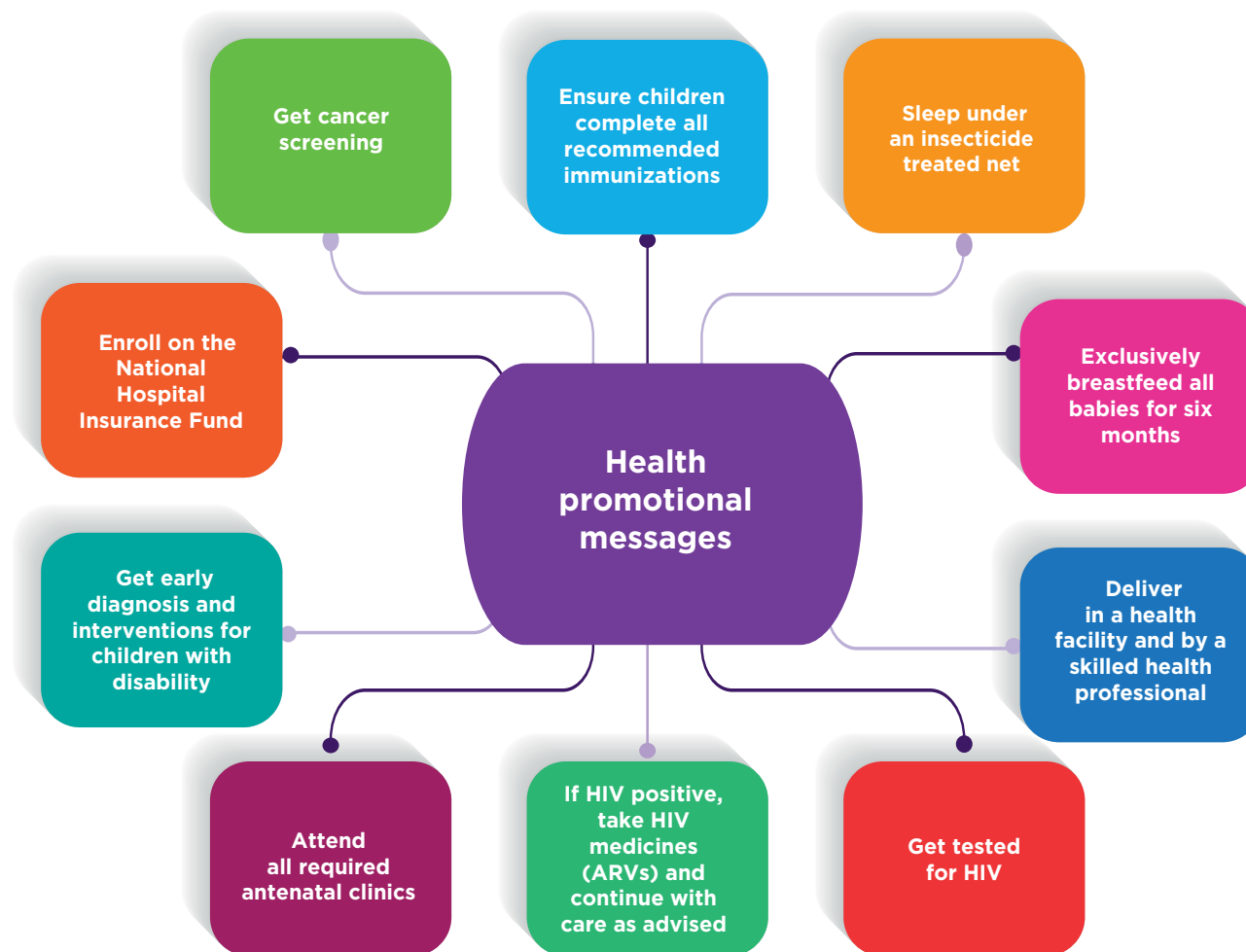
Our approach: Beyond Zero Advocacy Model

At the core of Beyond Zero is an advocacy model that informs how we work and is guided by the First Lady's clarion call that *"no woman should die while giving life."* This has become the guiding principle for action on women's health, inspiring and sustaining dialogues on innovative ways to deliver public services, increase access to healthcare and build community and public engagement around health issues.

To deliver on this, the advocacy model uses the following approaches:

- Using robust evidence and analysis to frame the advocacy agenda;
- Identifying compelling but simple health solutions;
- Building a movement by cultivating champions for alternative leadership;
- Identifying advocacy instruments for engagement;
- Using national identity as a unique resource mobilization strategy;
- Promoting partnerships by enlisting broad coalitions of stakeholders and community participation.

The program is guided by the following health promotional messages aimed at improving the wellbeing of women, children, and men:



Our three pillars - Quality, Demand, and Inclusion

A *Strategic Framework for the Engagement of the First Lady in the Promotion of Healthy Lives and Well-being of Women, Children, and Adolescents 2018-2022* is anchored on leaving no one behind. It puts all Kenyans at the centre of its planned actions and provides opportunities for them to demand quality services and to increase their agency over decisions affecting their health.

As such, the Framework specifically highlights population categories alongside its nine intervention areas with key actions to ensure targeted and *enhanced quality of care, sufficient demand generated for services, and that inclusion is integrated*. More specifically, the Framework seeks to: promote access to quality of maternal, child and neonatal healthcare services through Universal Health Coverage (UHC); create awareness on prevention, repair, and reintegration of women with obstetric fistula; champion Kenya's readiness for validation for the pre-elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis; mobilize partnerships to deliver all-inclusive adolescent health programs; mobilize for the engagement of men as clients and partners for women and children, health and agents of change for family health; promote nutrition for all children; include children living with disabilities for equal access to healthcare services; and champion for

subsidized comprehensive healthcare coverage and social protection for the elderly.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) observes that quality of care is a key component of the right to health, and the route to equity and dignity for women and children. WHO emphasises that to achieve universal health coverage, it is essential to deliver health services that meet the quality of care criteria.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010² provides the overarching legal framework to ensure a comprehensive rights-based approach to health services delivery. It provides the right to the highest attainable standard of health including reproductive health and emergency treatment³. As such, quality of care management is an integral component of healthcare services⁴. For the quality of care to be achieved, it must be safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable, and people-centred. Consequently, the Social Pillar of Kenya Vision 2030 commits to providing an efficient and high-quality healthcare system with the best standards as a way of improving the overall livelihoods of Kenyans. Thus, Kenya has adopted the Kenya Quality Model for Health (KQMH) and the Joint Health Inspections Checklists (JHIC). The former outlines pathways for patient safety while the latter provides tools for the ranking of facilities. Additionally, with the JHIC, there are appropriate follow-up actions.

² The Constitution of Kenya, 2010

³ Article 43, The Constitution of Kenya, 2010

⁴ Implementation Guidelines for the Kenya Quality Model for Health 2011

Achieving quality health requires strategic investment not only in expanding access to healthcare but in improving the quality of care. Furthermore, it requires thorough assessments, detection of asymptomatic and co-existing conditions, accurate diagnosis, appropriate and timely treatment, referral when needed for hospital care and surgery, and the ability to follow up with the patient and adjust the treatment courses as needed. Leveraging on the convening power of the Patron, the Beyond Zero Initiative works with diverse stakeholders to influence the alignment of policies, resources, and service delivery to institutionalize quality improvement and assure patient safety in Kenya's health systems.

As Commissioner of the Lancet Global Health Commission on High-Quality Health, the First Lady supports the principle of healthcare systems that are centred on the idea that patients are people who need to be addressed holistically to help them cope and improve their health outcomes.

Guided by the three pillars of **quality, demand and inclusion** Beyond Zero hopes to contribute to the strengthening of healthcare delivery systems, the improvement of health sector performance, and acceleration towards our national attainment of Universal Health Coverage and the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3)⁵.

⁵ Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development A/RES/70/1, sustainabledevelopment.un.org

The Beyond Zero Current Strategic Framework 2018-2022 has built on and expanded the 2013-2017 Framework and outlined the following implementing approaches to achieve demand, inclusion and quality:

- Catalysing action for equitable provision and access to healthcare services for all;

- Convening multi-disciplinary stakeholders for health;
- Building partnerships and synergies to mobilize citizens to demand for quality healthcare services;
- Enhancing leadership, commitment and accountability.

The 2nd Strategic Framework

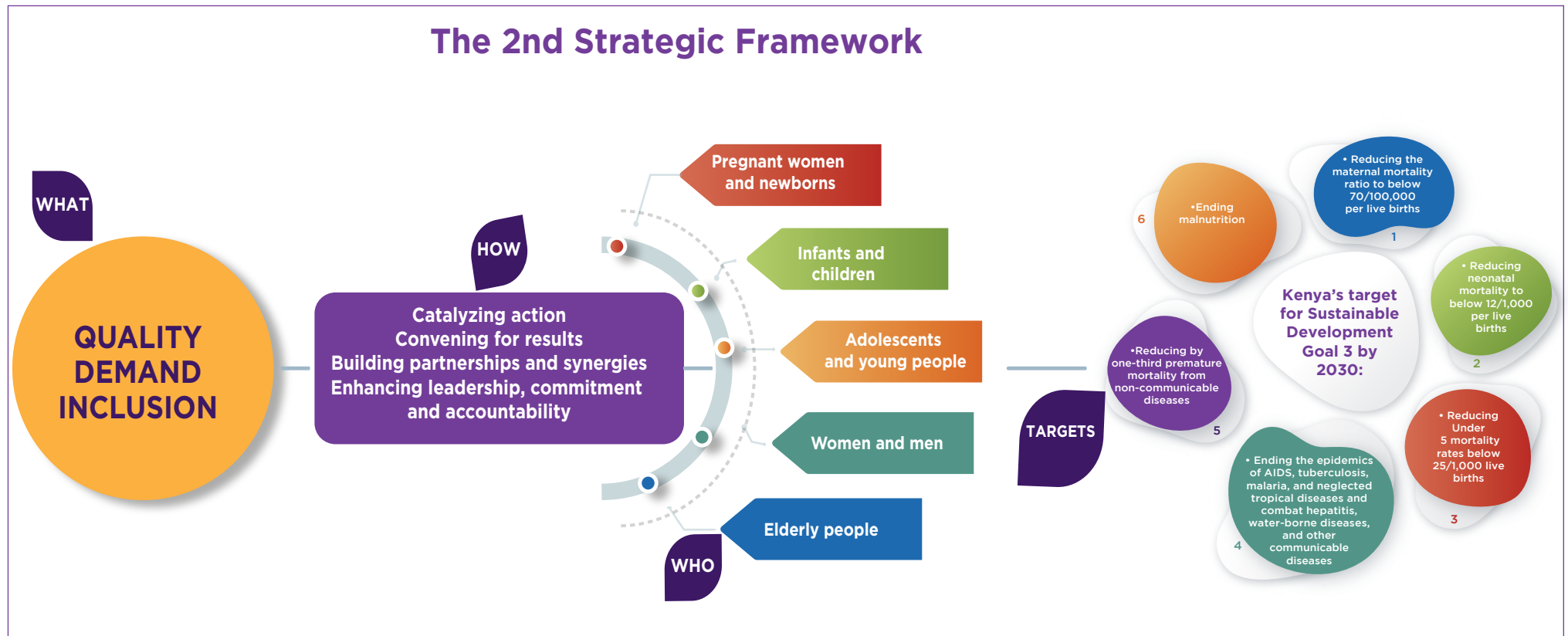


Diagram 1: A Strategic Framework for the Engagement of the First Lady in the Promotion of Healthy Lives and Well-being of Women, Children and Adolescents 2018-2022

Progress made in implementing the 2nd Strategic Framework

Introduction

This Technical Report (2019-2020), details the progress that has been made in implementing the nine interventions of the Strategic Framework, 2018-2022.

The following sections provide detailed accounts of the contexts, interventions, and achievements of the Beyond Zero Initiative to make healthcare accessible by advocating for social norms that drive better health seeking behaviours, accelerate policies that improve women and children's health and dedicate resources for service delivery. The sections are outlined as three chapters to capture and reflect the implementing approaches of the Beyond Zero 2018-2022 Strategic Framework.

The chapters are as follows:

Section 1: Catalysing action for equitable provision and access to healthcare services for all.

- Background: Policy changes to deliver Universal Healthcare
- Advocating for policy change in support of elimination of HIV transmission from mother to child
- Advocating for stakeholder engagement to eliminate cervical cancer
- Advocating to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting



Section 2: Convening multi-disciplinary stakeholders for health and building partnerships and synergies to mobilize citizens to demand for quality healthcare services.

- Background: Leveraging the power of partnerships
- Increasing access and creating demand for healthcare services
- Stories from the Medical Safaris
- Providing essential medicines and equipment
- Enhancing capacity of healthcare workers
- Promoting individual philanthropic investments in health



Section 3: Enhancing leadership, commitment, and accountability

- Background: Scaling up of First Lady's advocacy efforts
- Using voice to influence individual agency
- Transforming commitment to action
- Responding to emerging health issues





Section 1: Catalysing action for equitable provision and access to healthcare services for all

Background: Policy changes to deliver Universal Healthcare

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, which must be of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship⁶. UHC embodies three related objectives: equity in accessing health; quality of health - services should be good enough to improve the health of those receiving it - and shielding people from financial risk.

UHC is a powerful concept contributing to improved health outcomes and equity for women. It recognizes that good antenatal care, skilled delivery, obstetric care, and good nutrition can accelerate zero maternal, newborn, and child deaths.

Kenya's National Health Policy Strategy Plan 2014-2030 goal is, 'to attain the highest possible standard of health in a responsive manner.' The policy seeks to attain universal coverage of critical services such as reduction of the burden of violence (e.g. harmful traditional practices, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence [SGBV]); eliminate communicable conditions (e.g. HIV, Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Infections [STIs]); minimize exposure to health risk factors; and reverse the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (e.g.

diabetes, cancer, hypertension) and mental disorders. However, for this to happen, reduction of out-of-pocket household expenditure, improving existing policies or designing new ones, and increasing financial investment for essential diagnostic technologies and medicines are key to complementing scalable high impact technical interventions. Strengthening delivery of this policy agenda is Kenya's Big Four Agenda⁷ which includes achieving Universal Health Coverage as a target by 2022.

In alignment with the above policies the Beyond Zero Strategic Framework (2018-2020) advocates for the reduction of HIV transmission from mother to child and for the reduction of the multiple risks of acquiring HIV among young people. It also champions for the reduction in birth injuries (e.g. Obstetric Fistula) from either delayed medical intervention or as a result of harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Beyond Zero also advocates for an end to child marriages, increased support and protection for differently abled children, and increased screening services to curb the growing spread of reproductive health cancers.

Through its Patron and Founder, the Initiative has continued to advocate and build alliances with like-minded organizations for robust coordination and enhanced domestic financing so that mothers and children can enjoy a healthy and dignified life.



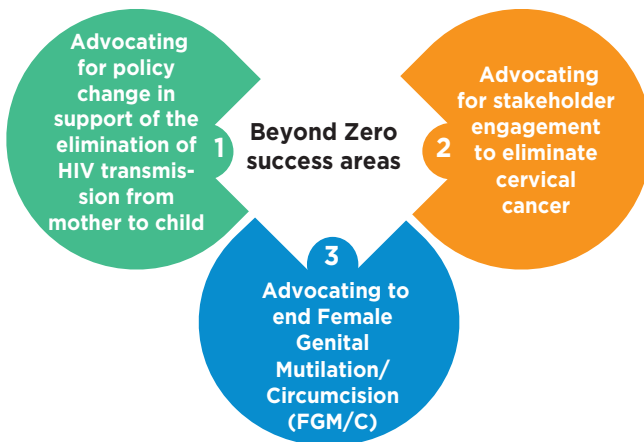
Beyond Zero has further contributed towards accelerating Kenya's readiness for World Health Organisation (WHO) validation by launching three County eMTCT business plans during the Medical Safaris⁸ in Nyandarua and Nairobi Counties, as well as, in Kisii County during the World AIDS Day celebration 2019. This is in addition to three other eMTCT plans for Narok, Kisumu and West Pokot Counties previously launched by the First Lady. The processes leading to these launches have influenced Counties to respond and drive the achievements of ambitious targets of validation.

