

USAID 4TheChild



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FY23-Q3 (APRIL - JUNE 2023)

Tuungane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto



Table of Content

01	About Us USAID 4TheChild Overview; Goal; and Objectives	→	●
02	Message from Our Leaders MUCHS Principal; USAID 4TheChild Acting Chief of Party	→	●
03	Performance Highlights OVC_SERV; OVC_HIVSTAT; OVC Graduation; AGYW_PREV; COVID-19 Vaccination	→	●
04	Activity Progress AGYW Interventions (DREAMS); OVC Support; COVID-19 Mitigation Support	→	●
05	Next Quarter Activities AGYW Interventions (DREAMS); OVC Support	→	●

Overview of USAID 4TheChild

**Tuungane
Tulinde
Tuwekeze
Tuboreshe
Afya na Elimu ya
Mtoto**

Name	Acronym
TUUNGANE TULINDE TUWEKEZE TUBORESHE AFYA NA ELIMU YA MTOTO	4TheChild
What the name means	
TUUNGANE	<i>Pooling resources together for the benefit of vulnerable children and their families.</i>
TULINDE	<i>Protecting the welfare of the vulnerable children</i>
TUWEKEZE	<i>Invest in children and systems strengthening for sustainability</i>
TUBORESHE	<i>Improving access to quality services for vulnerable children and the families</i>
AFYA NA ELIMU YA MTOTO	<i>Health and education of the Child</i>

4TheChild Program

USAID 4TheChild is a five-year (2021-2026) program funded by PEPFAR through USAID/Kenya and East Africa. ‘4TheChild’ in the program’s name is derived from its Kiswahili title – Tuungane 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 is implemented in Kenya across Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties by a consortium of local organizations, consisting of Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) as the lead partner and Make Me Smile - Kenya (MMS-K) as the partner for the program’s Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) component in Kisumu County. MUCHS implements through the Academic Model Providing Access To Healthcare (AMPATH).

Goal

To increase use of quality county-led health and social services in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties.

Objective 1 DREAMS Interventions	Objective 2 OVC Support	Objective 3 COVID-19 Response
To increase access and demand to quality HIV prevention services for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kisumu County by March 2026.	To increase access to quality health and social services for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and their families in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties by March 2026.	To create demand and accelerate widespread and equitable access to and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination in Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties by June 2023.

Message from Our Leaders



Prof. Robert Tenge
Principal, MUCHS

On behalf of Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS), I extend a warm welcome to this 8th edition of the USAID 4TheChild quarterly Newsletter!

MUCHS values its enduring partnership with USAID/ Kenya and East Africa in the implementation of USAID 4TheChild across Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. Our commitment to fortifying this alliance remains unwavering, with a dedicated focus on fostering community welfare.

It is with great enthusiasm that we share the news of USAID 4TheChild's sustained collaboration with the respective county governments in these five counties. This underscores the pivotal role played by county leadership in coordinating and overseeing program execution. Consequently, our program continues to bolster the County Program Delivery Committees (CPDCs), facilitating seamless co-implementation and co-monitoring with the county authorities.

MUCHS recognizes that the efficacy of program delivery hinges on partnerships with like-minded entities and private sector organizations. This quarter, Moi University leaders embarked on a journey of collaboration and knowledge-sharing, while also forging new partnerships geared toward the successful and sustainable execution of our mission. This aligns with Moi University's mission to collaborate with stakeholders for the betterment of society.



Kenneth Otieno
Acting Chief of Party, USAID 4TheChild

We are delighted to provide an overview of the USAID 4TheChild journey during the performance period of April-June 2023. In this 8th edition of the program's newsletter, we present key highlights from our performance this quarter, the status of program implementation, and a glimpse into major upcoming activities for the next quarter.

This quarter, USAID 4TheChild reached 14,943 active AGYW, with 78% receiving age-appropriate DREAMS services and 59% successfully completing evidence-based interventions. The program, as well, reached 125,422 OVC with health and social services based on their needs, with 9,142 OVC graduating from program support after meeting all the established benchmarks.

