



OFFICE
OF THE
FIRST LADY



Beyond Zero Technical Report 2020-2021 and Partners' Reflections

An Initiative of Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta
The First Lady of The Republic of Kenya



Beyond Zero Technical Report 2020-2021 and Partners' Reflections

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	<i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>
ANC	<i>Antenatal Care</i>
AGYW	<i>Adolescents Girls and Young Women</i>
ASAL	<i>Arid and Semi-Arid Lands</i>
AYP	<i>Adolescents and Young Persons</i>
CECMH	<i>County Executive Committee Member of Health</i>
CFLA	<i>County First Ladies Association</i>
ECHN	<i>Enrolled Community Health Nursing</i>
eMTCT	<i>Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis</i>
EMPOWER	<i>Enabling and Motivating Partnerships Owned by Women who Engage and Reclaim their lives</i>
FGF	<i>Female Genital Fistula</i>
GBV	<i>Gender Based Violence</i>
HIV	<i>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</i>
HCWs	<i>Healthcare Workers</i>
HPV	<i>Human Papilloma Virus</i>
IDEOF	<i>International Day to End Obstetric Fistula</i>
JHIC	<i>Joint Health Inspection Checklist</i>
KMTC	<i>Kenya Medical Training College</i>
KNH	<i>Kenyatta National Hospital</i>
KQMH	<i>Kenya Quality Model for Health</i>
NACC	<i>National AIDS Control Council</i>
NASCOP	<i>National AIDS and STI Control Programme</i>
NCPWD	<i>National Council for Persons with Disabilities</i>
NGOs	<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>
NHIF	<i>National Health Insurance Fund</i>
NMG	<i>Nation Media Group</i>
NSC	<i>National Steering Committee</i>
NVC	<i>National Validation Committee</i>
MNCH	<i>Maternal, New-born and Child Health</i>
MoU	<i>Memorandum of Understanding</i>
PEPFAR	<i>The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief</i>
PMTCT	<i>Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis</i>
PNC	<i>Postnatal Care</i>
SCPHN	<i>Sub County Public Health Nurse</i>
SDG	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>
STI	<i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i>
TAT	<i>Technical Advisory Team</i>
TB	<i>Tuberculosis</i>
ToC	<i>Theory of Change</i>
WASH	<i>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>
UHC	<i>Universal Health Coverage</i>
UNAIDS	<i>Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS</i>
UNICEF	<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i>
UNFPA	<i>United Nations Population Fund</i>
USAID	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i>

FOREWORD



FOREWORD BY HER EXCELLENCY MARGARET KENYATTA, THE FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

The overall goal of Beyond Zero, since its inception in 2013, has been to improve health outcomes for mothers and children in Kenya. This has been implemented through the *Strategic Framework on Engagement for HIV Control and Promotion of Maternal, New-born 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*.

Our purpose has been to support our National and Global commitments towards equity and access to quality healthcare. Universal Health Coverage (UHC), is one of the key programs instituted to realize this obligation.

This Technical Report 2020-2021, profiles Beyond Zero's work over the past year, and the extent

to which our interventions have contributed to driving change by impacting people's lives. The report highlights our projects and activities and outlines focus areas on the way forward.

Over the past year, we have seen the remarkable resilience exhibited by our health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic period. They are a true reminder of the importance of investment in skilled human resource, particularly the nursing workforce, as a critical component towards the achievement of UHC.

Our National and Global experience with COVID-19, has shown that inequalities still exist. It has raised the importance of not losing sight of the gains we had made in our work around maternal and child health. Specifically; in skilled delivery; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

and Syphilis; sexual gender based violence; female genital mutilation (FGM), and child marriage.

Beyond Zero's contribution in supporting Government's efforts towards UHC is, therefore, more critical than ever if we are to meet our targets on all these fronts. Our National commitment to eliminate FGM by 2022, and gender based violence by 2026 remains critical to our work; I will continue to lend my voice to defend and safeguard the rights of women and girls.

The coming year will be especially significant to our work, as it also marks commencement of Kenya's path to validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis (eMTCT). Our National goal for triple elimination of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B will require strong political will, and commitment by all health stakeholders so that Kenya attains the transmission rate of 5% or less.

As Patron for eMTCT in Kenya, Beyond Zero will continue to advocate for the full implementation of the County eMTCT Business Plans and encourage increased resourcing through innovative financing models. We are hopeful that together with other stakeholders, we can advance mechanisms for long-lasting solutions to the HIV pandemic.

Diversity and inclusivity are fundamental to

***Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta,
First Lady of the Republic of Kenya
Patron, Beyond Zero.***

Beyond Zero's work including, finding local and sustainable solutions to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Our work continues to expand in creating awareness on issues that affect our marginalised and vulnerable communities through the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris. This investment has contributed to major outcomes including: advocacy for increased registration of children with disabilities and advocacy on the importance of appropriate data collection mechanisms to enhance inclusion of equal access to health for all. We acknowledge that strong voices in advocacy against cancer have resulted in the first National Palliative Care Policy.

Our work has been made possible by the solid partnerships built over the years, shared concerns, as well as a strong desire to drive change in people's lives. Some of these partners' voices are featured in this year's report to amplify our collective commitment.

We are in the process of accessing the impact of our work, and I thank you for your continued support and encouragement. All our efforts resonate with the aspirations of Universal Health Coverage and those of the Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring that we leave no one behind.

STATEMENTS



We have been privileged to collaborate with the Organization of African First Ladies for Development and Beyond Zero in advocating for the prioritization of women reproductive cancers in Africa. Successfully, we have rolled out country workshops with African First Ladies in Ghana, Zambia and Kenya that have sensitized policy makers and interested partners on the need to improve awareness and treatment of breast and cervical cancers.

In 2019, we partnered with Beyond Zero in Kenya to provide scholarships at the Kenya Medical Training College to 124 nurses from the arid region by 2022. This programme aims to mitigate the shortage of human resources for health by equipping community health nurses with knowledge and skills to provide quality healthcare to mothers and children in their home areas. This will help to improve maternal health and achieve Universal Healthcare Coverage.

Peggy Grueninger
Head of Roche Corporate Donations & Philanthropy



The Foundation's most recent journey has been to work with Beyond Zero on one of their medical safaris in Thika. It was a life changing moment for all of us as we realized that in the same way a car needs a Ministry of Transport certificate to be road worthy, humans need a Beyond Zero certificate so they can LIVE a life with great value.

We must always be proactive when it comes to our health rather than reactive and Beyond Zero gives this opportunity to Kenyans who would never have even thought about their health as a priority!

Khimasia Foundation and Thika Cloth Mills Limited



Beyond Zero has partnered with the United Nations family and other partners in the development of County specific eMTCT Business Plans to accelerate implementation & validation. The agenda of a multisectoral response to reduce teenage pregnancy, new HIV infections, school dropout, and gender-based violence among adolescent girls and young women has been the cornerstone of the Beyond Zero Initiative. Her Excellency, the First Lady, has championed evidence-based interventions that cut across various sectors, including health, education, both private and faith-based, among others, to address inequalities as the main driver of the epidemic.

Dr. Medhin Tsehau
UNAIDS Country Director, Kenya



The Beyond Zero Initiative has become synonymous with efforts to reduce preventable maternal and child deaths. The venture, started by the First Lady, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, has brought to light the plight of mothers seeking medical care across the country. The Initiative has not only made maternal healthcare a focal point for Kenyans but has also leveraged and strengthened existing health facilities at County and National levels to drive increased access and delivery of quality healthcare to mothers at their point of need.

The impact of Beyond Zero across the country has been tangible with the increased focus on maternal healthcare within government, private sector and civil societies, while simultaneously driving universal access to reproductive health through the provision of mobile clinics, medical safaris and donations, scholarship funds and so much more.

We thereby take great pride in the role we play in supporting the Beyond Zero agenda. We donate Kshs. 10m annually in advertising space across our broadcast, print and digital platforms to drive awareness, registration and fundraising towards the Beyond Zero Half Marathon. In addition to this, we continue to highlight the untold stories, challenges, progress and milestones that the country continues to make towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being. NMG staff members also take to the road to participate in the half marathon.

We are cognizant of the fact that Universal Health Coverage is a journey and not a destination, and as such, we remain committed to the cause championed by Beyond Zero.

Stephen Gitagama
Group Chief Executive Officer
Nation Media Group PLC.



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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 Her Excellency's inaugural participation at the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS Conference.

On 24th January 2014, Beyond Zero Campaign was launched with Her Excellency 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 compliments 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 Her Excellency'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:

- 1 To increase awareness and promote a sense of urgency amongst leaders on the need to rapidly scale up high impact interventions for HIV control, maternal, and child health;
- 2 To sensitize and advocate for National and County level leadership to progressively allocate sufficient resources for HIV, maternal, and child health programmes;
- 3 To mobilize the support and participation of men in HIV control, maternal and child health services;
- 4 To inspire and promote a culture of accountability for results amongst leaders on their commitment towards meeting HIV, maternal and child health targets.

The work of Beyond Zero is guided by the First Lady's Strategic Frameworks. *The Strategic Framework on Engagement for HIV Control and Promotion of Maternal, New-born 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*.

¹Community 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/>

About the First Strategic Framework 2013 - 2017

The First Strategic Framework was launched on 1st December 2013 when the numbers of maternal and child deaths were disturbingly high. Beyond Zero established that one of the drivers of these negative statistics was poor or lack of access to quality and skilled health services. The clarion call of *"no woman should die while giving life"* from preventable causes became the guiding principle for inspiring action, sustaining dialogue and influencing positive change in health as well as building community and public engagement.

Beyond Zero adopted an innovative approach of using Mobile Clinics as a One Stop-Shop for delivering maternal and child health services and promoting primary healthcare in hard-to-reach or marginalized areas. To make this a reality, the Initiative built partnerships with private sector, like-minded organizations, development partners, philanthropists and individual Kenyans to finance the acquisition of the mobile clinics. Supporting the principles of devolution, Beyond Zero charted the path of working together with County Governments to contribute towards strengthening health systems by bringing health delivery closer through the mobile clinics.

So far, a total of 52 mobile clinics have been donated to counties. These Clinics were handed over to the County Governments and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between each County Government, the Ministry of Health and Beyond Zero was signed. The MoU ensures sustainability of the intervention through allocation of

a budget for workers, purchase of drugs and supplies. The MoU further requires the County Governments to report on the Ministry of Health On-line District Health Information System² reporting portal. The mobile clinics are recognized as Level 2 stand-alone health facilities.

On 31st of January 2014, the Governors' Spouses were invited by the First Lady to join her as Ambassadors of Beyond Zero at County level. Their voluntary participation was to cascade the clarion call that *"no woman should die while giving life"* and lead the community mobilization strategies aimed at creating demand and uptake of health services. The National Steering Committee (NSC) and the Technical Advisory Team (TAT) implemented the priority actions in the first Framework supported by a lean Secretariat. The establishment of a dedicated Secretariat, initially incubated by the National AIDS Control Council (NACC), was to implement and coordinate the resolutions of the NSC and TAT as well as raise strategic visibility and interest on the First Lady's agenda.

The implementation of the first Strategic Framework gave Beyond Zero an opportunity to learn about other health complications expectant mothers and infants faced that were not being adequately addressed including obstetric fistula and reproductive tract cancers. Additionally, there was low involvement of men in reproductive health; children with disability and the elderly who have not sufficiently benefitted from health and education services.

²Now known as the Kenya Health Information System

About the Second Strategic Framework 2018 – 2022

The second Strategic Framework 2018-2022, launched on 8th March 2018, is designed to guide Beyond Zero's efforts to continue advocating and forging effective partnerships that contribute to better health outcomes for all Kenyans. While focusing on reducing maternal and child deaths, this Framework has deepened its approach by addressing neglected health issues. These are as a result of social inequities brought about by lack of access to maternal and child health services and harmful cultural beliefs and practices. It also recognizes the importance of the first

1,000 days of a child's life and how poor nutrition can impact on growth and brain development.

This Strategic Framework is anchored on the principle of "leaving no one behind" and adopts a lifecycle approach. It targets all Kenyans at different stages of their life: pregnant women and new-borns; infants and children; adolescents and young persons; women; men and older persons. The Framework outlines nine intervention areas critical to achieving quality health for these groups of the population. These are:

01



Promotion of access to quality maternal and neonatal healthcare services.

02



Advocating for repair and reintegration of women living with obstetric fistula.

03



Championing the country validation for the pre-elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis by 2021.

04



Promotion of good nutrition for all children.

05





Advocating for social inclusion of children living with disability for equal access to health and education services.


06



Mobilizing partnerships to deliver adolescent and young people health programmes.

07  Influencing investments for decentralized services for breast and cervical cancer prevention, treatment, and management.

08  Mobilizing for the engagement of men in HIV and reproductive health.

09  Advocating for access to comprehensive healthcare and social protection for older persons.

The Strategic Framework 2018-2022 is designed with a series of change pathways as illustrated below through the implementation approaches that result in the desired outcomes. These outcomes include; improved policies, strengthened alliances and shift in social norms. They are linked to key actions: mobile clinics; policy changes for mothers and children; medical safaris; nursing scholarship fund; and health summits and recognition awards. These actions reveal the complex web of activities required to bring about real and lasting change.





Aga Khan University Hospital

The overall goal of Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya's Beyond Zero Initiative is to improve health outcomes for mothers and children in Kenya. Building upon the convening power and passion of Her Excellency, strong alliances continue to be created, including, multi-stakeholder partnerships, media coverage, community engagement and increased resource allocation.

Advocacy is a process of managing information and knowledge strategically to change or influence policies and practices that affect negatively people's lives. Advocacy happens when individuals or groups raise their voices, draw attention to important issues, and take action and direct decision makers and communities towards solutions.

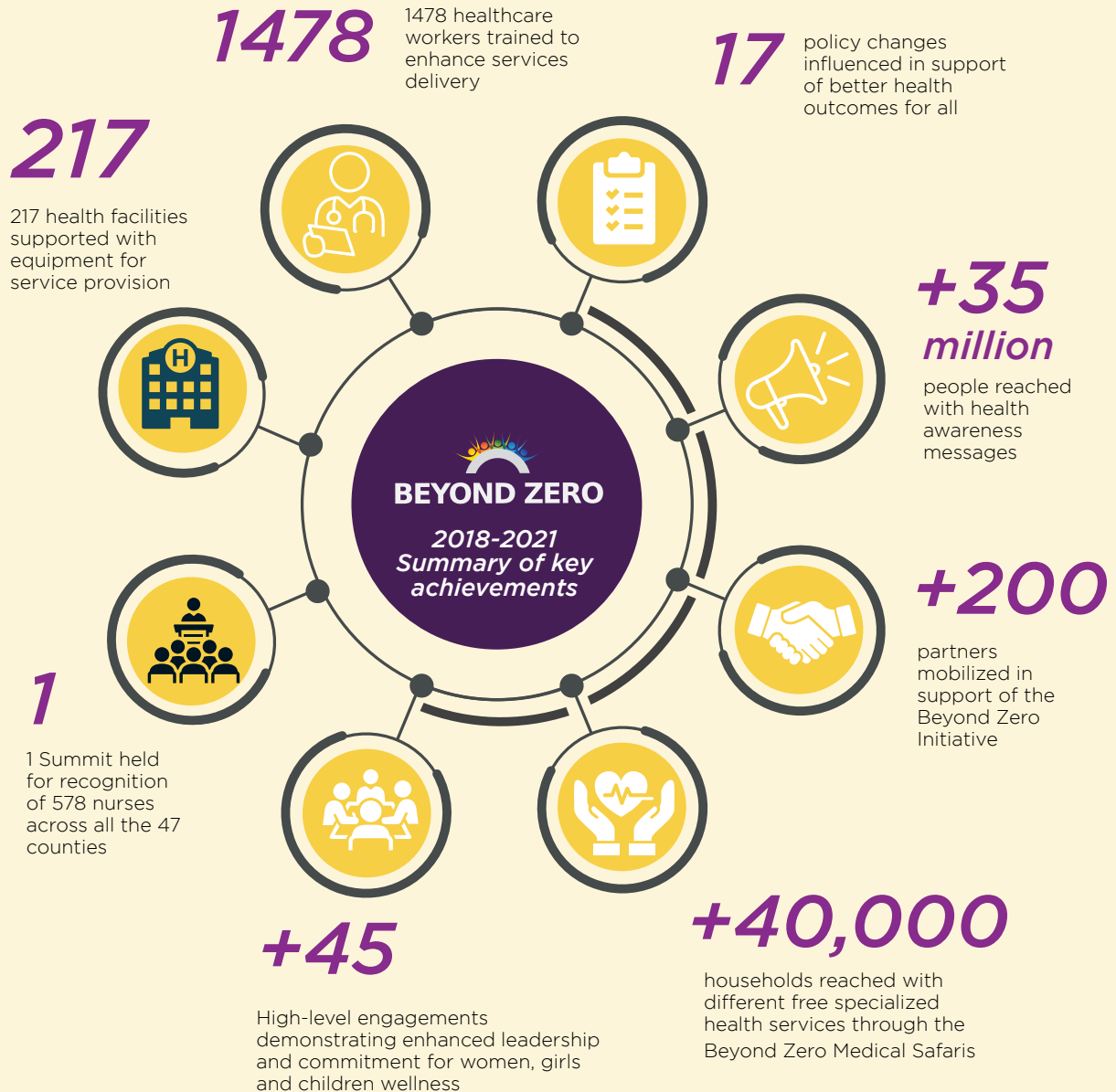
A Theory of Change (ToC) makes the link

between the actions and the changes one wants to achieve. The ToC has been developed through a participatory approach, involving reflection and discussion at all levels. It is based on Her Excellency's agency and commitment to create a movement for better health, health-seeking behaviour, better access and quality of health services for pregnant women, new-borns and children.

Together with partners, the Initiative has realized unprecedented success and has catalysed innovation and accelerated action for a healthy Kenya and will leave a legacy that will impact generations to come, not only in Kenya and Africa but also in the whole world.

**Professor Marleen Temmerman,
MBS, MD, MPH, PhD, OB/GYN**

2018-2021 SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



A) Policies influenced in support of better health outcomes



i. Advocating for quality healthcare

11th April 2019

The 'High-quality Health Systems in the Sustainable Development Goals Era: *Time for a Revolution*' report

Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi

ii. Championing for Kenya's readiness for validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

12th September 2018

Narok County eMTCT business plan 2018-2022

Narok County Stadium

22nd November 2018

Kisumu County eMTCT business plan 2018-2022

Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground, Kisumu County

9th May 2019

West Pokot County eMTCT business plan 2019-2022

Makutano Stadium in Kapenguria

15th August 2019

Nyandarua County eMTCT business plan 2018-2022

Engineer Stadium, Nyandarua County

1st December 2019

Kisii County eMTCT business plan 2020-2022

Gusii Stadium

1st December 2019

Faith Sector; HIV and Health messages for use by Religious Leaders booklets

Gusii Stadium

17th January 2020

Nairobi City County eMTCT business plan 2019-2022

Uhuru Park, Nairobi County

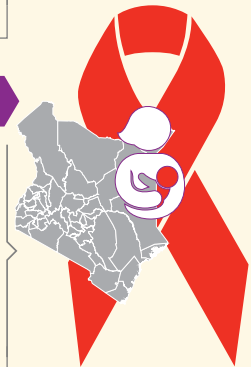
1st December 2020

Kajiado County eMTCT business plan 2020-2024

KCB Grounds, Kajiado County

1st December 2020

Nyamira County eMTCT business plan 2020-2024



22nd November 2018

The National Point of Care Testing Implementation Roadmap in Kenya; A guide to implementing point of care Testing in HIV care and treatment programmes

Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground, Kisumu County

The Utilization of Multi-disease testing platforms for optimizing early infant diagnosis in Kenya; an implementation plan for piloting early infant diagnosis of HIV and TB testing using a multi-disease point of care platform 2017 edition



iii. Creating awareness on prevention, repair and re-integration of women with Obstetric Fistula

9th May 2019

Makutano Stadium in Kapenguria

National Strategic Framework on Female Genital Fistula; Towards a Free Fistula Nation

National Female Genital Fistula Training Manual for Community Health Volunteers 2019

Female Genital Fistula Training Manual for Health Workers

Female Genital Fistula CHV Training Participant Guide



iv. Creating awareness on cancer prevention, treatment and management

30th January 2020

Advocacy Guide for Eliminating Cervical Cancer

Safari Park Hotel

8th October 2021

Kenya Palliative Care Policy 2021-2030

Nairobi Hospice

b) Strong base of support/strengthened partnerships

i. Beyond Zero Half Marathons

2019

PARTNERS³

NCBA Bank Kenya Plc, KCB Bank Kenya Limited, Co-operative Bank of Kenya, Parapet, Huawei, Timafloor, KANCO, Kenyatta University