⁶ World Health Organization (WHO). 2010. The world health report: health systems financing: the path to universal coverage <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/whr/2010/9789241564021_eng.pdf?ua=1>

⁷ The Big Four Agenda is an Action Plan being implemented by Government. It entails boosting manufacturing activities, achieving universal health coverage, enhancing food and nutrition security and supporting the construction of at least 500,000 affordable houses by 2022

⁸ These medical camps are a one-stop shop where diverse partners provide a variety of healthcare services under one roof. They provide free healthcare services such as repair of Obstetric Fistula in women and girls; antenatal check-ups through ultrasounds for pregnant mothers; and screening of reproductive tract cancers in both men and women.

The achievements and contribution of Beyond Zero around catalysing action for equitable and accessible healthcare is divided into three success areas as outlined below:



Success Area 1: Advocating for policy change in support of elimination of HIV transmission from mother to child

The context and Interventions

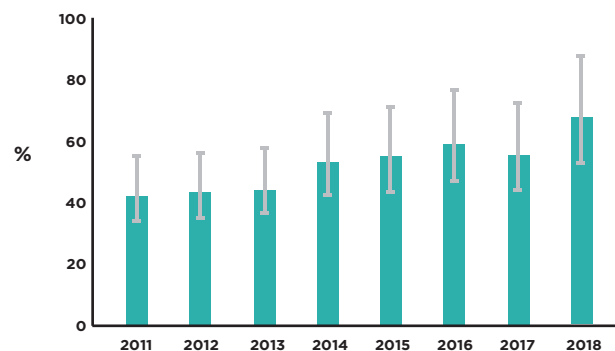
For two decades now, the gains in reducing HIV infections has been characterised by the collaboration between high-level champions and technical programs. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) launched the *Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free* Framework 2016-2020 to build on the achievements of the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive, which ended in 2014.

The *Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free* Framework promotes a set of human rights-based interventions to end AIDS as a public health threat among children and adolescents. It aims to:

- End new HIV infections among children by, among other actions, reaching 95% of pregnant women living with HIV and sustaining them on lifelong antiretroviral therapy by 2018;
- Reduce the number of adolescent girls and young women aged 10-24 years acquiring HIV to fewer than 100,000 annually by 2020;
- Ensure that 95% of all children and adolescents aged 10-19 years living with HIV receive antiretroviral therapy by 2020.

Kenya is among the 23 focus countries⁹ within this Framework and according to the *2018 HIV Estimates Report*¹⁰, the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) reports that Kenya is succeeding in reducing the epidemic. For example, Kenya has prioritised Point of Care technologies to ensure efficient diagnostics from 60 days to 24 hours resulting in earlier treatment initiation for infants (fig1). In 2017, 53,236 women living with HIV received ARV prophylaxis to prevent transmission to their newborn children resulting in about 132,300 child HIV infections been averted (NACC 2018, HIV Estimates) fig 2.

Fig 1: Infants born to women living with HIV receiving a virological test within the first two

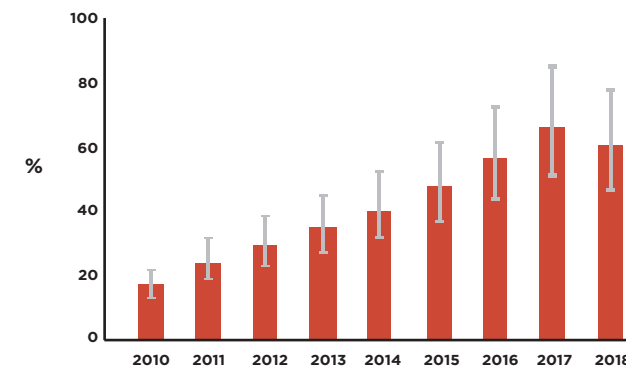


Source: UNAIDS Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free 2019 report

9 Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

10 National AIDS Control Council (NACC). 2018. Kenya HIV Estimates Report <<https://nacc.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/HIV-estimates-report-Kenya-20182.pdf>>

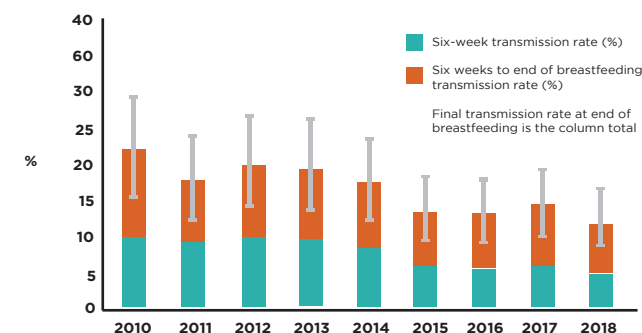
Fig 2: Antiretroviral therapy coverage among children (aged 0-14 years), 2010-2018



Source: UNAIDS Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free 2019 report

Antiretroviral treatment coverage for children has continued to rise resulting in averting deaths (fig 3) due to AIDS-related causes (NACC 2018 HIV Estimates).

Fig 3: Mother-to-child transmission of HIV by timing of transmission, 2010-2018



Source: UNAIDS Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free 2019 report

In early 2018, *The Free to Shine Campaign* was created by Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) and partners to accelerate the implementation of the *Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free Framework* by advocating for strengthened public health systems and increasing access to treatment for mothers and children living with HIV. The First Lady champions the *Free to Shine Campaign* within her Beyond Zero Initiative.

County	HIV Prevalence rate (adults)	MTCT rates	Partners who support the development and launch of the eMTCT plans
Nyandarua	3.5%	12.7%	NACC, NASCOP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, Beyond Zero, PEPFAR, USAID, JHPIEGO, CHS
Kisii	4.4%	16.7%	Beyond Zero, NACC, NASCOP, UNAIDS
Nairobi	6.1%	8.5%	Beyond Zero, OAFLAD, Abbott, NACC, NASCOP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, PEPFAR, USAID, CIHEB, University of Maryland

Achievements

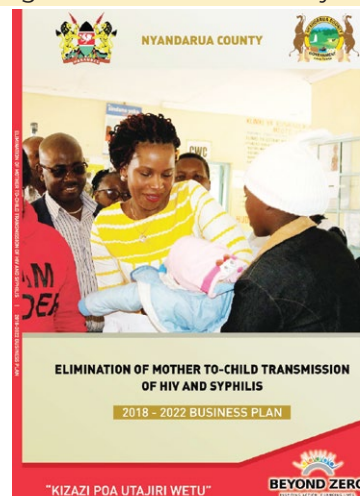
Since 2018, we have continued to witness renewed commitment by Counties. To date, thirteen eMTCT business plans have been launched. Through the *Free to Shine*

Campaign, Beyond Zero has convened strategic partnerships in HIV programming to provide critical support to Counties for the development and launch of the eMTCT business plans. Within this reporting period, the three Counties of Kisii, Nairobi and Nyandarua have launched their business plans as illustrated below.

a) Nyandarua County eMTCT business plan

Expected Results

1. Harmonized monitoring, reporting and dissemination of strategic information on the state of eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis.
2. Achievement of validation targets for eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis in Nyandarua County.
3. Establishment of a robust multi-stakeholder (including public-private sector and communities) engagement and participation in the HIV response in Nyandarua County.
4. Strengthened overall health system.

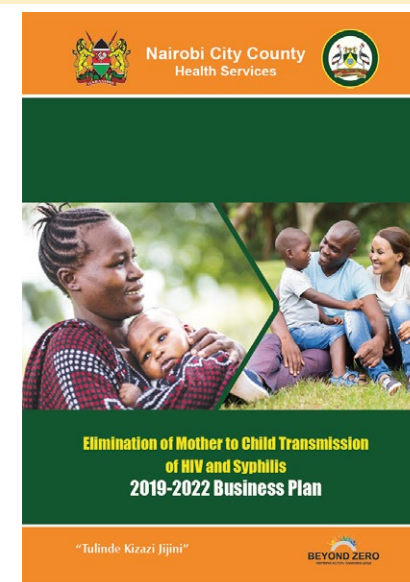


Source: Nyandarua eMTCT business plan 2018-2022

b) Nairobi City County eMTCT business plan

Expected Results

1. Robust multi-stakeholder (including private sector and communities) engagement and participation in the eMTCT response in Nairobi City County.
2. Increased County and domestic private sector financing of key eMTCT program requirements including mentor mothers, data systems and health infrastructure.
3. Harmonized monitoring, reporting and dissemination of strategic information on the state of eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis across public, Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) and private sector.
4. Achievement of validation targets for eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis in Nairobi City County.



c) Kisii County eMTCT business plan

Expected Results

1. Achievement of validation targets for eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis in Kisii County by the year 2021 and sustained through to 2022.
2. Harmonized and timely monitoring, reporting and dissemination of strategic information on the state of eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis within the County.
3. Robust multi-sectoral (including private sector, Civil society organizations [CSOs], religious groups, communities & People living with HIV/AIDS [PLWHAs]) engagement and participation in the HIV response in Kisii County.
4. An overall strengthened health system.



Source: Kisii eMTCT business plan

The First Lady launched these sub-national policies in Nyandarua County (15th August 2019), Kisii County (1st December 2019) and Nairobi City County (23rd January 2020) to accelerate the gains made and fast track the country's journey towards its eMTCT targets and validation by the WHO.



Recognizing the comparative advantage of faith-based leaders in moulding behaviour to reduce transmission of HIV infections, stigma and discrimination, collaborative interventions have been undertaken. As such, during the World AIDs Day, 1st December 2019, the First Lady launched the NACC's *Key HIV and Health messages booklet for use by religious leaders*. This booklet is centred around nine thematic areas namely HIV knowledge, HIV prevention, HIV treatment, care and support, stigma and discrimination, UHC, SGBV, male engagement, and Adolescents and Young People (AYP) engagement.



Success Area 2: Advocating for stakeholder engagement to eliminate cervical cancer

Number of new cases in 2018, females - all ages

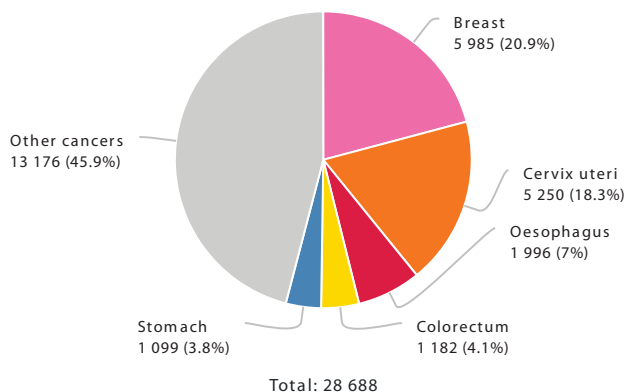


Diagram 2: Global Cancer Observatory 2018

Twenty-five percent (25%) of cancers of the cervix are caused by infectious agents including human papillomavirus (HPV). Despite this grim outlook, cervical cancer is preventable and treatable if detected early. WHO recommends a comprehensive approach that includes components from community education, social mobilization, vaccination, screening, treatment, and palliative care.

There are several risk factors associated with cervical cancer and these include:

- Early initiation of sexual intercourse
- Having multiple sexual partners
- Having a sexual partner with multiple sexual partners
- Co-infection with other STIs, such as chlamydia trachomatis and herpes simplex virus type 2

- Having more than three children
- Immunosuppression due to HIV/AIDS infection
- Tobacco use

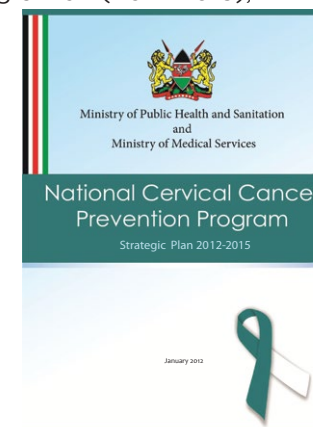
Fear arising from above risk factors, personal responsibility of having caused cancer and concern of the inevitability of disability or death with a cancer diagnosis, increases the barrier to seek screening, early diagnosis, and treatment.

In Kenya, the most common cancers are breast, cervical, colorectal, oesophagus, and stomach. The growing number of cases has resulted in legislative actions and policies to guide the delivery of cancer testing and treatment services, including the development of the country's first strategic plan for cancer - *Kenya National Cancer Control Strategy: 2011-2016* - by the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and the Ministry of Medical Services in 2011.

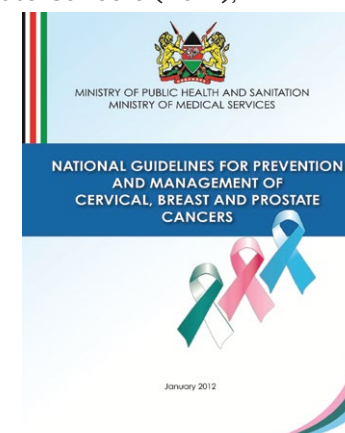
Additional efforts were followed with the establishment of a legal framework to support cancer services through legislative action – the *Cancer Prevention and Control Act, 2012*. These efforts laid the framework for the establishment of the National Cancer Registry and the National Cancer Institute – Kenya (NCI-K). In 2015, the Cancer Act, 2012, was amended to include County Cancer Prevention and Control Committees and renamed the *Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Act, 2015*. These policy efforts have resulted in the strategic plans and

guidelines outlined below that have additionally identified available national resources and infrastructure while advocating for increased investments to improve cancer services.

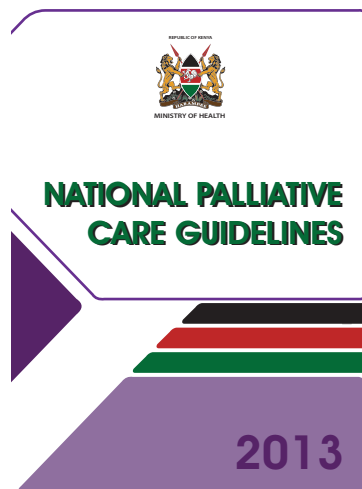
- National Cervical Cancer Programme Strategic Plan (2012-2015);



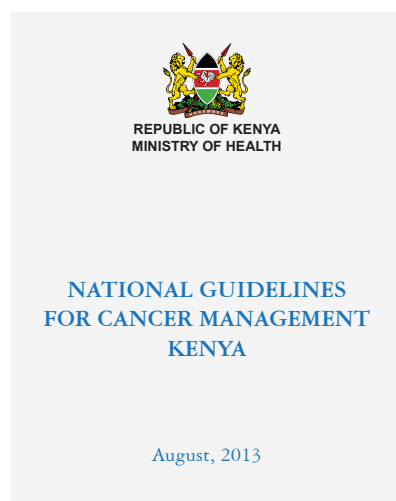
- National Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancers (2012);



- National Palliative Care Guidelines (2013);



- National guidelines for Cancer Management Kenya (2013)



Most recently, the second edition of the *National Cancer Control Strategy (NCCS) 2017-2022* guides Counties in the implementation of the development and delivery of cancer services, including testing, the continuation of treatment and palliation care, vaccination, and early detection.

The Stop Cervical, Breast, and Prostate Cancer Conference in Africa (SCCA) was initiated to raise awareness and galvanize action about cancer in Africa. It was convened by African First Ladies in conjunction with the Princess Nikky Breast Cancer Foundation (PNBCF)¹¹. This inaugural conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2007¹². Subsequent conferences were held in Uganda (2008), South Africa (2009), Ghana (2010), Ethiopia (2011), Zambia (2012), Mozambique (2013), and Namibia (2014).

As a demonstration of Kenya's commitment to reducing the burden of cervical cancer, the First Lady hosted the 9th SCCA in July 2015. The outcome document of the conference, the Nairobi Declaration¹³ observed that reproductive cancers could be prevented and controlled. Consequently, the First Ladies resolved to advocate for innovative public-private partnerships for the promotion of healthy lifestyles; regular screening; early detection and treatment;

¹¹ The PNBCF has been in existence since 1995, championing awareness and education of women's cancers.

¹² The Stop Cervical Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference (SCCA) was first held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2007 and hosted annually thereafter in various African capitals by African First Ladies.

¹³ The Nairobi Declaration of African First Ladies/Spouses on Cervical, Breast, and Prostate cancer 9th SCCA Nairobi, Kenya from 19th-21st July 2015

appropriate palliative care for breast, cervical, and prostate cancer patients. They also resolved to promote cancer prevention and control awareness in partnerships with religious leaders, academia, and patient support groups. Kenya promised to establish additional cancer treatment centres.