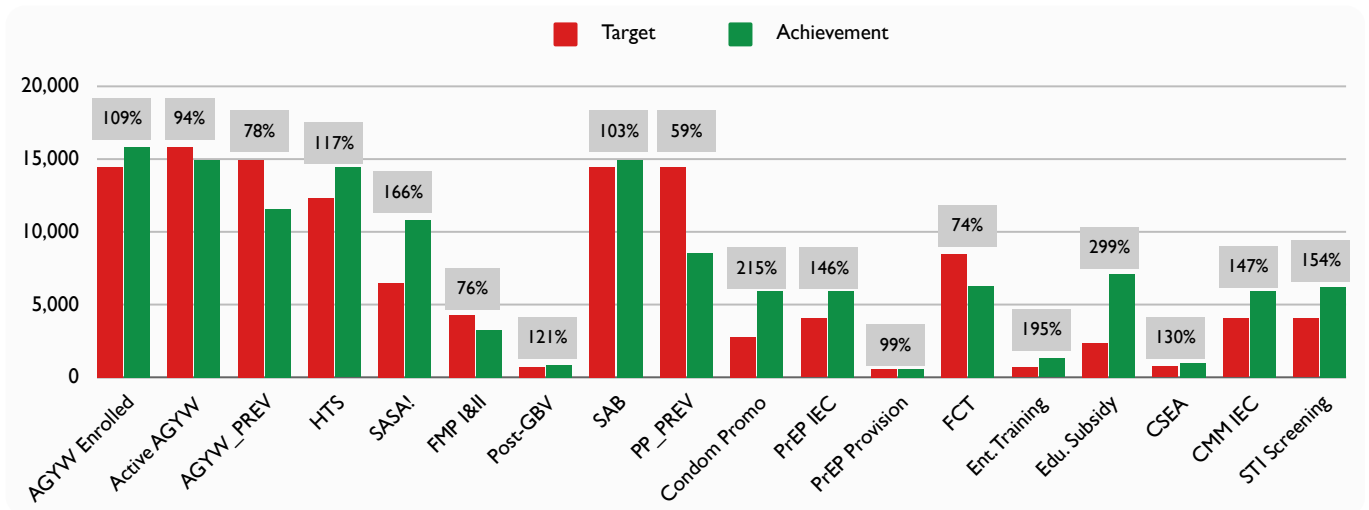
Our success in this period is attributed to valuable collaborations with public, civil society, and private sector partners. We are grateful for the unwavering support from both national and county government. USAID 4TheChild acknowledges the contributions of like-minded partners and private enterprises in our catchment. We urge our stakeholders to continue pooling resources and efforts to protect, invest in, and improve the health and education of the child.

As we navigate through the current financial year, our focus remains on strengthening these collaborations to enhance use of quality county-led health and social services for our beneficiaries.

Performance Highlights

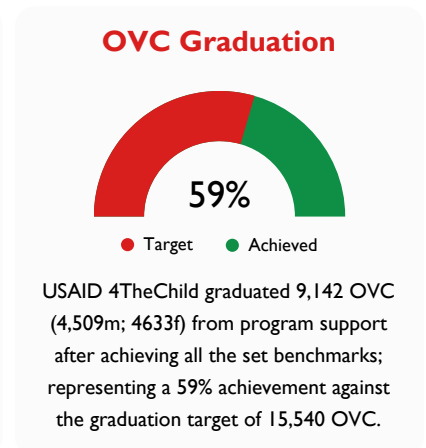
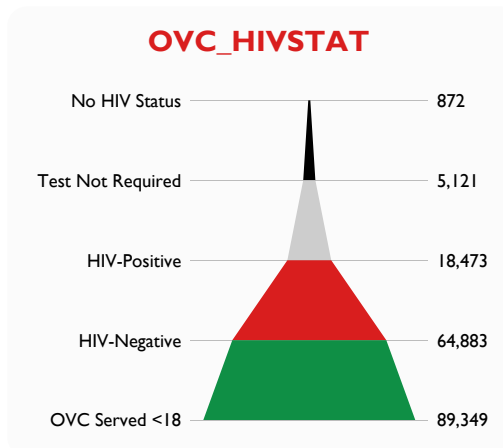
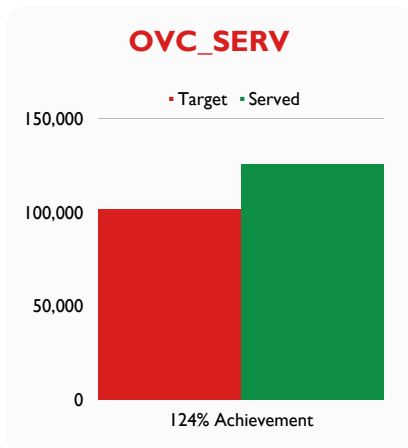
DREAMS/AGYW Interventions (April-June 2023)

The USAID 4TheChild DREAMS project reported 14,943 active AGYW. Of these, 8,307 were carried forward from FY22. Interventions in DREAMS resulted in 59% completion of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) and 78% layering (provision of age-appropriate DREAMS package of services) of 14,943 AGYW. A total of 11,467 AGYW were reported in DREAMS disaggregate under OVC served 10-17 years.



