



FACES kicks off 2017!

With FACES' work now focused exclusively in Kisumu County, 2017 presents new opportunities to deepen our engagement and partnerships in an area hard hit by HIV. We are working closely with the Kenya Ministry of Health to support HIV services at 72 facilities throughout the county. Our top priority remains achieving the UNAIDS' [90-90-90 goals](#). To that end, we intend to implement the successful, high-quality HIV prevention and treatment strategies we've developed over the last 11 years working in rural Kenya. We will also augment those strategies with innovative evidence-based approaches to further prevent new infections and improve the care and health of those living with HIV.



More about some of our strategic priorities in Kisumu:

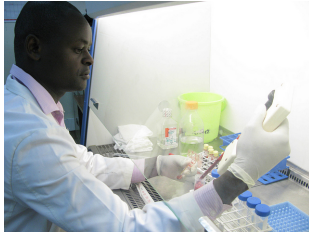


HIV Testing: One of our top priorities is increasing HIV testing, which is key to achieving the first UNAIDS 90 goal (90 percent of people living with HIV know their HIV status). We recognize that until someone's HIV-positive status has been identified, our treatment programs—no matter how good they are—cannot help. In order to improve identification rates, we are hiring more HIV testing counselors and deploying them throughout the county. We are also working to ensure all family members of people enrolled in our care are also tested for HIV, which is a proven and efficient strategy for boosting the HIV identification rate.



Facility Engagement: Given recent expansion to many new sites within Kisumu County, our immediate focus is to ensure that all sites have the clinical expertise and resources needed to provide patients with the best possible care. We are getting to know each facility's unique assets and challenges and working closely with the Kisumu County Health Management Team to effectively tailor our collaborative capacity building efforts.





Building Capacity: Staff trainings are underway to ensure providers at all of our supported sites are well-versed in and implementing the new [National ART Guidelines](#) with rigor. We are also implementing the national [Kenya HIV Quality Improvement Framework](#) (KHQIF) and offering other training and mentoring. To improve our facilities' capacity to process test results, we are utilizing our innovative lab networking system. In this system, motorcycle riders hasten the transport of lab samples between remote health facilities and sub-county lab processing hubs, which in turn report results quickly back to facilities using web-based software. As a result, all sites—no matter how rural—are able to more rapidly respond to patient treatment needs.

HIV Treatment for Children: Accurate dosing of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for children is complex because it must be based on a child's weight and complicated dosing calculations. At the same time, accurate dosing is critical to ensuring children remain healthy and do not develop resistance to ART. As a result, we are prioritizing the accurate weighing—and in turn, proper dosing—of all children in need of ART. Caregivers will receive extra education and support to ensure children remain on the correct dosage as they grow. To further support children's clinical needs, we are also implementing an initiative to help health facilities more rapidly identify and address gaps in young patients' treatment regimens and health outcomes.



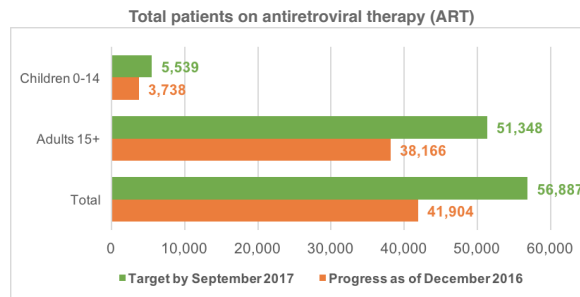
Patient Impact Story:

We met Mercy, a 17-year-old girl, back in 2014 when we helped her discover her HIV-positive status and begin antiretroviral therapy. We were reconnected with her in 2016 when she was referred to us by a local gynecologist. Mercy visited the gynecologist after acquiring a painful and debilitating genital infection that would not go away. In fact, the symptoms of the infection had become so stigmatizing that Mercy had actually dropped out of school.

Once Mercy was referred to us, we were able to quickly draw on our Patient Fund, a pool of money we have raised to assist low-income patients with treatments that fall outside of our HIV services. We covered both a surgical operation and a course of antibiotics to treat Mercy's infection. Within one month, her wounds were healed and her symptoms had ceased. She is back to enjoying time with her friends, doing chores, and plans to return to school this year.

Mercy is just one of many people that we are so glad to be able to help with far more than just HIV testing and treatment.

Featured Impact Stat:



Thank you to our partners:



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