



# USAID 4TheChild Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 4: April - June 2022



## Table of Contents

About USAID 4TheChild .....	1
Message from our Leaders .....	2
Summary of Key Achievements .....	3
Activity Progress .....	3
Key Activities for the Period July - September 2022 .....	9
Contact Information .....	9

## Overview of USAID 4TheChild

USAID 4TheChild is a five-year (2021-2026) PEPFAR-funded program, through USAID/Kenya and East Africa, implemented by Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) in a consortium with Make Me Smile - Kenya (MMS-K) and Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF). The program's name, "4TheChild", is derived from its Kiswahili title – *Tuangane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto* – which means “coming together to protect, invest, and improve the health and education of the child.” USAID 4TheChild seeks to increase use of quality county-led health and social services in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu and Siaya counties, working in partnership with the National Government of the Republic of Kenya (GoK), County Governments across the five project counties, and 10 local civil society organizations (CSOs).

### Sub-purpose 1: Increase access and demand to quality HIV prevention services for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kisumu County

The DREAMS (*Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe*) project empowers adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), ages 9–24 years, at risk of HIV infection, and reduces risk of HIV through youth-friendly reproductive health care and social asset building; mobilizes communities for change with school- and community-based HIV and violence prevention; reduces risk of sex partners; and strengthens families with social protection and caregiver programs.

### Sub-purpose 3: Increase access to quality health and social services for orphans & vulnerable children (OVC) and their families in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties

The OVC (*Orphans and Vulnerable Children*) project serves children in a range of adverse situations, i.e., children who are living with HIV, living with caregivers who are living with HIV, orphaned, at risk of becoming infected, or a combination of these factors.

Project activities are focused on service delivery to OVC and their families to improve their health, wellbeing, and protection as well as strengthen child, adolescent, and family resilience.

### COVID-19 Mitigation project: Create demand for COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Kisumu County

The COVID-19 Response project works with the county leadership, community leaders, and local organizations to create demand for COVID-19 vaccines uptake, especially among the youth. The project seeks to accelerate widespread and equitable access to and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination, reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, mitigate transmission of COVID-19, and strengthen health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to threats from COVID-19.

## Message from our Leaders



"Moi University recognizes the need for strategic partnerships for integrated and holistic service delivery to our target groups and communities. This aligns with the University's mission to work with stakeholders for the betterment of society."

**Prof. Robert Tenge**  
Acting Principal, MUCHS



"USAID 4TheChild is committed to delivering quality health and social services to our target beneficiaries. We call upon our stakeholders to continue living our aspirations of *Tuungane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto.*"

**Mr. Kenneth Otieno**  
Ag. Chief of Party, USAID 4TheChild

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On behalf of Moi University, I would like to acknowledge the continued guidance and leadership from USAID/KEA in supporting the implementation of USAID 4TheChild.

This quarter, Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) continued to harness collaborations with the national and county governments, civil society, public, and private sector players in increasing access to health and social services for beneficiaries in USAID 4TheChild. During this period, the program benefited from robust participation and contribution from the County Program Delivery Committees (CPDCs) across the five project counties. MUCHS appreciates the work of CPDCs and remains committed to promoting county-led and county-owned interventions through USAID 4TheChild.

MUCHS, through its partners, initiated conversations and engaged private sector players to leverage health and social services for the beneficiaries. The University recognizes the need for strategic partnerships for integrated and holistic service delivery to our target groups and communities. This aligns with Moi University's mission to work with stakeholders for the betterment of society.

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On behalf of USAID 4TheChild, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the unrelenting support from our local implementing partners, HIV service delivery partners, project staff, and other key stakeholders in program implementation during the period.