13,139 Participants

2020

PARTNERS³

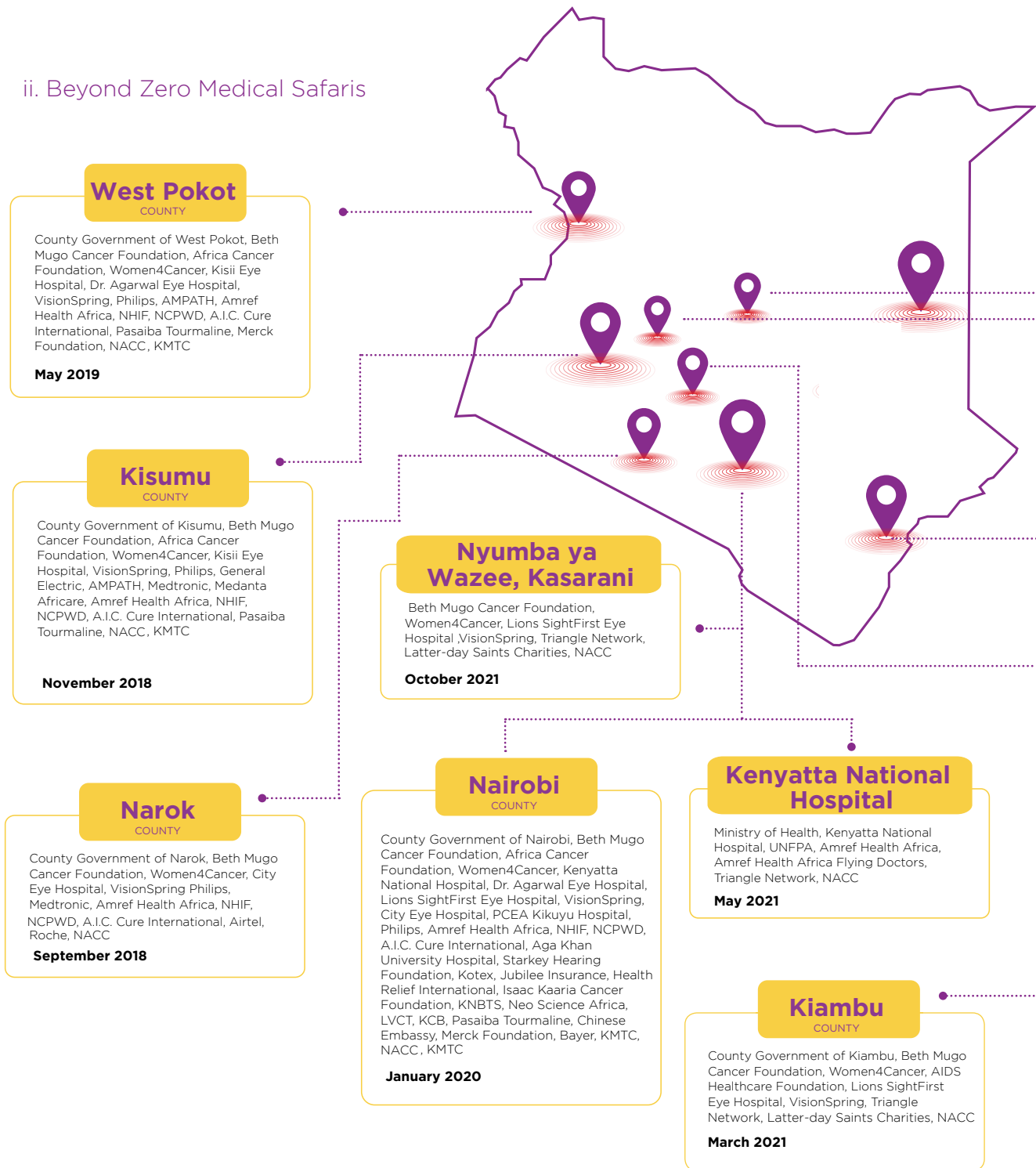
Jubilee Insurance, National Bank of Kenya, Thika Cloths Mills Limited, Absa, Philips, Standard Group, Toyota Kenya, Safaricom, Airtel, Centre for Health Solutions, Sports Kenya, KBC Channel 1, Royal Media Services, Post Bank, KEMSA, Nation Media Group

10,539 Participants



³Sample partners for the Beyond Zero Marathon.

ii. Beyond Zero Medical Safaris



Meru

COUNTY

County Government of Meru, UNFPA, Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation, Women4Cancer, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, NHIF, Triangle Network, NACC

February 2021

Nyandarua

COUNTY

County Government of Nyandarua, Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation, Africa Cancer Foundation, Women4Cancer, Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital, Dr. Agarwal Eye Hospital, VisionSpring, Philips, Aga Khan University Hospital, Starkey Hearing Foundation, Kotex, Jubilee Insurance, Health Relief International, Kenya National Blood Transfusion Services (KNBTS), Amref Health Africa, NHIF, NCPWD, A.I.C. Cure International, Pasaiba Tourmaline, Shinnyo-en, Merck Foundation, NACC, Huawei, KMTC

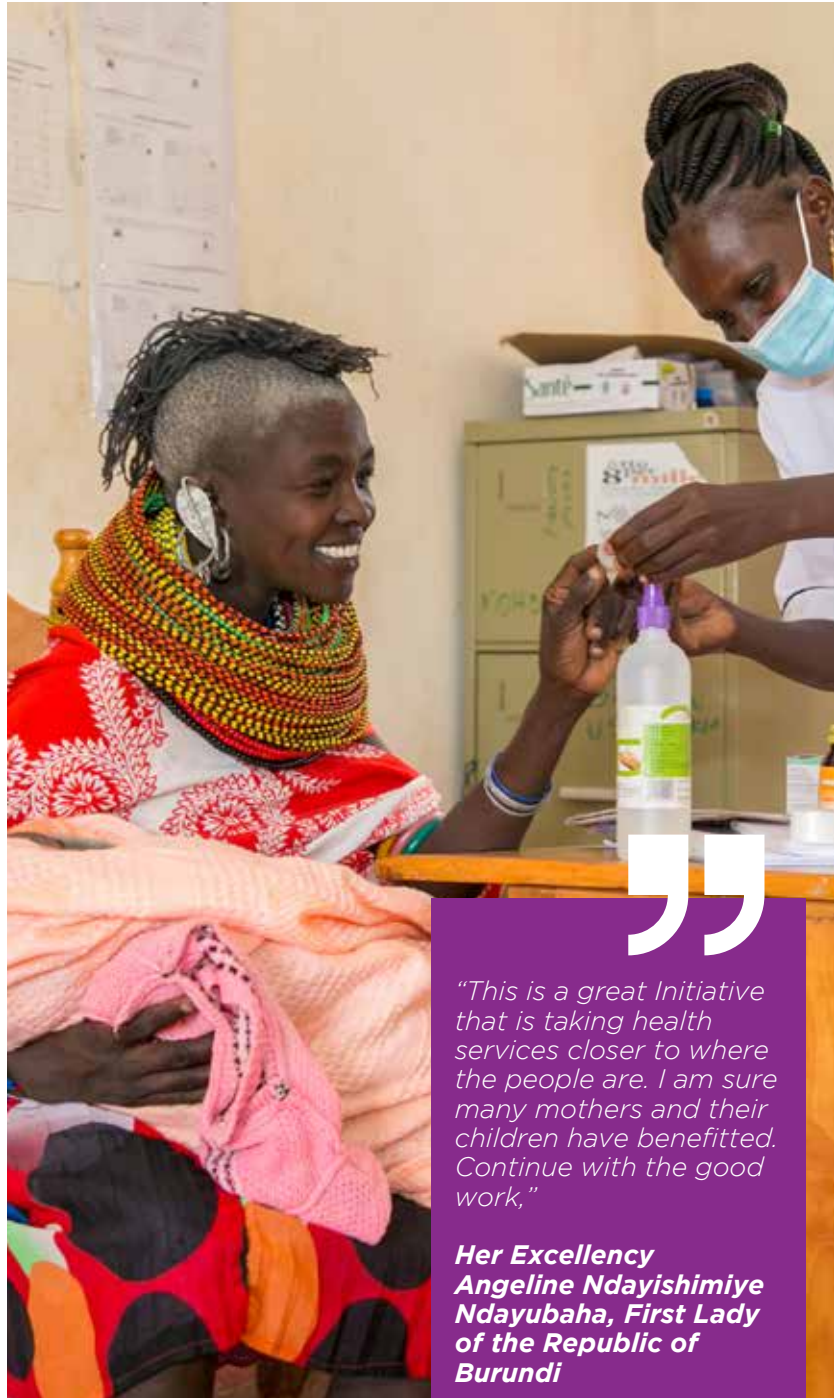
August 2019

Kilifi

COUNTY

County Government of Kilifi, UNFPA, Beth Mugo Cancer Foundation, Women4Cancer, Kamili Foundation, Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital, VisionSpring, Khimasia Foundation, Triangle Trust, Latter-day Saints Charities

November 2021

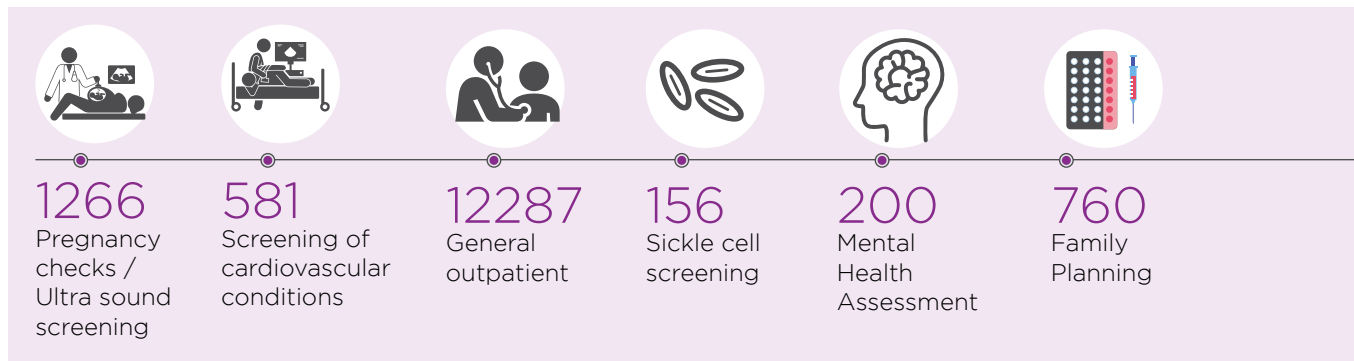
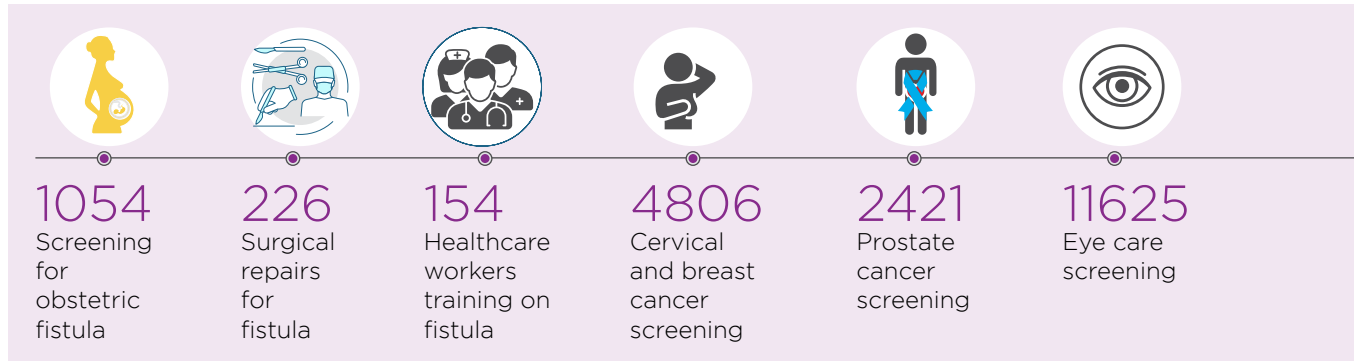


”

“This is a great Initiative that is taking health services closer to where the people are. I am sure many mothers and their children have benefitted. Continue with the good work,”

***Her Excellency
Angeline Ndayishimiye
Ndayubaha, First Lady
of the Republic of
Burundi***

iii. Summary of free specialized health care services provided during the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris





359
Cataracts surgery



5965
Refractive errors corrected



814
Linda mama registration



690
National scheme - supra cover



1205
Assessment & registration of persons with disabilities



84
Dermatology



866
Screening for hearing impairment



2615
HIV testing and counseling



911
Community oral health screening



57
Screening for hereditary cancers

C) Training and appropriate technology

<i>Equipment/ Training/ Commissioning of specialized hospitals</i>	Partners
Donation of a Point of care device to Jaramogi Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kisumu County	Abbot Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Training of 154 healthcare workers on fistula screening and post treatment care in Narok, Kisumu, West Pokot and Nairobi counties	Amref Health Africa
Commissioning of mother and baby wings/ hospitals/ specialized reproductive centres	County Governments of Nakuru, Makeni, West Pokot, Kericho, Bomet, Nairobi and Nyandarua
Commissioning of a Cryotherapy machine for treatment of pre-cancerous cells in the cervix in West Pokot County	Amref Health Africa
Commissioning of a blood bank in West Pokot County	Kenya National Blood Tranfusion Services
Training of 5,100 community health volunteers on COVID-19 prevention and management in Nairobi County	Amref Health Africa, Nairobi Metropolitan Services
Donation of assortment of medical supplies including theatre equipment, laboratory equipment and beds in Tana River County	PROJECT CURE
Commissioning of a hemafuse device at Mama Lucy Hospital in Nairobi County	Amref Health Africa
Commissioning of a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) CT scanner and cyclotron at Aga Khan University, Nairobi	Aga Khan University Hospital
Training of 1,324 enrolled community health nurses drawn from ASAL counties and Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities	World Bank Roche Kenya Medical Training College

D) Beyond Zero's contribution towards social norms change

Dissemination of health awareness messages on Linda Mama⁴ program, cervical, breast and prostate cancer prevention and screening services, eMTCT, fistula prevention and repairs, inclusion of children with disabilities through mainstream and social media.



Newspapers

Nation Media Group,
Standard Group, Mediamax
Network Ltd

Over **100** newspapers
articles on Beyond Zero's
intervention



Radio

Kokwo FM, North Rift Radio,
Radio Maa, Milele FM, Kayla
FM, Mayan FM, Ramogi FM,
Kameme FM, Inooro FM,
Radio Maisha, Radio Citizen,
Radio Taifa

15,000,000
People reached with health
awareness messages



TV

K24 Tv, Citizen TV, KBC
Channel 1

20,000,000

People reached with health
awareness messages



Social Media

Facebook, Twitter and
Instagram

Country Wide



Bulk SMS

Airtel

Country Wide



⁴Linda Mama is a maternity insurance cover implemented by the National Health Insurance Fund fully supplemented by Government that includes prenatal, delivery (normal and caesarean section) and postnatal services.

The chapters in this report capture the achievements based on the implementing approaches and draw reflections from partners. The chapters are organized as follows;

Chapter 1:

- Catalyzing action for the equitable provision and access to healthcare services for all

Chapter 2:

- Convening multi-disciplinary stakeholders for health and building partnerships and synergies to mobilize citizens to demand quality health care services

Chapter 3:

- Contributing to social norm change through lending voice

Chapter 4:

- Enhancing leadership, commitment and accountability

Chapter 5:

- Next steps





Chapter 1

CATALYZING ACTION FOR
EQUITABLE PROVISION AND
PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR ALL

1.0 Introduction

In 2018, Kenya committed to delivering Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to its citizens by 2022 by reducing out-of-pocket expenditure with a view of assuring that there is no user financial hardship as well as increasing access to quality health for all Kenyans, anchored on the principle of leaving no one behind.

UHC is a powerful concept that aims to deliver improved health outcomes and equity for women by recognizing that good antenatal care (ANC), delivery by a skilled health worker, obstetric care and good nutrition can accelerate zero maternal, new-born and child deaths.

Beyond Zero complements government efforts and seeks to promote equitable access and uptake of quality health services. The Initiative is catalytic and inspires action from political leaders, partners and communities. It emphasizes preventative and inclusive approaches, working with stakeholders to address health issues in the country.

Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya as the Founder and Patron of Beyond Zero has advocated for the acceleration

of policies affecting mothers and children and the well-being of Kenyans.

From 2018 to date, Beyond Zero continues to spark policy changes and increase investment for the promotion of quality maternal, child and neonatal health care services by mobilizing leaders at different levels - national and counties - government entities, private organizations, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. Its focus areas have included advocacy of policy changes for - elimination of obstetric fistula; reduction of HIV & Syphilis transmission to less than 5%; elimination of harmful practices of child marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); reduction of incidence of reproductive health cancers as well as ensuring quality of care.

This section demonstrates Beyond Zero's interventions around its catalytic role by reflecting the extent of its contribution to increasing access to and quality of healthcare services through influencing health policies and practices of actors at the National and County level.





1.1 Improving quality of care – Centres of Excellence

Quite apart from increasing access to health, quality of care has been identified as the game changer by Lancet Global Health. The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Health, has developed the Joint Health Inspection Checklist and the Kenya Quality Model of Health to ensure quality of health and patient safety. Complementing Government's efforts to implement the Quality of Care Certification Framework⁵ and as a Commissioner at the Lancet Global Commission on High Quality in the SDG era, Kenya's First Lady has championed Centres of Excellence for maternal and child care to promote

quality of care.

These Centres will deliver specialized programmes in a medical discipline, demonstrate a high level of competence and interdisciplinary collaboration, and have the prerequisite resources to deliver the service comprehensively.

The Directorate of Health Standards Quality Assurance and Regulation in the Ministry of Health illustrates the journey to designing certified Centres of Excellence.

⁵This Framework includes Licensure/ Registration/ Gazettement; Certification and Accreditation and ultimately sets out the path to Centres of Excellence as described in the Strategic Framework.

Ministry of Health

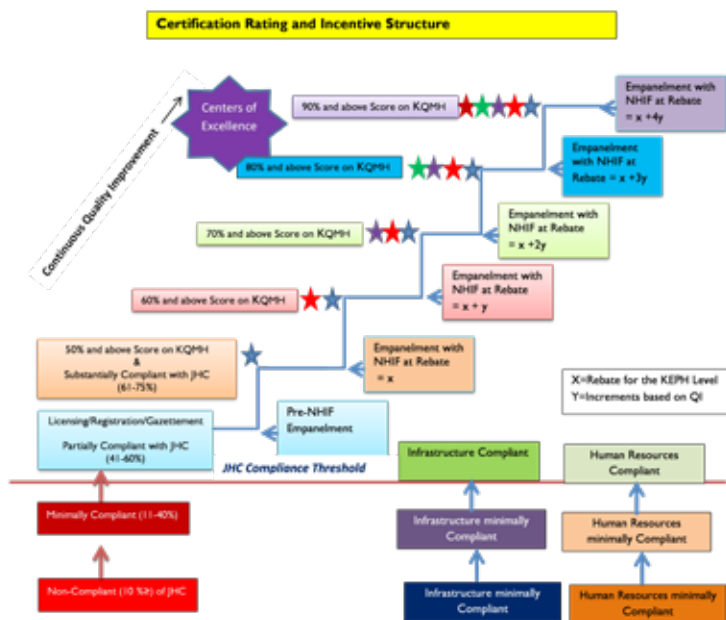
In 2018 the Ministry of Health through the Directorate of Health Standards, Quality Assurance and Regulations initiated a process of developing the Quality of Care Certification Framework for the Kenya Health Sector. The document was finalized and subsequently launched by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya in March 2020.

The Quality of Care Certification framework is envisaged to shape health care services delivery in a manner that promotes and monitors safety and quality, accessibility of services, acceptability and minimizes risk. The framework will put in place modalities to monitor inputs, processes and outcomes of health services delivery and enable comparison of performance among health facilities of the same level across public, faith-based and private sectors. The framework will also provide the government with appropriate tools for strengthening oversight of the health sector. The framework will guide the strategic purchasing function of the UHC to identify health care institutions for empanelment and guide the proportionate rebate compensation in line with the quality and level of service provision.

Monitoring outcomes through the Quality of Care Certification framework will stimulate efficient use and allocation of limited health care resources and ensure that a predetermined package of preventive and curative services is being realized. The framework benefits the institutions and organizations it adjudicates by improving the quality of internal operations, safeguarding the credibility of results of conformity assessment activities, improving the market image of the institutions and organizations, and placing them in a more competitive position. The certification process also provides the tools to identify and create Centres of Excellence based on an identified package of services that are provided with a high level of quality and competence ensuring desired outcomes.

In line with Beyond Zero 2nd Strategic Framework 2018- 2022, the Quality of Care framework has outlined a certification rating and incentive structures that also provides the basis of creating Centres of Excellence for different areas of medical specialties including maternal and child health.

Certification Rating and Incentive Structure





The health centres of excellence are expected to:

- Deliver specialized programmes in a particular medical discipline- maternal and neonatal, orthopaedic, fistula management, eye care, among others.
- Demonstrate a high level of competence and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Have the prerequisite resources to deliver the service in a comprehensive manner.
- Attain 80% and above on the Kenya Quality Model for Health (KQMH) score.
- Score highly on a set of identified outcome indicators for the medical discipline.

To prepare for the roll out of the Quality of Care Framework, the Ministry of Health has trained 3-4 Joint Health Inspectors in each County. They will be critical in ensuring conformity to health laws and regulations in the health sector and meeting the minimum patient and health worker safety standards within the Kenyan

health sector. To institutionalize the culture of continuous quality improvement, the Ministry of Health has started a process of training all Counties on the Kenya Quality Model for Health that will be linked to empanelment to NHIF and certification for quality of care provided by health facilities. The Ministry projects to have three County-based quality of care coaches in every County by end of financial year 20/21. The coaches will facilitate the entrenchment of continuous quality of care within their County specific facilities, guide their facilities in assessing the quality of care provided and mentor them in the development and implementation of quality improvement projects that will pave the way for a culture of provision of and demand for quality health services.

Directorate of Health Standards Quality Assurance and Regulation, Ministry of Health Kenya

1.2 Profiling of maternal related morbidities – Obstetric Fistula

Obstetric Fistula is both a health and human rights issue. It's highly stigmatizing for survivors as there is limited awareness about repair possibilities, poor integration of services, shortage of trained providers for fistula services and poverty which hinders access to treatment and re-integration.

Obstetric Fistula is largely preventable and can be addressed through delayed age of first pregnancy, cessation of harmful practices such as FGM and

child marriage, elimination of sexual gender-based violence and timely access to obstetric care.

Restoring the dignity of women and integrating them back into their societies is one of the focus areas for Beyond Zero. Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta has continued to create awareness on obstetric fistula and encourage women living with the condition to seek treatment or surgical repair.

UNFPA Kenya

Globally, more than 800 women die daily from pregnancy-related complications. For every woman who dies, 20 or more are injured or disabled. One of the most serious childbearing injuries is obstetric fistula - a tear in the birth canal caused by prolonged, obstructed labour in the absence of timely and adequate access to quality medical care.

Fistula has virtually been eliminated in developed nations. In the developing world, it is estimated that approximately 500,000 women and girls live with the condition. About 1% of women in Kenya suffer obstetric fistula. Some of these women and girls do not have access to fistula surgery, a situation worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Her Excellency's Beyond Zero Initiative has strategized to break the COVID-19 barrier and innovatively support surgery for the women and girls who suffer fistula. This has reduced the backlog and provided hope for the many who suffer indignity and ostracization owing to fistula.

