

Advancing adolescent health, increasing medical male circumcision, and integrating family planning & HIV care

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FACES February-March 2017 Updates



Featured Update: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC)

Male circumcision has long been part of religious and cultural traditions, and, more recently, it has also been proven to reduce men's risk of acquiring HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. This February, the FACES team employed innovative approaches to increase VMMC rates by bringing educational information about the procedure out of the clinic and into the community. Community mobilization strategies included door-to-door

campaigns, community forums organized by government officials, known as *barazas*, and the use of public address systems and music to broadcast information. Clinics also offered late-night “moonlight” circumcisions to increase access outside of work hours. As an added benefit, some clients who came in for VMMC were also diagnosed and treated for other conditions, such as schistosomiasis and diabetes, which may have otherwise gone untreated.

VMMC Impact Numbers:

- **More than 5,000 people reached** through February VMMC outreach efforts
- **87.7% of all 2,166 circumcision clients in February** were referred through community outreach and events
 - 1,400 clients reached through community outreach
 - 500 clients reached through moonlight services



Advancing Adolescent Health: On March 23rd, in collaboration with local leaders, we convened a stakeholders forum with 77 attendees focused on the health of Kenya’s more than 9 million adolescents. The forum’s objectives included:

1. Discuss key challenges in adolescent health and possible solutions in relation to the UNAIDS 90:90:90 goals regarding HIV testing, prevention and treatment.
2. Determine factors contributing to and ways of addressing adolescent pregnancies in Kisumu County.

Integrating Family Planning & HIV

Care: [A new study](#), recently published in PLOS ONE and [covered by BuzzFeed](#), summarizes the impact of our efforts to integrate family planning and HIV services for women living with HIV. The results show that women living with HIV who received integrated care had a nearly 30 percent lower pregnancy rate and were more likely to use more effective contraceptive methods—compared to women who received services separately. Reducing unintended pregnancies is a vital strategy for protecting the health of women living with HIV and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. [Read more about the study results.](#)

3. Come up with a post-forum action plan to address adolescent health in Kisumu County.



Mural inside a FACES youth centre.



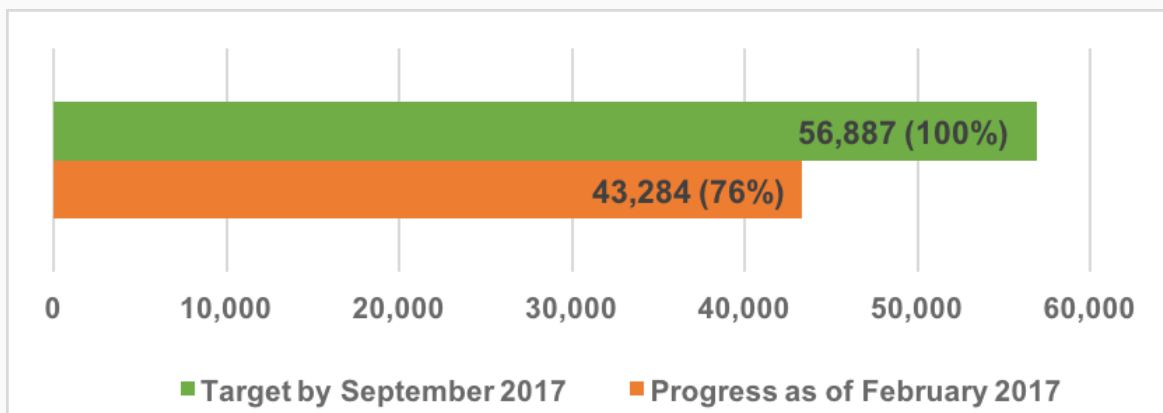
Sub-County Update: Nyando In addition to conducting the VMMC outreach mentioned above, a local focus has been on adolescent and pediatric support. To that end, we have:

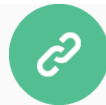
- Hosted 3 support group meetings for young people living with HIV. Attended by 140 participants, these meetings allowed young people to discuss issues such as medication adherence, sexual health, and substance abuse openly with peers.

- Installed play stations at two health facilities to engage more youth in services and keep them active.

Program Progress:

Total patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART)





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