This quarter, USAID 4TheChild fully layered 75% of 15,924 AGYW in Kisumu County with DREAMS primary services. The program reached 145,824 OVC with services based on case plan needs. In increasing access to health and social services, USAID 4TheChild utilized program data to leverage support & contributions from various stakeholders, including the government and private sector. Under the COVID-19 project, USAID 4TheChild reached 51,788 people with COVID-19 risk communication messages. The program supported a 10-day Rapid Result Initiative (RRI) in Kisumu County which led to the achievement of 45% full vaccination coverage, making the county range top three nationally in vaccine coverage.

USAID 4TheChild is committed to delivering quality health and social services to our target beneficiaries. To achieve this, the program continues to identify and address capacity gaps among our partners and social service workforce and create an enabling environment for holistic services. We call upon our stakeholders to continue living our aspirations of *Tuungane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto.*

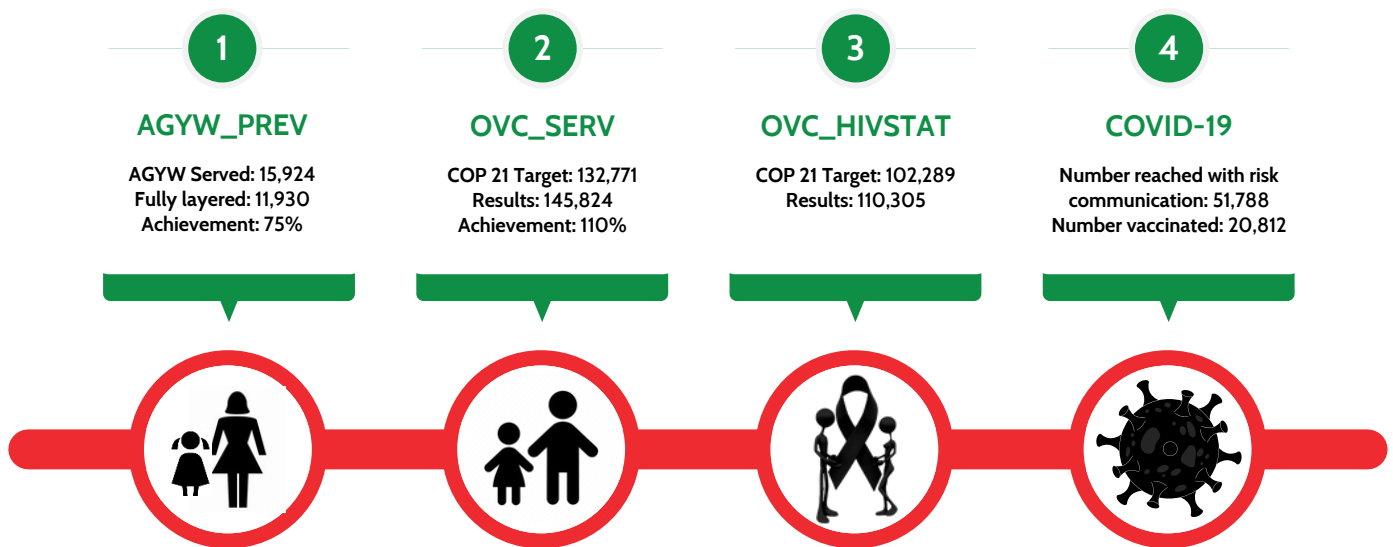


## Summary of Key Achievements

In this quarter, USAID 4TheChild facilitated interventions across the five counties towards improving health and wellbeing of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) living with and/or affected by HIV and adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) at substantial risk of HIV infection, as well as strengthening communities and structures as they work towards an AIDS-free generation. The program supported Kisumu County towards mitigation of COVID-19 through Demand Creation Campaign to increase uptake of COVID-19 vaccination.