The Beyond Zero medical safaris have complemented and supported the aspirations of the global Campaign to End Fistula by supporting women to undergo

surgical repair of obstetric fistula free of charge. Each year the medical safari traverses' different counties bringing the services of health specialists closer to the people. Through this approach, 1054 women and girls from vulnerable communities have benefited from fistula screening and 179 from fistula surgeries.

In 2019, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, launched the National Strategic Framework for Prevention and Management of Obstetric Fistula and a Fistula training curriculum to facilitate coordination and capacity building initiatives by the Ministry of Health. Implementation of the strategic framework augments other initiatives by Her Excellency of ensuring access to skilled care during pregnancy and birth and ending teenage pregnancies, all of which contribute to the elimination of obstetric fistula.

These efforts have leveraged partnerships to secure resources including financial and technical assistance, to eliminate fistula in Kenya within our generation

Dr. Ademola Olajide
UNFPA Country Representative, Kenya



800

Globally, more than 800 women die daily from pregnancy-related complications.



On 23rd May 2021, at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), the First Lady presided over celebrations for the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (IDEOF) under the theme *“women’s rights end fistula now”*. Forty-five women benefited from surgical fistula repairs following a two-week free fistula camp organized by Beyond Zero, Amref Health Africa,

UNFPA, Flying Doctors Society and Safaricom Foundation.

As part of the activities to commemorate IDEOF, the First Lady visited the women who benefited from free fistula surgeries at KNH and handed them dignity packs. She also pledged to continue supporting the global campaign to end fistula.

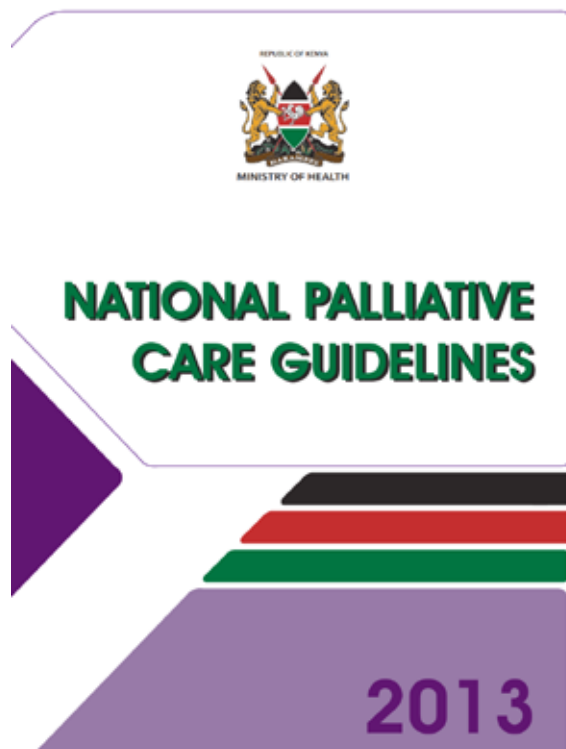
1.3 Influencing investments for decentralized services for cancer prevention and treatment

In Kenya, the increased number of cancer cases has resulted in legislative actions and policies to guide the delivery of cancer testing and treatment services including, the National Cancer Control Strategy 2017-2022 that envisions a Kenyan population with a low burden of cancer. The most common cancers in Kenya are breast, cervical, colorectal, oesophagus and stomach.

The First Lady has continued to advocate for facilitative policies and adoption of different approaches to curb increased incidence of cancers through decentralized⁶ cancer testing and treatment services. 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.

In conformity to World Health Assembly resolution 67.19 calling for strengthening of integration of palliative care services into national health systems, Kenya developed and passed the Kenya Palliative Care Policy 2021-2030. The policy reinforces the National Palliative Guidelines 2013, and the relevant national standards and consolidates existing initiatives on hospice and palliative care. It will facilitate the scale-up of palliative care provision that encompasses the relieve of pain and other distressing symptoms - from diagnosis, treatment, end of life care and bereavement support for families.



⁶ A communique read on the 30th January 2020 committed to several resolutions to end cervical cancer



800,000

Kenyans need palliative care



5%

less than 5% of children accessed palliative care services

The rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases has raised the need for palliative care in Kenya. 800,000 Kenyans need palliative care; 14,500 accessed palliative care in 2019 while less than 5% of children accessed the services. Strong evidence base exists supporting investment in palliative care given its impact on quality of care, patient satisfaction and reflection of reduction of cost of care through prevention of unnecessary and costly health services particularly hospitalizations. Beyond Zero's commitment is to advocate for increased access to palliative care services for cancer patients through increasing the number of palliative care centres for cancer patients.

1.4 Practices of actors at County level

Since January 2014, Governors' Spouses have supported the First Lady in cascading her clarion call of "no woman should die while giving life". They have been strategic champions leveraging their influence and propelling their issues from the National to the County level. This has transformed their advocacy efforts into collective public leadership on a social cause elevating maternal, new-born and child health as a priority across the entire country.

EMPOWER, (Enabling and Motivating Partnerships

Owned by Women who Engage and Reclaim their lives), draws partnerships from ROCHE, Women4Cancer, Africa Cancer Foundation and the International Cancer Institute. These cancer clinics complement the efforts of the First Lady, who is advocating for the full implementation of the National Cancer Control strategy 2017-2022 by promoting prevention, screening, early diagnosis and timely treatment for cancer in the counties. The EMPOWER Clinics are currently in Kisumu, Kakamega, Taita Taveta, Bungoma, Laikipia, Marsabit, Makueni and Meru.



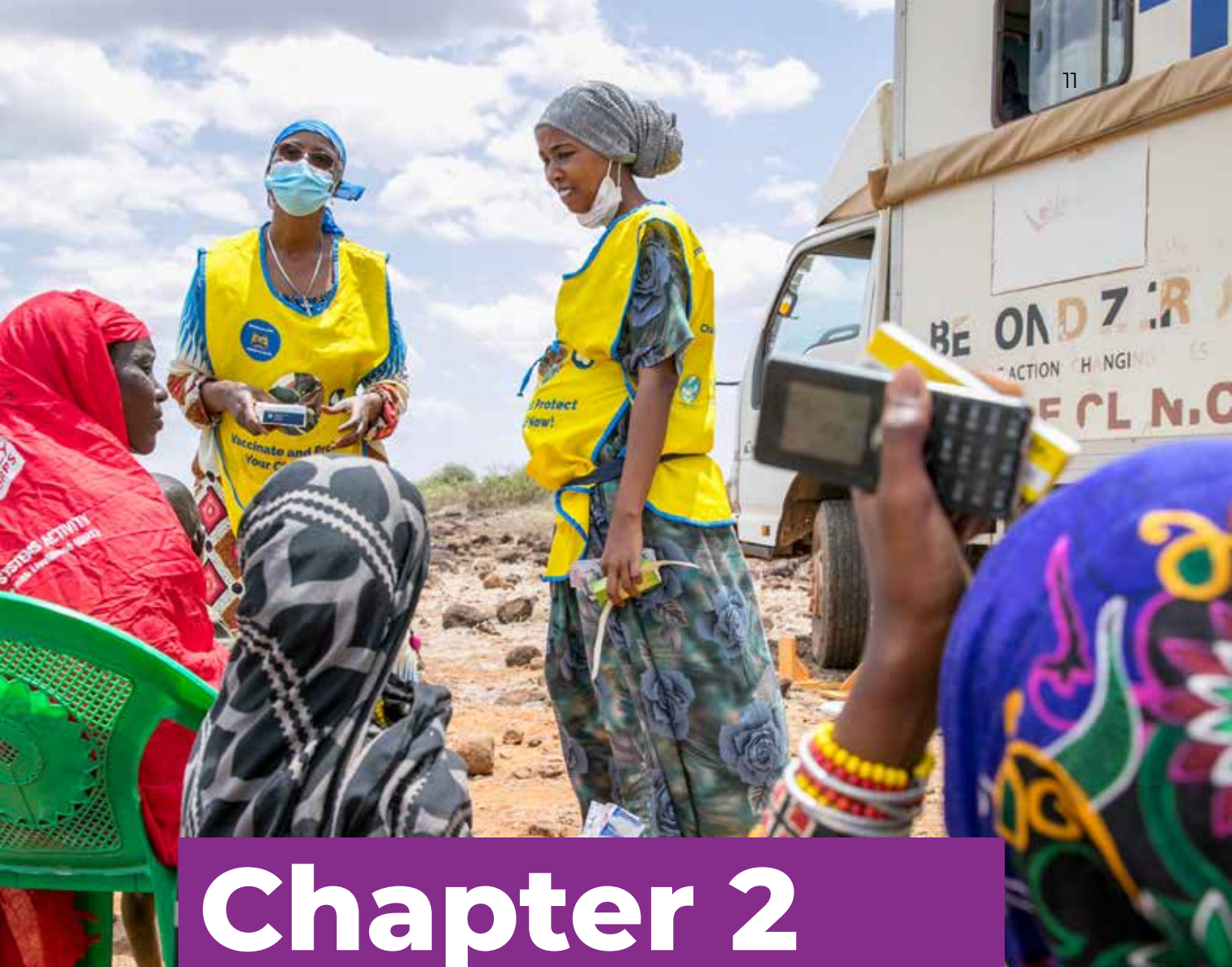
Marsabit County

24-year-old Nasibo Malicha is one of the Beyond Zero Scholarship Fund beneficiaries from Marsabit County. She currently works at the newly launched Empower Clinic at the Marsabit Referral Hospital.

The Empower Clinics are championed by the County First Ladies Association (CFLA) in partnership with Roche, International Cancer Institute, Women4Cancer and Africa Cancer Foundation and aim to promote prevention,

screening, early diagnosis and timely treatment for cancer in the counties. Some of the services that Nasibo offers at the Empower Clinic include health education on the importance of regular screening and screening services for reproductive tract cancers.

"We have informed our community about the cancer screening services through campaigns and radio and they are coming in huge numbers." Nasibo Malicha



Chapter 2

CONVENING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
STAKEHOLDERS FOR HEALTH
AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
AND SYNERGIES TO MOBILIZE
CITIZENS TO DEMAND QUALITY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

2.0 Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals⁷ calls for global partnerships that bring together governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations (UN) family and other actors to achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 agenda. Stronger partnerships mobilize resources, optimize resources, share knowledge, and promote the creation and transfer of sound technologies and building capacity. For Kenya to achieve the SDG 3⁸ targets through the UHC agenda, the Kenyan Government has recognized the importance of partnerships for sustainable development. For instance, advances in global health and positive impact on communities are achieved through multisectoral collaboration and participation such as Private Public Partnerships.

Beyond Zero Partnership Model, through the convening power of the First Lady, brings together National and County Governments, UN agencies, the private sector and the media. The model rallies

partners through media campaigns, launches, open forums, high-level dialogues, policy convening, marathons, and outreaches.

The model complements on-going government and partners' initiatives in health including, strengthening existing community, facility and national-level platforms, systems, and institutions; and ensuring the alignment of its activities with Kenya's policy priorities and frameworks.

Girded by shared values and goals, each partner believes in changing lives one at a time resulting in positive changes in existing health and community systems for issues of HIV and MNCH.

This section demonstrates the extent to which Beyond Zero interventions have increased access and quality of healthcare services for all Kenyans through this partnership model.



⁷ Goal 17: Partnerships for goals
⁸ Good Health and Well-being



2.1 Expanding access using the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris

The Medical Safaris are an outreach model of service delivery through which Beyond Zero mobilizes service providers and resources for the provision of a wide range of free specialized health services.

The Strategic Framework prioritizes the

promotion of access to comprehensive healthcare and social protection for older persons aged 60 and above. Provision of specialized eye care services through cataract surgeries and correction of refractive errors has been a focus during medical safaris.

Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital

Despite the magnitude of avoidable blindness in Kenya, only a small percentage of people needing cataract surgery or other treatment seek it. Financial and logistical barriers hinder access to services. These barriers will include low patient awareness of services available, low doctor/patient ratio or the lack of necessary human resources and poorly equipped eye units at government hospitals.

These constraints have resulted in low cataract surgeries and a lack of access to prescription glasses or treatment for other diseases like glaucoma. This situation is made worse by the

fact that a large percentage of the population live below the poverty line and cannot access these services from private ophthalmologists. To ensure that there is Universal Eye Health Coverage, the Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital participates in Beyond Zero Free Medical Camps / Safaris where patients found with minor ailments are given free medication and reading glasses on the spot. Those with cataracts undergo free surgeries at the nearest health care facility while those requiring further examinations/management are referred to appropriate eye care facilities or the main hospital in Loresho, Nairobi. These free medical safaris ensure that people with visual

impairment do not become unemployed or excluded from education, healthcare, and social networks. Since avoidable blindness disproportionately affects women and girls, for various socio-economic reasons, they are less likely to seek help, however, the provision of free medical camps have ensured there is gender equality in access to eye care.

Furthermore, many conditions that lead to blindness in children also cause mortality,

and regular eye screening may help improve child mortality.

The Beyond Zero and Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital partnership has and will dramatically improve the quality of life of individuals and their families; this includes the economic benefit realized by the patients and their family members being able to return to work.

Peter Ndwiga - Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital



2.2 Mobile outreach services through the Beyond Zero Mobile Clinics

People come together to support a cause that they are passionate about. The desire to drive change or impact people's lives is the foundation of philanthropy which could be individual or collective. Sports are unifying and cut across economic class, age and gender. The Republic of Kenya is renowned for its excellence in marathons. Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta decided to run as a unique way to mobilize

partners through a model that is familiar to Kenyans.

The six⁹ Beyond Zero Half Marathons brought together individuals and businesses who responded to Her Excellency's clarion call of "no woman should die while giving life". The philanthropists collaborated with the First Lady in donating mobile clinics to each of the 47 counties.



⁹ 1st edition of the First Lady's Half Marathon held on 9 March 2014
London Marathon held on 13th April 2014
2nd Edition of the First Lady's Half Marathon held on 8 March 2015

3rd Edition of the First Lady's Half Marathon held on 6th March, 2016
4th Edition of Beyond Zero Half Marathon held on 10th March 2019
5th Edition of Beyond Zero Half Marathon held on 08 March 2020

This section below presents reflections from County Governments on the use of mobile clinics:

Marsabit County

Marsabit County Government has two Beyond Zero mobile clinics. The first mobile clinic (KBZ 545Y) was donated on 3rd November 2014. Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya acknowledged the nature of the vastness of Marsabit County geographically and the challenges faced by mothers and donated another Beyond Zero mobile vehicle (KCL 787E).

One of the mobile clinics serves Laisamis and North Horr sub-Counties while the other serves Saku and Moyale sub-Counties. Outreach activities are conducted under the direct supervision of the sub-County health management teams. They identify the critical sites that require outreaches and plan for outreaches depending on need, distance to the nearest health facilities or where the communities have settled and near water points.

We have 16 outreach sites, 4 in each sub-County. Health facilities are far and wide apart, and the only solution to bring health services closer to the communities is through the outreaches. On any one visit there will be many health activities going on that include antenatal care, specialized care like mobile ultra sound where a risk pregnancy can be detected and referred early, immunization, growth monitoring, health education, treatment of minor ailments such as diarrhoea, upper respiratory tract infection and dispensing of drugs. It's a comprehensive and multi-departmental approach, which ensure maximum use of outreaches. Marsabit County needs outreaches because it is vast, and the communities are predominantly pastoralists. They move and leave behind the static health facilities. The outreaches are the best way to go. Without that, we wouldn't have achieved the indicators that we have now of reduced maternal mortality, improved immunization coverage, and improved ANC visits. We are grateful to Her Excellency for donating two mobile clinics given the vastness of the County.

Dr. Wolde Jama, CECM Health, Marsabit County



Kajiado County

The Beyond Zero mobile clinic has been fully operational, and it has been working in the most remote parts of our County. We take healthcare services to the people of Kajiado West and other remote areas using the Beyond Zero clinic. We are very thankful to Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of Republic of Kenya.

Esther Somoire, CECM Health, Kajiado County

Tharaka-Nithi County

The county has one mobile clinic which serves the 6 sub-counties. At least one outreach is conducted in each sub-County every month providing integrated primary healthcare services such as immunization, cervical cancer screening, antenatal care, post-natal care, family planning, growth monitoring among other services. Further, the clinic provides eye care services in rural areas.

We are privileged and happy to have the mobile clinic that was donated to us by Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of Republic of Kenya. We have been using the clinic since it was donated in 2015. We have put in our work plan one outreach per sub-County every month. We have six sub-counties, and in a month we conduct at least six outreaches. We use the mobile clinic to reach the unreached. Whereas the County government has built health facilities, we still have underserved populations and we want to reduce the distance that mothers and their babies travel to reach health facilities. We have integrated services which include immunization, antenatal care, post natal care, family planning, cervical cancer screening, curative services, growth monitoring, and Vitamin A supplementation. When the mobile clinic goes out it has a package; the primary healthcare package. We have integrated eye clinics in the rural areas where over 200 people were screened and 100 cataract surgeries were done. We modified the mobile clinic to have a minor theatre to conduct minor surgeries.

***Rose Micheni, County Nursing Officer,
Tharaka Nithi***



Taita Taveta County

Before the Beyond Zero mobile clinic came, healthcare workers would go for outreaches on motorbikes, carrying their vaccines to take services to the hard-to-reach population. The mobile clinic has made it easier for healthcare workers to bring services closer to the people.

***Margaret Chuya, County Nursing Officer
Taita Taveta County***

Trans Nzoia County



We have two Beyond Zero mobile clinics in Trans Nzoia County. One mobile clinic serves four of the five sub-counties in Trans Nzoia. The second mobile clinic operates in Endeless Sub-County from Monday to Friday providing integrated services such as immunization, antenatal care and screening for cervical cancer to communities within the sub-County.

***Catherine Machimbo, County Nursing Officer,
Trans Nzoia County***

We have a schedule for the Beyond Zero clinic within Endeless Sub-County which is developed at the beginning of the year. During outreaches, the team provides services such as treatment of minor ailments, antenatal care, and post-natal care, HIV testing and counselling for pregnant mothers and the general population, family planning, immunization and the Human papillomavirus vaccine for girls aged 10 years.

***Gladys Gathoni, SCPHN Endeless Sub County,
Trans Nzoia County***



Nyandarua County

When we're scheduling our mobile clinic outreaches, we consider the hard-to-reach areas; people who have difficulties accessing health facilities due to poor terrain.

***Grace Wangui, Nurse Beyond Zero Mobile
Clinic, Nyandarua County***

Kiambu County

The Beyond Zero mobile clinic, which was donated in November 2014 in Kiambu County, offers antenatal care services and has greatly contributed to increased ANC coverage. Additionally, the clinic offers a wide range of reproductive health services including cervical cancer screening, postnatal care, HIV testing and counselling. Other services are nutrition counselling, treatment of minor ailments and

health promotion. The mobile clinic has a schedule that ensures rotation within the twelve sub-counties. Once the clinic is at the sub-County, the sub-County reproductive health coordinator maps out the towns/villages where outreaches will be conducted."

David Kamondo, County Reproductive Health Coordinator, Kiambu County

Mobile Clinic Beneficiaries



“

I'm pregnant and was expecting the Beyond Zero Clinic to come today so I can receive ANC services. We are happy because the services are free and are grateful to Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of Republic of Kenya for the Beyond Zero mobile clinic, it has reduced the cost of having to travel far as it comes to the community."

Josphine Nekesa, beneficiary Endeless Sub County.

"The mobile clinic has helped our community a lot. We used to walk for long distances to the nearest health facility but now the health services have been brought closer to us and we're happy".

Eunice Wairimu, Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic Beneficiary Nyandarua County

"I'm very happy because the services offered during the mobile clinic outreaches are free of charge."

Monica Wambui, Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic Beneficiary Nyandarua County



2.3 Enhancing the capacity of health workforce for service delivery

i. Beyond Zero Scholarship Enrolled Community Health Nursing Fund

The availability of adequate and well-trained human resources for health is a critical component towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Amongst other things, UHC depends on a skilled health workforce, particularly the nursing workforce, to ensure patients access to preventive, diagnostic and curative services.

In line with global trends of investing at the primary and community levels, Beyond Zero Nursing Scholarship Fund was established in 2016.

The Scholarship Fund targets students from arid and semi-arid counties for a certificate course in enrolled community health nursing (ECHN). In addition to bridging the gap in human resources for health in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties, the Scholarship Fund Programme has enabled infrastructural growth in selected KMTC campuses and benefitted the neighbouring communities.

This section provides reflections from beneficiaries.



1,324

Since 2016, the project has trained 1,324 needy students drawn from the ASAL counties.



500

Almost 500 graduates are employed by National/County governments,

Kenya Medical Training College

Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the World Bank and the Beyond Zero has been offering a certificate course in Enrolled Community Health Nurses in eight of its 71 campuses. The project objective is, "To improve utilization and quality of Primary Health Care services with a focus on reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health services". The College is contributing to the achievement of this goal by strengthening the midwifery training of enrolled nurses to provide quality health services at the primary level of care thereby accelerating the achievement of UHC.

Since 2016, the project has trained 1,200 needy students drawn from the Arid and Semi-Arids Lands counties, Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups, and other minority populations. The

first group of 400 beneficiaries was sponsored under the Kenya Health Sector Support Project, while the second group of 800 students was sponsored under the Transforming Health Systems for Universal Care Project. In all the selection processes, priority was given to female applicants. The students were admitted to the following campuses: Lodwar, Kapenguria, Kabarnet, Bomet, Kitui, Loitoktok, Kilifi and Msambweni. The course duration was 2 years. To improve the midwifery skills of the enrolled nurses, the curriculum was reviewed and strengthened with funding support from Roche, a Swiss multinational healthcare company, with Beyond Zero providing scholarship opportunities to 124 students. This cohort of students admitted at five campuses, Lodwar, Kapenguria, Kitui, Loitoktok and Msambweni, will undertake the same two-year course duration.