Beyond Zero's Patron has continued to advocate for different approaches to curb increased incidence of cervical, breast, and prostate cancers through the Beyond Zero Frameworks of 2013-2017 and 2018-2022. These approaches include: promoting early screening including self-screening of breast cancer at individual and community level; mobilizing partnerships and resources for staff training, purchase and maintenance of equipment for breast and cervical cancer management and control; promoting healthier lifestyles, and good nutrition.

Achievements

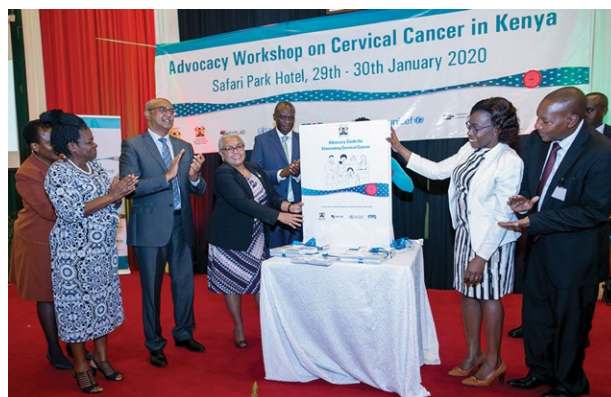
In this reporting period, the OAFLAD in partnership with the Africa Union (AU), WHO and Roche made commitments to advance advocacy efforts by hosting and working with continental First Ladies on national dialogues for the creation of awareness around breast and cervical cancer.

Beyond Zero has sustained its commitment to promote cancer prevention and control measures as well as early diagnosis and treatment. Through engagement with

private sector actors, Beyond Zero has mobilised resources that enable a strong cancer component within the Medical Safaris. In addition to screening, and as a way to reduce stigma, the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris platform presents an opportunity for women who are survivors and victors of cancer to share their testimonies as advocates for annual screening as a preventive measure.



Every year, the world celebrates the Cervical Cancer Awareness Week from 19th to 25th January to accelerate uptake of screening services and early diagnosis. The Ministry of Health's Cancer Control Program, Office of the First Lady and Beyond Zero co-hosted a national advocacy workshop on the 29th and 30th of January 2020 to culminate the global awareness week and month. The workshop was aligned to the *National Cancer Control Strategy 2017-2022* which envisions a Kenyan population with low burden of cancer. Themed: *'I am and I will'*, the workshop in line with the campaign theme for the 2019-2021 World Cancer Day, was held in Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi Kenya.



Attended by 22 Governors' spouses as well as over 150 other participants from the private sector, opinion leaders, civil society, development partners, and policy makers, the First Lady launched the *Advocacy Guide to Eliminate Cervical Cancer*¹⁴ and urged partners to work together and identify platforms to increase women's voluntary participation in cervical cancer prevention programs.



¹⁴ Ministry of Health (MoH), Kenya. 2020. Advocacy Guide for Elimination of Cervical Cancer.



The Advocacy Guide for Elimination of Cervical Cancer is a tool that empowers opinion leaders (teachers, religious and community leaders), healthcare workers, and family and policy leaders to expand their understanding of cervical cancer and provides a structured approach for sustained advocacy. The guide was developed through a consultative process by Office of the First Lady, Beyond Zero, and Ministry of Health, the National Cancer Control Program (NCCP) and the Kenya Network of Cancer Organisations (KENCO).



The participants in the Cervical Cancer Advocacy Workshop committed to the following resolutions:

1. Prioritizing cervical cancer as a woman's health rights concern;
2. Working together to support National and global actions in creating awareness, engaging men and empowering women and girls in their right to health;
3. Ensuring alignment of the set strategies with the National Cancer Control Strategy 2017- 2022;
4. Supporting utilization of existing platforms, opportunities and mechanisms to create awareness in the community and spheres of influence;
5. Aligning with the WHO Global Call to Action for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer by the Human Papillomavirus as a public health concern through the implementation of effective strategies by 2030;
6. Commemorating the National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week annually during the third week of January by creating awareness and intensifying programs that will increase cervical cancer screening, prevention and treatment across the country;
7. Urging the private sector to review pricing for pre-cancer and cancer treatment supplies and medicines, equipment and training;

8. Requesting leaders to prioritize resources and investment to strengthen the health system and in particular towards the elimination of cervical cancer through implementation of the 90-70-90 targets on vaccination, screening and treatment;
9. Encouraging strengthening of the supply chain for medicines and commodities in treatment and palliative care;
10. Undertaking to remain accountable to the above resolutions by reconvening in 2021 to take stock of the progress.

Through the National Advocacy Workshop, obstacles were identified and sustainable solutions recommended to support the decentralization of services for cervical cancer prevention, treatment and management.



Success Area 3: Advocating for the end of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

The context and Interventions

Female circumcision also referred to as female genital mutilation (FGM) or female genital cutting (FGC) refers to the partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injuries to female genital organs for cultural or non-therapeutic reasons. It is estimated that over 200 million girls and women worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) while 3 million girls and women are at risk of undergoing FGM/C every year¹⁵

FGM/C is one of the most severe forms of gender-based violence and violates internationally accepted human rights. Depending on the family or community FGM/C can be performed as early as a few days after birth or shortly before marriage. The practice poses risks to the health and even life of the women and girls who are subjected to it. Apart from the health risks, FGM/C poses other developmental risks that can curtail a girl's ability to realise her full potential such as dropping out of school, and early and/or forced marriage with subsequent birth complications or death.

Immediate	Recurring, Long term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe bleeding • Pain and swelling • Shock • Trauma • Fever • Infection • Problems urinating • Failure of the wound to heal • Death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burning or painful urination • Problems with menstruation • Vaginal itching and discharge • Chronic infections including urinary tract infections • Bacterial infections (bacterial vaginosis) • Psychosocial Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Table 1: Source: Population Council Evidence Brief to End FGM September 2019

According to the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) 2014, prevalence rates have been declining from 38% of women having been circumcised in 1998, to 32% in 2003 and 27% in 2009 and 21% in 2014. In terms of geographical spread of FGM in the country, KDHS 2014 indicates as follows (diagram 3)

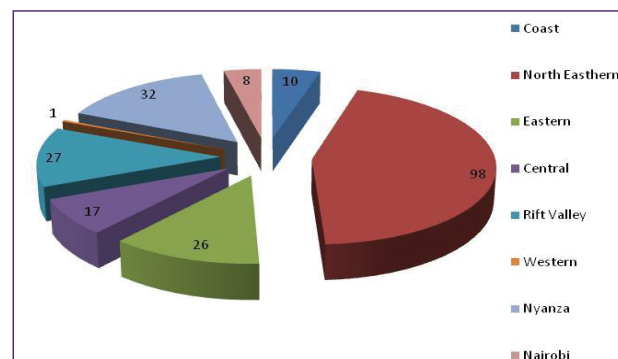


Diagram 3: Source KDHS 2014

An enabling global and regional environment can support efforts towards the abandonment of FGM/C at the community and national levels. At the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2014, a resolution¹⁶ was adopted following the AU declaration made in 2011, banning FGM worldwide. Besides, this commitment has been framed as one of the targets of the SDGs target 5.3 that calls for the elimination of all harmful practices. An annual awareness day, on 6th February, is dedicated to International Zero Tolerance Day to Female Genital Mutilation as a collective pledge to end FGM by 2030.

At the regional level, the African movement for the abandonment of FGM/C has been led by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC). As a result of their efforts, the Maputo Protocol¹⁷ articulated women's protection from traditional practices that are harmful to health, giving women the right to health and reproductive rights¹⁸.

The Government of Kenya recognizes that FGM is a fundamental violation of the rights of women and girls¹⁹. Decrees and bans against FGM were issued in 1982, 1989, 1998, and 2001²⁰.

¹⁶ Resolution A/69/150 UNGA. Co-sponsored by the Group of African States and an additional 71 Member States.

¹⁷ The Maputo Protocol was appended to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights by the 53-member countries of the African Union in 2003.

This is a regional instrument for the protection of women's human rights in Africa.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Government of the Republic of Kenya, 'The National Policy for the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation,' Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2010.

²⁰ Government of the Republic of Kenya, 'The National Policy for the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation,' Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2010, p. 11.

¹⁵ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). New York, 2016. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A global concern

In addition, various policies and action plans have been put in place to address FGM/C as highlighted below.

The Children's Act of 2001 - prohibits FGM/C and other harmful practices that “negatively affect” children under 18 years, imposing a penalty of twelve months’ imprisonment and/or a fine.

The National Reproductive Health Policy Enhancing Reproductive Health Status for all Kenyans (2007) - recognises that female genital mutilation is one of the specific problems that affects their sexual and reproductive health.

The National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kenya (2008-2012) - supports coordination, networking and collaboration among key stakeholders across the public, civil, and private sectors.

The Adolescent and Reproductive Health Policy and Plan of Action, (2005-2015) - specifies that FGM is a harmful practice and a violation of human rights.

Kenya's Vision 2030 - its Social Strategy for Gender, Youth and Vulnerable groups seeks to increase opportunities and support the development of strategies that will minimise vulnerabilities through prohibition of retrogressive practices such as female genital mutilation.

The National Policy for the Abandonment of FGM/C (2009) - analyses the prevalence, trends, and types of FGM/C in Kenya, and proposes a comprehensive set of activities to encourage abandonment of the practice.

Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011 - criminalizes female genital mutilation. The Act further provides that if FGM is carried out and causes death, the perpetrator will be liable to imprisonment for life. The Act also criminalizes a person who takes another person inside or outside Kenya to perform FGM. The Act further criminalizes individuals who aid or abet FGM.

Reproductive Health Care Bill, 2014 - Section 35 directs that for consistency in application the relevant law governing all issues relating to FGM is the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011.

Despite these legal and policy prohibitions, worrying trends and changes are emerging as a result of these policy prohibitions around FGM/C practices including the fear of prosecution. Thus, girls are being cut at much younger ages. The practice is being conducted as a secretive event; and there may also be changes to the forms of cutting. Furthermore, FGM/C is becoming increasingly medicalised²¹.

²¹Matanda, D, Okondo, C, Kabiru, C. W., and Shell-Duncan, B. (2019). Tracing Change in Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Shifting Norms and Practices among Communities in Narok and Kisii Counties, Kenya. Evidence to End FGM/C: Research to Help Girls and Women Thrive. New York: Population Council.

The Joint UNFPA-UNICEF Programme 2008-2012, designed to accelerate change and abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) identified two main challenges to the abandonment of FGM/C in the country, namely *medicalization* of the practice, and its *religious/cultural importance*. Moreover, there are Kenyan communities where FGM/C remains a universal practice. Therefore, as recent as 4th June 2019, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, committed to ending FGM/C by 2022 at the Women Deliver Conference in Vancouver, Canada. He further committed to eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030 through the strengthening of coordination mechanisms and by addressing cultural norms that propagate these practices.

Achievements

Beyond Zero, through its Patron, helps create awareness of the importance of ending the practice of FGM/C given its negative impacts on the lives, health and well-being of girls and women. Moreover, the First Lady has called on the support of religious and cultural leaders in curbing the practice. In recognition of her advocacy against FGM/C on national and global platforms, the First Lady was awarded a special bead bracelet symbolizing their commitment to end the practice.



Scaling her advocacy at the regional platform, the First Lady at the Global Gender Summit November 2019 in Kigali emphasised the importance of removal of legal, social, and economic barriers for women and girls including FGM/C. In a statement during the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula on the 23rd May 2020, she reiterated her calls for accelerated efforts to eradicate FGM/C as it is one of the drivers of obstetric fistula.



On 8th November 2019, President Kenyatta hosted the High-level Elders forum (cultural and religious leaders) from communities with high rates of FGM/C. The forum was attended by the First Lady, UNFPA, partners and opinion leaders drawn from 22 Counties affected by FGM/C. The religious and cultural leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continue advocating for an end of FGM/C through their different platforms and to lend their support to President Kenyatta's commitment to end the practice in the country by 2022.

These elders committed to creating awareness within their communities on the need to promote education and the well-being of the girl child.





Section 2: Convening multi-disciplinary stakeholders for health and building partnerships and synergies to mobilize citizens to demand for quality healthcare services

Background: Leveraging the power of partnerships

Collaboration across societal sectors has emerged as one of the defining concepts of international development in the 21st century²². Partnerships are about harnessing each other's potential. They are key for their potential to consolidate resources to achieve more, have a greater impact, minimize duplication, and assure value for money and for sustainability. The complementary role of Kenya's health sector actors is critical in ensuring the delivery of Universal Healthcare. Joined by the National and County governments, United Nations (UN) Agencies, private-sector, and media, Beyond Zero's focus on reducing preventable maternal and infant mortality was built on a collective partnership model. The partnership model is girded by shared goals and values for the community; changing lives one at a time for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

²²The Partnering Initiative (tpi). 2018. Maximizing the impact of partnerships for the SDGs: A practical guide to partnership value creation.

²³Beyond Zero provided additional Mobile Clinics responding to Counties requests due to large geographical coverage, population and the need for specialized services. As a result, 5 Counties were recipients of an additional Mobile Clinics each and this saw the number of Mobile Clinics distributed increase from forty-seven (47) to fifty-two (52). Marsabit, Wajir and Nyandarua Counties received more Mobile Clinics alongside specialized clinics to respond to health challenges for persons living with disabilities and cancer for the AIC CURE International Hospital and Beth Mugo Foundation. These specialized mobile clinics are used to provide care to children suffering from a wide range of orthopedic conditions, screening women and men for reproductive health cancers (cervical, breast and prostate) and deliver healthcare right to the doorsteps of pastoralist communities.

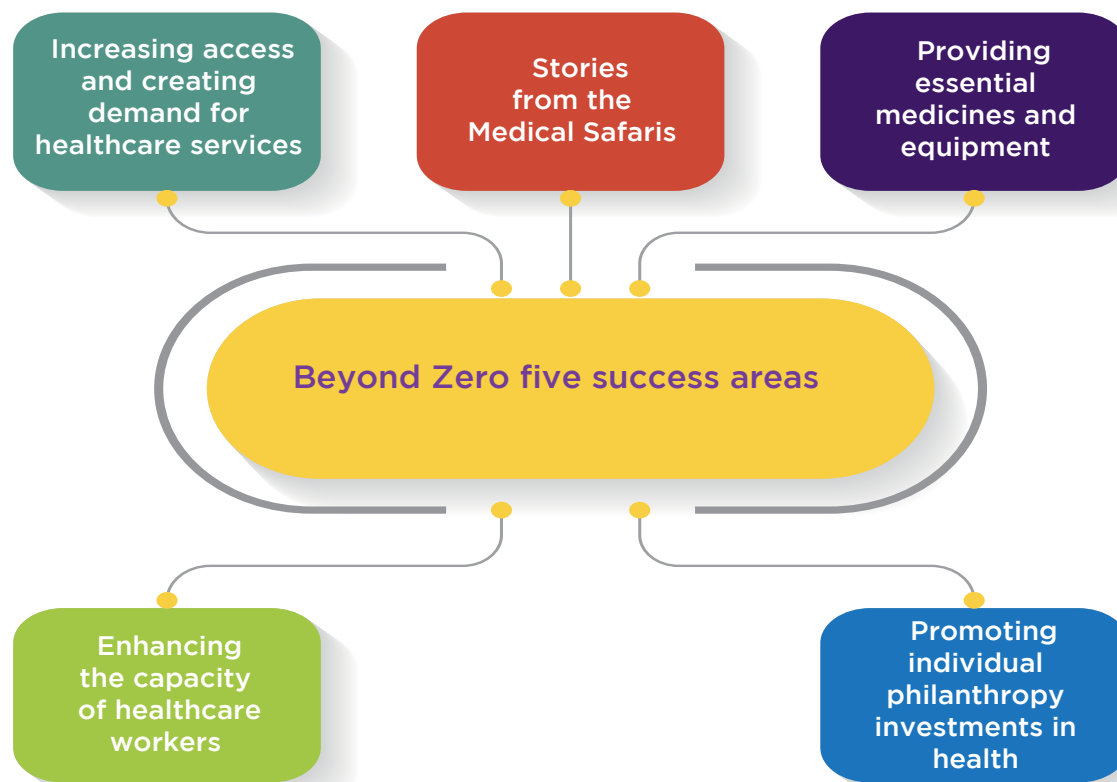
²⁴Provide free specialized healthcare services in different Counties.

The Strategic Framework 2018-2022 is implemented with partnerships and in collaboration with National and Sub-National Governments (County Governments), UN Agencies, private sector, and media to support existing health and community initiatives.

