



# FACES TALK



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## About World AIDS Day



World AIDS Day is celebrated globally each year on December 1. This important day provides a key opportunity to raise HIV awareness, honor those who have lost their lives to AIDS, and celebrate the progress made to mitigate HIV. The first World AIDS Day was December 1, 1988. It was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and in 1996 the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) took on World AIDS Day planning. World AIDS Day themes are selected by the World AIDS Campaign Global Steering Committee and HIV stakeholders to focus and drive the HIV agenda. The current World AIDS Day theme "Getting to Zero" is in line with the UNAIDS strategy for 2010 – 2015 to achieve zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Sub-Saharan Africa, where HIV has taken the greatest toll, is seeing positive gains towards UNAIDS goals. New HIV infections have declined by 25%;

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## FACES Snapshot

FACES is a family-focused HIV prevention, care, and treatment program in Kenya. FACES initially launched services in September 2004 with a single site in Nairobi, and a second site in Kisumu, Nyanza Province in March 2005. FACES now supports over 130 health facilities. FACES partners with District Health Management Teams (DHMTs), City Councils, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, and private health facilities to provide comprehensive care and treatment, family planning, PMTCT, TB screening, counseling, and social support. FACES continuously strives to increase local capacity through targeted trainings and continuing medical education (CME) activities.



Mama Sarah Obama (U.S. President Obama's paternal grandmother) graced World AIDS Day in Kisumu.

## Welcome

Welcome to FACES TALK. Our aim is to provide updates on program progress, activities, and feature articles. This edition is focused on World AIDS Day.

## Coming to Terms with HIV and Speaking Out

Benard (pseudo name) who had not been slotted into the World AIDS Day program, surprised everyone when he insisted that he had something to tell the community of Karungu in Nyatike District. He said he had a testimony to tell the community about his HIV status that would inspire others to look to their future. Benard, a 50-year-old polygamous man, took the stage and told his story.

When Benard started feeling ill in 2005, lost weight, grew thin and could not understand what was happening to him, he was advised by an elder that he was suffering from "Chira" (curse) because he had accepted his first wife back after being separated from her. He was advised to seek a traditional cleansing to restore his health.

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## About World AIDS Day (Cont. from page 1)

### Celebrating World AIDS Day in Kisumu East District

World AIDS Day activities started bright and early at 6am with 23 staff members running in the annual World AIDS Day marathon in Kisumu.

Festivities took place at Jomo Kenyatta sports grounds following a procession across town from Kondele sports grounds. Children's club members from FACES-supported Kisumu District Hospital participated in the procession.

At Jomo Kenyatta sports grounds, staff from across the health facilities, including the Ministry of Health (MOH) District Health Management Team (DHMT), showcased HIV work going on in the community with HIV education; HIV care and treatment and family planning commodities on display; and voluntary medical male circumcision prevention information; and entertainment and speeches from many different groups.

**Cont.** there were approximately 1.8 million newly infected in 2011 compared to 2.4 million in 2001. Among children in sub-Saharan Africa, new infections fell by 24%, however in six of the sub-Saharan countries including Kenya, the number of children newly infected dropped by 40%-59% between 2008 and 2011. AIDS-related deaths have dropped by 32%; there were 1.2 million AIDS-related deaths in 2011 compared to 1.8 million in 2005. Despite substan-

tial progress, issues surrounding stigma and discrimination continue to hinder HIV progress.

Each year, FACES and Ministry of Health (MOH) staff, volunteers, and patients at supported health facilities gallantly take part in the World AIDS Day festivities, seizing the opportunity to educate, galvanize support, reach and provide the community with HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. This issue highlights a few of the activities that took place in 2012 at FACES

supported sites.

#### Sources

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### Celebrating World AIDS Day in Kisumu East District



World AIDS Day tent – HIV information, education, and commodity displays

FACES team ready to run the World AIDS Day marathon



Edutainment for the Kisumu East community

### Standing Tall in Migori District

In Migori District, Jane Awino (pseudo name) caused the assembly to be silent when she shared how she dealt with accepting her HIV status and the discrimination and violence she suffered from her brother-in-laws after her husband died and she had to move back to their rural home... "I was young,

*pregnant, widowed, without a job to rely on, but the little money from the organization my husband worked for. It was hardly a month after he died that my in-laws came and beat me up for allegedly killing their brother. I refused to accept their discrimination and demands...".* There could not have been a bet-

ter forum or year for her to stand tall and share her experience with others who may not have the courage to stand up to discrimination and gender-based violence.



## FACES Nairobi at Kijiji

Adolescent group leading hygiene session (top), FACES provider working with children (left, below), and medical camp in action (right, below).