OVC Support (April-June 2023)

USAID 4TheChild served 125,422 OVC (57,461m; 67,961f), representing an achievement of 124% against the COP22 target of 101,469. USAID 4TheChild also served 89,349 (117% out of the COP target of 76,182) OVC below 18 years with HIV status reported to the project.



COVID-19 Response (April-June 2023)

Demand Creation - Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya Counties					
Platform	Radio & TV	Social Media	SMS and Calls	IECs	Other Platforms
Number of People Reached	1,623,456	267,037	206	2,584	1,036

Service Delivery - Kisumu County				
Vaccine/ Doses	1st Doses	2nd Doses + J&J	Booster Doses	Total
Number of People Vaccinated	10,502	18,359	11,097	39,948

Activity Highlights

Moi University Leaders Engage in Collaborative Learning with the USAID 4TheChild Program

Moi University's leadership, led by Prof. Isaac Kimengi (Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academics, Research, Extension, and Student Affairs), paid a visit to USAID 4TheChild program sites in Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties to assess the program's progress and contribute to its learning agenda.

The University team included Prof. Robert Tenge (Principal, MUCHS), Prof. Mary Wahome (Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences), Dr. Julia Songok (Dean, School of Medicine), Dr. Ochiba Lukandu (Dean, School of Dentistry), Dr. Patrick Kerre (Dean, School of Public Health), Dr. Dinah Chelagat (Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery), and Prof. Arthur Kwena (Associate Dean, School of Medicine).



In Kisumu, the Moi University (MU) leaders paid a courtesy call to the County Department of Medical Services, Public Health, and Sanitation, and engaged the Department of Health (CDoH), led by Chief Officer Dr. Ojwang Lusi, who stressed a strong collaboration between USAID 4TheChild and the County Government of Kisumu to enhance access to quality health services for over 49,000 OVC.

The MU team also participated in a Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) group meeting of OVC caregivers and observed the group's impact on OVC households, improving the members' living standards, increasing their income, and reducing vulnerability to economic shocks. Additionally, the MU delegates toured the Angola DREAMS Integrated Hub, which utilizes a safe space model to promote health service-seeking behaviour among 1,082 AGYW.



In Kakamega, the MU team paid a courtesy call to the County Ministry for Social Services, Youths, Sports, and Culture and held a site visit to a local partner, CABDA, to interact with staff, community workforce, partners, and beneficiaries on hits and misses of the program and ways to streamline interventions. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Social Services, Sports, Youth, Gender and Culture, Mophat Mandela, appreciated the good relations between the County Government of Kakamega and USAID 4TheChild, highlighting the program support in development of Kakamega County Children Policy.



In Siaya, the MU leaders held a site visit to the local partner, GZ-K, and engaged staff and partners on the progress of OVC interventions in the county. They also engaged 20 OVC caregivers from Kamenga SILC Group who practice fish farming to generate income to care for and protect their children.

★ Prof. Issac Kimengi, Moi University

“USAID 4TheChild forming strategic partnerships with government departments at the county level as well as civil society and private sector players aligns well with Moi University's mission to work with stakeholders for the betterment of society.”

USAID 4TheChild Commemorates the Day of the African Child 2023



USAID 4TheChild offered support and actively took part in the Day of the African Child 2023 (DAC23) commemorations held in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. The objective of DAC23 was to raise awareness of child rights in the digital environment and encourage the government and other children's stakeholders to work towards their achievement. The USAID 4TheChild Acting Chief of Party, Kenneth Otieno, participated in the national celebrations, hosted by Busia County, which were honoured by the presence of Lady Justice Teresia Matheka, a judge of the High Court, and chair of the National Council on the Admiration of Justice (NCA) standing committee on Administration of Justice for Children in Kenya.

"The government has enacted laws like Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act, the Penal Code, and The Children Act among others to address online child abuse," said Lady Justice Matheka.