In April 2014, Beyond Zero's Patron, the First Lady pioneered a unique resource mobilization effort with individual Kenyans through the Beyond Zero Half Marathons.

They continue to be the anchor vehicle for raising funds that have supported the purchase of 52²³ Mobile Clinics and five (5) Beyond Zero Medical Safaris²⁴.

The subsequent sections outline the contributions and achievements of Beyond Zero around convening multi-stakeholders for health and are divided into five success areas as outlined below:



Success area 1: Increasing access and creating demand for services

The context and Interventions

Demand for healthcare is characterized by the individual level of utilization of health services in case of disease or injury. Several factors such as distance to the nearest health facility, cost of transport, and cost of care determine uptake of health services. Social determinants such as level of education, incomes, cultural and social norms, as well as gender inequality, also influence the same.

In Kenya, the number of health facilities has increased by 5.2 percent and more Kenyans are accessing the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)²⁵. Kenya, additionally, has surpassed the target of the national health facility density²⁶. In 2018, it was at 2.2 percent²⁷ compared to 2.04 percent in 2013²⁸. Further, deliveries in health facilities have steadily increased.

Diagram 4: Number of Deliveries by Skilled Health Providers

Mode of delivery	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Normal delivery	822.8	85.7	859.2	85.3	754.5	83.9	940.0	84.8	969.2	84.0
Caesarian section	121.9	12.7	131.0	13.0	130.8	14.5	155.2	14.0	171.5	14.9
Assisted vaginal delivery	6.4	0.7	7.4	0.7	6.9	0.8	3.8	0.3	4.7	0.4
Breech delivery	8.9	0.9	9.2	0.9	7.0	0.8	9.2	0.8	8.7	0.8
Total Deliveries	960.0	100.0	1,006.8	100.0	899.2	100.0	1,108.2	100.0	1,154.1	100.0

Source: Division of Health Informatics, Ministry of health

Beyond Zero complements National efforts of attaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by reducing barriers to access by bringing services closer to the most vulnerable through the Mobile Clinics and the Medical Safaris. It also intervenes by influencing health-seeking behaviours through awareness creation on the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles, early diagnosis, and screening of ailments as well as early treatment and adherence.

Beyond Zero contributes to strengthening the capacities of existing health systems. In addition, Mobile Clinics play a critical role in the delivery of a wide range of low-cost primary healthcare services especially in hard to reach areas. Studies show that mobile clinics have a positive impact on offering emergency care, managing chronic conditions, and providing primary preventive healthcare services such as screening services while responding to the burden of disease in a particular community.

The fifty-two donated Mobile Clinics have continued to routinely provide the following free services and outreach with health promotional messages: immunization, maternal health services, antenatal care and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, curative services to both under 5 and adults, laboratory services, screening of random blood sugar and other diagnostic tests. Other services provided include HIV testing and counselling, nutritional assessment and nutritional/micronutrient supplementation, deworming of pregnant women, under 5-year olds, school-going children, and the general public.

To guard against missed opportunities for early screening of diseases that could have been prevented, or lack of diagnostic capabilities or lack of treatment and care, Beyond Zero adopted an integrated approach to health delivery and advocacy messages through the Medical Safaris.

25 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). 2020. Kenya Economic Survey 2020.

26 WHO's target is 2 per 10,000

27 Kenya Harmonized Health Facility Assessment 2018/2019

28 Kenya Service Availability and Readiness Assessment 2013

The Medical Safaris are a one-stop shop that offers free specialized services of screening, treatment and referrals and provide screening for reproductive tract cancers (breast, cervical and prostate); surgical fistula repairs; comprehensive eye care screening including cataracts surgeries and provision of reading glasses; ultrasound check-up for pregnant women; registration of pregnant women into Linda Mama program²⁹; assessment and registration of persons with disabilities into the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) among others.

FREE MEDICAL SAFARI
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY
 Venue: Uhuru Park
 22nd-24th JANUARY 2020

22nd: SET UP | 23rd: LAUNCH OF MEDICAL SAFARI | 24th: REFERRALS

SPECIALISED SERVICES

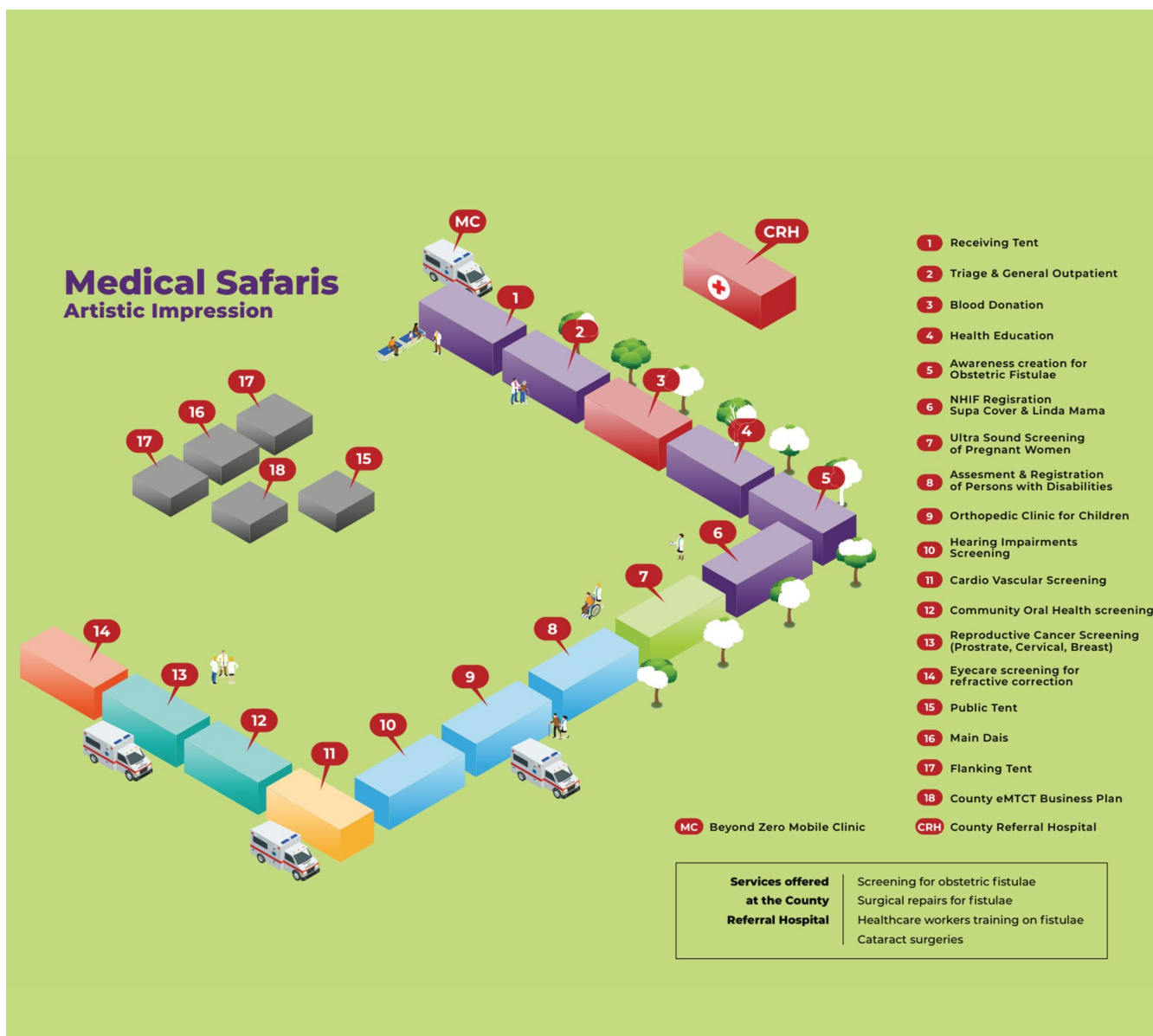
- Screening for cervical, breast and prostate cancer
- Eye care clinic for elderly persons
- Orthopedic clinic for children
- Assessment and registration for children with disabilities
- Checkup for pregnant mothers
- Checkup for heart disease
- Screening for hearing loss
- Oral health screening

OTHER SERVICES

- Screening for diabetes and hypertension
- HIV counseling and testing
- Immunization and reproductive health services
- Linda Mama Registration for all pregnant mothers
- NHIF membership registration
- Blood donation
- Mental health services
- Gender based violence services
- Fistula screening and surgical repairs

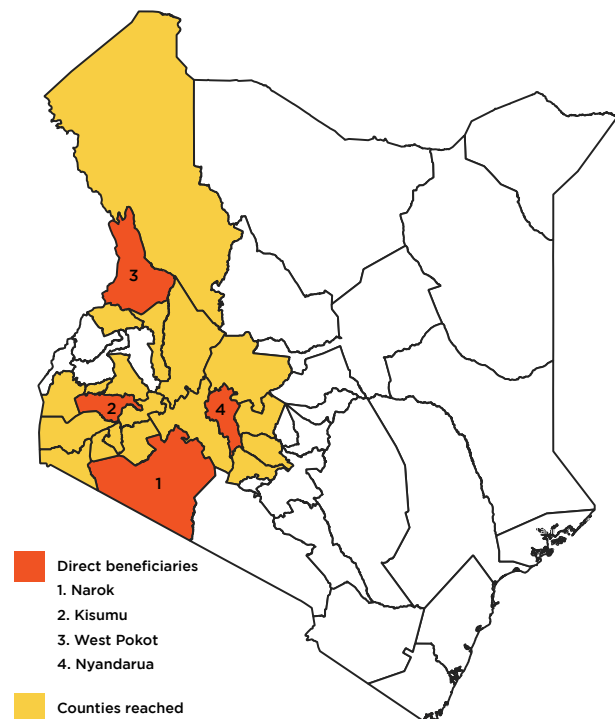
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

²⁹ Government-sponsored free maternity program.



The Medical Safaris also provides a platform for health education, policy launch, blood donation drive, donation of medical equipment, commissioning of health facilities, and sensitization of healthcare workers on fistula screening, pre, and post-treatment care and practical experience for medical students from the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC).

Previously, Beyond Zero has provided services to over 25,000 households in Narok, Kisumu, and West Pokot. These services attract populations from neighbouring Counties.



Achievements

A) Beyond Zero Medical Safaris

Beyond Zero conducted two Medical Safaris in Nyandarua and Nairobi Counties, providing a wide range of health services to approximately 14,000 households and reaching over 12.3M Kenyans with prevention messages through Radio and TV talk shows.



Table 2: Media Reach

County	Dates	Coverage Channels	Advocacy Reach ³⁰
Nyandarua County	14th - 16th August 2019	Inooro FM	1 million
		Kameme FM	600,000
		Citizen TV	4.3 million
Nairobi County	22nd - 24th January 2020	K24 TV	950,000
		Kameme FM	600,000
		Milele FM	556,000
		Citizen TV	4.3 million

³⁰Kenya Audience Research Foundation Tracker 2019

Table 3: Services provided in Nyandarua and Nairobi City Counties and partners

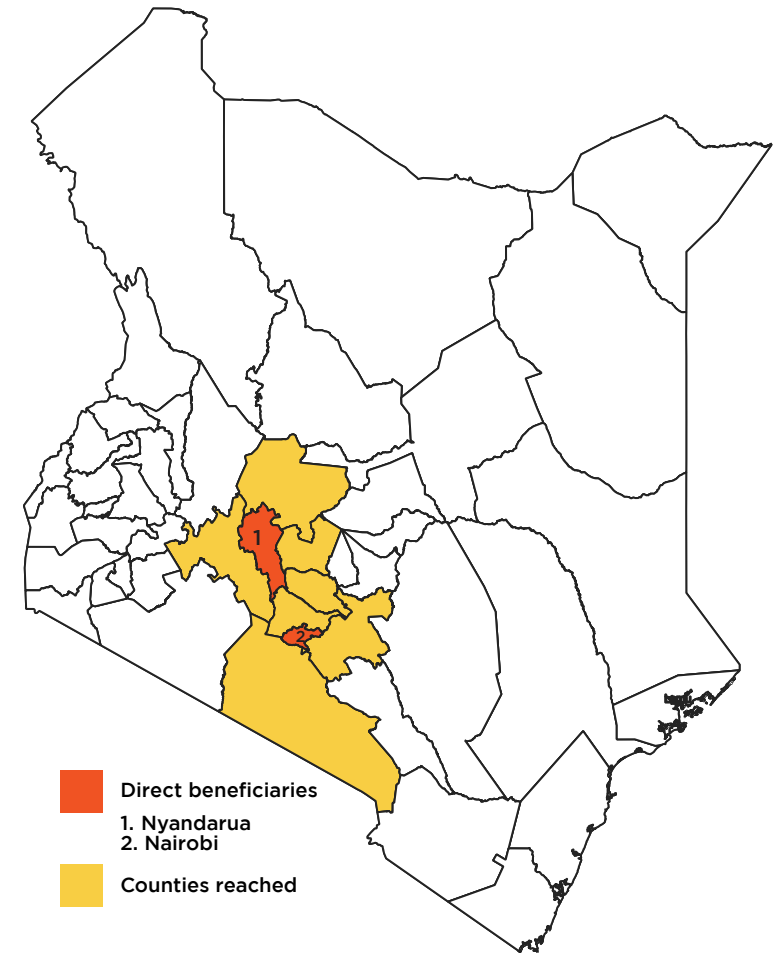
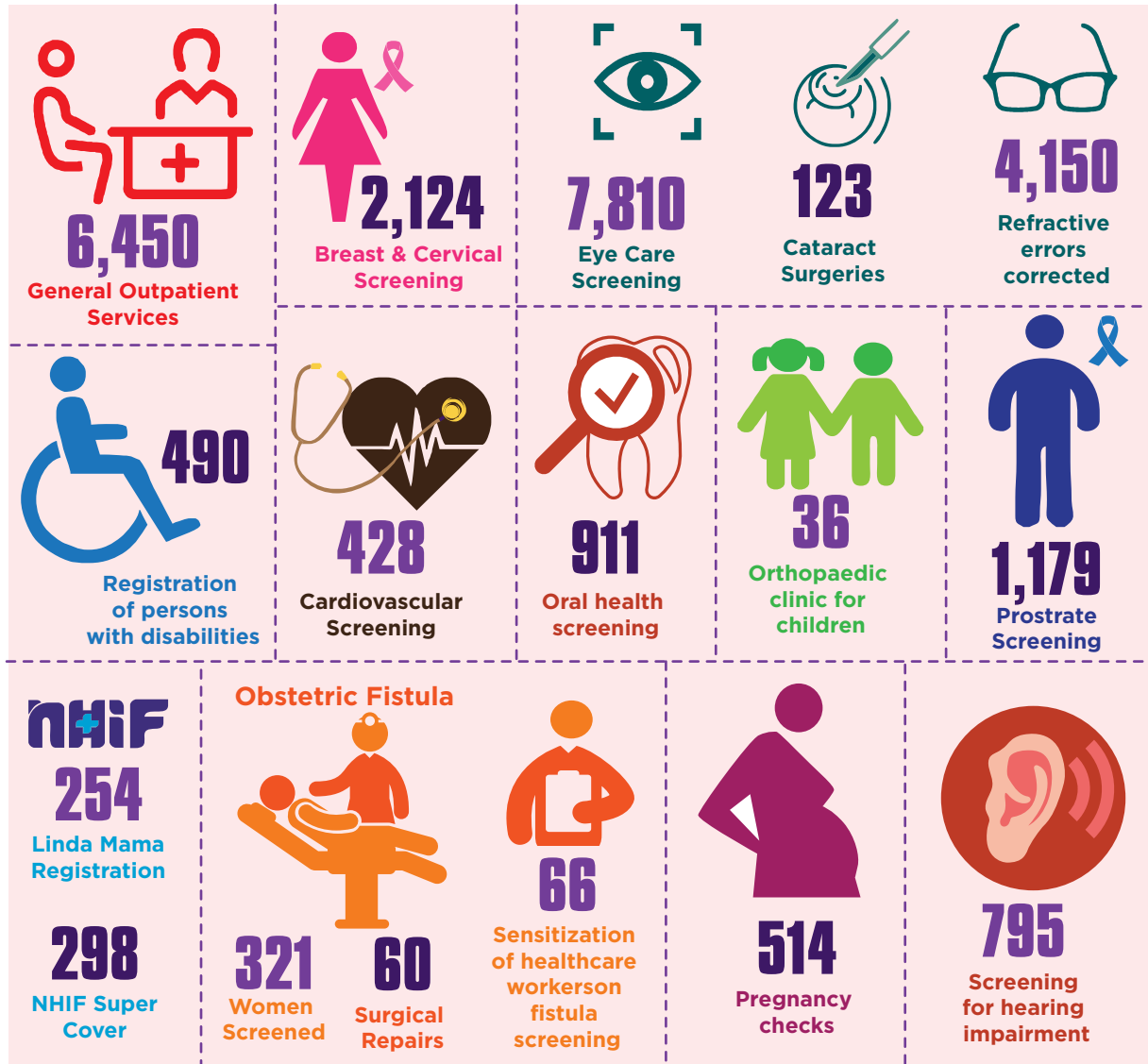
County	Services Provided	Partners
Nyandarua 14th - 16th August 2019	Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening	Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation Women4Cancer Africa Cancer Foundation
	Prostate Cancer Screening	Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation Africa Cancer Foundation
	Comprehensive Eye Care Screening	Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital VisionSpring Dr. Agarwal Eye Hospital
	Cataract Surgeries	Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital
	Fistula Screening and Repairs	Amref Health Africa
	Ultrasound Check up for Pregnant Women	Philips