Key Achievements

- Funds provided to cater for the following:
 - Tuition and accommodation fees;
 - Student expenses – meal allowance and stipend, school uniforms, stationery, skills lab manuals;
 - Teaching and learning equipment and materials – computers, lab tops in some campuses; library books; and
 - Skills lab equipment.
 - Employment of 24 lecturers on a three-year contract. The lecturers have since been absorbed by KMTC.
 - 12 college buses to facilitate training in clinical sites and one utility vehicle for support supervision.
- One thousand two hundred (1,200) students drawn from ASAL counties, Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups and other population minorities trained in eight (8) campuses.
- Training of 124 students sponsored under the Beyond Zero is ongoing in five campuses.
- 1070 students out of 1200 in March 2016, 2017 and 2018 classes have since graduated from KMTC.
- Almost 500 graduates are employed by National/County governments, mainly under the UHC programme, and they are serving their respective communities at the primary care level.

**Dr. Leah Bii, Head Inter-Governmental Relations,
Kenya Medical Training College**

KMTC 89th Graduation Ceremony



Our partners included Beyond Zero headed by Her Excellency the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta the First Lady of Republic of Kenya and the World Bank that has been very supportive to us. We have received from the

World Bank Kshs 1.2 billion to support learning for our students. We are very appreciative of this.

Professor Philip Kaloki, Chair, Kenya Medical Training College Council

Among the graduands are 406 enrolled community health nurses drawn from vulnerable marginalized, arid and semi-arid communities; fully sponsored by the World Bank through the Beyond Zero

Programme to undertake the training, spearheaded by Her Excellency First Lady Margaret Kenyatta.

Professor Michael Kiptoo, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Medical Training College

We have various partnerships that support the training of healthcare workers. One that is very dear to us is the Beyond Zero programme spearhead by Her Excellency, we are very grateful for this programme through World Bank and now Roche. The main beneficiaries of this programme are people from the ASAL regions, this will bring equity in service delivery especially on UHC which is one of the 4 big Agenda of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya.

I'm happy that the County governments, where these students are drawn from different counties, have taken it very positively to employ them. I want to recognize West Pokot County which has gone ahead to employ all the students from West Pokot who have graduated from the programme. It's my prayer all the other counties will follow suit.

Professor Michael Kiptoo, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Medical Training College

Kapenguria KMTC Campus

The scholarship programme has helped improve infrastructure in KMTC Kapenguria campus. Through the programme we acquired fifty desktops to establish a computer laboratory and two buses a fifty seater and a fifty one seater. Additionally, we managed to construct a multi-purpose hall, three class rooms and a gate. Further, the campus was supplied with teaching materials; for example, fifty copies of community health books, fifty books on anatomy, liquid-crystal displays and laptops that are used by the lecturers. The infrastructure and teaching materials benefit all the students.

The community has also benefitted from the programme. In the hospital, during practical,

the students assist nurses in providing healthcare services. For example, one of the elements of the practical module is that they are supposed to follow-up on a pregnant woman until delivery at a health facility. They ensure she delivers safely and afterwards follow them to their home for postnatal care. The students also undertake community diagnosis, whereby they are taken to a location or sub-location to assess the health needs of the communities, and during action days they go and treat minor ailments. The cases the students cannot treat are referred to the nearest health facilities.

Mr. Ezekiel Kandogor,
Principal Kapenguria KMTC



Isiolo County



The Beyond Zero Scholarship Programme which sponsors students from far flung marginalized areas has had a great impact in the County. We have had difficulties retaining healthcare workers in the far flung regions of Modogashe, Sericho and Biliqi due to the hardship conditions. Initially, we would deploy healthcare workers and they wouldn't stay for long; two to three months and they move. However, the enrolled community health nurses from Isiolo County have been deployed in these marginalized areas to serve their communities. We are able to retain healthcare workers when they are part of the communities that they serve. They provide primary healthcare services including immunization, maternal services and family planning. For a long time, the communities in these areas had difficulties in accessing healthcare services due to lack of skilled healthcare workers. As a County, we have achieved some milestones in terms of improved immunization coverage. Additionally, with the outbreak of COVID-19, the nurses educate the communities on prevention measures such as proper hand washing.

***Dr. Adan Alamin, Deputy County Director of Health,
Isiolo County***

Samburu County

Trizah Anoiya is a 24-year-old enrolled community health nurse working at Morijo Catholic Dispensary located 45Km from Maralal town in Samburu County. Her roles at the dispensary include health education on the importance of attending four antenatal care clinics, immunization, and proper nutrition as well as offering delivery, postnatal and outpatient services.

"I heard about the Beyond Zero scholarship from a woman in our church who knew that I had finished form four and I was just at home for a whole year. This was in 2015. The reason I had not been able to continue with my education was the lack of school fees. Even in secondary school, I missed school a lot because of the lack of school fees. I applied for the scholarship and was successful."

Trizah says she enjoys providing delivery and

immunization services at the dispensary, therefore, helping her community. Insecurity and bad terrain are the major challenges in this area, greatly affecting the uptake of health services. Therefore, they have to take the services to the communities through their community outreach programme. During the outreaches, they offer ANC services, immunization, outpatient services and sometimes even delivery services.

"I'm grateful to KMTCC and Beyond Zero for the opportunity to pursue my passion and now I'm able to offer services to my community who are also very grateful. And now that I'm employed I'm able to assist my own family financially," says an elated Trizah.

***Trizah Anoiya, Scholarship Beneficiary,
Samburu County***



“

I'm grateful to KMTCC and Beyond Zero for the opportunity to pursue my passion and now I'm able to offer services to my community who are also very grateful. And now that I'm employed I'm able to assist my own family financially,”

**Trizah Anoiya,
Scholarship
Beneficiary,**

Kilifi County

The Beyond Zero scholarship programme that started in 2016 was very timely as the County was facing a challenge of human resources for health, especially nurses. The County absorbed several beneficiaries of the programme and in so doing was able to extend the reach of primary healthcare.

The Beyond Zero beneficiaries working within the County have brought in a new way of doing things in our facilities. In most of our dispensaries, they are the ones in charge and we have seen them work very well.

They have also bridged the gap for

human resources for health. The beneficiaries of this programme are not limited to the clinical setting. They go beyond that and follow-up with clients in the villages within the County. Subsequently, the County has been able to re-open dispensaries in far flung areas.

The communities in these areas are now able to access services such as skilled deliveries and immunization. The scholarship programme has brought services closer to the mothers and children

**Kenneth Miriti,
County Reproductive Health
Coordinator, Kilifi County**

ii. On-job training for fistula screening and management

The National Strategic Framework on Female Genital Fistula: Towards a Free Fistula Nation which was launched in May 2019 by the First Lady guides the coordination of fistula management and integration of fistula screening into routine

services. In responding to the current challenges of few health workers with specialized skills in screening and repair of fistula, Beyond Zero has mobilized partners and resources for the management of obstetric fistula.



AMREF Health Africa

Beyond Zero in partnership with Amref Health Africa, UNFPA and the County governments of Narok, Kisumu, West Pokot and Nairobi as well as the Kenyatta National Hospital have to date held 5 fistula camps across the country. During the Medical Safaris conducted from 2018 to 2021, Amref in collaboration with the counties facilitated access to Female Genital Fistula (FGF) services to underserved women. The Medical Safaris also provided an opportunity for awareness creation on FGF and its impact

on the dignity of women.

Through the Medical Safaris, Amref seeks to create a pool of local Health Care Workers (HCWs) skilled in fistula management at the County level. Prior to the camps, the local HCWs attended a 5-day training on prevention, management, follow-up and re-integration of female genital fistula patients. This was done using the Ministry of Health 2019 updated FGF curriculum, followed by five days of on the

job training. The training equipped the HCWs with the skills needed to support screening, repair and post repair after the camps. The cadres trained included medical doctors, clinical officers, nurses, nutritionists, obstetricians, gynaecologists, and physiotherapists. The majority of these were nursing officers. After the training, the HCWs embarked on intensive screening of patients to identify and book for corrective surgery.

As a result, 154 HCWs drawn from County Referral Hospitals and Sub-County facilities in the 4 counties were trained on prevention and management of FGF. Additionally, 1054

women and girls were screened for fistula, with 226 women and girls getting fistula repair and other gynaecological services. Through the training, the HCWs have acquired the skills and confidence to screen for fistula and book for the subsequent medical camps. While the local referral facilities are now able to integrate fistula treatment with the other routine services hence increasing access to Female Genital Fistula services.

Anne Gitimu,
Director for Reproductive, Maternal,
New-born, Child and Adolescent and Nutrition
Programme, Amref Health Africa



1054

Women and girls were screened for fistula,

226

Women and girls getting fistula repair and other gynaecological services.



2.4 Supporting primary health care through appropriate technology

Diagnostic equipment, medicine and technologies enhance a facility's capacity to handle emergencies for quick intervention and appropriate referral.

Beyond Zero made investments to the County in partnership with Project C.U.R.E (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment) by providing medical supplies and consumables worth Ksh.40

Million each to three facilities namely Tana River County Referral Hospital, Bura Sub-County Referral Hospital and Garsen Health Centre (14th April & 4th May 2020 respectively). The equipment donated to support the above-mentioned County facilities was an assortment of medical supplies, inclusive of theatre, laboratory equipment and beds.



Tana River County

Residents of Tana River County have greatly benefited from this equipment as outlined below:

#	TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	NUMBER IN UNITS	AREA OF DEPLOYMENT	USAGE STATUS	NUMBER OF CLIENTS THAT BENEFITED	REMARKS
1	Patient monitors	2	Isolation ward	1 - functional 1 - not functional	5	For monitoring COVID-19 patients
2	Ophthalmoscope/otoscope	2	1 - Eye clinic 1 - ENT clinic	Functional	38	Used for patients with eye/ear/nose/throat conditions
3	Reflex hammer	1	Maternity	Functional	6	Used to monitor eclampsia patients.
4	Laryngoscope	1 set of all sizes	Maternity theatre	Functional	23	Used in maternity theatre
5	Cpap machine	2	1 - New-born unit 1 - Maternity	Functional	4	Used for all babies born with severe asphyxia
6	Examination chair	1	Maternity	Functional	240	Used to service all pregnant mothers
7	EKG machine	1	X-ray	Not yet in use	0	Staff refresher training to be done
8	Ultrasound	1	Maternity	Not functional	0	Needs step down UPS unit
9	Defibrillator	1	Maternity theatre	Functional	2	Used to manage cardiac emergencies
10	Anaesthetic circuit unit	1	Maternity theatre	Functional	3	Complements existing unit in Maternity theatre
11	Sphygmomanometer-paediatric	2	Paediatric ward	Functional		Used for all patients admitted in paediatric ward
12	Nebulizer machine	4	2 - Paediatric ward	1- functional 1-not functional	8	Used to manage all asthmatic patients.
			1 - New-born unit	Functional	2	
			1 - Madogo dispensary	Functional	12	

#	TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	NUMBER IN UNITS	AREA OF DEPLOYMENT	USAGE STATUS	NUMBER OF CLIENTS THAT BENEFITED	REMARKS
13	Adult weighing scale with height frame	2	1 - Ante natal room 1 - Maternity unit	Functional	>500	All pregnant mothers coming for ante natal care services
14	Wheelchairs	4	2 - Maternity unit	Functional	>100	Used to carry non ambulant patients
			1 - Outpatient unit	Functional	>80	
			1 - Female ward/ male ward	Functional	>50	
15	Office chairs	6	Maternity unit	Functional	>50 staff	Utilized at nurse's station room
16	Table overhead	3	Maternity unit	Functional	>18	Utilized in maternity- all post-operative patients
17	Pulse oximeter (electric)	2	1 - Paediatric ward	Functional	>10	All patients with lowered spo ² below 95%
			1 - new-born unit		14	
18	File cabinet	2	Maternity unit	Functional	-	Used in labour room, nurses station room
19	Computer	1	Maternity unit	Functional	-	
20	Oxygen cylinder small	1	Maternity unit	Functional	>4	Used to provide supplementary unit to neonates admitted in new-born unit
21	Oxygen cylinder stand	2	Maternity unit	Functional	>20	Used in labour room and nursery to provide supplementary oxygen

#	TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	NUMBER IN UNITS	AREA OF DEPLOYMENT	USAGE STATUS	NUMBER OF CLIENTS THAT BENEFITED	REMARKS
22	Sphygmomanometer-wall mount unit	2	1 - Ngao hospital 1 - Male ward Aneroid hand-held	Functional	>200	Used to serve all patients admitted to male medical/surgical ward
23	Nursery cot	1	New-born unit	Functional	>10	Used for all neonates admitted to nursery
24	Cold therapy unit	1	Physiotherapy unit	Functional	8	Used in rehabilitative unit
25	Traction machine	1	Orthopaedic dept	Functional	4	Used in rehabilitative unit

Dr. Oscar Endekwa
County Director of Health, Tana River County

2.5 Championing Kenya's readiness for validation for elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV and Syphilis

i. Multisectoral committee to accelerate efforts

In line with the commitment to champion the campaign on *keeping mothers alive and reducing new HIV infection among children*, the Office of the First Lady of Republic of Kenya and Beyond Zero, in collaboration with National AIDS Control Council (NACC) convened a multisectoral committee to accelerate efforts towards the attainment of targets. The Committee is galvanizing country leadership for sustained advocacy at national and county levels. The Committee convened its first meeting on 4th December 2020. It was attended by the

Council of Governors, National AIDS & STI Control Programme, Maendeleo ya Wanawake, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, National Council of Churches of Kenya, National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, US Centre for Disease Control, US President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, United States Agency for International Development, Peace Corps, Action Against Hunger and AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

ii. County Engagements to accelerate the attainment of eMTCT targets

The Office of the First Lady of Republic of Kenya and Beyond Zero participated in a consultative meeting on 23rd and 24th February 2021 with the Ministry of Health, NACC, Council of Governors and the County Executive Members of Health (CEMH) to discuss the health sector. During the meeting,

Beyond Zero presented the planned advocacy activities to accelerate the attainment of eMTCT targets. The activities included: eMTCT advocacy missions; learning visits; influencing investments for eMTCT targets and the implementation of eMTCT business plans.



iii. Community Engagement to accelerate the attainment of eMTCT targets

On 23rd February 2021, following a consultative meeting between NACC, NASCOP and the CECM Health Caucus they issued a joint communique committing to reinvigorate the path towards validation. On 18th and 19th March 2021, a follow-up meeting was convened in Machakos County to identify strategic interventions to accelerate the attainment of targets for the consideration of the multisectoral committee.

Key interventions identified include:

- Integration of Kenya Mentor Mothers Programme with Community Health Strategy to champion dual testing, adherence to ART, ANC attendance, offer psychosocial support for HIV positive mothers;
- Establishment of a multisectoral National Validation Committee (NVC) led by the Ministry of Health to advise the country and coordinate activities for the elimination pathway;
- A national campaign to reduce new HIV infections among adolescents and young people and teen pregnancies;
- Establishment of child-responsive HIV Commodity Security (for HIV/Syphilis dual kits, Early Infant Diagnosis (EID), Viral Load (VL) reagents, point of care (POC) cartridges, Nevirapine and Zidovudine) to reduce on stock-outs;
- Advocate for local manufacturing of children's HIV commodities (NVP, AZT, CTX) to reduce stock-outs;
- Improve partners' coordination in PMTCT programming in all the 47 counties to reduce duplication of efforts and increase efficiency.

iv. Partner Engagement to accelerate the attainment of eMTCT targets

On 18th March 2021, Beyond Zero, NACC and NASCOP brought together health stakeholders from civil society and donors was to rally partners to invest in the attainment of the eMTCT targets. This formed a precursor to the meeting on the 23rd of March hosted by Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta First Lady of the Republic of Kenya with the following recommendations:

- Increase community participation through the integration of Kenya Mentor Mothers Programme and the Community Health Strategy to champion for dual testing, adherence to ART, ANC attendance, offer psychosocial support for HIV positive mothers;
- Establishment of a multisectoral NVC led by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to advise the country and coordinate activities for eMTCT and validation process;
- A national campaign to reduce HIV infections among adolescents and young people as well as teenage pregnancies;
- Consistency in commodity supplies to ensure increased rates of HIV testing in County health facilities and increased financial allocation for eMTCT programmes;
- Improve partners' coordination in eMTCT programming in all the 47 counties to reduce

duplication of efforts; improve monitoring, accountability and scale up high impact interventions.

AMREF through USAID Imarisha Project, Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya Red Cross, Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the United Nations Family (represented by UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA & WHO), and the US Government through PEPFAR (and its agencies) expressed their commitment to providing technical assistance and catalytic funds to:

- Support the next eMTCT strategy development and high-level advocacy and coordination;
- Support the strengthening of programme management, service delivery, surveillance and programme data evaluation and business plan development;
- Support advocacy and communication activities;
- Support human rights, gender equality, engagement of communities and people living with HIV.

The Ministry of Health committed to setting the NVC in line with the recommended World Health Organization guidelines concluding the task of the multisectoral committee.





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Chapter 3

CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIAL
NORMS CHANGE THROUGH
LENDING VOICE



3.0 Introduction

Social norms influence human behaviours and determine the well-being, health and opportunities for all communities and families. They are the rules or expectations of behaviour within a specific cultural or social group. Norms offer social standards of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour governing what is acceptable and not acceptable in society.

Social norms change and gender equality are key for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For example, the 2030 Agenda recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls make crucial contributions to progress across all the SDG and their targets. The transformation of social norms will have a profound positive impact on the lives of women and girls¹⁰.

Kenya has progressive and legal frameworks that promote gender equality. As the supreme law, the Constitution provides an actionable guide in addressing inequality and providing guarantees for social and economic rights in the Bill of Rights. Some of these progressive legal protections include: The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation 2011¹¹

, The Children Act¹² and high level programs such as Gender Equality Forum¹³ that seeks to advance gender equality and end all forms of gender-based violence and FGM by 2026.

As Patron of Beyond Zero, the First Lady has lent her voice to defend and safeguard the rights of women and girls by championing key actions for accelerating a positive shift in social norms. Women and girls disproportionately experience high levels of HIV infection rates, attrition in secondary school education, unequal access to services, vulnerability to harmful cultural practices and sexual violence. These challenges to the well-being of women and girls are a consequence of negative social norms and gender inequalities.

Through these high-level advocacy forums, the First Lady has provided leadership, heightened awareness, and increased media coverage of key issues of her Initiative. This section reflects and demonstrates the commitment of Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya to influence individual agency.

¹⁰ How changing social norms is crucial in achieving gender equality. Accessed: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Social_Norms_UNFPA_style_II.pdf

¹¹ Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act No.32 of 2011 Accessed:http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/ProhibitionofFemaleGenitalMutilationAct_No32of2011.pdf

¹² Children Act Chapter 141. Accessed; http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/ChildrenAct_No8of2001.pdf

¹³ Generation Equality Forum seeks to accelerate the implementation of the gender equality commitments in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 to achieve transformative change. <https://forum.generationequality.org/>

UN Women

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the Member States of the United Nations in 2015 are designed to accelerate the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls by 2030 as one of the cross-cutting issues of the SDGs essential for sustainable growth and development of any country.

Since its inception, the Beyond Zero Initiative has promoted good health and well-being, embracing inclusivity and agitating for investments in quality and accessible healthcare services for those left furthest behind. This deliberate advocacy has placed women and children at the centre of development and prioritized improved health care for all translating to a better quality of life and prosperity for the nation.

Advocacy actions focus on creating an enabling policy environment, ensuring women's full access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and providing women with the



opportunity to live free without discrimination by giving voice and prominence to harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. Additionally, these efforts continue to empower women to share their personal stories of social injustice.

Beyond Zero has continued to grant women equal rights to health care services through persistent and innovative approaches against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic protecting hard-won gains.

Let the life changing stories of the women from all walks of life in the 47 counties of Kenya be heard and captured through the transformative journey of the Beyond Zero Initiative as it leaps to greater heights ensuring a strong and healthier nation through strategic partnerships.

Zebib Kavuma
Regional Director for Central and East Africa, UN Women

3.1 Preventing diseases to save lives

Prevention lessens the burden of disease and reduces the strain on the health systems. Prevention campaigns seek to promote health literacy and empower people to make healthier choices. Some methods include targeted behaviour changes in uptake of services – regular cancer screening, regular hand washing, HIV testing, ANC attendance among others.

Through prevention advocacy, Beyond Zero promotes positive health seeking behaviours that include wellness, lifestyle changes and routine screening for better outcomes.

High level meetings provide strategic opportunities to address and draw attention to important issues

and urge decision makers and communities to take action. Advocacy is strengthened through broad based collective actions such as joint communique, resolutions and declarations.

Media is another channel used to reinforce health education, positive behaviours, influence social norms, increase the availability of support and services, and empower people to improve their health conditions.

The First Lady's broadcasted speech engagement and prevention campaigns continue to contribute to solutions that leave no one behind. The section below outlines the results arising from these engagements.

i. Breast cancer awareness month

Every October the world marks breast cancer awareness month to create awareness on prevention, early detection and treatment of breast cancer. Beyond Zero joined Governors' Spouses to observe the breast cancer awareness month through the launch of EMPOWER clinics in Makueni and Laikipia counties on 15th and 27th October 2020. These cancer clinics complement

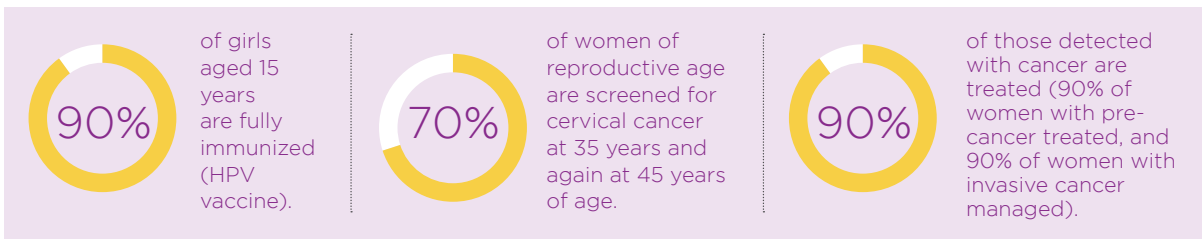
the efforts of the First Lady, who is advocating for the full implementation of the National Cancer Control Strategy 2017-2022 by promoting prevention, screening, early diagnosis and timely treatment for cancer. The EMPOWER Clinics are currently in Kisumu, Kakamega, Taita Taveta, Bungoma, Laikipia, Marsabit, Makueni and Meru counties.