Kenneth Otieno, Ag. CoP

"Let us kickstart a dialogue on how children partners can come together to invest in children programs and equip them to address the challenges children encounter in this digital era."

Mr. Kenneth said, "Increased engagement of children in digital platforms exposes them to a wide range of negative effects inadvertently, such as cyber-bullying, solicitation of minors, identify theft, online fraud, and child pornography among other vices." He called for a dialogue on how all actors can come together to promote an investment in children to tackle the challenges they are facing in this digital era.

USAID 4TheChild Supports the Launch of the Kakamega County Children Policy



USAID 4TheChild played a crucial role in the development of the Kakamega County Children Policy (April 2023). This policy is designed to incorporate child protection into the legislative agenda of the county government and to secure ongoing county government investments in addressing the specific challenges faced by children in the County.

On 10th May, USAID 4TheChild provided substantial support for the official launch of the Policy at Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega. The event was presided over by His Excellency FCPA Fernandes Barasa OGW, the Governor of Kakamega County, and attended by Mr. Mophat Mandela, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Social Services, Sports, Youth, Gender, and Culture, along with other CECMs. It also drew the participation of national and county government officials, stakeholders dedicated to children's welfare, child representatives, and members of the public. The program also supported the production of copies of the Policy document for distribution among various partners.



During the ceremony, Governor Barasa conveyed his gratitude to USAID 4TheChild and partners for their unwavering support in advancing the well-being of children in the county. He implored all stakeholders dedicated to children to ensure the policy's diligent implementation and reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to safeguarding and upholding children's rights.

CECM Mandela emphasized that "the Policy will establish a comprehensive framework for efficient and coordinated planning, resource allocation, and execution of interventions on our children's issues."

In her remarks, County Chief Officer for Social and Children Services, Culture and Gender, Vivian Ayuma, expressed her profound appreciation for the collective efforts of all partners throughout the Policy development process. She further commended USAID 4TheChild for the invaluable technical and financial support.



Also, Busia and Kisumu counties completed the finalization of their draft children policies. USAID 4TheChild will maintain its support for Bungoma and Siaya counties in the development of their children policies.

★ Mophat Mandela, CECM

"The enactment of these policies will create a legal framework for the allocation of resources and execution of interventions for children."

USAID 4TheChild Convenes a Governance and Accountability Workshop for Local Partners' Board Members and Directors

USAID 4TheChild conducted a governance and accountability workshop for 24 board members and directors of the program's local implementing partners (LIPs). The Program recognizes that having strong local partners is key to scaling up and sustaining continuous transformative change at the community level in the Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR); USAID 4TheChild's sustainability agenda. The program also recognizes the critical role played by LIP boards in building effective and efficient governance and accountability operations within their organizations.



Topics Covered

Governance

board composition, board roles, and responsibilities, board members files; guidelines on the management of dormant board members, onboarding new board members and board transition; board meetings and documentation for the meetings; and involvement of the board members in program operations

Accountability

transparency and budgetary control; financial supporting documentation, filling, and backup system; segregation of duties/functions; authorization levels/approval matrix; procurement process documentation; and budgeting

Risk Management

organizational risk mapping; risk register; and risk management strategy/policy

Compliance

sub-award agreement; compliance to organizational policies/manuals/internal controls, statutory requirements, and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Board; and USAID (System for Award Management (SAM), Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), and UN compliance checks)

Service Delivery and Sustainability

USAID 4TheChild desired outcomes; the role of the board in tracking the progress of the project outcomes; project transition and sustainability

Branding and Visibility

PEPFAR Marking Guidance; USAID Marking Guidance (including Code of Federal Regulations, ADS Chapter 320, and USAID Graphic Standards Manual and Partner Co-Branding Guide); and USAID 4TheChild Branding Strategy and Marking Plan

The workshop had outdoor reflection sessions where the participants were allowed to share some of their experiences in leading and supporting governance and accountability operations within their organizations. They stressed the significance of short, regular board meetings, ongoing training for LIP governance teams, and the challenge of 'founder-owner syndrome' hampering board effectiveness. They also noted the importance of non-monetary support, urged localized resource mobilization, and recommended forming specific committees within the boards. Flexibility in amending constitutions and documenting board facilitation policies was discussed, as was the need for the board chair to engage members proactively.