The diagram below summarizes program achievements across the five counties between April and June 2022:

### April - June 2022



## Activity Progress

### Increasing Access and Demand to Quality HIV Prevention Services for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW)



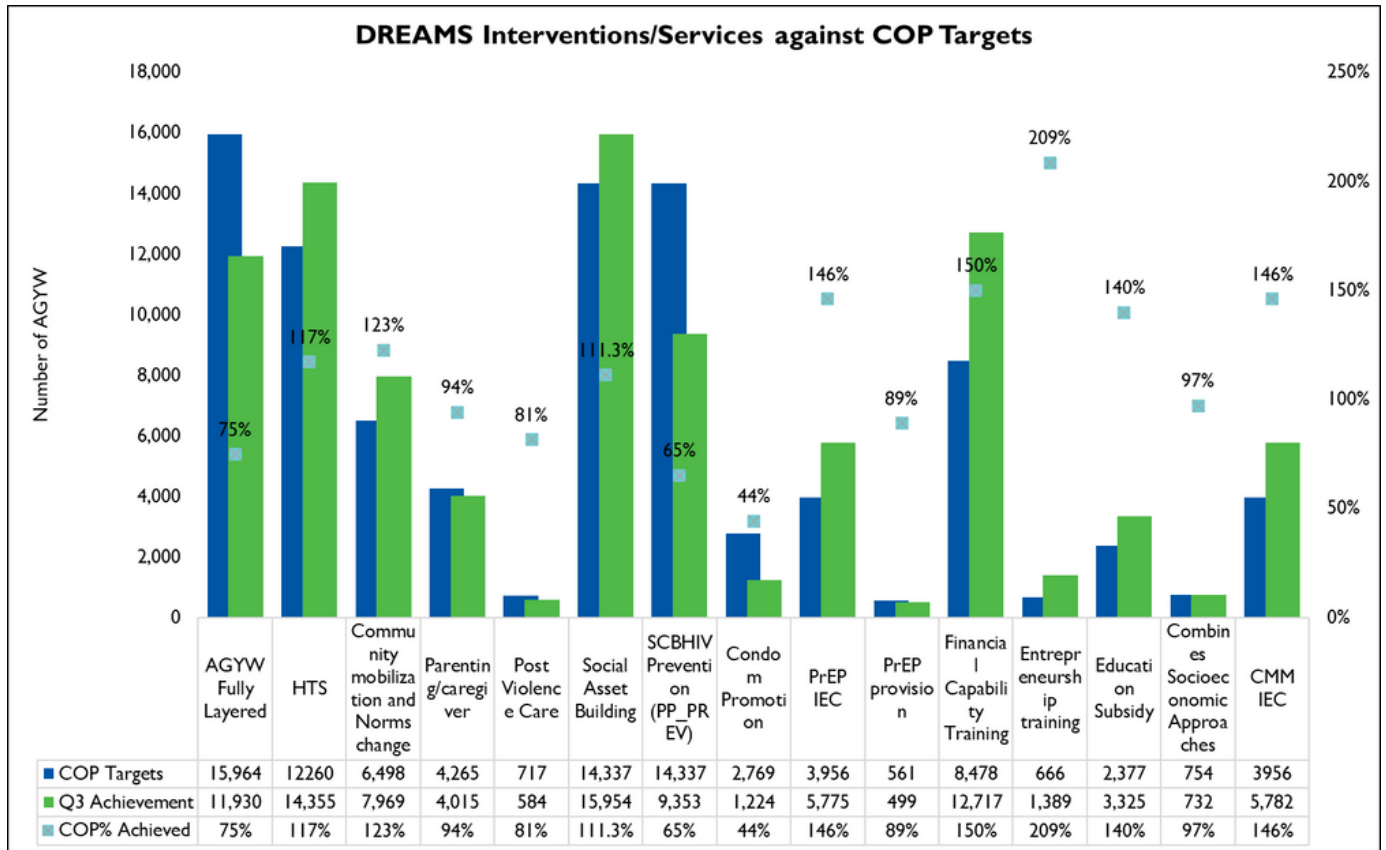
Members of the AGYW Advisory Council after a training session. The Council is tasked with ensuring that the voices of DREAMS girls are heard throughout the project planning and implementation periods

In FY 2022, USAID 4TheChild targets 14,337 AGYW ages 9 to 24 years across 13 wards in four (4) sub-counties of Kisumu County, including Kajulu, Kolwa Central, Kolwa East, Manyatta B, and Nyalenda A in Kisumu East Sub-County; Nyalenda B, Kondele, and Railways in Kisumu Central Sub-County; Ahero and Kobura in Nyando Sub-County; and Chemelil, Miwani, and Koru in Muhoroni Sub-County .