County	Services Provided	Partners
Nyandarua 14th – 16th August 2019	Screening for Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs)	Aga Khan University Hospital
	Registration of pregnant women into Linda Mama program	National Hospital Insurance Fund
	Assessment and registration of persons with disabilities	National Council for Persons with Disabilities
	Orthopaedic Clinic for Children	A.I.C. Cure International
	Screening for hearing impairment	Starkey Hearing Foundation
	Menstrual Hygiene education	Kotex
	Nutrition & management of NCDs	Jubilee Insurance
	Community Oral Health Screening	Health Relief International
	Blood Collection	Kenya National Blood Transfusion Services

County	Services Provided	Partners
Nairobi County 22nd-24th August 2020	Breast & Cervical Cancer screening	Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation Women 4 Cancer Africa Cancer Foundation Kenyatta National Hospital County Health Services
	Prostate Cancer Screening	Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation Africa Cancer Foundation
	Screening for Hereditary Cancers	Neo-Science Africa
	Comprehensive Eye Care Screening	Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital VisionSpring Dr. Agarwal Eye Hospital City Eye Hospital PCEA Kikuyu Hospital
	Cataract surgeries	City Eye Hospital PCEA Kikuyu Hospital
	Fistula Screening and Repairs	Amref Health Africa
	Ultrasound Check up for Pregnant Women	Philips
	Screening for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)	Aga Khan University Hospital

County	Services Provided	Partners
Nairobi County 22nd-24th August 2020	Community oral health screening	Health Relief International
	Registration of pregnant women into Linda Mama program	National Hospital Insurance Fund
	Assessment and registration of persons with disabilities	National Council for Persons with Disabilities
	Orthopaedic Clinic for Children	A.I.C. Cure International
	Screening for hearing impairment	Starkey Hearing Foundation
	Colon cancer awareness	Isaac Kaaria Cancer Foundation
	Menstrual hygiene education	Kotex
	Nutrition & management of NCDs	Jubilee Insurance
	General outpatient services	County Health Services Kenyatta National Hospital
	Blood Collection	Kenya National Blood Transfusion Services

Number of people who received services in Nairobi and Nyandarua Medical Safaris.



B) Beyond Zero Mobile Clinics

To date, Beyond Zero has donated 52 Mobile Clinics to the Counties. The Mobile Clinics continue to serve marginalized and vulnerable communities in the Counties offering free health and information services.

The health information services have so far reached over 15 Million Kenyans while specific health services ranging from antenatal care, family planning, immunization, cervical, and breast cancer screening, among others, have reached almost 800,000 households.

Table 4: Number of services provided through the Mobile Clinics (2014-2019)

Data / Period Out Patient Department (OPD) / Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
OPD Attendance <5yrs Female	716	10,613	25,144	19,818	29,408	33,150	118,849
OPD Attendance <5yrs Male	766	8,710	20,270	16,513	23,987	20,348	90,594
OPD attendance >5yrs Female	4,236	35,650	98,289	62,899	89,877	81,890	372,841
OPD attendance >5yrs Male	3,139	19,095	50,734	34,803	54,805	51,255	213,831
	10,871	76,083	196,453	136,050	200,095	188,662	796,115

Table 4: Source: DHIS, 2019



An integrated monitoring system has been embraced by Beyond Zero through County visits conducted in partnership with Ahadi Kenya Trust³¹. The November 2019 County monitoring visits in 41 Counties³² demonstrated the uptake of services through the Mobile Clinics. Optimal use of the clinics, particularly in Counties with vast and challenging terrains, have created more demand for additional Mobile Clinics.

These are some of the excerpts from users:

“In Nesuit village in Njoro sub-county, the team identified 20 children who had never been immunized and were started on the KEPI schedule,”
Nancy Chelule,
Nakuru County
Reproductive Health.

31 Ahadi Kenya Trust is a Non-Governmental Organization whose major activity is to eradicate jiggers and enhance community mobilization.

32 Mombasa, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Wajir, Isiolo, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Turkana, West Pokot, Samburu, Uasin Gishu, Trans-Nzoia, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, Baringo, Laikipia, Nakuru, Narok, Kajiado, Bomet, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira, Nairobi.

“6 cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed during various outreaches in Machakos County. The women are currently undergoing treatment at the cancer treatment center in Machakos Level 5 Hospital,” - Philomena Muthoka, Machakos County Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic Coordinator.

“The County Government has partnered with UNICEF, WHO, and ActionAID to provide immunization and nutrition services,” - Hassan Mubarak, Isiolo County Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic Coordinator.

“Here in Meru County, we have partnered with Amref Health Africa, AMPATH and KEMRI to conduct mass screening for cervical cancer for two years. The screening is done twice a month in different areas within the county. These outreaches are in addition to those organized by the County government,” - Dr. Lillian Karoki, County Health Director of Health, Meru County.

“Through the Beyond Zero mobile outreaches, more women have access to ANC services, post-natal services and many children have received immunization services. HTS services have increased in the County. We have cases of expectant mothers especially in Mbeere Region who have been receiving ANC and PNC services and their children receiving immunization through the Beyond Zero clinic,” -Stephen Mbogo, Embu County Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic Coordinator

The Mobile Clinics are providing the much-needed services at the primary healthcare levels, though they encounter various obstacles. One of the challenges hindering the day to day services of the Mobile Clinics is their lack of integration into County resourcing (financial and technical) mechanisms. Subsequently, Counties have found innovative ways that include partnering with international and local organizations for increased budgets to deliver services and scheduling outreach activities.

To ensure their sustainability, the County Governments have partnered with the National Government through the NHIF to receive reimbursement for enrolled members in the “Supa Cover” and “Linda Mama” free maternity services programs. Furthermore, at least 36 Beyond Zero Mobile Clinics have to date received NHIF accreditation by way of a Special Issue 2667 of Kenya Gazette Supplement Number 173 of 2nd November 2016.



Success area 2: Stories from the Medical Safaris

Beyond Zero's approach emphasises prevention of illnesses and advocates for enhanced access to care by linking households and communities to primary healthcare information and services. Through the Mobile Clinics and Medical Safaris, there is a focus on preventive services. The following are uplifting stories from beneficiaries:



Ruth Wambui laughs again thanks to free fistula camp

Imagine being afraid to laugh. Being scared every time you feel the tingling indicator of an oncoming sneeze or the itchy sensation of a cough. That was Ruth Wambui Kairuthi's reality. Before her ordeal began, the 47-year-old had a seemingly normal life. She lived with her husband and four children in a one-bedroom apartment in Uthiru, Kiambu County. That all changed when she gave birth to her fourth child.

Due to financial constraints, among other challenges, she had to deliver the baby at their upcountry home, located in Mai Mahiu, with only the assistance of her sister-in-law. "I wasn't employed at the time, finances were tight and we also couldn't find transport to the health facility," says Ruth. During that dire time, her husband was at Kijabe Hospital taking care of his father who had been taken ill. After the delivery, she continued to experience excruciating pain in her lower abdomen but still didn't seek medical assistance. A decision that would alter her quality of life.

Something as simple as the common cold became a nightmare for Ruth. She could not cough or sneeze without passing urine. Worse still, hearty laughter would fill her with fear of embarrassing herself. Preventative measures such as wearing sanitary towels when she coughed became part of her routine.

She had to be alert to when she started to leak or when she felt the urge to relieve herself. While she managed to maintain her small grocery business and friendships, her relationship with her husband suffered. "Whenever the leaking would happen, I would feel a lot of shame. It really affected my self-esteem and I felt really helpless, as if I had no control in the situation."

Her journey to recovery started when she received an SMS about the Beyond Zero Medical Safari in Nairobi. While the fifth Medical Safari took place from 22nd-24th January 2020 at Uhuru Park, the Free Fistula Camp sponsored by Beyond Zero in partnership with Amref Health Kenya, Nairobi County Government and UNFPA began on 18th January at Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital. "The message had listed the symptoms of the condition to help anyone identify if they had fistula and because of my struggle, I decided to get checked," says Ruth. After her consultation, it was confirmed that she had fistula and thus would be a beneficiary of the Free Fistula Camp. Her surgery took place on 28th January 2020 and she spent three days in the hospital recuperating. "I was so scared because this would be the first time in my life to have surgery. I was also afraid of the pain," recalls Ruth.

After she was discharged, Ruth attended three clinics to monitor her health and healing. The last clinic visit confirmed that the operation had been a success.

Although she is still in the recovery window, which is on average six months, noticeable improvements can be seen in her daily life. “As we speak, the urine leakage, being scared to sneeze or cough are a thing of the past. I laugh as much and as hard as I want!” confirms Ruth. “A weight has been lifted off of my shoulders. I don’t have to be constantly alert, worrying about leaking. I have a renewed confidence and I feel healthy.”

The Free Fistula Camp, which took place during the Nairobi Medical Safari, is organized by the First Lady’s Beyond Zero Initiative in line with the second Strategic Framework that strives to contribute to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage in Kenya. “I’m so happy and grateful that the Medical Safari came to Nairobi County,” says Ruth. “It has shown me that fistula doesn’t have to be a lifelong sentence.” Her wish is that women suffering from the same condition can access the right information and medical assistance so that they can go back to living normal lives.

Kibibi from Riruta Village gets a free pair of reading glasses

On January 24th, 2020 Ms. Kibibi Nyambura was one of the beneficiaries who attended the free Beyond Zero Medical Safari held at Uhuru Park grounds in Nairobi. She came to the Safari for an eye check-up, as she could not see or read properly. After a series of eye tests conducted by VisionSpring, one of the partner organizations at the Medical Safari, she got a diagnosis - she needed some medication and a pair of glasses to correct her eye condition. “I have been given eye medication and spectacles. Now I’m able to see properly and read too. Before I could not. I ‘m so happy with the assistance that I have received today,” she said.



Nyambura noted that there were several tests being offered for free including cancer and blood pressure tests. She expressed her gratitude to Her Excellency, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Margaret Kenyatta, urging her to continue with the good work. “We are solidly behind you, keep up with the good work,” she said.

During the Medical Safari in Nairobi, more than 2,810 individuals benefited from free comprehensive eye screening. More than 1,400 patients received free reading glasses, and 74 cataract surgeries were conducted.

Yasmin dares to dream thanks to the KMTC/Beyond Zero scholarship

From a very young age, Yasmin Tuto Samo knew she wanted to be a nurse. The passion for nursing started while she was in primary school and the drive to pursue it came when her mother fell ill. “When my mum was hospitalized, I didn’t like the way the nurses attended to her,” Yasmin recalls. “That increased my determination to become a nurse and improve the way patients are treated.” Unfortunately, her mother passed away when she was in Standard Five. Yasmin moved in with an older sister who lived in Isiolo town and supported them with earnings from her small shop.

The youngest of nine siblings, Yasmin enrolled in Isiolo Girls Secondary School where she would sit the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in 2011. But there was a problem. While the principal allowed her to take the exams, she couldn’t receive her certificate until she cleared her school fees arrears. It would take her two years to attain her certificate. Then came the next hurdle. Yasmin desperately wanted to continue her education but she couldn’t find a source of income and she had no one to support her. “I was really stressed and there was a point in time I had almost given up on life. I thank God that I saw the advert for the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) certificate scholarship. A friend had spotted the advert and sent it to me.”

Taking a leap of faith, she applied for the scholarship. On the day she received the text message confirming she had been selected, she was taking care of one of her friends who had fallen ill and was bedridden. “I remember I was massaging her feet, trying to make her comfortable, and then a message popped up on my *mulika mwizi* (affordable analogue mobile phone). I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. I had to read the message five times because I thought that it was a joke!” exclaimed Yasmin. “I called my sister to tell her that my request for the scholarship had been accepted and she cried. We were so happy!” Yasmin joined the KMTC campus in Karbanet to do the certificate course in 2016. She went through the program and graduated in 2018. After a stint at home, she saw an advert by the Isiolo County Government looking to hire nurses for the Merti Healthcare Centre; which has recently been upgraded to Merti Sub County Hospital. She was offered the job on a three-year contract and has been an enrolled nurse there since the beginning of 2019. After a year of experience in the field, she made the decision to up her cadre by going back to school to get her diploma. “The field of medicine is always evolving and a certificate is only the entry point. I want to boost my knowledge in my profession,” says Yasmin. She applied for a Diploma in Nursing at KMTC and was called to their Murang’a campus to begin in March 2020. Although the COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on the course, she remains optimistic and excited to work towards a diploma. “I wouldn’t have been able

to take this next step in education without the certificate,” admits Yasmin. “It enabled me to get a job that could help pay for my education and to also support my siblings.”

The 27-year-old works in the semi-arid town where she grew up. An area that is no stranger to the nomadic lifestyle and sweltering dry heat that hits 40 degrees Celsius. Still, she offers professional help to at least 50 people in a day and continues to work during the pandemic. “I believe the core reason I have always been passionate about nursing was because of my community,” reflects Yasmin. “Life here is hard and the poverty level is high.” She aspires to help change the healthcare seeking habits of people in her community. “For example, pregnant women here don’t value the ANC services. They only go to get the book so that their child can be immunized after delivery. They don’t actually want to get the ANC services. I want to change their attitude so that they can begin to see that the services are essential for them.”

To help accomplish this dream, she strives to keep learning and hopes that others in the same position get the chance she got. “If there’s anyone or anything that came through for me, it’s Beyond Zero. I will be forever grateful,” she says. “I’d like to remind them that there are so many people like me out there who have no hope for their future and are looking for someone to believe in them and help them. You’re doing a great job and keep helping people in the community.”

Success area 3: Providing essential medicines and equipment

The context and Interventions

Bridging the gap between medical innovations and technologies and securing positive health outcomes is a challenge³³. According to the WHO, one-third of the world's population lacks timely access to correct diagnosis and quality-assured medicines to improve healthcare and save lives.

An essential component of a well-functioning healthcare system is the availability of affordable, high quality, and safe medical products (diagnostics, vaccines, medicine, and health technologies) which ensure equitable access to healthcare services.

To date, Beyond Zero has made investments by providing medical supplies and consumables worth Ksh.40 million each to Chemolingot Sub-County Hospital (Baringo County), Kitui and Bungoma County Referral Hospital to enhance institutional healthcare delivery and capacity to handle emergencies. In partnership with Friends of Africa International (FOIA), Project C.U.R.E (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment), and the First Lady's Beyond Zero Initiative, an assortment of medical supplies inclusive of theatre, laboratory equipment, and beds were donated to support the above-mentioned County facilities.

³³Margaret Chan, WHO, 2007, Everybody's Business: Strengthening Health Systems to Improve Health Out

County governments and Project C.U.R.E undertake the assessment of these facilities to determine essential medicines, medical supplies, and equipment needs as the basis for donations. Once donated, the County government commits to strictly use the medical supplies and equipment for utilization within its local healthcare system as a free benefit to the communities. They adhere to a strict not-for-sale policy.

Achievements

Project C.U.R.E, Ministry of Health and Beyond Zero conducted an assessment of Bura, Galole, and Garsen constituencies in Tana River County to explore the communities' healthcare and equipment needs. Consequently, the health facilities received medical supplies and equipment worth US\$400,000 each to enhance each institutions' healthcare delivery and capacity to handle emergencies. The assortment of medical supplies included theatre equipment, laboratory equipment and beds.