Gladys Nabiswa, the Director for CABDA, sharing the experiences of CABDA's board during the outdoor reflection session of the USAID 4TheChild Governance and Accountability Workshop for LIP board members and directors

USAID 4TheChild Participates in the Launch of a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Court in Kisumu County and E-Filing System for the Court



USAID 4TheChild joined other partners in the launch of a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Court in Kisumu County. The program also witnessed the initiation of the automation of court services in Kisumu, Siaya, and Homa Bay counties, an innovative technology which replaces the outdated manual filing system that often resulted in lost files and hindered the delivery of justice.

★ H.E. Hon. Martha Koome, CJ

“This is a problem we can say no to by embracing the value of respecting one another so that we don’t see young girls or women in our midst as sexual objects but view them as human beings whose rights need to be protected and not violated.”

The ceremony was graced by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kenya, Her Excellency Hon. Martha Koome, who decried the global pandemic of violence against women, girls, and men, emphasizing the need for urgent interventions to protect the rights of survivors. The Chief Justice called upon justice actors and stakeholders to lead public awareness programs to increase understanding of SGBV and its ramifications. She affirmed the Judiciary's dedication to ensuring access to justice by the most vulnerable and marginalized.



The program included a skit performed by DREAMS Girls (AGYW representatives) on sexual abuse and judicial support in addressing the case to convey the importance of justice, protection, and empowerment for girls. Simon Peter, Director of MMS-K, urged justice stakeholders to embrace Court Users Committees (CUCs) to collaboratively address issues that hinder justice for vulnerable children and AGYW.

USAID 4TheChild Successfully Wraps Up COVID-19 Response Project – Engages Stakeholders in Discussion on Results, Best Practices, and Transition Plans

USAID 4TheChild concluded its COVID-19 Response support to the county governments of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya on 30th June 2023. The program held review and dissemination forums with COVID-19 stakeholders to showcase the project's achievements from its initiation in February 2022 and share best practices, challenges, lessons learned, and proposals to enhance vaccination in the respective counties.



In Kisumu, USAID 4TheChild engaged 90 COVID-19 stakeholders on 20th June 20. Dr. Gregory Ganda, the County Executive Committee Member for Medical Services, Public Health, and Sanitation, expressed gratitude for the COVID-19 mitigation support and pinpointed the project's participatory approach and use of youth champions on digital platforms as key activities that contributed to the success. Florence Aketch, the Kisumu County Coordinator for the Expanded Programme on Immunization, reported that the partnership had resulted in 351,523 (53.4%) fully vaccinated adults and 54,855 (27%) fully vaccinated young people in Kisumu County as of June 19, 2023.

In Kakamega, USAID 4TheChild engaged 65 COVID-19 stakeholders from all the 12 sub-counties. The forum commended the project's COVID-19 demand creation interventions which contributed to moving the county's vaccination coverage from 43.6% in August 2022 to 47.01% in June 2023.

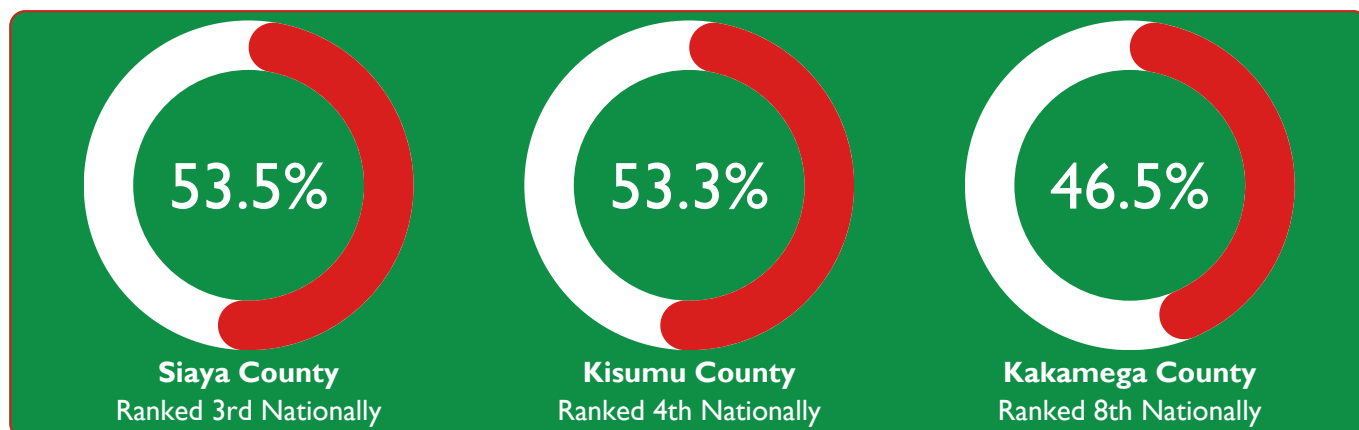
In Siaya, USAID 4TheChild engaged 65 stakeholders. Dr. Martin K'Onyango, the CECM for Health and Sanitation, acknowledged the partnership with USAID 4TheChild among other partners, which contributed to the county's 53.8% vaccination coverage of adults in Siaya County; ranked number 3 in Kenyan counties.