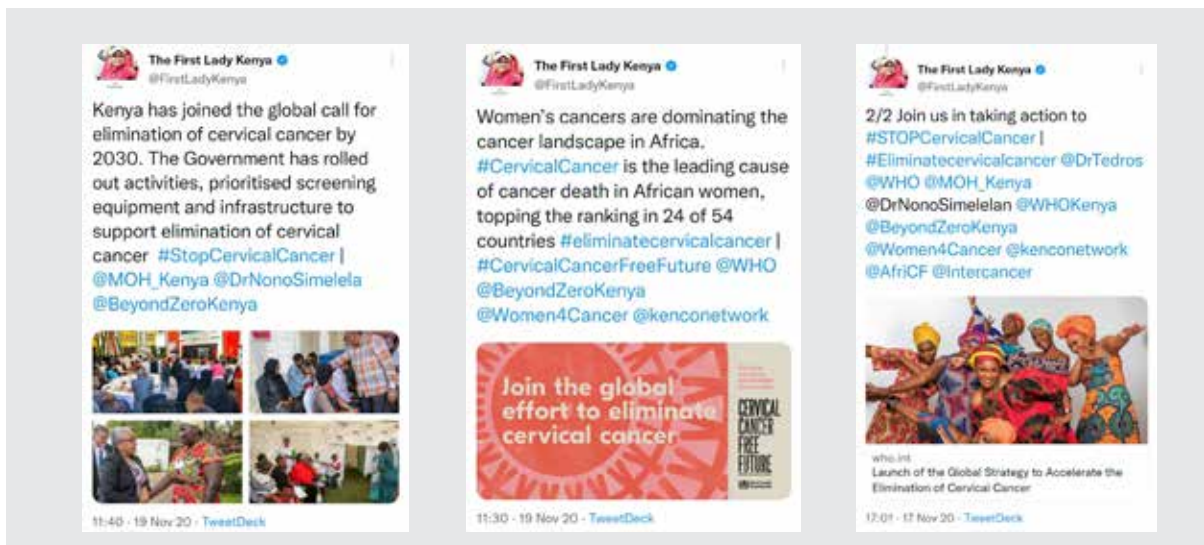
ii. Global Strategy to accelerate the elimination of Cervical Cancer

In November 2020, Kenya joined the rest of the world for the launch of *The Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy 2030*¹⁴ by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Strategy outlines that countries will be on track to achieve the elimination

of cervical cancer when the incidence is 4 cases per 100,000 women and sets out the following targets towards the elimination of cervical cancer; 90:70:90



The Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy 2030 has three main pillars: prevent, screen and treat.



¹⁴Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.



Through cost-effective, evidence-based interventions, including human papillomavirus vaccination of girls, screening and treatment of precancerous lesions, and improving access to diagnosis and treatment of invasive cancers, we can eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem and make it a disease of the past."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

iii. Global Hand washing Day

Celebrated annually every October 15th, the Global hand washing day aims to advocate for hand washing with soap and water as a simple, cost effective as method of preventing diseases. Founded in 2008 by the Global Hand washing Partnership, this day brings together national leaders and communities to create awareness on hand washing, build tippy taps and sinks and demonstrate the importance of washing hands.

Her Excellency presided over the celebrations of Global Hand washing Day that were held at Amref Health Africa in Kenya under the theme “*hand hygiene for all*”. Speaking at the event, the First Lady commended the efforts of the national and County governments and partners in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector for spearheading WASH initiatives across the country. The celebrations were timely since the country is still battling COVID-19, whose prevention measures include hand washing with soap and water.



“

Hand washing and hygiene have never been more topical or important, than in our current situation. Washing our hands with soap and water frequently is something that we have often taken for granted. This simple act may seem obvious that we sometimes do not see it as a game changing solution – we often forget that it saves lives. The COVID-19 pandemic provides a stark reminder that one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of virus is also one of the simplest: through good hand hygiene, especially through hand washing with soap.”

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

3.2 Advocating for inclusion of children living with disability for equal access to health care services and education

i. Inclusive design Africa innovations Webinar

Beyond Zero attended this webinar on the 1st of July organized by InAble in partnership with Google. The purpose of the webinar was to elevate the significance of innovations that improve the lives of everyone - especially people with disabilities by shining the spotlight on Africa digital-innovation and celebrating inclusive tech-solutions.

The webinar shared regional and global best practices in implementing accessibility standards, creating new assistive technology innovations, establishing effective policies and programs. It also focused on the impact of digital accessibility on: Employment, Education, Government services, Financial services, and Private Sector.

ii. Early Childhood Development Workshop

Beyond Zero participated as a panellist at the Early Childhood Development Workshop organized by Kenya Paediatric Association on the 6th of July 2021. The importance of early identification and intervention at primary health care levels was highlighted in line with the current 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. Beyond Zero urged the Kenya Paediatric

Association to create the awareness for doctors to observe, check and listen during their routine delivery of services. Also showcased was the registration drives conducted during the Beyond Zero medical safaris resulting in 1205 children being assessed by National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD); and the provision of free surgical interventions through A.I.C. CURE International for children with bone deformities.

iii. Global Education Summit

Beyond Zero participated in the 3-day hybrid Global Education Summit organized on July 28 and 29 co-hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta. The Summit raised US\$4 billion from donors for the Global Partnership for Education. Beyond Zero interacted with four side events under "Inclusion" namely;

- a. "What opportunities lie ahead to strengthen disability-inclusive education" organized by the World Bank's Inclusive Education Initiative & Disability Inclusive Education Program. The session sought to address the complex task of operationalizing inclusive education in low-income country contexts. It brought together stakeholders to critically engage on how education systems can be supported to ensure no one is left behind.
- b. "A Roadmap to Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education" organized by African

- Early Childhood Network Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) International Parliamentary Network for Education Light for the World Save the Children UNICEF World Vision. This event highlighted the importance of inclusive early learning for marginalized children, particularly those with disabilities. Attendants listened to lessons learned in policy, financing, implementation and tools usage. Currently, donors only support 1% inclusive education programmes compared to the recommended 10% as many preferred to support health programmes.
- c. "From commitments to action: Financing for equity and disability inclusion in education" organized by Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, UNESCO World Bank, Education International Disability and

Development Consortium (IDDC) International Disability Alliance (IDA) The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network Global Campaign for Education (GCE-US) / Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Community of Practice. The session sought to explore the attainment of the targets as outlined in Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as SDG 4¹⁵.

- d. "Leave no one behind: Financing Inclusive education for Girls and Children with disabilities" organized by ActionAid and Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA). The event focused on the issues that affect the provision of inclusive education with a view to identifying positive steps that governments and other stakeholders can take to really ensure that no child is left behind.

iv. Virtual Paediatrician's Conference

Organized by the Kenya Paediatric Association from 24th to 26th August 2021, the Conference took stock of progress made towards the attainment of SDG 3.2¹⁶ that seeks to end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age; reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as

12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births. As this was a scientific conference, Beyond Zero highlighted the role of the medical safaris that continue to increase access to children with disabilities.



¹⁵ Quality Education

¹⁶ End all preventable deaths under 5 years of age

3.3 Heightened Awareness through Media



Hits and misses

A decade of mixed fortunes for Kenya's healthcare system

From the creation of a doctors' union in 2011 to the pandemic in 2020, there have been many defining moments.

BY STANLEY ARUYAU

P perhaps we should celebrate the promulgation of the Constitution as the enabler that set up 2011-2020 as a decade of hope for Kenya.

For healthcare, it has been a mixed bag of fortunes.

1 Formation of doctors' union

The decade began with the formation of the doctors' union in 2011 after years of failed attempts. The move of having essential service providers belong to a trade union, though unorthodox to others was a right enshrined in the Constitution. As fate would have it, doctors drew first blood as soon as they had the chance. It came in the form of the 2011 doctors' strike dubbed *Linda Aya* 1. A lot of the things working in the public sector can be indirectly linked to the lobbying the union has done for her members. There is a lot of health advocacy going on in health courtesy of the doctor's union.

2 Devolution of health and the descent into chaos

It still remains a hot potato in the country. Kenyans, including doctors, remain divided on whether devolution of health was the right thing. There are county governments that hit the ground running and have brought health services closer to their people. There are others that moved their health services out of the frying pan into the fire. The one area on which most people seem to have a consensus

is having human resources for health managed from a centralised body at the national level. The devolution of health was hurriedly done despite the evidence of the relevant schedule. The other ugly side is the political influence that came along. Every other MCA wants to tell the medical representative what to do just because the hospital is domiciled in his ward. The hammering of doctors to foreign countries and the private sector that seemed to have been checked by the gains of the 2013 doctors' strike is another back. Our doctors are preferring the private sector to the public sector. The net result is exposing an already stretched public health system.

3 The World Health Assembly Resolution 68.15

Those of us in surgery have immensely liked surgery to be the neglected step-child of the global public health. It is so because surgery has suffered neglect in funding and policy fronts. Even where evidence has showed injury (a small branch of surgery) to contribute to death and disability more than Aids, TB and malaria combined, it has remained in the periphery. It was against the backdrop that Iambian deluged by a surgeon and diplomat, Dr Innocent Mwakio, successfully lobbied other health delegates to adopt the resolution WHA 68.15 during the World Health Assembly in 2015. The resolution recognised essential surgery, obstetric and anaesthesia care as core components of pri-

mary health care. It has been less than five years now since the resolution and there is great movement from various health players to ensure this is not a sorry that the launch of the Kenyan National Surgery, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia strategy did not get the expected grand launch. I hope the Labour Secretary will follow that document and re-focus his energy in launching it and effecting the strategy. As Prof Mwanja writes "We do not need a room shot. We need a functional infrastructure, a trained work force, supplies that are on time and processes necessary to assure a mother is saved from post-partum haemorrhage, a child from a perforated appendix or her father from a broken thigh bone."

4 The 100-day strike (2016/17)

We were not used to this. But we used it as doctors staged street demonstrations and court appearances. Their leaders were jailed, then released. The stage shifted from boardrooms to streets, courts then got into cells, back to the streets and television studios. It finally ended where it had all began: the boardroom. Was the 100 days worth it? How do you sustain hospital closure for 100 days? It was such a debacle it got published in the *World Health Journal*. We hope that we never get to such a level in future. Was the strike a strain towards a future in good will, leadership and consensus? You be the judge.

5 Cholera outbreak in a city hotel

Have you ever suffered from a sore toe? One that keeps coming back? Sometimes because you wore a tight shoe or just because you left your foot on the door frame? This has been our dilemma with communicable diseases. When we go for a long spell without one, we celebrate that we have finally got our act together. Then, whether because of letting loose the goat or some other means, another outbreak occurs and we are in the news for the wrong reason. Cholera has treated us no less than in the past. The 2017 outbreak in a city hotel was special in two ways. First, it affected healthcare staff who had contracted it from a combination. It was hitting us where it hurt most. Secondly, even when all the tell-



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta during the 5th Edition of the Beyond Zero Half Marathon 2020. FILE: NATION



Dr Landy Rodriguez, a Cuban doctor, operates on a patient at Mandera County Referral Hospital on August 7, 2018.

6 The UHC pilot

Universal Health Coverage became one among the top four agenda of the President upon his re-election in 2017. It was a welcome gesture for me as a medical professional to have something relating to health at the apex of the political administration. We all welcomed the pilot in Machakos, Nyeri, Isiolo and Kisumu counties each of which was chosen because of a specific target health challenge.

8 Wrongpatient surgery and death of Wallibora

These events of 2018 and 2020 show a challenge in dealing with trauma patients. The news of a trauma patient undergoing unnecessary surgery due to identification problems took the country by surprise. It was the case of a patient who could not speak, therefore could not identify himself. Many such cases occur on a typical busy day in a referral facility. The case very well raised a goldmine for system improvement. In my view, a computer-generated code would sort out the problem. Ensuring that every unknown person would have a different identifier like Wallibora did not suffer the fortune of getting brain surgery, whether wrong or not, having been taken to hospital by a police ambulance from downtown Nairobi, it was too late.

7 The Cuban doctors

Doctors from an arms again when they heard the government was to bring foreign doctors to lend a hand where we had a sizable number of unemployed local doctors. The salary scale shared with the public was obviously so much so that one foreign doctor went to court. The court of course ruled in the government's favour citing public interest. There were mixed reviews from those who worked with the Cubans. There could be more that we do not know about the deal. Could this example herald a future of exchange of other professionals by the government with regard to the existence of

8 Wrongpatient surgery and death of Wallibora

equally qualified Kenyan? Only time will tell.

9 The Beyond Zero Campaign

Launched by the First Lady,

this charity initiative got very good reviews. The initiative is a wake-up call for those of us neglected enough to reach out and give. And there are many who can do that. There are so many others who are employed and can give in their own special ways towards a cause. If a million people in Kenya can sense charity in their own small ways, we would bequeath our country a legacy of good and caring in the next generation. And we are in dire need of that.

10 The pandemic that united the world, in doom

It finally landed on Kenya and on March 13, 2020 it has turned everything upside down. As we hope for a solution through a vaccine, I hope we can learn lessons on letting go of some unnecessary pleasures and observing health precautions even when there is no life and death moment. At least we can start the new decade on a promise that with internet, you do not need to travel. Remote working is here. And that malls and restaurants can provide handwashing and temperature check gadgets for their customers.

Dr Aranyika is consultant surgeon



Patients here beds at the Bungoma County Referral Hospital.

DAILY NATION | Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Send your opinion article to: dnopinion@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Editor, Daily Nation,
P. O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100. Fax 2213946

20688

Send all your comments and
feedback at no cost to 20688

GENDER

To the women who went out of their way to improve womenfolk

One of the greatest setbacks in Kenya's efforts to ensure gender equity and equality this year was failure by the National Assembly to pass the Bill, which would implement the two-thirds gender rule in representation.

And although the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill 2018 was not a women's thing, but a constitutional requirement, some women leaders have refused to allow this to dampen their spirits. They continue to champion the rights of women and girls to ensure they enjoy equal freedoms and rights.

These individuals — sung or unsung — are playing their part for the economic, social and political empowerment and leadership of women. There are those who work round the clock to ensure girls and women live in safe spaces. This lot goes through all manner of challenges, including threats to their lives, to fight sexual and other forms of gender-based violence against women, girls and children.

As we come to the close of the year, it is critical that these women are supported and encouraged to move ahead.

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta is, no doubt, an inspiration among leaders who have dedicated themselves to uplifting the status of women, especially the rural ones and the

'urban poor', as well as babies and children.

After her successful Beyond Zero campaign, initiated in 2014 to improve maternal and child health, she has scaled up the effort — which brought prenatal and postnatal treatment to many women and children — with a new health model in the second phase. Through the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris, she intends to provide specialised healthcare through free screening, treatment and referral services.

Her team will take to the 47 counties services such as repair of the traumatic and debilitating fistula and screening of cervical, breast and prostate cancers and other diseases afflicting the elderly and children.

Empowered women

Mrs Rachel Ruto, the Deputy President's wife, has economically empowered women through the table banking concept, the cross-stitching programme with Lang'ata Women's Prison inmates and the Kenyatta University-based Somesha Msichana scheme.

There is also hope in the women's rights movement, considering the number of professional young women in its leadership. I have interacted with some of them and witnessed them address local and international forums



NJERI RUGENE

It is critical that these women are supported and encouraged to move ahead."

on women's issues; they are eloquent and articulate.

Ms Fridah Githuku of Groots Kenya works with rural women in 15 counties. She and her predecessor, Ms Esther Mwaura-Muiru, started programmes that have seen many women become successful farmers, landowners and leaders at the grassroots, including members of land boards.

Others include Crystal Simon, Catherine Nyambura and Irene Mwendwa, all from the African Women's Development and Communication Network, (Femnet), Diana Gachiengo (Kenya Human Rights Commission, KHRC), Maureen

Mukalo (Coalition on Violence Against Women, Covaw), Ms Editor Ochleng of the Kibera-based Feminist for Peace Rights and Justice Centre.

Then there is Ms Wairimu Wahome, who leads a team of Covaw in helping intellectually challenged women, girls and young men, who are victims of sexual and gender violence, to access justice. Her team will enter 2019 with at least 10 cases in court — some as old as five years!

After growing the Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT) from a struggling entity in the 1990s to a mid-sized bank serving three million women, Echo Network Africa executive director Jennifer Riria is still looking for ways to ensure gender equity.

Next year, Dr Riria will implement her new ambitious project — the Democracy Trust Fund, or The Power Fund — which she hopes will see more women in leadership in all sectors. The former university lecturer is convinced that this fund "will change the conversation about leadership in Kenya".

This is to wish these strong women the best during the festive season and a more fulfilling year ahead. Your work is a blessing to the country.

Ms Rugene is a consulting editor.
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Free medical camps reveal rising inequality

Verah Okeyo

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Doctors offering free services during medical campaigns have expressed concerns on the hundreds of Kenyans showing up at the camps with life threatening diseases in their advanced stages, revealing embedded inequalities in healthcare in Kenya.

Reports on five medical camps given to the *Business Daily* by the Kenya Medical Pharmacists and Dentists Union and Beyond Zero showed that at some outreach sites, as many as 10 percent of women screened showed signs of cervical cancer. Siaya County reported 9.7 percent cervical cancer cases, nearly double the national average for the cancer.

The camps were held in Siaya, Narok and Kisumu counties where more than 12,000 people were examined.

Children were found to be living with neurological conditions such as hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy that they may have acquired during pregnancy or birth.

While there have been many free services for women with obstetric fistula, the camp also performed several reconstructive surgeries on women affected by the condition. This is an opening that occurs between the vagina and bladder when a woman undergoes prolonged obstructed labour. This often leaves a woman unable to control urine or poop and many are left ostracised.

The participants and organisers of the outreach programme— nongovernmental organisation and private



A medical camp in Eldoret town. FILE

12,000

NUMBER

of people examined at camps in Siaya, Narok and Kisumu counties

foundations— also point to how poor Kenyans have had to cling to token medical services as public healthcare fails them.

Three people were seen in Narok by an outreach in Narok organized by Beyond Zero, Amref Health Africa and several cancer foundations.

Of the 324 women screened for breast and cervical cancers, four tested positive for cervical cancer while one man out of 199 examined was sent for further check-up for prostate cancer.

In Kisumu, 12 out of the 80 women tested positive for breast and four for cervical cancers. A man was found with prostate cancer and was started on a treatment programme.

Infections in reproductive nature were found and treated immediately in both men and women.

Other cases such as 43 cataract cases in Narok were re-

ferred for surgery to be conducted at no cost at partner facilities.

In Kisumu, as many as 42 children under five years and 24 above six were found to be living with sickle cell.

At Beyond Zero's camp in Kisumu, more than 159 children had cerebral palsy, a neurological problem that limits a child's cognitive and movement.

Another ten had hydrocephalus, a condition where fluid accumulates in the brain cavity and the head bulges over time.

Dr Tony Ndeda, an orthopaedic and the outreach co-ordinator of the KMPDU medical camps, said that it was "disheartening" to see some of the cases.

"I saw people come to the camp with broken bones, a man with advanced breast cancer... can you imagine that pain?" he said.

"There are people walking around with undiagnosed diabetes and high blood pressure, meaning these are people who would one day collapse and die of stroke at home," he added.

We have a duty to save our children

Today, we celebrate World Aids Day, an opportunity for all people to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an Aids-related illness.

In Kenya, there has been tremendous progress in reducing the number of new HIV infections in children through Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission. In 2017, over 7,800 children aged 0 to 14 were newly infected with HIV, a significant drop from over 12,900 in 2013.

This is largely due to Kenya's scaling up and integration of HIV interventions, including testing and treatment, into maternal neonatal and child health services for pregnant and breastfeeding women and their infants. Prevention messaging and services aimed at adolescent boys and girls have also contributed in reducing the number of unintended pregnancies and the transmission of HIV.

This is critical because

WERNER SCHULTINK AND ANYANG NYONG'O

WHO recommends that HIV-exposed infants have an HIV test at four to six weeks of age and that results are returned to caregivers as quickly as possible to facilitate initiation of treatment for infants with a positive test result."

among young people and in Kisumu, where the HIV prevalence rate is 16.3 per cent, stigma is a major factor preventing young people from getting tested for HIV and accessing life-saving treatment.

A critical challenge still facing the HIV response in Kenya has been the detection of HIV in infants and children. In 2017, only half of the over 69,400 children born of HIV positive moth-

within two months of birth. The situation is the same in Kisumu County where only half of the children born with the virus are identified within two months of birth. This is alarming because of the high-risk of death before the age of two years among HIV-infected infants.

HIV infection can progress rapidly among untreated infants — with peak mortality at the age of two-three months — ensuring that HIV-infected infants have the earliest possible access to life-saving antiretroviral treatment is a global health priority. Given the critical importance of early diagnosis and treatment, WHO recommends that HIV-exposed infants have an HIV test at four to six weeks of age and that results are returned to caregivers as quickly as possible to facilitate immediate initiation of treatment for those infants with a positive test result.

The theme of this year's World Aids Day is knowing one's HIV status. Having an HIV test and obtaining the result, in clinical terms, is relatively simple. For infants

ever, it is not.

Early infant diagnosis requires advanced machinery handled by skilled personnel in a laboratory. The testing process and sharing of results can be sluggish as Kenya has only eight national HIV reference laboratories to coordinate and provide early infant diagnosis services to all 47 counties. Consequently, we miss opportunities in diagnosing close to half of the children born to HIV infected mothers within the recommended time and delay the start in life-saving antiretroviral treatment.

The government and other partners, including UNICEF, launched a new policy for optimising early infant diagnosis and a road map for innovative point-of-care diagnostics, which involves performing HIV tests outside a lab at more convenient service delivery points.

In the past 12 months, over 9,000 infants have accessed early infant diagnosis, over 150 were identified as positive of which 99% started treatment within the same visit. This testing

sion-making and treatment of infants.