In Nairobi County, the First Lady commissioned a Hemafuse, which is a surgical device to improve access to blood and safer surgical outcomes during emergencies through a process known as autotransfusion. Autotransfusion is a procedure in which a patient receives their own blood gathered from internal bleeding instead of receiving donated blood. This device is critical when there is insufficient blood in a facility, especially for mothers with ruptured ectopic pregnancies.



Success area 4: Enhancing capacity of healthcare workers

The context and Interventions

According to the WHO, a well-performing health workforce is one that works in ways that are responsive, fair and efficient to achieve the best health outcomes possible, given available resources and circumstances³⁴ (i.e. there is sufficient staff, fairly distributed; they are competent, responsive and productive).

One of the lessons from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 2000-2015) was an emerging consensus amongst global health leaders that in future, stronger health delivery systems would be characterized by strong community-based primary healthcare. This involves harnessing the potential of multidisciplinary care teams including community health volunteers (CHVs), mid-level workers, and professional health workers to extend health services to poor and marginalized populations³⁵.

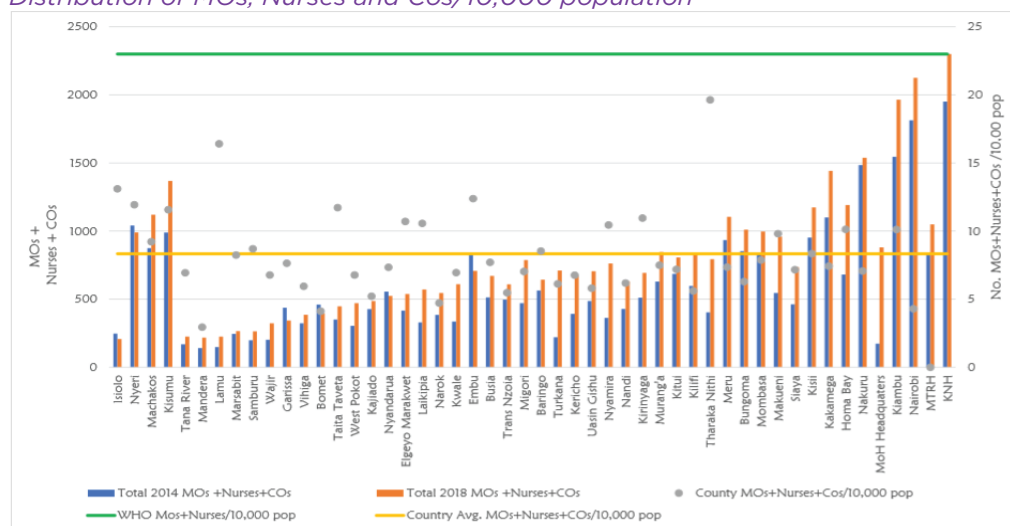
Kenya has made progress towards staffing requirements with the current health workforce density standing at 15.6 per 10,000 population against the set target of 23 per 10,000 population³⁶.

³⁴World Health Organization (WHO). 2007. Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action. <http://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf>

³⁵WHO Strategy of WHO Human Resources for Health - 2010- 2015 (draft). Available from <http://www.who.int/hrh/strategy/en/>

³⁶Kenya Harmonized Health Facility Assessment (KHFA). Community Health Systems Report 2018/2019.

Figure 4: Distribution of MOs, Nurses and Cos/10,000 population



(Source: iHRIS Manage 2018)

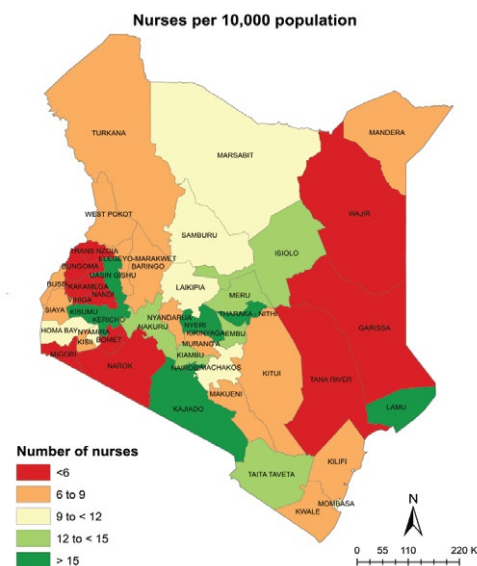
Four Counties, however, have surpassed the 23 per 10,000 global target. These are Tharaka Nithi (33.8), Nyeri (31.0), Uasin Gishu (28.2), and Nairobi (26.3).

Table 5: Health workforce norms and average health workers present in dispensaries, Kenya 2018

Cadre	Average KHFA	Norms & Standards Level 2
Registered Nurses	0.69	0.69
Enrolled Nurses	0.16	0.16
Registered Midwives	0.13	0.13
Public Health Officers	0.43	0.43
Cleaners/House keeping Staff	0.14	0.14

Source: Kenya Harmonized Health Facility Assessment 2018/2019

Diagram 7: Distribution of health workforce density in Counties, Kenya 2018



Distribution of healthcare workers in Kenya remains a challenge across private and public sectors, rural and urban areas, between the primary and tertiary levels of care and socioeconomically-deprived and affluent areas.

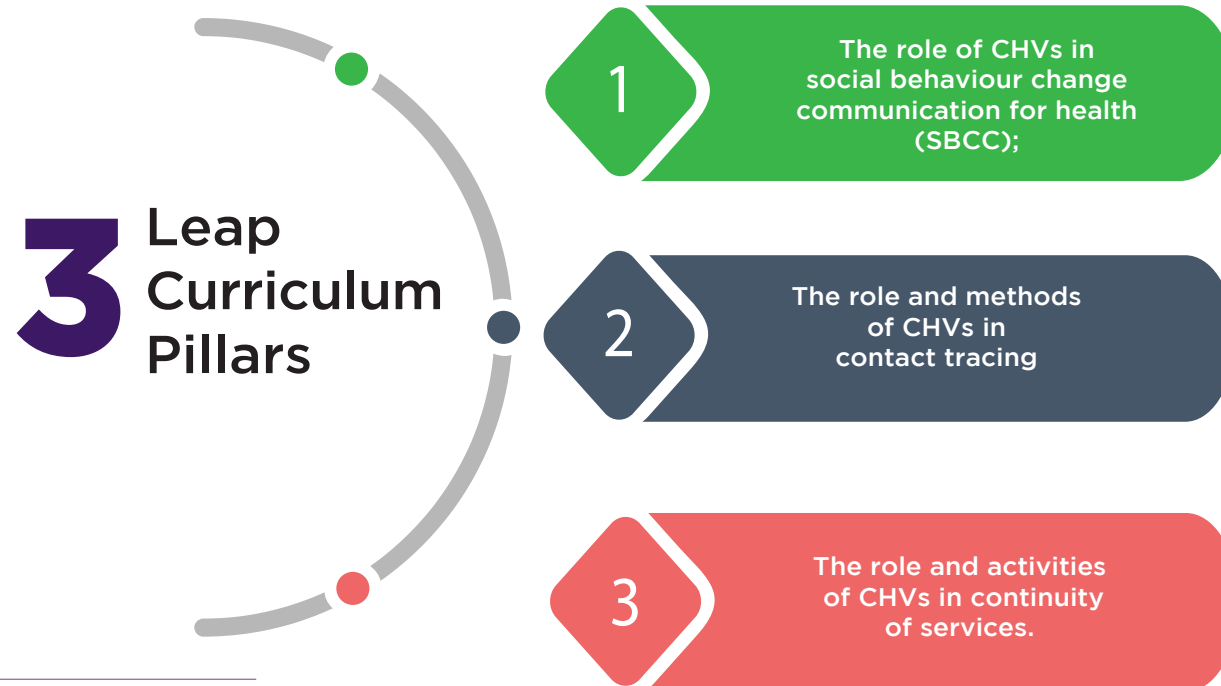
Beyond Zero interventions consistently seek to complement both National and Sub-National governments. In recognition that the availability of adequate and well-trained Human Resources for Health (HRH) is a critical component towards the achievement of UHC – Beyond Zero has forged partnerships to support skills training for nurses. The threshold required for registered and enrolled nurses for levels two and three³⁷.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. According to WHO, most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Elderly people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The Government of Kenya has adopted a set of comprehensive measures to curb and contain the spread of the pandemic, including health prevention measures adopted from the World Health Organization (WHO) such as, handwashing, wearing masks in public spaces and social distancing. Air travel bans and restrictions of movement within hotspot areas have been enforced to contain the disease. The government is also educating the population on prevention signs and symptoms. It has expanded surveillance, care for patients, and strengthened preparedness systems key to interrupting transmission³⁸.

To augment the Ministry's response towards management of COVID-19, Beyond Zero supported the training and skills enhancement of 5,100 CHVs drawn from Nairobi County. This is in recognition of the pivotal role community health volunteers play in fighting the pandemic.

The curriculum for the training of the CHVs is delivered through AMREF's Leap, which is an mHealth platform, and is developed by the Ministry of Health based on three pillars.



³⁷ Kenya Harmonized Health Facility Assessment (KHFA). Community Health Systems Report 2018/2019.



³⁸ WHO Director-General's remarks at the Mission briefing on COVID-19: 4th March 2020

Achievements

Beyond Zero partnerships to support skills training has to date seen 737 out of 1200 graduate as nurses, the majority of whom are doing locums. Skills training scholarships were provided by the World Bank and Beyond Zero in partnership with the KMTC. The two-year scholarship fund is for students from marginalized and vulnerable communities enrolled in the community health nursing (ECHN) program.

Beyond Zero has further partnered with Roche to fund scholarships for an additional 124 students who will be trained by the KMTC. Through a new memorandum of understanding with Beyond Zero, KMTC advertised on print media and vernacular FM radio stations inviting applications for the Certificate in Community Health Nursing for 2019/2020 academic year. The deadline for submitting online applications was 31st January 2020. A total of 1853 applications were received.

A rigorous selection process was conducted by a team from the KMTC and Beyond Zero using a selection criteria. A final 124 students from Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Garissa, Homa Bay, Isiolo, Kilifi, Laikipia, Lamu, Marsabit, Samburu, Tharaka Nithi, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Wajir and West Pokot Counties were awarded 2-year full scholarships. These Counties account for the top sixteen Counties with the highest gaps in Human Resources for Health.

KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE
 KMTC IS AN ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED INSTITUTION
 CERTIFICATION BODY: Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR UNDER THE KMTC/BEYOND ZERO TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in collaboration with Beyond Zero is offering training opportunities for a Certificate course in Community Health Nursing commencing March 2020 in the 2019/2020 Academic Year. Priority will be given to qualified candidates from selected Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties, underserved Minorities and other Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups (VMGs) willing to serve in their communities upon graduation. The VMGs are defined by the Ministry of Health **Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Framework (VMGF)** that can be downloaded from the Ministry of Health Website <http://www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/THS-UC-VMGF-RSA-Cleared-April-12-2016.pdf>. Applicants are expected to attach a handwritten essay of not more than two hundred (200) words explaining why they feel that they deserve the scholarship and the contribution they will make to the community upon graduation. Applications should be sent so as to reach the Chief Executive Officer, KMTC on or before **31st January 2020**. Successful applicants will receive full scholarship for the duration of the course. **Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**

MANDATORY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING COURSE

COURSE	SPECIFIC MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION	CAMPUS
1. Certificate in Community Health Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K.C.S.E Mean Grade C- or equivalent qualifications • C- in English or Kiswahili • C- in Biology • D+ in any one of the following: Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry 	2 ½ years	Lodwar, Kapenguria, Loitoktok and Msambweni

Application guidelines
Creating an account
 Requirements for creating a new account

Use valid personal email address. If you don't have an email address, you can easily create one before you continue with the application process.

1. Visit the KMTC website at www.kmtc.ac.ke
2. On the menu, click on the ADMISSION PORTAL menu item
3. You will land on the online registration portal
4. If you have registered an account, log in using your email and password
5. If you don't have an account, click on the (Have no account? Register) below the log in form
6. This will land you to creating account form
7. Enter your email and password
8. Click on **Create Account** Button
9. Fill in the online application form step by step until it is duly filled
10. On the left panel, click on Application and then click on 'Apply Preservice'
11. Enter the subject grades as reflected in your result slip (Ensure you enter subject grades accurately). For subjects not done choose the option 'I didn't do'
12. When you are through with entering the grades per subject, click on SUBMIT
13. Next upload your certificates - KCSE, Leaving certificate and ID (both sides) or birth certificate
14. Next, the uploaded documents will be displayed, click on submit in order to submit each document
15. **Under the select level, choose the Beyond Zero Scholarship option, under Academic calendar choose 2019/2020 and under intake choose March Intake**
16. **You will be presented with the Beyond Zero Application form, fill in the parents information, the education background and tribe, then click on save info**
17. You will be provided with the duly filled form to confirm the accuracy of the information filled in
18. Check information accuracy and if the information entered is correct, click on "print form"
19. **Print out the duly completed form, attach relevant documents, have it signed and stamped accordingly and sent to the Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Medical Training College, P.O. Box 30195 - 00100 Nairobi**

Prof. Michael Kiptoo
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 PO BOX 30195-00100
 TEL: 020-2725711/2/3/4
 NAIROBI



The selected students will be trained over a period of two years in line with a new directive from the Nursing Council of Kenya to reduce the course by six months. This training is currently being held in five campuses: Lodwar, Kapenguria, Loitoktok, Kitui and Msambweni.



Table 6: Selection Criteria & Score Sheet

S/N	Criteria	Explanatory Notes	Max Score
1	Recommendation by the Chief	Look out for the recommendation from the Chief. Does the Chief say something on the neediness of the applicant? Ensure that the Chief's stamp is of the location/sub-location from which the applicant comes.	2
2	Recommendation by the Religious Leader	Look out for the recommendation of the religious leader, and what he/she says about the level of neediness of the applicant.	2
3	Status of Availability of Parents	(For this item, score only one (i), (ii) or (iii))	
i.	Total orphan	There is evidence that the applicant does not have both parents.	3
ii.	Partial orphan	There is evidence that the applicant does not have one of the parents.	2
iii.	Both parents alive	Both parents of the applicant are alive.	1
4	Evidence of previous support by well-wishers	Look for evidence as to whether the applicant has been a beneficiary of any form of support before e.g. CDF, bursaries, well-wishers etc.	1
5	Commendation for Community Service	Look for evidence if the student has rendered service to the community before and if they have received a commendation.	2

S/N	Criteria	Explanatory Notes	Max Score
6	Year of completion of Form IV	(For this item, score only one: (i), (ii) or (iii))	
i.	1-2 years	The candidate completed high school within the last 1 to 2 years.	1
ii.	3-5 years	The candidate completed high school within the last 3 to 5 years.	2
iii.	More than 5 years	It has been more than five years since the applicant completed high school.	3
7	From Marginalized Population	Look for evidence that the applicant is a VMG. (List of VMG tribes provided)	3
8	Availability of an Essay		
i.	Present	The candidate has presented a handwritten essay.	1
ii.	Well-written	The applicant is articulate, communicates clearly and explains issues well.	1
iii.	Evidence of neediness	Does the applicant bring out clearly the fact that he/she is needy?	4
iv.	Contribution to community	Does the applicant explain clearly what contribution he/she will make to his/her community upon graduation?	3
	TOTAL		25

In recognition of the pivotal role CHVs can play in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic; Beyond Zero's support of their training has expanded the skill set of 5,100 CHVs to now include; skills to disseminate key messages on coronavirus signs and symptoms, transmission, prevention and management measures, and case referral via SMS and Interactive Voice Recorders.



Success area 5: Promoting individual philanthropic investments in health

The Context and Interventions

The 'spirit of giving' has grown the philanthropy movement at a rapid pace the world over. Individuals, partnerships, and businesses have responded to the call for the public good, determined to put their wealth or resources to ideas or concerns that serve the interest of people. This lends credence to the powerful idea that charity does drive change. It confirms that building a better world is everyone's business.

In Kenya, the philanthropy movement has not been well documented though historically resource mobilization has been experienced through *Harambees*³⁹. The nature of 'giving' is driven by individual relationships, compassion and trust to support. The extended family, community or welfare groups, grassroots projects, volunteer support, religious concerns, and *chamas*⁴⁰ support the philanthropy movement in Kenya.

