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## Official launch celebration for 8 new adolescent and youth-friendly centers of excellence in Kisumu County



*FACES staff at Rabuur Adolescent Center*

On August 16th, FACES will celebrate the official opening of eight adolescent centers across Kisumu County. The brightly colored centers will provide youth-friendly services including health education, preventive health check-ups, psychosocial counseling and support, reproductive health services, and HIV testing, prevention, and treatment. The centers aim to serve as neighborhood hubs for adolescents with opportunities for education, sports, and other outreach activities. The centers were created in partnership with FACES and the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MOH), and are a key part of the Accelerating Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment Initiative, supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF). The centers underscore FACES' and the Kenyan government's investment in their younger generations.

The adolescent center launch celebration at Rabuur Sub County Hospital will be officiated by Hon/Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, the Governor of Kisumu County; Dr Mathews Owili, Deputy Governor of Kisumu County; and Dr Rosemary Obara, the County Executive Member for Health.

[Read more about the impact of our adolescent centers.](#)



The new Universal Health Coverage (UHC) program launched in Kisumu! A big celebration in Kombewa was held to commemorate the event. FACES' Deputy Director of Social Sciences, Dr. Charles Muga greeted the Governor of Kisumu County, the Hon/Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, at the event.

### More about some of our new approaches in Kisumu



#### New study to explore challenges for perinatally-infected adolescents

Children infected with HIV right before or after birth are increasingly surviving into adolescence, yet these children are at increased risk of poor outcomes. The [Adolescent Cohort Evaluation \(ACE\) study](#) will examine HIV care engagement status, health status, and HIV care preferences among perinatally-infected adolescents.

#### Evaluation unit update

FACES serves as an important platform for novel research, and we applaud our Evaluation Unit for guiding research efforts across FACES-supported sites. The Evaluation Unit is responsible for technical guidance and review of evaluation ideas, design and implementation. They ensure our



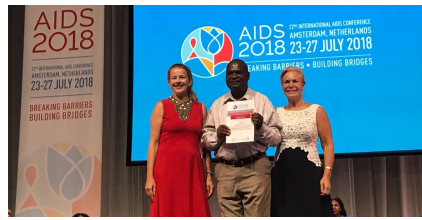
#### Shamba Maisha studying effect of intervention on adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health

[Shamba Maisha](#) is a groundbreaking study addressing food insecurity and health in HIV-affected households. A team of researchers, physicians, engineers, bankers, farmers, statisticians, nutritionists, economists and social scientists have come together to develop and test new approaches to improve health and empower families affected by HIV in rural Kenya.

Since 2016, Shamba Maisha has been testing the effectiveness of their collaborative intervention. This August, they're ready to build on that to recruit up to 240 adolescent girls to [assess the preliminary impact of the intervention at the household level on adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health](#).

approaches are feasible and effective, with the ultimate goal of improving HIV-related service delivery.

Over the years, FACES has pioneered many strategies that have become national standards, such as index-patient family-member testing, integration of reproductive health and HIV services, and integration of maternal health and HIV services to improve health practices and outcomes. Rigorous program evaluation has resulted in 13 peer-reviewed publications and over 65 abstracts presented at local and international scientific conferences.



### FACES shares impact at AIDS 2018

The FACES team joined leaders from around the world for the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam, uniting around the theme of “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges.”

Our researchers [shared findings](#) on delivering effective HIV prevention and treatment services in Kenya through posters, panels and more. Dr. Zachary Kwena was [honored with the Women, Girls and HIV Investigator’s Prize](#) for his work on linkage and retention in care for adolescent girls and young women around Lake Victoria.

## A long future ahead

“My parents died of HIV – almost all of my family, actually, died from HIV,” Eunice Omondi told visitors at the Rabour sub-county hospital in Kisumu, Kenya. “I, myself – I am positive, and have been my whole life.”

A 24-year-old peer leader for children and young adults, Eunice is emblematic of the uniquely challenging and complicated needs of children and teens managing an HIV+ status in the context of exceptionally difficult circumstances.

Guiding the 154 HIV-positive adolescents at the health center, she continues, “I used to think no one would ever accept me as someone living with HIV – when I came here, I was a shy person. I used to beat myself up about things, I used to cry a lot, I thought there was no future for me. Now I know better – I know there is a long future for me, and people who discriminate against those with HIV – I don’t care what they think.”

[Read Eunice’s story, and donate to support our peer leaders.](#)

### Featured Impact Stats for April-June 2018



**151,082** people tested for HIV, including 35,678 children under 15



Antiretroviral Treatment (ART)

**46,071** individuals currently on life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) at 61 care and treatment facilities, including 3,665 children under 15 years of age.



Viral Suppression

**90%** of individuals on ART are virally suppressed; 91% among adults and 79% among children under 15 years of age.



Visit the new FACES website to learn more about our impact and see how you can play a role in supporting our work.



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