During the quarter, the program reached 15,924 AGYW. 75% of the girls served (11,930) were fully layered (*provided with multiple interventions from the DREAMS core package*) with the DREAMS primary services. The project increased service uptake during the April and June school holidays.



## Summary of AGYW Interventions Analysis of Targets vs Achieved as at Q3



### USAID 4TheChild DREAMS girls participate in the Reducing HIV in Adolescents and Youth (RHAY) Conference in Kisumu



USAID 4TheChild DREAMS girls during the RHAY Conference

USAID 4TheChild DREAMS girls participated in the Reducing HIV in Adolescents and Youth (RHAY) Conference – a HIV/AIDS conference that involves adolescents and young people (AYP) in identifying measures to reduce HIV/AIDS – held in Kisumu. The girls made a poster presentation showcasing how the USAID-supported project has empowered 754 AGYW through Financial Capability Training (FCT) and introduced them to different monetary topics, thus giving them confidence to make a difference in their lives and achieve their DREAMS.



Jenipher Ochieng, a DREAMS beneficiary and FCT facilitator, presenting a poster during the RHAY Conference

*"By undergoing Financial Capability Training, the girls have become good money managers, which contributes to a decline in early marriages, teen pregnancies, and HIV prevalence due to reduced financial vulnerability," Jenipher Ochieng.*

## 39 USAID 4TheChild DREAMS girls graduate following a 6-month vocational training



Sudi Awino (wearing a graduation gown), a DREAMS girl, receiving a certificate from Simon Peter, the MMS-K Director, during a graduation ceremony after completing a 6-month vocational training course at Angola Craft Centre, Kisumu

USAID 4TheChild held a graduation ceremony for 39 AGYW (including 24 young mothers) following a 6-month vocational training at Angola Craft Centre – also a DREAMS safe space – in Kisumu. The program supported each graduate with a business start-up kit to help them start small-scale business enterprises. A total of 5 AGYW were trained on digital marketing to enable them to reach wider consumer markets with their products. During their training, the AGYW benefited from various DREAMS services, including behavioral and biomedical interventions, and training in communication skills.

## USAID 4TheChild partners with Ajira Digital Program to train AGYW on online jobs



Beatrice Ottawa, a trainer from Ajira Digital Program, taking the DREAMS girls through to the Ajira program which offers online work training and mentorship. The Ajira Digital Program trained and mentored the AGYW on online jobs

USAID 4TheChild collaborated with Ajira Digital Program -- established in 2016 by the Government of Kenya (GoK) through the Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs to bridge the gap between skills demand and the lack of jobs affecting the youth in Kenya -- to introduce AGYW to digitally-enabled work and provide the tools and mentorship needed for the girls to work and earn an income. The Ajira Digital Program trained and mentored the AGYW on online jobs. This will be monitored jointly to ensure the girls access digital job opportunities.

## Increasing Access to Quality County-led Health and Social Services by Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their Families



A section of beneficiary children during a learning session

USAID 4TheChild seeks to improve the health and well-being of 132,771 children living with and affected by HIV across Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. The project also seeks to strengthen child and family resilience and contribute to the acceleration of access to HIV/ AIDS prevention, care, and treatment for children.