* Kenneth Otieno, Ag. CoP

"We extend our gratitude to all partners who have contributed to this success. At USAID 4TheChild, we remain fully committed to increasing use of quality county-led health and social services across the five counties in western Kenya that we support."

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage as at June 2023



USAID 4TheChild Participates in the East Africa Medical Journal 100 Years Celebrations

USAID 4TheChild, as part of the AMPATH Care and Research programs, participated in the Kenya Medical Association's (KMA) 50th Scientific Conference, known as the East Africa Medical Journal 100 Years Celebrations, which took place from May 10th to May 13th, 2023, in Shanzu, Mombasa County. The event attracted a substantial audience of more than 100 attendees, including health stakeholders and practitioners. Notably, it was graced by the Mombasa County Governor, HE. Abdullswammad Sherif Nassir, alongside other distinguished guests within the healthcare sector. The conference centered around the theme "Planetary Health: The Impact of Climate Change on Health and Health Systems."

During the Conference, the AMPATH Care and Research teams highlighted various facets of the program's partnership, focusing on the work in HIV prevention, care, and treatment. The team also showcased compelling evidence that has guided care programs tailored for underserved communities in Kenya and across the globe.

During his address at the conference, Prof. Sylvester Kimaiyo, the AMPATH Executive Director - Care, delivered a presentation entitled 'AMPATH Leading with Care,' where he emphasized that AMPATH Care Programs extend beyond mere treatment as they encompass the entirety of beneficiaries' lives. Prof. Kimaiyo stated, "Our programs are set up to first help people survive and then to help them thrive." He also expressed gratitude for the PEPFAR/USAID support in advancing AMPATH's mission to improve the health of people in underserved communities.

Prof. Winstone Nyandiko, the AMPATH Executive Director - Research, on the other hand, presented 'AMPATH Research Program: A Learning Organization,' where informed the participants that the initiative aims to provide evidence-based solutions for some of the world's most persistent and intricate health challenges.

Kenneth Otieno, the USAID 4TheChild Acting Chief of Party, took part in deliberations on climate crisis and the future of health care, where they identified an urgent need to address climate issues from a health perspective. Accompanied by the communications officer, the USAID 4TheChild representatives also manned a booth where they exhibited the PEPFAR/USAID-supported program implemented by Moi University to bring together stakeholders of OVC and AGYW to protect, invest, and improve the health and education of the child in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties.



Prof. Sylvester Kimaiyo, AMPATH E.D. for Care
"Our programs are set up to first help people survive and then to help them thrive."



Next Quarter Activities

USAID 4TheChild wound up COVID-19 response support to the county governments of Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya on June 30th, 2023. The program will, therefore, continue implementation of the DREAMS interventions in Kisumu County and OVC support in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties.