Last week, through her Beyond Zero Campaign, Kenya's First Lady launched her second Medical Safari, presenting a point of care machine for early childhood HIV diagnosis to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kisumu. The machine can detect the virus from birth onwards.

Test results are available in one hour as opposed to five to ten days using previously existing technology. It is clear that the availability of this technology can make an important difference in HIV prevention and treatment for Kisumu and surrounding counties.

No child in Kenya should be lost to HIV. We can save precious lives through faster, more efficient testing.

Together, we can fight HIV and Aids through early detection and treatment in children. We can win the fight if we join together.

Prof Nyong'o is the Kisumu Governor while Mr Schultink is the UNICEF Kenya Country Office Representative.

Hope at last Many women are suffering in silence since they cannot afford to pay for health services

First Lady's fistula project a roaring success

200 women have received treatment since its launch in September last year

BY ANGELA OKETCH
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Over 200 women have had successful fistula repair in the last three months, thanks to Beyond Zero Medical Safaris launched in September last year.

Since its launch, Medical Safaris has toured two counties: Narok and Kisumu.

From the turnout, many women with the condition are suffering in silence since they cannot afford to pay for health services in public or private clinics to repair the condition because of poverty.

A 2014 World Bank report on healthcare in Kenya showed that only 30 per cent of Kenyans have access to medical insurance.

The Beyond Zero Medical Safaris is an initiative by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, which aims to provide integrated and specialised healthcare to Kenyans through free screening, treatment and referral services.

During the launch of the project in Narok County, over

5,000 locals turned up in search of medical services.

"The second medical safari in Kisumu County in November 2018 attracted 6,000 people."

"Our focus is promoting equal access to quality health services, reaching out to those left behind in maternal healthcare and helping the government achieve Universal Health Coverage. We believe that by providing Kenyans with integrated specialised medical services, we are playing a catalytic role in providing quality healthcare and helping the country attain Universal Health Coverage," Ms Kenyatta said.

The initiative is in line with the second Strategic Framework 2018-2022 launched by the First Lady in 2018, which targets pregnant women and newborns, infants and children, adolescents and young people, men and older people.

The First Lady has since launched the fourth edition of the First Lady's Day Marathon, which will be held on March 31 in Nairobi.

The half marathon, which had been shelved for the last two years, is part of the First Lady's Beyond Zero campaign that seeks to raise funds for maternal healthcare.

From the two conducted camps, 500 women were



A fistula awareness campaign organised by Kenyatta National Hospital, Amref and the Freedom from Fistula Foundation on June 28, 2018. Many women with the condition are still suffering in silence.

screened for the condition, 250 in Kisumu and out of these, 34 were operated on (rectovaginal fistulae 6; vesicovaginal fistulae 4; and 24 others with other gynaecological complications).

In Narok, 300 women were screened and 67 fistula repair cases were successfully done.

Mama Rehema Akinyi Otiyo from Oksanyo, Homa Bay County, has stayed with the condition for 23 years without treatment.

She got the condition in 1996 after giving birth to her firstborn child. She has since given birth

to four others. She says the condition was not detected until the day she went for the camp in Kisumu.

"I had been relieving myself in my clothes but from the hospital that I visited, they did not detect that it was fistula and I did not have the money for surgeries. Some were prescribing expensive drugs," she says.

She heard about the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris in a local radio station and the free services including fistula repair and she gave it a try.

The condition was success-

fully repaired.

"I have been telling my friends about the camp and how it helped me and noticed that many are suffering silently. We are eagerly waiting for the next camp even if it will be in Kakamega, all we need is bus fare and we are good to go," said the 42-year-old.

Apart from fistula repair, other services that are being offered at the Beyond Zero Medical Camps include screening for cervical, breast and prostate cancer, eye care clinic for elderly persons, an orthopaedic clinic for children,

screening of heart diseases in children, screening for diabetes and hypertension.

HIV counselling and testing, immunisation and check-up for pregnant mothers are also done.

The clinics also assess and register children with intellectual impairment and disabilities and screening of sickle cell anaemia.

From the previous clinics, 275 children (106 male and 169 female) were assessed for disability cases. Out of the number, 159 children had cerebral palsy, 12 Down syndrome, 12 deaf and 10 hydrocephalus.

On cancer screening done by different partners, 2019 555 women and 357 men were screened. From the findings, suspected breast cancer cases in women were 23; two men were suspected to have breast cancer.

In cervical cancer, about 12 women turned positive with eight suspected prostate cases. Other 30 women had cervicitis and inflammations. They received medication the same day.

On eye check-up, 1,275 people turned up for screening. Ninety-seven cataract cases were referred for surgery to be conducted at no cost at the City Eye Hospital and 68 trachoma cases with 182 refractive error cases referred to the Narok County Hospital.

Health. Initiative seeks to improve healthcare across the country

'Beyond Zero' extends help to women who have fistula

Thousands of women have been living with the condition for long and continue to suffer in silence.

By Allan Munga
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For two decades, Rehema Obuya lived a lonely life. The community shunned her and simple activities that she had done since childhood became humiliating experiences.

The birth of her first child in 1996 brought her great joy. The happiness, however, was short-lived due to the injuries she suffered during delivery.

Then aged just 20 and in the hands of an inexperienced birth attendant, she was left with an abnormal opening between her genital and urinary tracts – known medically as an obstetric fistula.

While her child survived and she went on to have four more, Ms Obuya was left with serious medical issues and, more tragically, stigma.

"I became an outcast. I could not go to the market or to the river. It was difficult for me to pass stool or to walk," Obuya told *The Standard* from her home in Homa Bay.

It was not until 22 years later that she finally got the surgery she required to rectify the condition.

But Obuya is not alone in this struggle. Thousands of women, especially from poor or rural backgrounds, are affected by fistula but continue to suffer in silence.

The lack of skilled medical practitioners means that women sometimes have stillbirths and might even lose their lives.

In many instances, they are left with a hole that leaves them incontinent of urine or faeces, or both.

Caesarean section

This is caused by obstructed labour, when the foetus is unable to descend through the birth canal and the mother has no access to specialised health care for procedures such as caesarean section.

Many women, like Obuya, are now getting the necessary surgical intervention, thanks to support from First Lady Margaret Kenyatta's Beyond Zero Campaign.

Like Obuya, 58-year-old Teresa Nyagwaya lived a miserable life due to the condition that had her passing stool through her urinary tract.

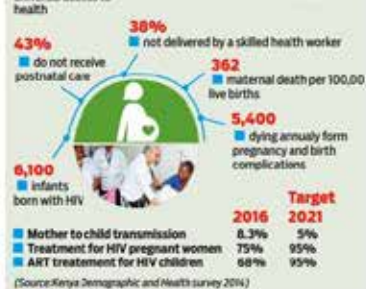
But unlike Obuya, who developed the condition dur-



Teresa Nyagwaya, 58, at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Hospital in Kisumu. [Allan Munga, Standard]

PREGNANT WOMEN & NEWBORNS

The interventions targeting pregnant women and newborns will largely focus on the promotion of quality maternal, neonatal and child health services to reduce disparities and inequalities. It includes championing for Kenya's readiness to be validated for pre-elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis as well as prevention, management and reintegration of women with obstetric fistulae.



ing her first pregnancy, Nyagwaya had a fistula when she gave birth to her last child.

"You know, those days we used to give birth to many children and we did not go to the hospital," she said.

Unfortunately, Nyagwaya was also diagnosed with cervical cancer.

The cancer, she said, was discovered during a medical camp at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Hospital where she had joined Obuya and 28 other women for surgeries to treat their conditions.

In the operations conducted

on November 22 last year, with support from Amref Health Africa, six women were treated for rectovaginal fistulas while four had surgery for vesicovaginal fistulas. Twenty-four others were treated for other debilitating gynaecological complications.

According to the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2014, cervical and breast cancer among women remain a major cause of death among women.

About 37,000 new cases are reported each year, yet screening of women between the

ages of 18 and 69 is at a paltry 3.2 per cent.

Kisumu was the second county after Narok to host the Beyond Zero Medical Safari, which attracted more than 5,000 patients during its inaugural tour.

For five years, the initiative, which was driven by a simple tagline - 'No woman should die while giving birth' - provided free screening and treatment, and made referrals where needed.

The Beyond Zero Campaign also donated 52 fully kitted mobile clinics to the 47 counties.

While the number of women who die during childbirth has drastically reduced from the jarring figures reported before the campaign was started, there are many more who are living with conditions such as fistula.

HIV infections

On the back of success in reducing the number of women who die in childbirth and preventing new HIV infections among children, the Beyond Zero Campaign is taking on a bigger challenge.

New HIV infections among children reduced from an estimated 13,000 in 2013 to 6,100 in 2016 while the percentage of mothers delivering without a skilled health provider decreased from 53 to 34 per cent respectively.

The initiative is adopting a new framework that will guide

Birth woes

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), each year between 50,000 to 100,000 women worldwide are affected by obstetric fistula

Majority of the women come from poor backgrounds in sub-Saharan Africa

In Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, WHO estimates that more than two million women live with untreated obstetric fistula

its approach to healthcare for the next five years with a view to making it more people-centred and resilient.

"Our work is not done. The framework adopts a life-cycle approach, addressing challenges at different stages of life as people move from childhood, through adolescence, to adulthood and old age," said the First Lady.

"It promotes equal access to quality health services, reaching those that are left behind, including decentralised management of obstetric fistula, and breast and cervical cancers, along with nutrition during early childhood and equitable opportunities for children living with disability."

The Council of Governors said it was looking forward to the second phase of the project.

The council's health committee chairperson, Mohamed Kuti, said counties were in short supply of human and financial resources, technology and the know-how to achieve their healthcare goals, so the partnership would aid in improving the quality of care.

"The impact of partnerships is being felt especially in vast and marginalised counties such as Isiolo. The clinics donated in the first phase have helped make health care mobile and accessible," said Dr Kuti.

This phase, to be unveiled at the March 10 Beyond Zero marathon, will also champion Kenya's commitment to end mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis, and mobilise partnerships for adolescent health programmes.

Furthermore, said the First Lady, it would mobilise the engagement of men in HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and advocate comprehensive healthcare for older persons.

OBSTACLES Stakeholders say the greatest challenge is the shortage of medication and health workers

Mobile health units godsend for areas with poor terrain

Beyond Zero and Nomadic clinic vans provide services such as cancer screening that are not accessible in rural health facilities.

By Caroline Chebet and Mercy Kipkemol

Cynthia Kippegon sighs wistfully as she enters a mobile clinic in Sirikwa village, Kericho North.

The 23-year-old mother of one is scripting history - this is her first time to undergo cancer screening besides accessing family planning services.

"I had never been screened for cancer because the nearest health facility from here does not offer the services. I can only access the family planning services, but still, Sirikwa Health Centre is quite a distance," Ms Kippegon says.

And for Mercy Kipkemol from Kiptonon village in Kericho, having her child aged nine months receive the first vaccination in a mobile clinic describes the success story.

Kipkemol says poor terrain in the sub-county has been a major challenge in accessing health care.

"Mothers cannot take their children for vaccination because of poor roads that get even more damaged during rains. I am grateful that with

mobile clinic, health workers can reach us," said Kipkemol. And while mobile clinics play an integral role in the health-care system in remote areas of Kenya, existing health systems have continued to defuse their critical role in dispensing services.

Nomadic and Beyond Zero mobile clinics, initiated by the national government are notable, with nomadic clinics serving areas inhabited by pastoralists.

Beyond Zero clinics provide services such as antenatal and postnatal, HIV testing, treatment and care, immunisation, basic treatment for common ailments, reproductive health and cancer screening.

Critical role

In Njoruru, Nyandarua, Embet and Kericho counties, the new concept of mobile clinics, particularly Beyond Zero, reveals the vibrancy and critical role it plays in remote areas.

Running a mobile clinic requires at least five nurses, a clinician, a nutritionist, a laboratory technician and a HIV service provider. The staff manning the clinic and medicine are sourced from nearest health facilities.

Miriam Chebet, coordinator of Beyond Zero at Kericho South Sub-county says the initiative has transformed health services in areas beyond reach.

During the outreach pro-

Key challenges

- The mobile clinics integrate local health facilities, pitching tents to dispense drugs and attend to in-patients.
- Most of the areas served have poor terrain and challenges with transport.
- Health practitioners link maternal and neonatal deaths in remote areas to lack of transport, long distances to health centres, poorly equipped health facilities, low quality of care in health facilities and traditional and cultural practices.

grammes, several cases of specialised treatment, for example on cancer, have been referred.

"Locals in remote areas can access healthcare, for instance, we have attended to several emergency cases, including deliveries and also reached some children in remote villages who have never been vaccinated," Ms Chebet says.

Lack of drugs in link facilities, sourcing of staff to conduct the services and constant mechanical problems, however, are the greatest challenges facing the Beyond Zero mobile clinics.

"Sometimes we go beyond to source for staff because some link facilities either have few



A medic attends to a patient inside a Beyond Zero mobile clinic van at Sirikwa, Kericho. [File Standard]

medics or others have been closed. When countries do not procure drugs, the services stall because," Ms Chebet says.

Improved access

Nakuru reproductive health coordinator Nancy Cheble says there are two mobile clinics in the county - one belongs to the Beyond Zero initiative while the other one was donated by a local politician.

Cheble says the clinics reach all sub-counties based on a

"Mothers cannot take their children for vaccination because of poor roads that get even more damaged during rains."

Meracy Kipkemol, mother

scheduled prepared by the health department. They handle an average of 300 patients each day.

Kericho Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) South Rift secretary general Dr David Atulula says the clinics have improved access to healthcare in remote areas but quality of care is still an issue because of shortage of health workers.

"The national government had a brilliant idea of boosting healthcare in remote parts of the country but the challenge is with counties due to shortage of health workers," Atulula says.



CHARLES MUKHORO/NATION

Beyond Zero clinic comes to rescue of residents

Embu > Residents of Makima Ward seek treatment at a Beyond Zero mobile clinic during a free medical camp at Makima Health Centre in Embu County yesterday. The Embu County government has built two 60-bed theatres to serve the largely semi-arid region.



Good move by First Ladies in fight to beat HIV/Aids

Congratulations to First Lady Margaret Kenyatta for being elected the vice-chairperson of the Organisation of Africa First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFILA). The organisation focuses on the health of women and children living with HIV, and child mortality. The First Lady has been on the forefront working tirelessly to promote maternal, new born and child health in the country as well as spearheading efforts to address HIV prevalence by creating awareness.

So far, the First Lady's Beyond Zero Campaign has donated 17 fully kitted mobile clinics to 19 county governments to strengthen existing outreach programmes and referral systems. This has greatly helped in remote areas where medical services are not easily accessed. The OAFILA creates a spirit of solidarity and enhances exchange of ideas among the First Ladies. This in turn increases their capacity and that of other women leaders in advocating for better solutions toward eradicating stigma and discrimination of those infected and affected by HIV and Aids. **Agatha Onyiah, Maseru**

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BRIEFLY

WEST POKOT

Beyond Zero project a new dawn to locals

Beyond Zero Mobile clinic has helped improve health services and reduce deaths in the semi-arid county. For a long period of time, locals have been depending on medical camps. Many other residents have often opted to sell their livestock to access services. Expectant women used to be assisted by unqualified midwives in villages and survivors of banditry suffered because of lack of health facilities, but this has changed.

—Oscar Kakai

HEALTH

Collaborate for universal healthcare

Conversations about how governments and private entities can make healthcare accessible and affordable have increased in the past few years across the globe.

In developing countries, one of the issues that has consistently come up, and which deserves more attention, is maternal and neonatal mortality. This is especially prevalent in marginalised rural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Preventable causes

Many women in these parts of the world have limited access to healthcare facilities and skilled medical practitioners and are often unable to pay their medical bills.

World Health Organization (WHO) data indicates that approximately 830 women die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, with 99 per cent of all maternal deaths occurring in developing countries.

In Kenya, at least 6,000 women die because of pregnancy complications, according to Unicef. The United Nations agency also estimates the infant mortality rate to stand at 22 deaths per 1,000 live births.

This is a clear indication that while there is a lot being done to curb high maternal and neonatal mortality, the work ahead is far from over.

Last year, we joined Beyond Zero, the campaign by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta to eliminate preventable maternal and infant deaths, as they conducted free maternity screening camps in Narok and Kisumu counties.

The services provided at the camps included vital signs monitoring, maternity screening and electrocardiogram (ECG), a procedure to detect any irregular heartbeats or evidence of prior cardiac problems in the pregnant women.

Power of collaboration

Throughout the Beyond Zero Medical Safari, we witnessed the power of collaboration as various healthcare providers came together with the aim of improving access to quality healthcare for the people of Kenya. The two camps alone attracted more than 11,000 people, a testament to the importance of the initiative.

The screening camp formed part of the broader Beyond Zero initiative,



JASPER WESTERINK

Women in semi-urban and rural areas across Kenya often die due to preventable complications during childbirth as they have no access to ultrasound screening to detect critical conditions."

which is driven by the fundamental belief that 'No woman will die while giving birth', working to ensure that all Kenyan mothers deliver safely and children are born healthy and remain so.

Women in semi-urban and rural areas across Kenya often die due to preventable complications

during childbirth as they have no access to ultrasound screening to detect critical conditions. Many of these complications could be diagnosed with basic imaging technology.

Many of the women who attended these camps live in the rural areas and lack access to important services such as ultrasound scans. They often fail to attend the recommended four antenatal clinic visits due to lack of funding or access. While such clinics ensure the general well-being of mother and child, an ultrasound scan helps detect pregnancy-related complications.

It is through collaborations such as these that everybody in the healthcare sector can further contribute to the acceleration of universal health coverage in Kenya, in addition to our direct contribution either through service delivery or providing vital medical technology.

Although sometimes the pace may seem slow, considering the amount of work ahead of us, I appreciate the strides that have been made in Kenya.

With deliberate efforts, the quest to provide quality healthcare and reduce maternal and neonatal

mortality rate can be realised.

It is imperative that the private sector, in collaboration with the government, commit towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — particularly SDG 3, good health and well-being, which is a driver, indicator and outcome of sustainable development.

Impactful innovations

With impactful innovations that matter to patients and address, the key healthcare challenges that confront society, affordable and accessible screening is possible for women across Kenya.

All of us ought to contribute to a better future by investing in quality primary healthcare, the latest technology and the means of delivering essential services — intensively and collectively across the public and private sectors.

I am convinced that we will see the change we need if we continue to prioritise the provision of quality community-based healthcare delivery.

Mr Westerink is the CEO of Philips Africa. radhika.choksey@philips.com

KMTC graduates 7,509 students

The Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) on Tuesday held its graduation ceremony to some 7,509 students who missed out of last year's celebration due to COVID-19 outbreak.

The College held its virtual graduation last year on December 2, where 4,114 students graduated with various Certificates, Diplomas and Higher Diplomas. In total the College has released 11,623 graduates this Academic Year.

The ceremony was graced by Dr Rashid Aman, the Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Health.

"Being a strategic Government Health Training Institution, KMTC plays an important role in propelling the country towards the attainment of specific Health-related targets, including Sustainable Development Goals and Kenya Vision 2030," he said.

"Therefore, the over 37,000 new students admitted in each academic year and the over 11,000 released to the job market annually, will undoubtedly meet this goal," he added.

Dr Aman noted that the College has put in place the necessary measures to comply with the Ministry of Health protocols and continues to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19, in

over 450 hospitals located in all the counties.

Following surging cases of COVID-19, the government shut down training institutions across the country with exemption granted to Medical Training institutions including KMTC.

College Board Chairperson Prof. Philip Kaloki thanked President Uhuru Kenyatta for the exception, noting that the institution will continue to partner with the government in the fight against coronavirus.

He noted that the College is supporting the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the country.

"We have availed 43 of our Campuses to provide vaccination and training centers for health workers to administer the vaccine," he said.

The College is witnessing tremendous growth and expansion which has created more spaces for learning, thanks to growing partnerships with various institutions.

"Through enhanced relationships with County Governments and Members of Parliament, the Board established 43 new Campuses, increasing the number from 28 to 71, spread across 45 counties, hence an increase in students population from 10,546 to 51,305," he said.

The College grows its Internally Generated



SPONSORED CONTENT

Revenue from Kshs.1.2 billion to Kshs.3.7 billion, within the same period, while Government recurrent grants increased from Kshs.3.8 billion to Kshs.3.6 billion, and development grants from Kshs.163million to a combined Kshs.3.4 billion (for the year 2020).

College CEO Prof. Michael Kipruto noted that the College has expanded its training programmes, aligned curricula and introduced specialized courses to ensure graduates acquire the relevant competencies to respond to the ever-changing social and policy needs.

He emphasized that quality assurance

remains a key focus in the expansion programme to ensure graduates remain competitive.

Among the graduates are 406 Enrolled Community Health Nurses drawn from Vulnerable, Marginalized, Arid and Semi-Arid communities, who were fully sponsored by the World Bank through the Beyond Zero programme, to undertake their training. This cadre of nurses is expected to improve utilization and quality of Primary Health Care services with a focus on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health services in the hard to reach areas in line with the Beyond Zero initiative.



Margaret Kenyatta in Kisii to mark World Aids Day

BY RUTH MBULA

Kisii County will today hold national celebrations for this year's World Aids Day as new HIV/Aids enfections rise in Nyanza.

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, the chief guest, will be accompanied by Health Cabinet Secretary Sicily Kariuki and will be received by host Governor James Ongwae.

A recent report by the National Aids and Sexually Transmitted Infections Control Programme indicates that eight counties account for 50 per cent of all new HIV infections.

Six of the counties troubling experts are in the western and Nyanza regions. Other cases have been reported in Nairobi and Rift Valley.

All new HIV infections occur among adolescents and young people aged between 15-24.

The six counties include Homa Bay, which leads with

700 new cases, followed by Siaya (620), Kisumu (616), Kakamega (437), Migori (432) and Busia (318).

World Aids Day is marked every December 1 to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/Aids prevention, treatment and care.

Ms Kenyatta will also launch the County Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (eMTCT) plan for eight counties, including Kisii, Vihiga, Mandera, Marsabit, Lamu, Isiolo, Nyamira and Nairobi.