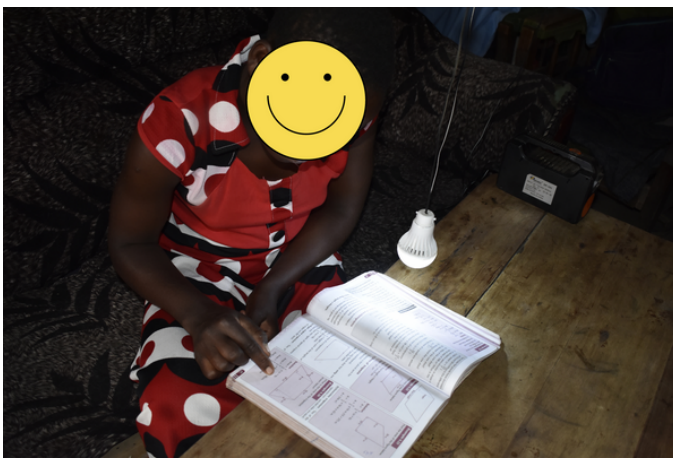
During this quarter, USAID 4TheChild served 145,824 OVC (65,572 male; 80,252 female), representing an achievement of 110% against the year's target. 88% (128,075) of the total OVC served were below 18 years.



## OVC Served Achievement per County

County	COP 21 Targets	OVC _Comprehensive			OVC _Preventive			DREAMS	Total OVC_ Served Q3			% Achieved
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bungoma	10,696	5,090	5,338	10,428	39	54	93	0	5,129	5,392	10,521	98%
Busia	18,336	8,866	9,427	18,293	433	41	474	0	9,299	9,468	18,767	102%
Kakamega	16,810	7,823	8,425	16,248	988	326	1,314	0	8,811	8,751	17,562	104%
Kisumu	63,521	29,227	31,505	60,732	2,139	2,348	4,487	11,169	31,366	45,022	76,388	120%
Siaya	23,408	10,880	11,473	22,353	87	146	233	0	10,967	11,619	22,586	96%
Total	132,771	61,886	66,168	128,054	3,686	2,915	6,601	11,169	65,572	80,252	145,824	110%

## USAID 4TheChild empowers teachers to support education & health outcomes for OVC



A school girl doing home study using a solar lamp provided by USAID 4TheChild

USAID 4TheChild sensitized 13 teachers in Bungoma County on their role in supporting HIV treatment adherence among school-going children within the school environment. The teachers will support learners infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS by providing them with psychosocial support, acting as a link between the learners and their caregivers, reducing stigma and discrimination in the schools, and ensuring that the learners access HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. The workshop also enhanced the teachers' skills to better listen to and communicate with the children under their care.

## Share-outs enable caregivers of OVC to meet their financial goals and invest in IGAs

During the quarter, 38 saving groups shared out KES 8,889,126. The proceeds and accumulated savings from the savings cycle enabled 617 caregivers to meet their financial goals and meet their immediate family needs. In Siaya County, one of the savings groups invested in canvas tents and plastic chairs to help members and the community at large during community events as an income-generating activity.



Members of a savings group in Siaya County presented with an assortment of household items as part of share-out

## USAID 4TheChild links OVC caregivers and AGYW to digital marketing platforms



An OVC caregiver showing her products during selection for onboarding on the digital marketing platform

USAID 4TheChild partnered with GlobalSoko Foundation Inc. to enable OVC caregivers and AGYW to access DadaSoko, a digital marketing platform that eliminates barriers to opportunities and transforms people's livelihoods. The program trained 211 caregivers and AGYW who engage in different micro-enterprises on digital market access and financial literacy and introduced them to the platform to increase their market access & income. USAID 4TheChild continues to build the capacity of OVC caregivers to produce quality products and access markets and credit for their enterprises.



