



FACES TALK

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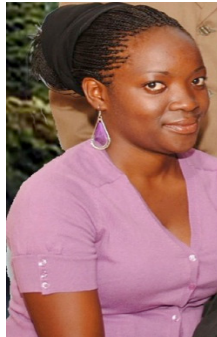
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FACES Snapshot

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.

My First Job



Lindah Adhiambo Otieno

I reported to work as a Registered Clinical Officer in May 2006 as one of the pioneers for FACES Suba Program, a year after FACES launched. In September 2006, I was appointed as the Mainland Mobile Clinic Coordinator. In May 2007 I was transferred to Migori along with other colleagues to start up FACES Migori. I was the Site Development Coordinator, to facilitate FACES and MOH site integration and to support universal treatment (ART). As a pioneering team member of FACES Migori, I took a central role in ART decentralization and health care worker capacity building, which also included maternal and child health, maternity, family planning, and inpatient care services. In September 2009, I came back to Suba as the Assistant District Program Coordinator. This marked a turning point for FACES employment, since this position was previously reserved for medical officers. Through hard work, discipline, mentorship, and senior consultation, I adjusted quickly to my new position and I am proud that clinical officers can now compete for management positions at FACES. In 2011, I was promoted to Program District Coordinator overseeing HIV care, prevention, and treatment activities in both Suba and Mbita sub-counties.

I got an opportunity in 2007 to go to the Paediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa (PATA) conference in Swaziland as well as a mentorship exchange program at UCSF through the Positive Health Program (PHP). I am also a beneficiary of the school sponsorship offered by FACES to several of its staff members. I am what I am today due to deliberate efforts, discipline, knowledge and skills instilled in me by my FACES mentors. I take this chance to appreciate my mentors, namely Dr. Elizabeth Bukusi, Dr. Jeremy Penner, Catherine Lyons, Dr. Reson Marima, Dr. Daniel Kwaro, Dr. Vincent Otieno, Dr. Ijaa Kapule, Dr. Patrick Oyaro and Dr. Maurice Aluda, just to mention but a few. I don't have words to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have made me who I am today and most to the most high God the father for this far He has brought me.

**Lindah Adhiambo Otieno - RCO, Bsc P.health
District Program Coordinator Suba/Mbita**

"This marked a turning point for FACES employment, since this position was previously reserved for medical officers."

Welcome

Welcome to FACES TALK. Our aim is to bring you updates on program progress, activities, and feature articles. This edition is focused on professional growth among current and former staff and Student Training Education Program (STEP) participants who interned at FACES.

STEP Reflection — Sophy Wong



Sophy Wong

I arrived in Kisumu to work with FACES for the first time in the spring of 2007. I had been sprung from my duties as a resident physician at UCSF and was ready for an adventure.

I first spent three weeks in Kisumu, working with nurses and clinical officers at the largest FACES clinic in Kenya. During my fourth week, I found myself on a jeep to Suba District, a motorcycle to the Mbita boat dock, and a wooden boat to Mfangano Island. I was the only doctor on the islands that week, but really it was Peter Manwari, the nurse, who was the expert. For me it was a crash course in tropical medicine in the rawest form.

FACES felt unique because there was a strong emphasis on supporting local leadership and building capacity within the community. I was struck by how well peer educators were trained, respected, and empowered to care for patients. Their work inspired me to make a video, start a patient care fund, develop a FACES health care guide, and support other residents to train there.

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"What FACES taught me about the humanity of clinical care, the impact of systems-level work and the power of community engagement still informs the work I do every day."

Sunburst Expanding Youth Services

Youth Friendly Center now open at Kisumu East District Hospital in Kisumu, Kenya!

With the aim of addressing the medical and social/psychological needs and challenges of vulnerable youth ages 10-24 living in Western Kenya, Sunburst Projects, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and FACES, is currently piloting a comprehensive youth-friendly integrated health care services project located within the Kisumu East District Hospital. Staff and volunteers helped paint and clean the center for youth to enjoy. It is now up and running!