"It is a vital opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have died and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services," said Mr Ongwae. He said Kisii has made great strides in HIV response since 2013, among them reducing county HIV prevalence from eight percent in 2013 to 4.4 percent in 2018.

Health. It is the third-largest mother and child unit in Kenya

Model mother and newborn hospital opens in Makueni

Facility has a water pool that will be used by expectant women to ease pain during labour.

By Stephen M Nzioka
suzoka@standardmedia.co.ke

Makueni County yesterday unveiled an ultra-modern mother and child hospital that will be the first public facility in Kenya to offer aqua birth services.

The aqua birth, which is a designated pool, will be used by expectant women to ease pain during labour.

The Sh140 million county-funded facility, which was officially opened by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta yesterday, has 120 beds for mothers and 80 for neonates. It was built over four financial years.

Speaking during the function at Wote town, Mrs Kenyatta applauded the county Government for complementing the national government's universal health coverage (UHC) initiative.

"This is a show of how county governments are complementing the Government in expansion of health facilities and actualising universal health coverage," said Margaret.

The First Lady, who was this week awarded the prestigious Eastern Africa Lifetime Achievement Award for her efforts in ending maternal and newborn deaths through the Beyond Zero campaign, acknowledged the work of health volunteers in ensuring prevention of infant mortality among communities.

"The county health workers have greatly contributed to the decline of preventable infant mortality and I applaud them for that," she said.

However, she urged more mothers to enrol in the Linda Mama programme offered by the National Hospital and Insurance Fund (NHIF) to ena-



ble them to get access to free antenatal clinics.

The facility, which is the third-largest mother and child unit in Kenya after the one in Nakuru (250-bed capacity) and Pumwani Maternity Hospital, is seen as offering hope to many women in Makueni and beyond.

The First Lady said she hoped that it would help reverse the maternal and child mortality rates in the region.

"I'm optimistic that the new facility will greatly contribute in reversing both maternal and child mortality," she added.

Margaret interacted with mothers in the maternity wing and one baby was named Margaret Mumbua.

The mother of the baby said she hoped her daughter would be successful, just like the First Lady.

"I'm very happy to name my baby after the First Lady, it's a pleasure. I would like her to assist the baby to be an important icon like her," said Penninah Mwikali, the mother.

Makueni Governor Kivutha Kibwana said the facility would help not only the county residents but also others from other regions.



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta speaks to Penninah Mwikali before she opened the Makueni Mother and Child Hospital (above) yesterday. Ms Mwikali's baby, Margaret Mumbua, was named after Mrs Kenyatta. [Stephen Nzioka, Standard]

"This facility will not only benefit our people but even those in other counties," Prof Kibwana noted.

Kibwana apologised to President Uhuru Kenyatta for what happened during the 2017 election campaigns when he

was shouted down at Unoa grounds.

"This is a special handshake. I apologise for what happened during the campaign period and we are supporting the President's Big Four agenda," he said.

The chief officer of the centre for Health Solutions (CHS) - Kenya, Paul Wekesa who attended the commissioning, said his organisation had created HIV awareness to 26,000 women in 2018.

Dr Wekesa said 971 women tested HIV-positive, 370 were pregnant out of which 357 gave birth to HIV-free babies.

The CEO noted that the NGO was working to ensure that there was zero HIV mother-to-child transmission.

"Out of the 370 pregnant mothers we were able to prevent mother-to-child transmission of 357 mothers, which is 97 per cent, and we are working hard with the newly-opened facility to achieve our goal," said Wekesa.

According to the Makueni Health executive, Andrew Muliwa, the hospital would offer gynaecological, obstetric, and neonatal consultative services, antenatal wards for mothers in labour, an ultra-modern newborn section with a neonatal intensive care unit.

Private rooms

It also has a photo therapy unit and incubators, post-surgical wards, labour wards with private rooms and six delivery beds, a twin operating theatre with the capacity for laparoscopic surgeries, and kangaroo mother-care rooms.

The spouses of several governors attended the function. They included Nazi Kivutha (Makueni), Christine Mvurya (Kwale), Ruth Nanok (Turkana), Jane Wairia (Murang'a), Sheillah Sang (Nandi), and Dorothy Nyong'o (Kisumu).

Mrs Kibwana congratulated Margaret for spearheading the Beyond Zero campaign.

"We remain eternally grateful for this important asset. We are happy to report that outreach programmes through the use of the Beyond Zero mobile clinic have reached over 34,000 adults and children," she said.

Athletics

Beyond Zero 21km race to include paralympians

Samuel Muchai, the 2017 Sports personality of the year, will grace 2019 Beyond Zero Half Marathon as organizers introduce participation of paralympians in the race set for Sunday.

Yesterday, the Local Organizing Committee announced that the event will include paralympic races with Muchai, who

Deputy President William Ruto (left) presents an award to paralympian Samuel Muchai.
[Jonah Onyango, Standard]

won gold medal T11 men's 5,000m at the 2016 the Rio Paralympic Games presiding over the event.

The categories for the year's half mar-

athon includes 21km half marathon and 10km road races which feature two categories; elite athletes and mass participation.

The Paralympics teams will be use the race pre-qualifies for the 2020 Paralympics Games that kicks off after the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Winners for 21km will pocket Sh250, 000 while 10km winners get Sh100,000.

"We are pleased to report that all the plans are at advance stage to ensure the

2019 Beyond Zero Half Marathon is safe and offer great experience. We also urge all Kenyans to come and take part in the event," said AK President Jackson Tuwei.

At the same time, National Police has announced road closures to facilitate the marathon. The roads to be affected to include Mombasa, Lusaka, Aerodrome Bunyala, Haile Selassie Roads, Kenyatta Avenue, University Way and Waiyaki Way. First Lady Margaret Kenyatta started the race. **[Dennis Okeyo]**



For worthy cause

NAIROBI The Central Bank Governor, Dr Patrick Njoroge (centre), takes part in the 2019 Beyond Zero Half Marathon yesterday. The charity race is organised by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta. - DENNIS ONSONGO



Athletics. 21km winners pocketed Sh250, 000 in the annual race

A girl gets a vantage position in the 2020 Beyond Zero Half Marathon. [Stafford Ondego]

Athletes compete in the 2020 Beyond Zero Half Marathon at Nyayo National Stadium, yesterday morning. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

Running for a worthy cause

Kipchumba, Njeri rule Beyond Zero Half Marathon.

By Dennis Okeyo
dkeyo@standardmedia.co.ke

Vincent Kipchumba fine-tuned his London Marathon preparations with a solid win at the Beyond Zero Half Marathon in Nairobi, yesterday.

Kipchumba, the 2019 Amsterdam marathon champion, won the race at Nyayo Stadium in 1:01:54 with Nicholas Kosimbei, the 2014 World Under-30 10,000m bronze medalist, coming home second in a time of 1:02:28. Albert Kagogo (1:02:30) finished third.

Abdesego Cheruiyot clocked 1:03:52 in fourth place while John Sang finished fifth in 1:04:35.

"This is a great result for me. It will really boost my preparations ahead of London Marathon due for next month," said Kipchumba.

In women's 21km event, Lydia Njeri put aside the Paris Marathon cancellation disappointment to triumph Paris Marathon, which was due for April 5, was postponed due to the deadly coronavirus.

Njeri, who is a younger sister to marathoner Martin Machathi, won the closely-contested race in 1:12:03 with London-based Emily Chebet coming in 1:13:30. Pacifica Jeputo closed the podium in 1:12:44.

"I have been preparing for Paris Marathon, which was to be held next month, but unfortunately the organisers canceled the event due to coronavirus. It was disappointing but it also motivated me to perform well today. I

will go back and see what's next for me after this race," said Njeri.

In the 10km race, Vincent Yegon won in a time of 28 minutes and 23 seconds. Bernard Kipkemai (28:38) held on to finish second, while Jackson Kavesa (28:40) was third.

In the women's category, Evaline Chirchir triumphed in 31 minutes and



Caroline Gitonga in the wheelchair women race in the Beyond Zero Half Marathon. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

56 seconds as Caroline Gitonga was second in 32:13.

This year's Marathon attracted 15,000 participants, who got the chance of selecting a unique course for which they have chosen to race, with proceeds from the marathon going towards hosting the Medical Safaris across the country.

So far, the Beyond Zero campaign has held five similar medical safaris with the most recent one being in Nairobi this past January. The race was flagged off by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta and was sim-

Lydia Njeri on way to winning the women 21km race. [Stafford Ondego]



First lady Margaret Kenyatta in 2020 Beyond Zero Half Marathon yesterday. [Jonah Ogunyiga, Standard]

21Km selected results

Men:

- 1. Vincent Kipchumba 1:01:54
- 2. Nicholas Kosimbei 1:02:28
- 3. Albert Kagogo 1:02:30

Women:

- 1. Lydia Njeri 1:12:03
- 2. Emily Chebet 1:13:30
- 3. Pacifica Jeputo 1:12:44

Other selected results

- Men**
- Vincent Yegon 28:23
 - Bernard Kipkemai 28:38
 - Jackson Kavesa 28:40

- Women**
- Evaline Chirchir 31:56
 - Caroline Gitonga 32:13
 - Jacet Basera 32:18

ing to raise Sh250 million towards zero maternal death, zero child death, a healthy lifestyle for the elderly, zero new HIV infections and zero child marriages.

"Beyond Zero's work is about advocacy and awareness creation around critical health issues, to date, the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris that we have held in Kisumu, West Pokot, Narok, Nyandamu and Narobi, have served as a window into these regions and extended services to communities in the neighbouring countries," said Margaret.

The event was also attended by President Uhuru Kenyatta, who participated in the 21km walk/run alongside Sports CS Amina Mohammed, Nairobi Governor Mike Soiko, Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua, among other dignitaries.

Winners of 21km pocketed Sh250, 000.



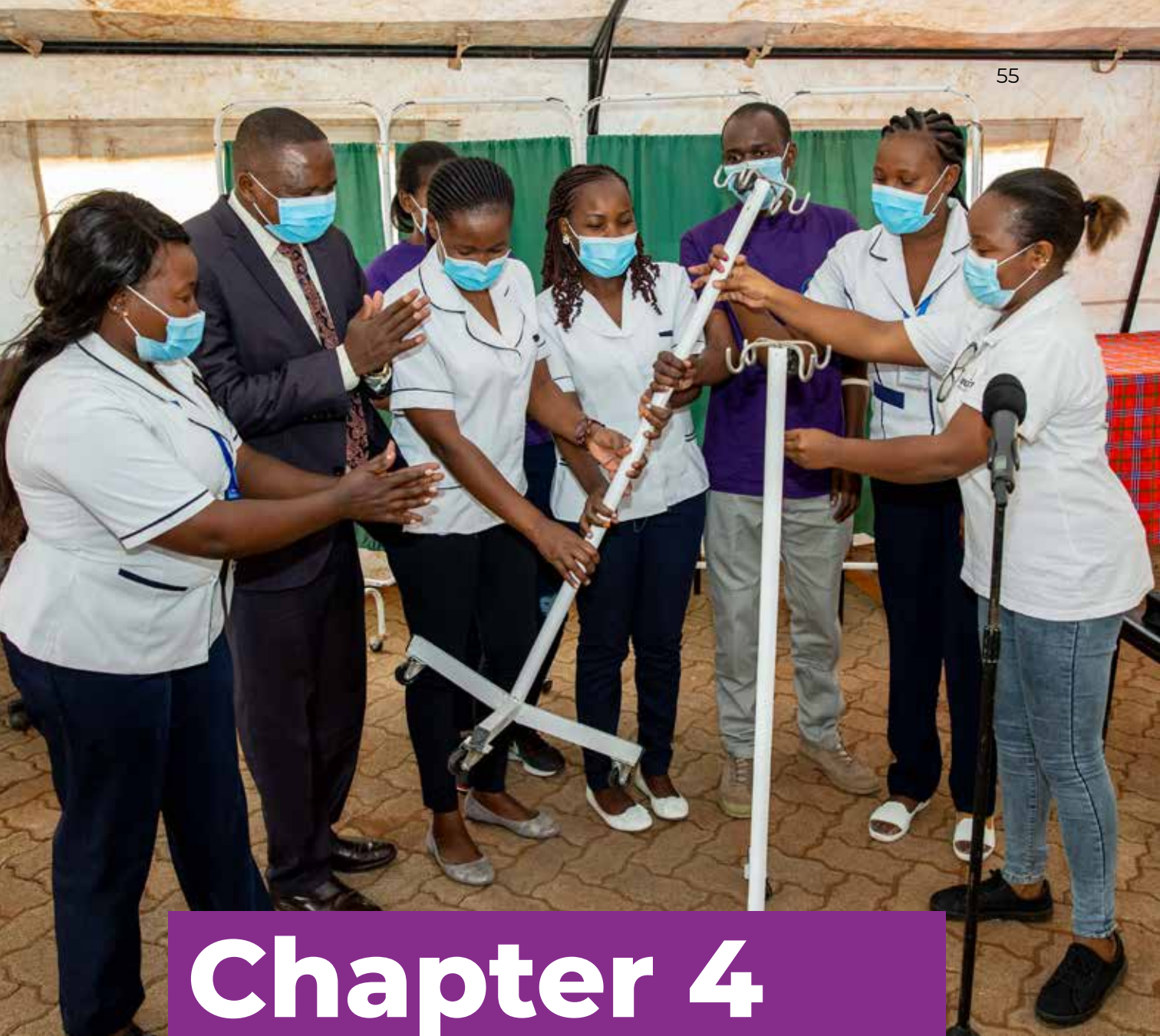
Kids participates in the 2km race during 2020 Beyond Zero Half Marathon event held at Nyayo national stadium in Nairobi on March 08, 2020. Photo [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



Miss World Kenya Maria Wavinya and Shalom Obara during Beyond Zero Marathon. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



An athlete participates in the 5km race during 2020 Beyond Zero Half Marathon event held at Nyayo national stadium in Nairobi on March 08, 2020. Photo [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



Chapter 4

ENHANCING LEADERSHIP,
COMMITMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

4.0 Introduction

The Patron of Beyond Zero, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, continues to advocate for improved access to public goods and services. Her leadership style provides a quiet and catalytic effect facilitating concerted action by multiple stakeholders.

The Beyond Zero Initiative has leveraged on Her Excellency's leadership to champion: quality and safe provision of health care services; zero HIV infections from mother to child; decentralized services for breast and cervical cancer; and comprehensive

health care packages for older persons.

The high-level advocacy fora and the Beyond Zero Summit promote participatory processes to shape priorities, identify emerging challenges and mobilize political will for corrective actions. Additionally, Beyond Zero complements what other partners are doing on accountability, and forge synergies for health system wide efforts.

This section reflects on specific advocacy efforts with key stakeholders to bring about positive changes.

Kenya School of Government

The Kenya School of Government is truly honoured to have the opportunity to make a modest contribution to the immense work that Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, is undertaking through the Beyond Zero Initiative. Her Excellency has provided leadership and supported the needs of individuals and groups in our society who otherwise have a sense of exclusion from the general trend of progress and pursuit of happiness by the rest of the society.

Whereas Beyond Zero has been on the ground in Kenya for less than a decade, the impact of the different programmes is reaching monumental proportions. This may be said in respect of conditions of life positively touched through: healthcare programmes that give newborns a chance to live beyond the formative and most vulnerable stages in life; maternal care programmes that protect and reassure mothers who are the source of life itself; the anti-Female Genital Mutilation campaign that seeks to defend the integrity of humanity of girls and women; empowerment of women and the youth through education and entrepreneurial

skills that become a source of livelihood; and protection of the environment and wildlife, this being the source of life on our planet.

Beyond Zero has rekindled in our society the philosophical and practical spirit of caring for each other, bringing others along, and acceptance of the reality that success comes through strain and effort such as in running marathons to raise required resources, however modestly.

While the Kenya School of Government has in the past had the privilege to join others in supporting Beyond Zero, the School will be seeking to enter closer partnership in the hope of aiding the training, research and public outreach dimension of this great Initiative. God Bless the work of Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya and of Beyond Zero.

***Prof. Ludeki Chweya, Ph.D., CBS
Director General
Kenya School of Government***

4.1 Learning mission to Cuba to accelerate elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV

Cuba was the first country in the world to be validated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015 as having achieved the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis. The WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health identified Cuba as an example of “good health at low cost” achieved by addressing the determinants of health based on principles of universality, equitable access and governmental control¹⁷.

The success of Cuba's health programmes is anchored on key multi-level collaboration interventions: primary health care through polyclinics¹⁸, collaborative approach through community level as well as investments in science based/medical research with community feedback. At the heart of Cuba's primary healthcare system is the family doctor, who is accountable for every pregnant mother and child in his/her jurisdiction.

The learning mission established that the investments in primary health care and prevention have been significant in shaping the well-being and health

of Cuba. These include a strong maternal and child health platform integrated into a person-centred approach to health services with standard surveillance to classify women according to potential risk factors. All pregnant women and newborns are evaluated by the genetic risk assessment service located in every polyclinic. In addition, heavy investments in locally manufactured ARVs with verified efficacy have assured access to treatment.

The mission further established that social equity within Cuba's health system resulted to 100% coverage of essential health services including mental health services. Cuba has allocated 22% of its national budget to health and provided 95% funding to its HIV programme. The mission learnt that effective responses to mental health require a multisectoral approach focusing on the promotion, education, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and fighting stigma. The mission also learnt that a motivated and resilient health workforce, led by the family doctors, who serve community/household level has contributed to greater and positive health outcomes for women, men and children of Cuba.



¹⁷Irwin A, Scali E. Action on the social determinants of health: learning from previous experiences. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2005.

¹⁸The Polyclinics are facilities managed by the Family doctor. They are designed and located closest to the communities - they are responsible for every individual in the community. They focus on prevention, universal screening initiatives and encouraging immunization through house calls, home visits and semiannual checkups.

Recommendations/ proposed actions for Kenya

Towards strengthening and accelerating Kenya's path to validation, it is proposed that Kenya works towards:

- Reinvigorating efforts towards the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis by developing an accelerated action plan and establishment of the National Validation Committee. Utilize the validation team to provide leadership and entrench the accountability agenda. Have a sustained high-level advocacy for maternal new-born child health and elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.
 - Strong and purposeful integration of maternal, new-born and child health programs with the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis (eMTCT) program and community health systems.
 - Harnessing the potential of the primary healthcare approach to re-organize community health services across counties, and activate community-based reporting systems that are integrated to the national health management information systems.
 - Increasing financing of Health, including HIV program through a budget government resources. Ensure HIV commodity security through increased domestic financing and local manufacturing of antiretroviral drugs.
 - Strengthening collaboration between Kenyan (KEMRI) and Cuban institutions to facilitate development of Kenya's treatment molecules and vaccines and other technologies. Towards effectively managing and providing mental health in Kenya, the proposed measures are recommended:
- Mental health services should integrate and provided in all national health facilities and, where possible, made available at community level through community healthcare centres. A county-specific hotline should be created where individuals can seek for support when required.
- Promotion of clear messaging and education about mental health and wellness, using a multi-sectoral approach, that includes institutions of learning, workplaces, health facilities, so as to promote active engagement in wellness programs and create them where they do not exist.
 - Adequate resources need to be made available to create awareness, provide support for communities through training of community health workers, and create platforms for engagement with community on issues pertaining to mental health.
 - Strong advocacy messaging around stigmatization of mental health.
 - Highlight the need for increased numbers of mental healthcare workers, and where possible, offer scholarships for training of mental healthcare practitioners to expand the numbers of mental healthcare providers to address the current huge deficit in Kenya.
 - Community engagement is key to ensuring mental health and wellness, similar to the 'Nyumba Kumi' initiative. Community members should be provided with access to basic mental healthcare awareness programs, to enable them detect when a problem arises and where help can be sought. Programmes akin to 'suicide watch' should also be considered at community level as a prevention mechanism and enhanced community cohesiveness.

4.2 Showcasing leadership for social changes

Joint learning peer visits - Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye Ndayubaha of the Republic of Burundi and Her Excellency Monica Chakwera of the Republic of Malawi

Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta hosted her Burundian counterpart Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye Ndayubaha in Kisumu City on the 31st of May 2021. Present during this visit was Kisumu Governor's Spouse Dorothy Nyong'o and her Laikipia counterpart Maria Mbeneka, who is also the current Chairperson of the County First Ladies Association.

The First of Lady of Burundi visited the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital EMPOWER (Enabling and Motivating Partnerships Owned by Women who Engage and Reclaim their lives) clinic and the Kisumu County Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic.



“

“This is a great Initiative that is taking health services closer to where the people are. I am sure many mothers and their children have benefitted. Continue with the good work,”

Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye Ndayubaha, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi



Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta hosted Her Excellency Monica Chakwera of the Republic of Malawi at a Beyond Zero mini medical camp at the Nyumba Ya Wazee (Little Sisters of the Poor) in Kasarani, Nairobi County on 21st of October 2021. The visit showcased the integrated outreach model of the Medical Safari where an array of healthcare services provided for free to vulnerable populations by different partners. The First Lady of Malawi commended Beyond Zero for its creative delivery model and hoped to replicate it in her country.

4.3 Promoting girls and women's agency

a) Johari Beads Initiative

The First Lady presided over the launch of the Johari Beads Initiative's Market Scope Study and Business Model on the 6th of December 2020. The Johari Beads Initiative was born in 2019 as an alternative means of livelihood for pastoralist women to end FGM and scale up beads trade. The Initiative targets seven counties (Narok, Kajiado, Samburu, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Marsabit and Baringo) with high FGM prevalence.

Through the production, marketing and branding of the Johari Beads on a large scale, communities will be economically empowered, support the education of girls, engage in community based FGM prevention and protection interventions, thereby contributing to abandonment of the vice. The Initiative will mobilize women into groups, provide infrastructure and the requisite access to local and international markets.

The First Lady called on all stakeholders to end the practice of FGM and replace it with an alternative rite of passage. Johari Beads Initiative is a joint programme of the United Nations Population Fund, Anti-FGM Board, Ecobank and Ushanga Kenya with a specific agenda to raise awareness on anti-FGM fight and to give financial support to women and girls.

