



FACES Newsletter March 2018

World Tuberculosis Day: Leaders for a TB-Free World

On March 24th, we will join people around the world in reaffirming our commitment to fighting tuberculosis. TB is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, and for World TB Day 2018, FACES will intensify case identification in Kisumu County. Together with the Ministry of Health, we will conduct active case finding at all supported facilities by mobilizing people in the community for testing and plan to screen all health care workers.

Our commitment to fighting TB carries through the year. FACES prioritizes active TB case finding at healthcare delivery points, including HIV clinics where all people living with HIV are screened at each clinic visit. With the MOH, we plan to increase screening for healthcare workers since they are exposed to TB through the course of their work. We're enhancing drug resistant TB surveillance by ensuring eligible clients get GeneXpert testing and cultures. Thanks to the diligent work of FACES health care workers, nearly all of the people living with HIV at our supported health facilities are receiving ART!

More about some of our new approaches in Kisumu:

Adolescent centers launch next month: In April, FACES will celebrate the opening of adolescent centers staffed by peer leaders at 8 of our largest health facilities. These trained

peer leaders will help adolescents in Kisumu County become Operation Triple Zero Heroes—miss zero appointments, skip zero drug doses and maintain a zero viral load.

FACES teams share new research at CROI conference: FACES program and affiliated research teams shared findings on community HIV testing approaches, economics and repeat HIV testing in pregnancy, text messaging for PMTCT retention and more at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Boston. Dr. Elizabeth Bukusi gave the N’Galy-Mann Lecture at CROI’s opening session. This lecture recognizes a researcher for his/her important and impactful work in HIV/AIDS research.

Knowledge is empowerment: FACES writing workshop: Thirty-three participants took part in the FACES Scientific Writing Workshop held January 15-19. Facilitators from KEMRI, UCSF, GSI, University of Alabama, Birmingham, University of Colorado, Denver, and Northwestern shared their expertise in writing fundamentals, research question development, abstract writing, and manuscript drafting. Participants will be better equipped to widely share best practices in HIV care as well as innovation in health care delivery.

New FACES website launch: This month we are launching a brand new FACES website to capture our wide-ranging and impactful services, sustainability-focused capacity building, and innovative research. Visit our new site to learn more and see how you can play a role in supporting our work. www.faces.ucsf.edu

FACES Patient Impact

When FACES staff first encountered Veronica and Joseph*, they realized through prompt testing that both were struggling to achieve viral suppression.

Veronica was battling frequent opportunistic infections and her viral load had risen. The FACES team promptly switched her to a second-line treatment, which she has now been on

for the past year. Her health has improved significantly and she is virally suppressed.

For Joseph, whose viral load had skyrocketed, the major barrier to suppression was lack of adherence. FACES staff quickly acted to shift Joseph's care visits to focus on adherence interventions. With their support, he is taking his HIV drugs twice per day and has begun using strategies like the alarm on his phone to remember.

For Veronica, who spent many years in denial of her HIV status and refusing treatment, the support of FACES staff has gone well beyond viral suppression. **“When I was first tested, I thought HIV was a death sentence. Through coming to clinic, I have learned how...to live HIV-positive, how to disclose my status, how to fight stigma and discrimination, and how to accept myself.**

**names are changed to protect privacy*

Featured Impact Stats:

99% of HIV-positive pregnant mothers started on ART

731, 841 individuals tested for HIV

44,560 people living with HIV on life-saving ART

53,440 underwent voluntary medical male circumcision

data are from October 2016 through December 2017

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This project has been supported in part by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the terms of Agreement # NU2GGH001947.

The findings and conclusions in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the funding agencies.