Given future support, expansion, and resources,

Sunburst Projects plans to construct a new building within the next two years. The proposed "Youth Friendly Center" will be a safe and welcoming one-stop youth hub where both HIV positive and HIV negative vulnerable individuals can engage in youth activities, obtain health care, and receive peer support and counseling.

If you would like to be involved in helping build or contribute financially to our center, please visit the Sunburst website: <http://www.sunburstprojects.org> or e-mail Kathryn, our development manager, at kathryn@sunburstprojects.org



Uliza!
Clinicians' HIV Hotline

Many health care facilities that serve patients who are HIV positive face challenges such as insufficient staffing levels and staff with limited training and no access to consultation resources. In response to this need, **Uliza!** (Swahili for "ask") was launched in April 2006. It is a Clinicians' HIV Hotline providing free HIV telephone consultation service for healthcare providers in Kenya. Hotline users call an **Uliza!** consultant who discusses the patients' problems and helps the caller work through a solution, reinforcing national guidelines.



FACES And Beyond

I started working for FACES as a data clerk on 2nd April 2007. I was one of the three original data clerks that started the FACES data department. We shared a single desktop computer among the three of us. Our first task was to design a database to store the growing patients' data, which would come to be called the "FACES database". This was before the electronic medical record systems OpenMRS started at FACES. The database eventually served as a source of the basic demographic data for OpenMRS. I took on increasingly more responsibilities, first as assistant data manager, then provincial assistant data manager, and finally M&E/Data Manager. The journey to the top was an exciting one, albeit with a lot of challenges and fulfillment – this journey helped me to be the person I am today.

I currently work at RTI International as the M&E Manager for an education project called Primary Math and Reading (PRIMR) initiative. It is funded by USAID and DFID and seeks to improve early grade reading and numeracy skills in Kenya. My major role is to carry out operations research to help evaluate implemented strategies.

I learned a lot at FACES and had an excellent support system from my previous supervisors and team.

Arbogast Oyanga – former FACES Data Manager



Arbogast at UCSF offices in San Francisco 2011

STEP Reflection (Cont. from page 1)

Working with the wonderful people of FACES gave me the opportunity to support clinical systems reaching thousands of people living with HIV and taught me the importance of bringing the community together to support patient care.

I later had the opportunity to bring the skills I learned at FACES to my HIV clinical capacity building work in Tanzania and in southern China. I now serve the East Bay region of California as the medical director of the East Bay AIDS Education Training Center (AETC), the medical director of HIV ACCESS (a network of community-health centers and hospital clinics service low-income people living with HIV), and as a primary care physician at Asian Health Services in Oakland Chinatown. What FACES taught me about the humanity of clinical care, the impact of systems-level work and the power of community engagement still informs the work I do every day.

Sophy Wong – former FACES STEP Participant

Hillary's Dedication

Enrollment

Program-wide Cumulative Enrollment from 2004 to the end of March 2014:

Enrolled in HIV Care

Adults: 119,072
Children: 19,429
Total: 138,501

Cumulative on ART

Adults: 57,426
Children: 6,243
Total: 63,669

PMTCT Update

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, 2007 to end of March 2014:

Number of women counseled, tested and received HIV results within maternal and child health services at 132 sites in Nyanza:

213,934

Proportion of HIV+ women in ANC that received ARV prophylaxis:

98%

Infants HIV tested via Dried Blood Spot for PCR:

17,212

VMMC

Cumulative number of **Voluntary Medical Male Circumcisions (VMMCs)** performed from 2008 to the end of March 2014:

48,737

CCSP

Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention

Cumulative number of screenings from 2007 to the end of March 2014:

18,896



"I derive a lot of happiness from the successes achieved in the program toward ensuring universal access to HIV care, treatment, and prevention services"

My name is Hillary Ng'eno Koskey. I am a registered Clinical Officer by profession with 7 years of experience in clinical work and 6 years in HIV care and treatment service provision.

I was employed by KEMRI-RCTP/FACES in 2009 as a service provider in Karungu Sub district Hospital. I subsequently rose up the ranks to a District Program Officer position in July 2010. In July 2011, I was promoted to Assistant District Coordinator in Nyatike district, the position I still hold to date. Climbing up the program hierarchy can be attributed to sheer hard work, determination, and desire to be in the strategic circle of program decision making.