Recent studies^{41, 42, 43} have researched the core principles that drive the giving culture of Kenyans following the surge of Kenya diaspora philanthropy remittances. The studies have informed the development of the *Kenya Diaspora Policy (June 2014)*⁴⁴. This policy recognises the urgent need to mainstream the Kenyan Diaspora into our National development processes in line with the aspirations and goals of the Kenya Vision 2030 which recognises diaspora contribution as a major enabler to the growth of our economy, and a critical factor in the

achievement of our overarching vision of a globally competitive and prosperous Kenya by the year 2030.

The desire to drive change or impact people's lives is the foundation of philanthropy. There are diverse philanthropic models with the most successful, in Kenya, being the "pull model" that converges individuals, institutions, businesses, and corporates to mobilise resources. The 'pull model' empowers its participants with knowledge, inclusivity as well as expanded choices of support.

In April 2014, Beyond Zero's Patron, the First Lady decided to run marathons. Historically, there has never been a First Lady in the world with such a unique resource mobilization effort. She dedicated this marathon to raise awareness towards ending preventable and unnecessary deaths of mothers, newborns, and children.

Several businesses in Kenya responded to the clarion call of 'no woman should die while giving life' and collaborated with the First Lady to provide one Mobile Clinic to each of the 47 Counties from 2014 to 2017. Additionally, ordinary Kenyans from all walks of life also joined the First Lady in the half-marathons she convened in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019 to contribute towards these purchases. The Beyond Zero Half Marathon became an annual event coinciding with the International Women's Day celebrations in March. The marathon

has grown in numbers and stature. It has also provided knowledge and become choice of engagement.

The 4th edition (March 10th 2019) of Beyond Zero Half-Marathon enabled advocacy for policy reforms and created awareness on obstetric fistulae and disabilities. Through the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris, women and girls across the country received free surgical repairs and restoration of dignity within their communities. The advocacy actions contributed to the development of a targeted policy through the Ministry of Health's production of The National Strategic Framework on Female Genital Fistula towards a Fistula Free Nation (9th May 2019).

³⁹ Harambee is a Kenyan tradition of community self-help events, e.g. fundraising or development activities.

⁴⁰ Chama is an informal cooperative society that is normally used to pool and invest savings by people in East Africa

⁴¹ A Household Survey of Philanthropy in Kenya: A Profile of Kenyan Givers, (2018)

⁴² Kenyan Diaspora Philanthropy: Key Practices, Trends and Issues (2007)

⁴³ CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THROUGH TAX INCENTIVES A Collaborative Initiative between KCDF & Strathmore Tax Research Centre (2014)

⁴⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). 2014. Kenya Diaspora Policy (June, 2014)
<<http://www.mfa.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Kenya-Diaspora-Policy.pdf>>



0554
21KM
NCBA

2105
21KM
BEYOND ZER

0140
21KM
BEYOND ZER

1979
21KM
BEYOND ZER

FINISH IN GREEN BUS
2:15

BEYOND ZER
HERE MARATHON
2020
2:15

Achievements



The First Lady's launch of the 5th edition of the Beyond Zero Half Marathon 2020 on 3rd December 2019 provided an opportunity for Beyond Zero to convene key stakeholders and showcase its achievements through a panel discussion and a walkway depicting a collection of 16 pieces capturing the advocacy journey and results.

The high-level panel discussion themed *'Scaling Up Our Partnerships for Improved Women and Children's Health'* consisted of representatives from different organizations that discussed various health issues such as maternal health, mother-to-child transmission of HIV, obstetric fistula, disability inclusion and how Beyond Zero's advocacy has raised awareness on the same.

The panel also recognised the importance of documenting one of the most successful initiatives in the form of the Margaret

Kenyatta Leadership Institute. Further, they also highlighted the importance of private-public partnerships in responding to healthcare issues in the country by pulling resources together and the provision of technical expertise. The panel comprised of;

1. Siddharth Chatterjee
Resident Coordinator, United Nations
2. Dr. Elizabeth Wala
Programme Director for Health Systems Strengthening, Amref Health Africa
3. Maurice Makoloo
Director, Eastern Africa, Ford Foundation
4. Dr. Nduku Kilonzo
CEO, National Aids Control Council
5. Dr. Julius Kipng'etich
CEO, Jubilee Holdings Limited
6. Eva Nyoike
Founder, Acorn Special Tutorials Centre



“

“On 27th August 2014, the First Lady convened a meeting of 15⁴⁵ County Governors and the First Ladies of those Counties that had contributed to 98% of maternal deaths in this country. In the meeting, the First Lady issued the clarion call that ‘no woman should die giving life’. In the meeting was also the entire fraternity of the UN family and civil society. A trust fund of about \$15million was unlocked and the First Lady proposed that the funds be directed to the 15 Counties that had contributed to 98% of maternal deaths. This demonstrated political will and in September 2015, six companies among them Safaricom, Merck Foundation, Philips, Kenya Healthcare Federation, and World Bank heeded the call and committed to work in these Counties. This is where the public-private partnership started. Today, if you go to Mandera County you will appreciate that it actually serves people from Somalia and Ethiopia who cross the border to access health services. Now that is the kind of transformation Beyond Zero has brought. It underpins the tenets of the Universal Health Coverage. The primacy of reproductive, maternal, child, neonatal and adolescent health is going to be at the centre of this. Beyond Zero is actually creating an ecosystem which is bringing the broader base of different development partners in private sector together but most importantly with the recent ICPD Conference that Kenya hosted, it redefined the criticality of sexual reproductive health and rights. That is what the foundation of Universal Health Coverage will be.”

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee
Resident Co-Coordinator
United Nations.

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“Since the partnership started with Beyond Zero Medical Safaris we’ve attended to over 544 women who have been screened for fistula. In addition to screening for fistula, we screen these women for cervical cancer. Sometimes this is the only opportunity they get to access a medical doctor or clinician who’s in this space.”

“Many other women are dying though not physically because when they suffer from fistula they get stigmatized, isolated, and divorced. It takes only \$500 to restore the dignity to one woman. So, my call to action to all of you is that we support the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris because every single shilling counts to change that one life. That we go not only beyond zero maternal deaths but also zero maternal morbidity from fistula.”

Dr. Elizabeth Wala
Program Director for Health Systems
AMREF Health Africa

””

““

“Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT) rates greatly reduced from 14% in 2013 to 8% in 2017 and this can be attributed to the advocacy that the First Lady has undertaken when she became the champion for eMTCT. She was able to galvanize all of us including political leaders and the faith-based community for a common cause.”

“In terms of the Medical Safaris, this is where we have seen the basis and engagement around UHC. The Safaris have ensured that we have prevention, diagnosis, and engagement with people on better healthcare and on living well. But most importantly, it is beginning to provide services at the primary healthcare level since that’s really the basis of any successful universal healthcare coverage program. The more Medical Safaris we are able to do in the future, the more diseases we’ll be able to prevent, carry out early diagnosis, and refer people who have advanced conditions.”

“Our focus must be on young people. If we don’t prevent new infections among young women we will always be seeking to invest in prevention of mother to child transmission. So, adolescents and young people, who Her Excellency has taken on in the framework, are really critical.”

Dr Nduku Kilonzo
CEO, National AIDS
Control Council

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““

“We work under the tagline; *‘Working with Visionaries on the Frontline of Social Change Worldwide’*. There is absolutely no doubt that in starting the Beyond Zero, Her Excellency was and is a visionary and we salute that. When you fall behind the idea that no mother should die while giving life, that is something we identify with very strongly. When you have an individual, who is willing to run 42kms, that is a powerful way to show leadership. Through institutions you can keep going for longer and getting better. From the Ford Foundation we think the time has come for you to consider establishing a Mama Margaret Leadership Institute or such kind of other variant. We are willing to commit a modest sum of Kshs. 12 million to that start.”

Mr. Maurice Makoloo
Director, Eastern Africa
Ford Foundation

””

⁴⁵The Counties of Garissa, Homabay, Isiolo, Kakamega, Kisumu, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Migori, Nairobi, Nakuru, Siaya, Taita Taveta, Turkana and Wajir.

World Marathoner Eliud Kipchoge, EGH, made a keynote address recognizing the impact of Beyond Zero and showing his support towards the Initiative.



The First Lady recognized the partnership of the various stakeholders who have supported the Beyond Zero Initiative since inception.



This year's Beyond Zero Half Marathon 2020 was successfully held on the 8th of March bringing together over 10,000 participants. Unlike the previous editions, the 5th edition of the Half Marathon gave participants the opportunity to select one cause under the hashtag **"I WILL RUN."** These causes are in line with the nine intervention areas in the Strategic Framework's 2018-2022:

- I will run for zero child deaths
- I will run for zero maternal deaths
- I will run for zero FGM
- I will run for a healthy lifestyle for the elderly
- I will run for early screening of cancer
- I will run for inclusion of persons who are differently abled
- I will run for better nutrition for children
- I will run for zero child marriages
- I will run for zero HIV infections



To build momentum for the marathon, a precursor event, with a view of strengthening corporate interaction with the Beyond Zero Patron, Beyond Zero hosted an exclusive 100 men run on 14th February 2019 (Valentine's Day) at Karura Forest. This entailed mobilization of consistent corporate supporters, members of running clubs, media and government. The run was themed **#iwillrunforher**, which encouraged men to select causes in support of their wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, women and children's well-being.



Quite apart from the run, the participants were able to view an elaborate Walkway that displayed the impact of their investments in Beyond Zero initiatives.

On 8th March 2020, over 10,000 participants gathered at the Nyayo National Stadium to run for different causes.

Table 7: Analysis of race categories versus number of runners

Categories	Participants
1. 21Km Half-marathon	2,153
2. 21 Km Wheelchair	12
3. 21 Km Tricycle	16
4. 10Km Road race	4,663
5. Corporate race (10km)	1,460
6. 5Km family fun run	1,752
7. 2Km pregnant walk	356
8. Unknown ⁴⁶	209
Total	10,651

Pace setters were used for the first time in the 21km and 10km races to assist the participants to achieve different times.

⁴⁶ These participants registered for the Half-Marathon but race category not identified





Section 3: Enhancing leadership, commitment, and accountability

Background: First Lady's Advocacy Efforts Scaled Up

Kenya's Roadmap to Sustainable Development Goals, Transition Strategy 2016-2019 reflects the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs. In acknowledging the progress made during the implementation of the MDGs, the Roadmap sets new targets aligned to the 17 SDGs goals. The SDGs constitute the global plan upon which human development interventions are anchored.

Kenya's facilitative and progressive legal and policy framework indicates that the SDG era is likely to be more favourable. The Kenya Constitution provides an actionable guide on how to tackle inequality as well as providing guarantees for adequate socio-economic rights in the Bill of Rights. Firstly, the intent is to compel National and County Governments to address the needs of the poor in an enhanced and more focused way. Secondly, the devolved system has made it easier for respective County Governments to prioritize their needs and to address them at Sub-National levels, supported by the National Government⁴⁷.

The transition strategy from MDGs to SDGs identified broad areas to guide its implementation. Of most relevance to Beyond Zero are its areas on advocacy and sensitisation which continues to be the primary intervention approach for Beyond Zero. As a champion and advocate for SDGs 3 and 5, the First Lady continues to

utilise diverse platforms and opportunities to communicate about the "unfinished business"; calling for concerted efforts towards eradication of all preventable maternal and child deaths.

Using voice to influence individual agency

The Context and Interventions

Despite progressive laws in Kenya, women and girls continue to be proportionally disadvantaged in their access to health and education rights.

As Patron of Beyond Zero, Kenya's First Lady has lent her voice as an instrument to defend and safeguard the rights of women and children and to positively influence the outcomes of vulnerable and marginalized communities. She has supported the policy to protect and prevent harmful cultural practices and violence against women; protect the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable including the protection of differently abled children. As the mother of the nation, she continues to promote improved access to public goods and services, as well as, committing to lending her voice to championing for quality and safe provision of healthcare services; zero HIV infections from mother to child, decentralized services for breast and cervical cancer and comprehensive healthcare packages for older persons.

Influencing positive change takes a long time to bear fruit. Incrementally the First Lady's broadcasted speech engagements and Beyond Zero advocacy messages will continue to contribute to solutions that will leave no one behind.



⁴⁷ Kenya: Ministry of Devolution and Planning, State Department of Planning and Statistics Roadmap to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Kenya's transition strategy 2016-2019

Achievements

The First Lady's advocacy efforts have contributed to positive outcomes including:



The Beyond Zero Advocacy Model has been instrumental in pioneering a movement of alternative leadership by cultivating champions such as the Governors' spouses to venture into social, economic and development causes that enhance well-being.

The following outlines in more detail the results and achievements arising out the First Lady's engagements with national and global stakeholders and forums as Patron of Beyond Zero. Further, the results as described in this section are reflective of the interconnectedness in the Beyond Zero approaches of "responding to emerging health issues, transforming commitment to action and using voice to influence individual agency" towards "enhancing leadership, commitment, and accountability". As a member of the OAFLAD, and as a global member of Lancet Global Health Commission on High-Quality Health, Kenya's First Lady has leveraged these national and international platforms to continue to challenge both the practical and structural constraints to women's voice, decision-making and leadership.



1. National Level

1.1. Assisting vulnerable communities

• Responding to COVID-19

Vulnerable populations usually experience marginalization during a crisis because they do not have adequate access to health care or have limited capacities.

They have experienced the destruction of economic and social infrastructure and do not have opportunities to cope and adapt. Beyond Zero's Strategic Framework prioritises these vulnerable populations of pregnant women, children with disabilities, and the elderly.

To complement the Government's National Response to fight the COVID 19 pandemic, Beyond Zero intervened by providing access to nutritionally adequate food at the household level. The Initiative is also providing medical supplies. Further, Beyond Zero has identified institutions that have networks with these marginalized groups and made visits. In total, these visits have targeted over 10,000 households in April 2020.



First Ladies are providing diverse interventions in response to COVID-19. African First Ladies' Offices, global health experts and strategic partners came together in two virtual meetings on the 28th of April and 26th of May 2020 to discuss coordinated responses, effective messaging strategies, lessons learned from previous health crises, the impact on social services, and the intersections between COVID-19 and pre-existing vulnerabilities, including Neglected Tropical Diseases.

OAFLAD and Plan International prepared a joint statement to reaffirm their unwavering support towards the efforts to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic and gender-based violence. The statement recognizes the role of women as 70% of the frontline health and social workers as well as the vulnerable position women and girls are placed in these COVID-19 circumstances.

Joint Statement on COVID-19

Fighting COVID-19 with a gender equality approach

The Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) and Plan International wish to reiterate their unwavering support for community, national, regional and continental efforts to end COVID-19 and gender-based violence.

We note with deep concern the continuing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is currently manifesting in Africa, and its potential implications for countries in terms of sustainable development.

We wish to express our unwavering solidarity with the efforts made by African leaders and citizens at the national, bilateral, regional and continental levels.

OAFLAD and Plan International recognize the vital role played by frontline workers, especially healthcare providers. We are also aware that around 70% of health and social workers are women.

We wish to draw attention to the risk of an increase in the incidence of violence, in particular against women and girls, which could be triggered in the current state of panic and mandatory confinement initiatives.

We therefore jointly call for the following urgent interventions:

1. Prioritisation of interventions at community level in favour of women and children living in vulnerable situations;
2. Accelerated action by all stakeholders to equip and train frontline workers;
3. Consider mental healthcare and psychological counselling during and after these difficult periods of confinement;
4. The national responses to COVID-19 should include an “End gender-based violence” perspective in their political and strategic orientation, in particular with regard to mental health care and psychological support;
5. Governments should make the maximum efforts possible to support continued access to learning opportunities for children who are no longer able to go to school due to the crisis, including girls and others who may be especially disadvantaged;
6. Coordination between government and leadership of traditional, religious, community, business, professional, media, CSO groups, especially women and youth groups and associations of foreign residents, to help create awareness and momentum to tackle the pandemic;
7. Quarantine measures must be accompanied by financial or material support to affected households and / or communities;
8. Governments should expand existing social protection systems to increase coverage and benefits for families in communities severely affected by the virus;
9. National and local authorities must ensure that planning and decision-making

processes related to the response to COVID-19 incorporate the voices of all population groups affected by the outbreak and its secondary impacts. This includes strengthening the leadership and meaningful participation of girls and young women in all decision-making processes to ensure their perspectives are heard and needs are met.