Johari Beads Initiative is a joint programme of the United Nations Population Fund, Anti-FGM Board, Ecobank and Ushanga Kenya with a specific agenda to raise awareness on anti-FGM fight and to give financial support to women and girls.



“

“I also encourage our elders, as the custodians of culture, and all those who support them, including youth and women organizations, development partners, as well as civil society and religious organizations to maintain this strong momentum towards eliminating FGM. We owe it to our women and girls,”

**H.E. Margaret Kenyatta,
The First Lady of the
Republic of Kenya**



b) POLICARE

The First Lady presided over the launch of Kenya's first POLICARE policy to guide the establishment, management and operations of one-stop centres on the 18th of October 2021. POLICARE (coined from "POLICE" and "CARES") is a National Police Service integrated response to sexual and gender-based violence in Kenya whose overall objective is to strengthen the capacity of the National Police to prevent and respond to SGBV cases.

The National Police Service aims to establish 47 centres across the country to provide comprehensive support services including legal, psychosocial support, police and health to survivors of gender-based violence at no cost. The launch of the POLICARE policy is a step forward towards the actualization of Kenya's Generation Equality Commitment to accelerate efforts and increase investments to end violence against women and girls by 2026.

4.4 Convening stakeholders for results – Beyond Zero

a) Beyond Zero Summit 2021

A health system with strong primary health care delivers better health outcomes. Primary health care became a concept for the world health care system following the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978, which gave rise to the global goal of health for all by 2000. Kenya is a signatory of this Declaration. Primary Health Care involves the immediate – and often continuing – medical and health management of a child, adult, or family when the patient first presents to the formal health system. It focuses on promoting health, wellness, preventing disease and the underlying social determinants of ill-health.

Kenya promises to deliver Universal Health Coverage through primary health care as evidenced by the current Health Policy 2014-2030. This policy is organized through the WHO six pillars of health systems. Human Resources for Health is one of the pillars and plays a key role in providing the highest possible level of responsive quality health services. To complement the current Big Four Agenda under Vision 2030, Beyond Zero Nursing Scholarship Fund was established in 2016 under the Kenya Health Sector Support Project. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with Kenya Medical Training College and Beyond Zero supported students from arid and semi-arid counties for a certificate course in enrolled community health nursing.

The purpose of this was “to improve utilization and quality of Primary Health Care services with a focus on reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health services”. This project was funded by the World Bank. The first group of 400 beneficiaries was sponsored while the second group of 800 students was sponsored under the Transforming Health Systems for Universal Care Project.

Leveraging on the convening power of the First Lady to inspire action, the second Beyond Zero Summit brought together health workers, policy makers, leaders and key stakeholders in the health



sector on the 3rd of December, 2021 to enhance investment in primary healthcare for positive maternal and child health outcomes.

The Summit objectives were: to review the latest evidence on primary health care investments and effective interventions for maternal and child health outcomes; to reflect on the role of nurses/midwives and their contribution to primary healthcare and specifically towards the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV (eMTCT), and promotion of reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and Adolescent health commitments in Kenya; to appreciate nurses/midwives efforts at primary healthcare levels through the Beyond Zero Health Awards.

Panellists (Dr. Stephen Jackson UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Ruth Masha CEO NACC, Dr. Kelly Oluoch Acting CEO KMTC, Edna Tallam CEO Nursing Council of Kenya and Peggy Grueninger Head of Corporate Donations and Philanthropy Roche) discussed “increasing investments for primary health care” from different perspectives.



b) Beyond Zero Health Awards 2021

Beyond Zero Summit recognized nurses and midwives across the 47 Counties in two categories of: a) Nurse Led Initiative; and b) Nurse Practitioner awards. These two categories are derived from the Best Practice Standards from; the Royal Nursing College for professional and personal attributes; the Global Health Lancet Report of 2018/2019 focusing on primary healthcare; the Kenya Quality Model for Health and Best Practice Criteria for Health Sector in Kenya.

The development of the two categories was through a series of consultative meetings with multi-sectoral actors namely County Governments, Office of the First Lady, Ministry of Health Department of Nursing Services, Nursing Council of Kenya, Beyond Zero Technical Working Group, National AIDS Control Council Regional HIV Coordinators, Beyond Zero Secretariat and the key expert nurses working with

Beyond Zero Secretariat.

The application for the Beyond Zero Health Awards was web-based targeting nurses and midwives working in County owned health facilities. A total of 10,497 applicants expressed interest in these Awards. However, 2,285 completed the application process. A two-tier nomination mechanism was adopted as health is a devolved function.

The County Governments spearheaded the selection of the 1,338 semi-finalists whereas the Beyond Zero Technical Working Group validated the 578 finalists. In view of the COVID – 19 restriction and to adhere to the Ministry of Health only 47 representatives out of 578 finalists with the highest score per county were nominated to physically attend the Award Ceremony at the Beyond Zero Summit.



Call to action



The Summit concluded with a resounding call to re-double collective actions towards the attainment of universal health coverage.

We collectively commit to re-energize our efforts to attain Universal Health Coverage by;

1. Accelerating progress towards universal health coverage which greatly relies on investments in primary healthcare to bring services closer to people.
2. Amplifying preventative services as a game changer for primary healthcare because it serves communities and empowers them to choose healthier lifestyles, prevent diseases or access early detection, treatment and recovery.
3. Acknowledging people-centered primary healthcare, with equity in service delivery, ultimately paves the way for a fairer, healthier world for families and communities.
4. Appreciating frontline workers, particularly nurses who are the first point of care for individuals, families and communities. Urging individuals and communities to embrace healthier choices and maintain positive health seeking behaviors.
5. Optimizing the devolution opportunity to respond to the varying distribution of the health workforce as well as match the skills and infrastructure at primary health levels across the country.



Chapter 5

NEXT STEPS

5.0 Introduction

This section will highlight critical lessons Beyond Zero has learned over the year implementing the 2nd Strategic Framework 2018-2022. Kenya's Constitution guarantees right to health services regardless of the citizen's ability. The Government's Big Four Agenda of Universal Health Coverage is one of the key programmes to realize this obligation.

The existing maternal health policies and guidelines enable early identification of delayed milestones. However, in the recent 2019 Kenya National Census identified 2.2% people with disability against WHO's 15% prevalence of disability in any population. This suggests late identification of children with disabilities at primary healthcare level.

5.1 Increasing investments for strategic commodities

Kenya has made good progress as witnessed by growing budget allocations for health both at National and County levels. The mobile clinics have worked optimally in some counties due to resources allocated for their operations. However, as Kenya has transitioned to lower-middle income status it is perceived to be capable of financing the health sector.

This has resulted in shrinking of external donor funding which has led to challenges to commodity

security in the country. For example, the point of care cartridges, viral load reagents, opioids for use in palliative care face stock out and have not been integrated into the essential package of health services to assure sustained supply. Beyond Zero's advocacy will be to promote and safeguard investments in healthcare so that public health programmes (HIV, cancer, TB, Malaria and Nutrition) have secure and sustainable commodities that are in tandem with national goals.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching & Referral Hospital

Alere Q analyzer (Point Of Care Machine for Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV) was donated to JOOTRH courtesy of Beyond Zero Initiative. The machine was installed and put to use on 16th November, 2018; with Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) as the NGO Partner supporting the supply of consumable commodities.

EGPAF supported this programme for a period of about 1 year, during which they supplied a total of 825 Cartridges. A total of 782 tests were performed and all the results uploaded into the NASCOP Viral Load/EID portal. EGPAF later on handed over to the Kisumu County-Department of Health, to source for cartridges and other consumables through NASCOP/KEMSA.

Since then, the initiative by County's Department of Health to acquire reagents/cartridges through NASCOP/KEMSA did not bear any fruit; the analyzer is still lying idle in JOOTRH.

The main challenge has been how to acquire the cartridges to get the machine running. Other problems observed, include the expiry of the annual service contract for maintenance. The machine used to improve the turnaround time for EID Clients, function which does not happen anymore. The machine was very helpful in aiding KEMSA's work.

Our strategic objective is to increase accessibility to early infant diagnosis in Kisumu County, we suggest to access service maintenance of the machine and acquire the cartridges for its function.

Justification for reinstatement;

Target population for early infant diagnosis of (EID) for HIV/PMTCT in Kisumu County is 5,600 and therefore the need for early infant diagnosis is very significant. The revival of ALERE machine will greatly improve the turnaround time EID form 2 weeks to 2 days.

Report compiled by: Hezrone Okoth, Laboratory Manager JOOTRH and Hellen Ogolla County Medical Laboratory Coordinator

5.2 Increasing access for children living with disabilities

One of the key interventions in Her Excellency's Strategic Framework is the inclusion of children living with disabilities for equal access to healthcare and education services. The key actions for implementation include advocacy for collection of disaggregated data for children with disabilities; advocacy for early identification and intervention and inclusion of persons with disabilities; champion and promote registration with National Council for Persons with Disabilities; advocate for comprehensive and integrated health services to ensure the full participation and inclusion of children with disabilities in the communities.

So far, through the Beyond Zero Medical Safaris, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities has been actively involved in providing registration services for children and adults with disabilities where 1205 have been registered so far. Additionally, in the recent

2019 Kenya National Census, for the first time six domains (mobility, visual, cognitive, auditory, self-care and communication) were measured. The findings pointed to only 2.2% of people with disability were identified against the WHO 15% prevalence of disability in a population.¹⁹

In the quality improvement process, the Ministry of Health has provided for centres of excellences in different medical disciplines including fistula, disabilities. Beyond Zero will continue to advocate for use of more appropriate and specific tools to obtain correct data on disabilities during the next census. Beyond Zero will focus its attention in advocating for early identification through use of the Mother and Child Handbook developmental milestone schedule as well as advocate for inclusion of components of different disabilities diagnosis and management at pre-service training in college or university.

5.3 Reducing multiple risks for Adolescents and Young People

In Kenya, adolescents 10-19 years comprise of a quarter of the population and face multiple risks to new HIV infections, a situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with the National AIDS Control Council, Beyond Zero contributed to the design for the Maisha Youth Chapters and played a key role in building the capacity of young

people using the Advocacy Toolkit in six counties namely Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, Tharaka Nithi, Meru and Embu. Beyond Zero will continue to rally partners to increase the momentum to get Kenya validated and receive more resources for reduced transmission of HIV and Syphilis from mother to child.

¹⁹ Status of disability in Kenya: Statistics from the 2019 Census

5.4 Thank You - The Chief of Staff, Constance Gakonyo, Office of The First Lady of The Republic of Kenya

In this reporting year, we have worked with different partners to implement Her Excellency's Strategic Framework for her Engagement in the Promotion of Health Lives and Well-Being of Women, Children and Adolescent. We know that working collaboratively is critical to achieving lasting changes to ordinary lives. Our partners span in both Government and private sector. The relationships we continue to build with our partners and collaborators allow us to leverage resources and extend our reach, to nurture the capacity of hard-to-reach groups and to widen the impact of our work.

We are grateful for the resources provided this far. You have given of your time, of your knowledge, skills and capacities; of your organizational and personal connections; of your money and your advice. To you, we say thank you.

As you have read in this report, your resources have provided much needed specialized health care services for hard to reach populations within our life cycle - pregnant mothers, children, adolescents, young people, men, women and the elderly. Additionally, we have provided nursing scholarships to needy students through the nursing scholarship fund programme who then go out and provide health care services to vulnerable populations.

2020 was indeed a great challenge for the world because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This affected our programmes but like everyone we had to re-engineer their delivery. We conducted smaller outreaches and targeted our efforts to support building the economy through bringing services



to farm and factory laborers.

The pursuit of social justice remains a key priority for Beyond Zero where all people should have equal opportunities to adequate healthcare, and particularly the poor, marginalized and vulnerable populations.

As we approach the end of Her Excellency's Strategic Framework in 2022, we look forward to working together to achieve the remaining deliverables for children living with disability, reducing new HIV infections amongst adolescents and young people as we complement Government's efforts in achieving Universal Health Coverage.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Summary of high-level engagements demonstrating enhanced leadership and commitment for women, girls and children wellness

Pregnant women and new-borns

Dates	Theme	Outcome
24 th to 27 th July 2018 Global HIV Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands	"Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers,"	Renewed commitment to pursue for eMTCT
2 nd August 2018	Meeting with PATH Global Chief Executive Officer on HIV Prevention and Care	Renewed commitment to fast track HIV target through DREAMS
23 rd August 2018 5th International Conference of Global Network of Public Health Nursing	"Good Health and Well-being; Contribution of Public Health Nurses to Achieving Goal 3 of the UN SDGs."	Launch of the "Nursing now campaign"
3 rd -5 th September 2018 FOCAC Summit	"China and Africa: Toward an Even Stronger Community with a Shared Future through Win-Win Cooperation"	Launch of the Joint Initiative of the China-Africa thematic meeting on HIV/AIDs Prevention and Control
9 th to 12 th September 2018 HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Scientific Conference	"Turning the tide: preventing new HIV infections and optimizing treatment outcomes"	Renewed commitment to fast track HIV target
12 th September 2018	Launch of the 1 st Beyond Zero Medical Safari in Narok County to mobilize local communities particularly the most marginalized	Launch of the eMTCT business plan for Narok County
29 th to 31 st October 2018 2 nd International Conference on Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) in Africa	"Maintaining Momentum and focus towards ending preventable maternal and child deaths by 2030 - Sustainable Path towards Africa's Transformation"	Kenya's architecture for universal health coverage.
22 nd November 2018	Launch of 2 nd Beyond Zero Medical Safari in Kisumu County and	Donated point of care device at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching & Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) in Kisumu County. Launch of the National Point of Care Testing Implementation Roadmap in Kenya; A guide to implementing point of care Testing in HIV care and treatment programs Utilization of Multi-disease testing platforms for optimizing early infant diagnosis in Kenya; an implementation plan for piloting early infant diagnosis of HIV and TB testing using a multi--disease point of care platform Launch of the eMTCT business plan for Kisumu County
10 th March 2019	Beyond Zero Half Marathon	Raising the profile of maternal and child health in Kenya
11 th April 2019	Workshop with actors on quality assurance	Launched the National Lancet Global Health Commission System Report

Dates	Theme	Outcome
9 th May 2019	Launch of Beyond Zero Medical Safari in West Pokot County	<p>Launch of the eMTCT business plan for West Pokot.</p> <p>Launch of the National Strategic Framework on Female Genital Fistula; Towards a Free Fistula Nation, Training Manual for health workers and the Screening manual for community health volunteers.</p> <p>Commissioned a cryotherapy machine, a regional blood bank and a specialized reproductive health theatre</p>
14 th May 2019	5 th International Conference of the Global Network of Public Health Nursing	Launch of the "Nursing Now Campaign"
14 th -16 th August 2019	4 th Beyond Zero Medical Safari at Nyandarua County	<p>Launch of the Nyandarua eMTCT business plan 2018-2022.</p> <p>Commissioning of the mother and baby wing at Engineer Sub County Hospital</p>
27 th August 2019	Donation of medical equipment	Launch of the 5 th Project C.U.R.E in Hola, Tana River County.
23 rd to 27 th September 2019	UNGA 74 th session	A communique to inspire future action and support for delivery of Kenya's Big Four agenda was signed between the Government of Kenya, Rockefeller Foundation, the United Nations
7 th November 2019	Centres of Excellence	Commissioning of new-born maternity unit in Kapkatet Hospital, Sotik, Bomet County.
10 th December 2019	9 th ACP Summit: First Ladies Forum addressing Universal Healthcare in ACP Group of States Summit	Renewed commitment to advocate for UHC
22 nd -24 th January 2020	5 th Beyond Zero Medical Safari at Nairobi County	<p>Launch of Nairobi City County 2019-2022 eMTCT business plan</p> <p>Commissioning of a hemafuse device at Mama Lucy Hospital</p> <p>Commissioning of the Kangaroo Mother centre at Mama Lucy Hospital</p>
14 th April & 4 th May 2020	Donation of medical equipment	Delivered two Project C.U.R.E Containers to Tana River County to Bura and Galole health facilities
21 st July 2020	"The health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on achieving Universal Health Coverage"	<p>Attended by 9 African First Ladies</p> <p>Advocacy commitment by continental First Ladies on uptake of COVID-19 vaccines</p>
4 th August 2020	Training of 5,100 CHVs drawn from NMS	Improved knowledge of communities in Nairobi on COVID-19 prevention measures
16 th to 25 th September 2020	75 th UNGA "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism - confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action"	Renewed commitment for multiple partnerships to attain UHC
4 th December 2020	Beyond Zero eMTCT multi-sectoral committee meeting	Reinvigorating of the eMTCT agenda
22 nd - 25 th February 2021	Meeting with CECMs for Health	A communique signed by the County Executive Committee Members for Health to accelerate the attainment of the eMTCT targets
18 th -23 rd March 2021	Meetings with stakeholders in eMTCT programming	Commitment from partners to provide financial and technical support for eMTCT
23 rd May 2021	International Day of Ending Obstetric Fistula	Renewed commitment for a fistula free nation at the Fistula camp hosted by KNH in partnership with UNFPA, Amref, Ministry of Health, Flying Doctors

Women

Dates	Theme	Outcome
73 rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	"Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies"	Renewed commitment on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
11 th to 22 nd March 2019 63 rd Session of Commission of Status of Women (CSW)	"Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."	Showcased Kenya's architecture for universal health coverage.
18 th March 2019 Beyond Zero side event at CSW	"The Power of Women's Agency in Transforming Social Norms for Good Health and Well-being".	Launch of the Beyond Zero Advocacy Guide as a tool for replication in response to attaining Universal Health Care
5 th - 8 th July 2019	'Burden of Cancer in Africa along the sidelines of the 23 rd African Union Assembly'	Renewed commitment for raising awareness for early screening
28 th to 29 th October 2019	6 th Edition of Merck Africa Asia Luminary Conference in Accra, Ghana	Renewed commitment for expanding STEM
12 th to 14 th November 2019	ICPD 25 "Accelerating the Promise"	Side event for spouses of Head of States and other women leaders with the theme "When Women Lead".
25 th to 27 th November 2019	Global Gender Summit "Unpacking Constraints to Gender Equality" at Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda	Importance of removal of legal, social and economic barriers for girls and women including FGM
8 th to 10 th February 2020	OAFIAD meeting "Gender Equality and Women Empowerment" A Pathway to the Africa We Want"	Renewed commitment by continental First Ladies on gender equality
26 th May 2020	Global Alliance of First Lady's webinar meeting on Gender-Responsive Programming and Strategy Shifting (in relation to COVID-19)	Improved knowledge of communities in Nairobi on COVID-19 prevention measures
5 th October 2020 "#behindeverypatient" Campaign	Roche	Health care professionals and carers honoured for their adoption of different pathways to lessen impact of COVID-19 on patients
15 th October 2020	Launch of Empower Clinic in Makeni County	Establishment of a cancer clinic
21 st October 2020	International Day of the Girl Child 2020	Renewed commitment to drive cervical cancer elimination
27 th October 2020	Launch of Empower Clinic in Laikipia County	Establishment of a cancer clinic
17 th November 2020	Launch of WHO's Global Strategy on Cervical Cancer Elimination by 2030	On-going national efforts towards eliminating cervical cancer
8 th October 2021	World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) under the theme, "Leave no-one behind - equity in access to palliative care"	Launch of the first National Palliative Care Policy
13 th October 2021	Launch of the POLICARE Policy at the Kenya School of Government, Kabete Campus	The policy forms the roadmap to the National Police Service's integrated response to gender-based violence and effective response to victims of violence. The Policy is an integrated response to Gender Based Violence aligned to the commitment made by His Excellency, the President during the Generation Equality Forum held in Paris and amplifies Kenya's national commitment to ending all forms of Gender Based Violence by 2026, and Female Genital Mutilation by 2022.

Infants and Children

Dates	Theme	Outcome
8 th October 2020	Inclusive Africa Conference organized by InAble bringing together 43 countries across Africa	Renewed commitment to advocate for technology solutions geared for children with intellectual disabilities
19 th November 2021	UNICEF's 75 th Anniversary and 50 years of its presence in Kenya in advancement of nutrition and global agenda for children rights.	The First Lady commended UNICEF for their advocacy work towards ending child malnutrition, protection of girls from harmful cultural practices such as FGM, early marriages and their partnership in raising the profile of maternal, new-born and child health in Kenya. These resonates well to the collective commitment to deliver on the global promise "to leave no one behind"

Adolescents and Young People

Dates	Themes	Outcomes
27 th and 30 th October 2020	Training of Trainers workshop on the NACC Maisha Youth Advocacy Toolkit	Replication in other regions (central and coastal)
17 th September 2020	GenU Limited Kenyan Chapter and UN focal point	Exploring implementation mechanisms for the peer-to-peer programme with NACC and Maisha Youth
5 th August 2020	Launch of Generation Unlimited Kenya (GenU Kenya)	Explore possible collaboration for the establishment of a peer-to-peer programme in line with Her Excellency's Strategic Framework 2018-2022.
9 th November 2021	Ghetto Classics Thanks Giving Concert under the theme "Gratitude"	The First Lady is the Patron of the Art Foundation that supports talented youth from Korogocho and neighbouring communities. Ghetto Classics is a flagship programme of the Art of Music Foundation running a music education programme and scholarships for underprivileged children.

Men

Dates	Themes	Outcomes
14 th February 2020	100 men run	Over 100 men drawn from different organization attended the morning run at Karura Forest

Awards

Dates	Theme	Outcome
6 th December 2018	Ernest and Young Life Achievement Award	Her Excellency awarded the Eastern Africa Lifetime Achievement Award for her efforts to stop preventable maternal and new-born deaths through her Beyond Zero Initiative
10 th -11 th February 2019	22nd General Assembly OAFSLAD	Her Excellency appointed as the Vice-President of OAFSLAD
19 th to 25 th May 2019 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA)	Walk the Talk' is an event on the side lines of the WHA organized to encourage healthy life styles and embrace physical activity towards improvement of physical and mental health; physical activity as a bedrock of healthy living that prevents many illnesses.	Her Excellency awarded the WHO Director General's Health Leaders 2019 award







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