### Enrollment

**Program-wide Cumulative Enrollment from 2004 to the end of Sep. 2012:**

**Enrolled in HIV Care**  
 Adults: 107,216  
 Children: 18,235  
**Total: 125,451**

**Cumulative on ART**  
 Adults: 49,112  
 Children: 5,313  
**Total: 54,424**

FACES Nairobi celebrated World AIDS Day 2012 at Kijiji slum in Lang'ata District. The adolescent patient club led informative and entertaining activities including health education, song and dance, and face-painting. Healthcare providers from both FACES and Child Doctor Clinic conducted a medical camp providing Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT), medical consultation, and deworming services. The day was a big success—HIV awareness was raised and over 500 community members attended the camp.



### PMTCT

**Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, 2007 to end of Sep. 2012:**

Number of cumulative women counseled, tested and received HIV results within maternal and child health services at 134 sites: 169,236

Proportion of HIV+ women in Antenatal clinic (ANC) that received ARV prophylaxis in the last quarter: 93%

Cumulative infants HIV tested via DBS via PCR: 13,255

## Raising HIV Awareness in Rongo District



**Fighting HIV takes strength! World AIDS Day tug-a-war in Rongo District**

FACES patient support group members led skits, drama, and songs with educational messages to raise HIV awareness on World AIDS Day in Rongo District. Patient support group members also participated in the procession and delivered the program agenda on HIV prevention. The function started with the procession from the district hospital to Rongo primary school, where the invited guests and the community gathered to hear

speeches from different organizational and community representatives, inspirational patient testimonials, played tug-a-war and football, and underwent HIV testing—over 40 individuals were tested!

### VMMC

Cumulative number of Voluntary Medical Male Circumcisions (VMMC) performed from 2008 to the end of Sep. 2012: 27,434



**Football on World AIDS Day**



**Patient support group members delivering lively health messages through entertaining song and dance**



**World AIDS Day procession in Rongo District**



**Www.faces  
-kenya.org**

**FACES is funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).**

**FACES is a collaboration between the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).**

**Within KEMRI, FACES works with two Centers: the Center for Microbiology Research (CMR), Research Care and Training Program (RCTP) and the Center for Respiratory Disease Research (CRDR).**

**Within UCSF, FACES is a core program of the AIDS Research Institute (ARI), which coordinates all of the HIV/AIDS research, treatment, and prevention activities at UCSF.**



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**Special Thanks**

**We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our collaborators, funders, and donors. Your support changes lives daily and greatly helps us improve services, training, and capacity.**

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**Coming to Terms with HIV and Speaking Out**

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He did so but there was no change after an entire year.

His first wife of his two wives attended a chief's Baraza (community gathering) where a health care worker conducted a HIV educational session. She shared the information with Benard. He discounted the information due to stigma, but later realized that being tested for HIV was the right thing to do. He and his first wife visited a Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) center, without his second's wife's knowledge. Benard learned he was HIV positive and his first wife was HIV negative. After a week and much disagreement, he decided to dis-

close his status to his second wife and she went for HIV testing.

Benard's wives were angry; neither would talk to him or each other. He was disturbed by their reactions and decided to call both to a meeting to solve their differences. During that meeting, he learned that his second wife was HIV positive. The argument escalated and everyone blamed each other for the cause. After calming down and considering their best options, Benard and his second wife agreed to enroll in HIV care at Homa Bay.

Both have been in care for several years and are much healthier and living positively with HIV. His

first wife remains HIV free and they practice protected sex to prevent HIV transmission.

Benard urged everyone to know their HIV status as early as possible. He was also proud that he earned his first job due to publicity about his HIV status.

We thank Benard and others like him who speak out about their condition and inspire others to practice safe sex, change their behaviors, seek HIV testing, and to continuously work toward eliminating HIV.



Children's Club performing in Nyatike District



Ogwedhi Community Unit drama on discrimination in Mgori District

**World AIDS Day in Mbita District**

At the World AIDS Day celebration in Mbita District, all partners were given the opportunity to share what they do, where they work, and their partnership and collaboration strengths. Counseling and Testing was done by Development Knowledge Link Africa (DEVLINK), Viajenco, and International Medical Corps (IMC) in their respective tents, testing a total of about 150 clients. As Edutainment, FACES support groups presented two drama productions stressing the importance of early access to care and treatment geared towards zero tolerance to HIV.



The guest speaker for the day was Mr. Mark Matunga (Education Manager for Microsoft, East and Southern Africa), who encouraged partners to work together to ensure that HIV prevalence in Suba/Mbita is reduced. He also challenged the leadership of Mbita to make time for discussion regarding how to achieve the important objective of zero infection.