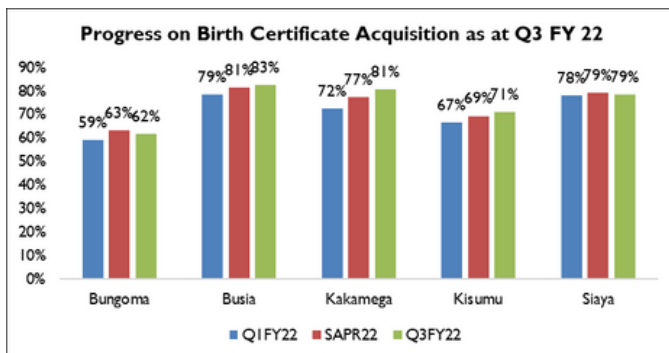
## USAID 4TheChild equips CALHIV with knowledge to help them to cope well in boarding schools and adhere to HIV treatment



Children on HIV treatment from Kakamega participating in a preparatory session to enable them to cope with new life in boarding schools while adhering to HIV treatment

USAID 4TheChild – in collaboration with Kenya Network of HIV-Positive Teachers (KENEPOTE) local chapters, HIV care and treatment partners, and health facilities – held preparatory sessions for 236 CALHIV from Kakamega and Kisumu counties who were joining boarding secondary schools for the first time. The sessions equipped them with knowledge and insights to enable them to cope with school life and adhere to HIV treatment. The program also supported county-level Operation Triple Zero (OTZ) club meetings to provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning for the CALHIV across the five counties.

## USAID 4TheChild supports increased uptake of birth certificates among OVC



USAID 4TheChild supported OVC to obtain birth certificates, registering an increase in birth certificate acquisition among active OVC from 73% in Q2 to 75%. The program sensitized community on the application procedures & facilitated civil registration officers to process application documents through community outreaches. In Busia, the program's local implementing partner, ADT, employed triple one strategy for birth certificate acquisition, whereby a community health volunteer was to submit at least one birth certificate application form every week.

## CPDC enhances participation of government departments in project implementation and monitoring



Kakamega CPDC members during one of their monthly project performance review and planning meetings

USAID 4TheChild continued to support the County Program Delivery Committees (CPDCs) to facilitate active involvement of government departments in the program. This quarter, the CPDCs held monthly review & planning meetings and developed plans to support the program to address areas that needed improvement. The CPDCs supported the program in areas including birth certificate acquisitions, access to social protection database, increased linkages for education subsidies through the national and county governments, and linkage to the Department of Agriculture programs supporting food production and nutrition among vulnerable populations.

## USAID 4TheChild supports commemoration of the Day of the African Child 2022



OVC participating in a procession to commemorate the Day of the African Child 2022 in Kisumu County

USAID 4TheChild supported beneficiary participation during the commemoration of the Day of the African Child on June 16th, 2022 across the five project counties. During the celebrations in Kisumu County, the chair of the Children's Assembly urged the county governments and stakeholders to set up and accelerate child protection programs.

## Demand Creation for COVID-19 Vaccination

During the quarter, USAID 4TheChild supported the Kisumu County Government, through the Department of Health, to create demand for COVID-19 vaccine uptake among residents of Kisumu Central, Kisumu East, Muhoroni, and Nyando sub-counties. The project employed mixed strategies in demand-creation, including digital platforms, local mass media, community mobilization campaigns, and community-wide outreaches.

### Achievements (April - June 2022)

#### Number of People Receiving COVID-19 Vaccination

	<15 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-24 yrs.	25-49 yrs.	50+ yrs.	Total
1st Doses	212	3,439	892	322	74	4,939
2nd Doses + J&J	169	4,868	2,138	4,507	647	12,329
Booster Doses	0	0	666	1,252	688	2,606
Total	381	8,307	3,696	6,081	1,409	19,874

#### USAID 4TheChild integrates the COVID-19 vaccination activities into the NTSA registration exercise for Boda Boda Operators in Kisumu



Health care workers confirming the details of a boda-boda rider before administering COVID-19 vaccines

USAID 4TheChild collaborated with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to integrate COVID-19 vaccination drive into the 60-day nationwide registration of boda-boda operators facilitated by NTSA at Huduma Center in Kisumu City.