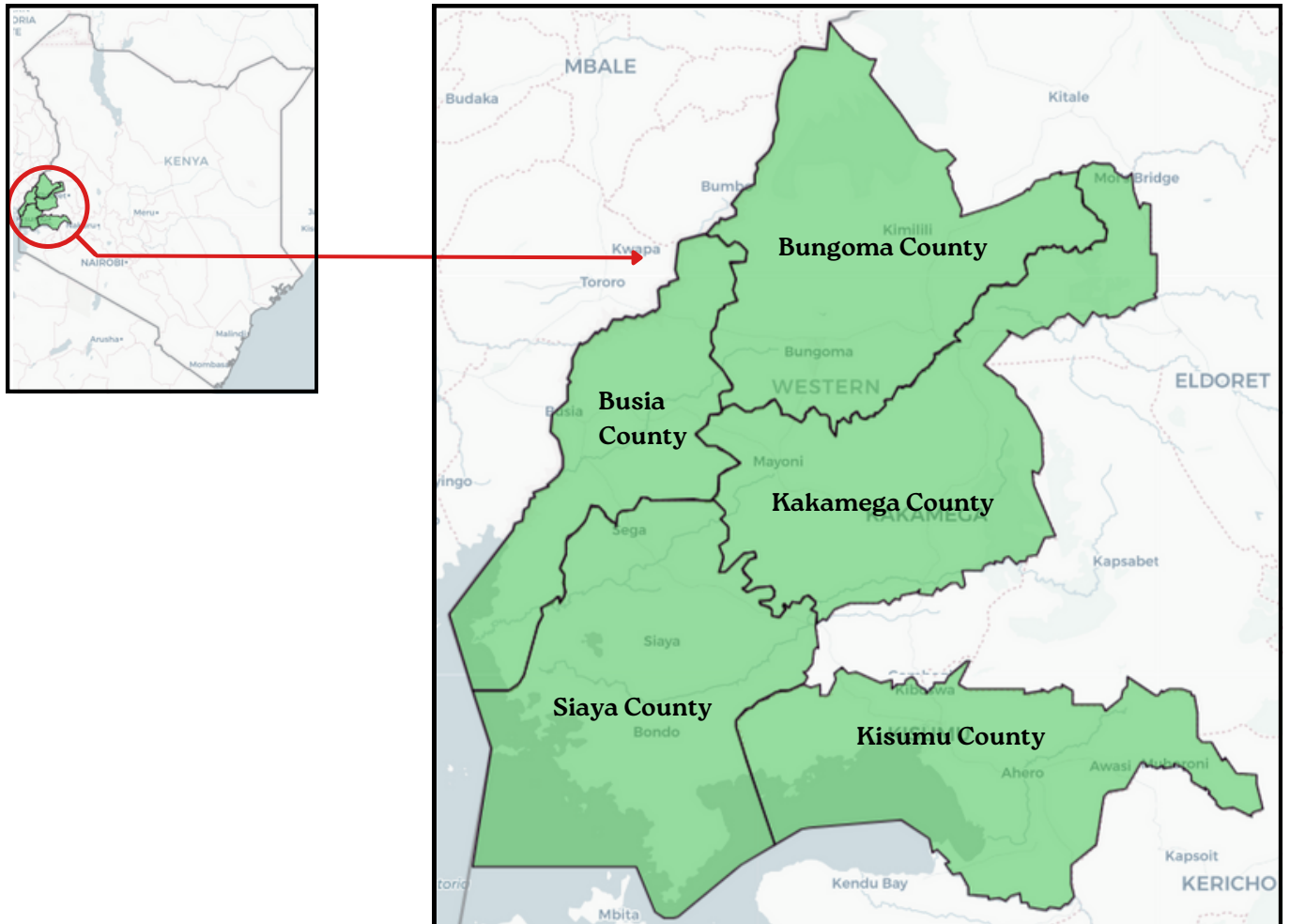
Next Quarter Activities

Activity

- Accelerate AGYW layering for graduation with enhanced demand and access to HIV prevention services.
- Hold structured meetings with CDoH and clinical partners that will guide formal engagements of LIPs with health facilities within their coverage.
- Engage clinical partners in OVC-clinical collaboration for services to CALHIV, including Jua Mtoto Wako implementation and OVC-PMTCT (prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV) implementation.
- Facilitate implementation of OVC Preventive interventions, i.e., CBIM and Sinovuyo sessions.
- Implement performance-based reward for community workforce.
- Conduct joint support supervision across the five project counties.
- Conduct project beneficiary feedback sessions.
- Roll out the project learning agenda.
- Conduct SIMS, DQA and targeted data verification as applicable.
- Facilitate and participate in monthly data review meetings at LIP and ward levels.
- Conduct follow-on CPARA for FY24.
- Begin scale up of eCMS to other counties beyond Kisumu County.
- Participate in Kisumu County Transition Team meetings.

Program Coverage and Key Partners

Program Coverage



Key Partners



USAID 4TheChild

Tuungane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na ELimu ya Mtoto



Postal Address

P.O. Box 4606-30100, Eldoret, Kenya



Telephone

(+254) 0111868826



Email

info@usaid4thechild.or.ke