My current position entails strengthening HIV activities in the district including care and treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, TB/HIV, testing and counseling, and

voluntary medical male circumcision. I play an important role in promotion and support of health system management through FACES/MOH collaboration.

I derive a lot of happiness from the successes achieved in the program toward ensuring universal access to HIV care, treatment, and prevention services. My desire is to play an active role in ensuring that quality health care services are provided to all persons regardless of gender, religion, social or economic status. I plan to achieve this by informing policy through research and through dedication to service provision that focuses on reaching the needy in our society. I will work alongside those with a similar passion both in the medical and non-medical field to make this a reality.

STEP Reflection — Ray Dantes

As a former FACES-Kisumu elective student (May 2011), I continue to apply the lessons learned in both public health and clinical medicine. I was impressed by the ability of the FACES program to continue developing better models for care under the leadership of local healthcare workers and community members. Furthermore, establishing a dedicated team of healthcare workers, strengthened by group seminars and daily chapati and tea breaks, is essential for accomplishing the goal of improving community health. I am eternally grateful to the passionate staff at FACES and the many patients for teaching and inspiring me to be a better physician and public health practitioner.

After completing Internal Medicine residency in July 2011, I served for 2 years in the Center for Disease Control's Epidemic Intelligence Service, where I tracked and investigated outbreaks of emerging antibiotic-resistant organisms, including *Clostridium difficile*, and Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. I am now an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University.

Ray Dantes – former FACES STEP participant



Ray Dantes

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.

FACES welcomes your newsletter comments, please contact:

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STEP Reflection — Rachel Smith

I worked at a FACES clinic in Kisumu in the Spring of 2011. I followed clinicians as they cared for patients with HIV and learned a lot about caring for patients with HIV in a resource limited setting. In rotating through the various parts of the Kisumu clinic, I also learned about the importance of ancillary staff (pharmacists, counselors) in HIV care. After my time at FACES I completed my residency in Internal Medicine at UCSF and went on to join the CDC in their Epidemic Intelligence Service program where I worked with the Mycotic Diseases Branch. In 2013, I accepted a full time position as a medical epidemiologist with the same branch. My experience with FACES ties into what I work on every day at CDC, fungal opportunistic infections – specifically cryptococcal disease in HIV-infected persons. FACES was actually the first clinic I had ever seen that was screening patients for cryptococcal disease to try and prevent full blown meningitis. I now work with countries and partners, like FACES, to expand cryptococcal screening programs in Africa and Southeast Asia with the goal of ultimately preventing deaths from cryptococcal meningitis.



Rachel Smith

Rachel Smith – former FACES STEP participant

Unconditional support for kids at the school for the deaf



Kuja Special School Matron and Student

I work at Kuja Special School for the deaf as a matron; mostly I deal with HIV positive kids. Within the school, six of them are enrolled in Rongo district hospital and I assist them with taking their medications every day. Most of the kids take their drugs at six in the morning and six at suppertime.

I also check on their meals because as you know these medicines need good nutrition. In the school we always provide students with fruits once a week but for these kids we always give them three times a week. I also ensure that I write their names in their tins so that they don't mix their medicines. I also talk to them twice a week to understand the condition they are in and so that they

live positively. I have a link with the parents and they always ask about their kids. Most of the time if you ask them who I am, they tell you a sign of hospital because I always bring them to the hospital.

Kuja Special School Matron

I am in class six at the school for the deaf. I like our matron because she always assists me when I am sick. She always takes me to the hospital and gives me my medicines everyday. She is very loving and cares for all of us. She always discusses with us how to take our medicine every week and when we go to the hospital she always talks to the doctors because they do not know how to communicate to us. We can't talk to them so we tell her then she talks to the doctors, so many people know her at the hospital and they love us.

After being seen by the doctors, we go back to school. We don't waste a lot of time in the hospital. I didn't know that I was infected with HIV until our matron talked to me and explained it. She always tells us not to fear anything because at times when we go to the hospital we always find so many people and children who are also like us. I thank God for giving me another mother who takes good care of me at school.

Kuja Special School Student