*"Kujumuisha chanjo ya COVID-19 na mchakato wa usajili wa boda-boda kulileta huduma karibu na wahudumu wa boda-boda ambao kwa kawaida huwa na shughuli nyingi barabarani na hawana muda wa kutembelea vituo vya afya kupata chanjo. Tunashukuru mradi wa USAID 4TheChild kwa huduma hii," Patrick Abuti, Chair, Boda-Boda Riders Association, Kisumu.*

#### The Youth Lens

# 110

Youth leaders trained on using digital platforms to mobilize and reach peers with COVID-19 messages

# 1,666

Youth reached with COVID-19 messages through digital and social media platforms

# 12,003

Youth, ages 15-24 years, (6,706 male; 5,297 female) vaccinated against COVID-19

#### USAID 4TheChild empowers youth leaders to use digital/social media to disseminate COVID-19 messages



A section of youth champions during a training on use of digital platforms to enhance risk communication

USAID 4TheChild trained 110 youth leaders on use of digital and social media platforms to disseminate COVID-19 risk messages. During the quarter, the youth champions reached 1,666 peers with COVID-19 awareness and prevention messages on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok platforms.



## Key Activities for the Next Quarter

Next quarter (July - September 2022), USAID 4TheChild will:



### AGYW DREAMS Project

- Ensure targeted service layering to the AGYW enrolled in the project
- Roll out CBIM intervention to adolescent boys and young men (ABYM)

### OVC Project

- Support CALHIV VL uptake and DTG optimization
- Work with partners in the *Jua Mtoto Wako* Initiative to support CALHIV in treatment adherence
- Roll out the pilot digitalization of the case management tools
- Facilitate OVC preventive Sinovuyo sessions



### COVID-19 Response Project

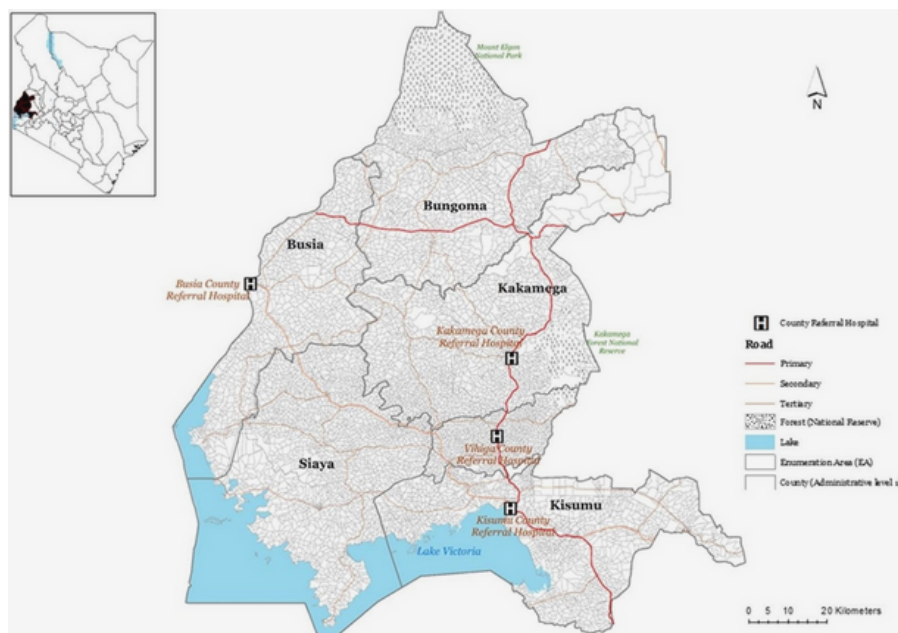
- Train youths to use social media for COVID-19 messaging in Kakamega and Siaya counties
- Enhance risk communication messaging through mass media channels
- Support Kisumu CDoH to accelerate vaccine uptake

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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## Project Coverage



- Bungoma County
- Busia County
- Kakamega County
- Kisumu County
- Siaya County

## Project Partners

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) stakeholders coming together to protect, invest, and improve the health and education of the child with the generous support of the American People through the United States President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).





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