1.2. Increasing access to quality Maternal and Child Health Services

• Expanding Beyond Zero's Mobile Clinic Network

WE Charity is a unique international and education charity. Through their 18,000 WE Schools, over 200,000 children receive experiential service-learning programs. Additionally, WE Villages have enabled one million people to gain access to clean water and provided many women with tools to gain economic self-sufficiency.

WE Charity, pledged to partner with Beyond Zero in fulfilling its desired goal of promoting healthy lives and well-being of women, children, and adolescents. Impressed by the work done by Beyond Zero, the WE co-founder Mr. Marc Kielburger, said that his organization will work out modalities for partnership with Beyond Zero to fulfil its agenda. The organization's co-founder Marc Kielburger has subsequently donated a fully-kitted mobile clinic.



• **Mother and Child Hospitals**

Good-quality care requires appropriate use of effective clinical and non-clinical interventions, strengthened health infrastructure, optimum skills, and a positive attitude on the part of health providers⁴⁸.

Mothers and babies require specially designated healthcare facilities designed to provide optimal care for them. This ensures an ideal environment to comprehensively respond to infants requiring critical care, other paediatric diseases, growth monitoring and development, nutrition as well as early interventions for special needs. While for mothers, it facilitates dedicated attention to both physical and psychosocial challenges related to childbirth.

The advocacy efforts of Beyond Zero have inspired leaders at County levels to focus on maternal and child health interventions including the creation of supportive policy environments, resource allocations, and

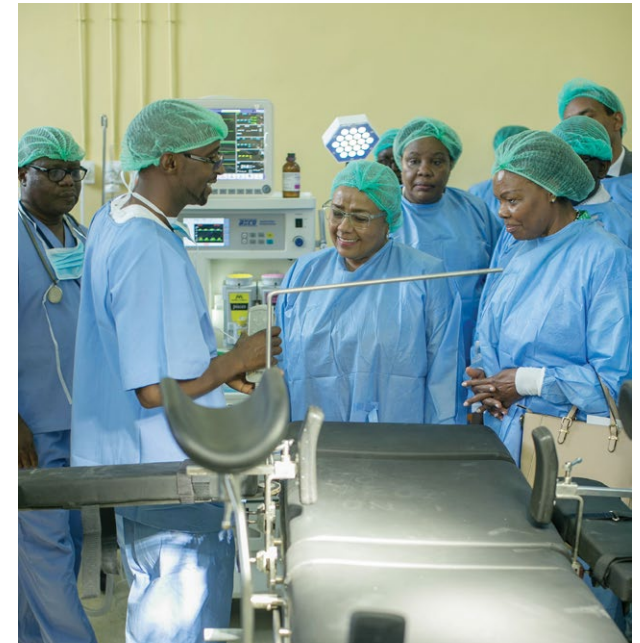
physical infrastructure investments. The clarion call of Beyond Zero's Patron that "no woman should die while giving life", has inspired the construction of one facility in the four Counties namely Nyandarua, Tana River, Nairobi and Kericho respectively, solely dedicated to mother and children. Upon invitation by the Counties and recognizing her efforts towards improving the health status of women and children, the First Lady commissioned these facilities that will provide a wide range of specialized maternal and reproductive health services speeding up UHC.

Mother and baby wing at Engineer Sub- County hospital in Nyandarua County



⁴⁸ WHO. 2016. Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities

A sixty (60) bed maternity wing with a neonatal unit at Hola Referral Hospital in Tana River County





“Partnerships like what we are witnessing here today have great impact in the lives of many Kenyans, especially in the country’s health sector. This touches me, because I have seen how families and communities suffer unbearable pain due to lack of health services, particularly those from poor communities who are more vulnerable to increased health risks,” the First Lady said.

Laying of the Foundation stone Mother and Child Hospital at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital during the commemoration of World Aids Day event. First Lady visited the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital where she laid a foundation stone for the specialized Mother and Child Unit.



“Commissioning of the new maternity and neonatal unit will not only ensure safe delivery of babies, and availability of ante and postnatal care for mothers, but also ease congestion at the facility,” said the First Lady.



1.3. Showcasing leadership for the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV

- **Joint learning peer visits**

The visit by the First Lady of the Republic of Botswana, Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi to Kenya on the 23rd of July 2019, was planned around issues of mutual interest related to children's health, youth empowerment, and HIV/AIDS. The First Ladies of Kenya and Botswana visited the Holy Family Centre at Nazareth Mission Hospital in Kiambu County to learn more about the youth model where they engaged with the young people in an open one-on-one conversation.



The Centre has gained international recognition for its innovative peer mentor program in the fight against the HIV epidemic especially among adolescents and young persons and is considered one of the best care centres in Kenya.



Impressed with the Centres outreach and advocacy work, The First Lady of Botswana promised to promote a similar program in her new role as a UNAIDS special ambassador.



“

I find it fascinating that what is happening in Kenya is happening in Botswana. I am impressed that the youth are getting fully involved,” said First Lady of Botswana

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- **UNAIDS Country Director commends the First Lady for her efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS**

UNAIDS Country Director, Dr. Medhin Tsehaw, commended the First Lady for providing leadership and commitment in the fight against HIV and AIDS during her courtesy call on the First Lady at State House Nairobi. The Director expressed her gratitude to the First Lady for being a role model in spearheading eMTCT efforts noting, “I have to congratulate you for your leadership and commitment in our efforts to eliminate mother-to-child-transmission of HIV.”

- **World AIDS Day, 1st December 2019**

On the 1st of December, since 1988, the world celebrates World AIDS day. It is an opportunity to celebrate and support global efforts to prevent new HIV infections, create HIV awareness and knowledge, and support those living with HIV.

The theme for 2019 was, “*Communities Make the Difference*” because of the role they have played and continue to play in the HIV response at the international, national, and local levels. Communities include peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV, women and young people, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations, and grass-roots activists among others.



Kenya marked the World AIDS Day in Kisii County under the theme “*Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Community by Community*”. The event was graced by the First Lady and health stakeholders.

“There is need to re-commit and re-double efforts to achieve the national and global target of an AIDS-free nation by 2030,” First Lady Margaret Kenyatta has said. She lauded the important role that mentor mothers play in supporting the health systems investment in access to testing for expectant mothers during their prenatal visits or delivery.

1.4. Lending a voice to restore dignity

- **Fistula Challenge Golf Tournament**

Following the launch of the *National Framework on Female Genital Fistula: Towards a Free Fistula Nation* by the First Lady in May 2019, fistula – a neglected health challenge – has continued to become prevalent in Kenya resulting in the integration of fistula repair as a routine service. Additionally, the partnership between Beyond Zero, AMREF, and County governments has continued to provide access to fistula repairs and restore dignity.

To rally collective efforts for increased resourcing, on the 29th of November 2019 at the Karen Golf Club, the AMREF Health Fistula Challenge Golf Tournament was organized to raise funds for reconstructive surgeries for women suffering from obstetric fistula.



The First Lady attended the closing ceremony of the Golf Tournament where she affirmed her commitment to support and concentrate Beyond Zero's work around advocating for safe and skilled deliveries for mothers so that their lives are not put at risk. "I will continue to advocate, inform and provide screening and surgical repairs for women with reproductive health issues. As well as to support their full recovery and reintegration into their communities".



1.5. Promoting good nutrition during the first 1000 days

• Ending Malnutrition in Kenya

Malnutrition is especially harmful during the first two years of a child's life as it damages physical and cognitive development - a largely irreversible process⁴⁹.

Every child has the right to basic nutrition, to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality as enshrined in the Kenya Constitution.

Beyond Zero Strategic Framework advocates for the promotion of good nutrition for all children. The First Lady, as Patron of the 'Scaling Up Nutrition'⁵⁰ movement in Kenya, delivered a speech on 5th December at an event hosted by Save the Children who was also celebrating its Centenary year in its commitment to bring lasting change to children's lives.



The First Lady noted that; "Nutrition is recognized as a key determinant of health and well-being. Therefore, we must place the nutrition agenda high on our list of priorities. Sadly, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition has become a concern around the world."



⁴⁹ UNICEF. <<https://www.unicef.ca/en/malnutrition>>

⁵⁰ Scaling Up Nutrition, Kenyan Chapter is a unique movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people - from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers - in a collective effort to improve nutrition.

2. International level

2.1. Benchmarking for a resilient health ecosystem

• Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

To ensure effective interventions at the primary care level, Beyond Zero has adopted a life-cycle approach to healthcare. Learning from other countries that have working health systems has helped inform the advocacy and investment towards resilient systems that address the needs of women and girls.

On 5th August 2019, the First Lady had the opportunity to visit the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation founded forty-two years ago to respond to the prevalence of teenage pregnancy and help adolescent mothers stay in school.



To date, approximately 46,000 teenage mothers have benefited from the program, most of whom have finished their secondary education. Other services provided at the Centre include; counselling services for parents, day-care facilities for the teenage mothers, and training of peer counsellors.



"This innovative initiative is a sanctuary that has given teenage girls, who would have otherwise dropped out of school due to early pregnancy, a place to continue their studies, nurture their babies, and transform their lives," said the First Lady.

• Edgar Cochrane Polyclinic, Barbados

The Kenyan Government has embarked on universal health coverage as one of its Big Four agenda. The Global Burden of Disease ranks Kenya at an approximate UHC index of 50% and predicts that by 2030, Kenya's UHC index will be at 60%.

Barbados's current UHC service coverage is 77 whilst Kenya is 55⁵¹. To understand how Barbados has made strides in reproductive, maternal and newborn health; infectious

diseases; non-communicable diseases; service, and capacity access, the First Lady visited Edgar Cochrane Polyclinic, a specialist mother and baby medical facility in Bridgetown, Barbados on 8th August 2019. The facility offers free maternal and child healthcare including dental, nutritional, and counselling services.

It is one of the largest public health facilities in the region that was founded in 1981 and has grown to eight (8) centers spread across the country serving over 280,000 patients.



The hospital serves patients from across the 15 nations that make up the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) among them Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, and Jamaica.

⁵¹ Primary Health Care on the Road to Universal Health Coverage: 2019 Monitoring Report: executive summary. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019



"I am impressed by what I have seen at this facility. The world-class services given to mothers and their babies are what should comprise of a working universal health system," the First Lady said. The First Lady added that the centre was an example of universal health systems that seek to provide their patients with access to affordable care, especially mother and babies; which both Barbados and Kenya share in common.

2.2. Lending voice to normative frameworks

• 74th UN General Assembly

High-level meetings

The theme for the general debate of the 74th session of the General Assembly is 'Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action, and inclusion'.

For the first time in UN history a most significant political high-level meeting on UHC was convened on 23rd September 2019 under the theme Universal Health Coverage: Moving together to build a healthier world. It was an opportunity to mobilize the global community and secure commitment from Heads of States and Government to accelerate progress towards achieving UHC.

The Office of the First Lady and Beyond Zero participated at the 74th session showcasing Beyond Zero's contribution towards universal health coverage at different side events namely:

- Launching of the Missing Billion in UHC Report hosted by Special Olympics, First Ladies (Serbia, Japan, South Korea, and Brazil), the H & M Foundation, Autism Speaks, University of London, UNICEF and WHO;
- Recommitment to providing safe and adequate supplies of blood and blood products hosted by Terumo and OAFLAD;
- Launching of a co-created SDG Accelerator Lab, hosted by the Government of Kenya,

Rockefeller Foundation and the United Nations, that convened the government, private sector, civil society, philanthropy, academia, and young people to re-imagine development for the 21st century;

- Witnessed the signing of a Communique between the Government of Kenya along with the Rockefeller Foundation, and the United Nations, to inspire future action and support for the delivery of Kenya's Big Four Agenda.

Beyond Zero also visited the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge in New York, a free housing facility provided to patients undergoing cancer treatment. Hope Lodge is one of the 30 facilities in the USA.

• 6th Edition of Merck Foundation Africa - Asia Luminary

To strengthen its existing collaborations Beyond Zero participated at the 6th Edition of the Merck Foundation Africa-Asia Luminary Conference that took place in Accra, Ghana on 29th-31st October 2019.

Under the theme, 'Together we can make a Difference', the conference brought together more than 1,000 healthcare workers, policymakers, academia, program implementers, delegates, and research professionals from 54 countries.

The conference was co-chaired by H.E. Madam Rebecca Akufo-Addo, the First Lady of Ghana and Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation. Also in attendance were 11 First

Ladies who gave keynote addresses during the plenary session of the 'First Ladies Initiative Summit' which deliberated on the interventions needed for the elimination of cancer on the African continent and commitment to build healthcare capacities for diabetes and infertility management.

2.3. Promoting girls and women's agency

- **Global Gender Summit 'Unpacking Constraints to Gender Equality'**

The Global Gender Summit biennial event organized by the multilateral development banks (MDBs) on November 25th, brought leaders from government, development institutions, private sector, civil society, and academia together. Delivering her speech during the session on 'Realizing a demographic dividend through investments in gender equality,' The First Lady said the timely conference was essential in strengthening Africa's resolve in realising gender equality, as an aspiration of our own development and the global 2030 SDG Agenda.



Sharing Kenya's experiences in unlocking the potential of women and girls, to realise Africa's demographic dividend, The First Lady said, "The National Policy for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula launched in 2018, and most recently the National Policy for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation by 2022, launched by the President of Kenya on 8th November 2019, are a demonstration of Kenya's commitment to this effort.

"Citing the importance of education, as the window to prosperity and empowerment and the interlinkages between education, empowerment, and health in the realisation of gender equality, The First Lady further noted that 'girls who complete their basic education are three times less likely to experience early marriage and childbearing at an early age and suffer reproductive health challenges, or contract HIV/AIDS'. The First Lady went on to recognise the critical role that health workers play as caregivers. Beyond Zero has thus continued to support the training of health workers through the Enrolled Community Health Nurses program.

- **International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 25)**

Co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya, Denmark, and the United Nations Population Fund, ICPD 25 was held in Nairobi, Kenya at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), from the 12th to 14th November 2019 with at least 160 countries represented and over 6,000 delegates drawn from heads of state, ministers, technical experts, civil society organizations, and academic institutions among others. In pursuit of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), the conference focused on five themes guiding the call to action. These themes were:

- Universal access to SRHR as part of universal health coverage;
- Financing required to complete the ICPD Programme of Action, and to sustain the gains made;
- Drawing on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development;
- Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices;
- Upholding the right to sexual reproductive care even in humanitarian fragile contexts.

The First Lady delivered a keynote address during a high-level dialogue dubbed, 'When Women Lead' where she showcased her Beyond Zero initiative that has helped lower structural barriers to women empowerment across all sectors. The First Lady further noted that "Empowerment is critical for women and young girls to make a meaningful contribution to our economies."



The event was attended by Rwanda's First Lady Jeannette Kagame, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem, Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck of Bhutan and other women leaders.



2.4. Recognizing the role of the First Lady

• Elections of the Steering Committee

The 23rd Ordinary General Assembly of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) was held in Niamey, Niger from 4th to 8th of July 2019. The theme of the meeting was *'Collaborating to transform Africa: Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations.'*

During this session, elections were conducted and the First Lady of Congo Brazzaville was elected as President and the First Lady of Zimbabwe elected as Vice President of the bureau of the General Assembly respectively. Additional members of the Steering Committee are from – Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Niger and Mozambique.

The steering committee meeting deliberated on OAFLAD's secretariat's report for the first half of 2019 and the financial statement for January to May 2019. It also discussed the high-level event on gender-based violence at the forthcoming 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) that will be held in collaboration with UNFPA as well as the high-level event on gender equality and women empowerment at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 74th session held 17-30th September 2019.



OAFLAD handover ceremony

The former President Her Excellency Madam Adjoavi Sika Kaboré from the Republic of Burkina Faso handed over OALFAD instruments to the new President Madam Antoinette Tchibota Sassou-Nguesso from the Republic of Congo Brazzaville at the UNGA 74th Session.

Before the actual signing of the handover documents, the outgoing President presented her remarks where she focused on achievements attained together with Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, her Vice President. These achievements included the development and launch of OAFLAD Strategic Framework 2019-2023, the change of institutional name from OAFLA to OAFLAD in line with the expanded focus from HIV/AIDS to overall development and intensified thematic campaigns on ending FGM and child marriages.

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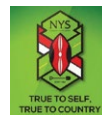


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