



**USAID**  
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# USAID 4TheChild QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 3: January – March 2022

# PROJECT COVERAGE



# 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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## WHO WE ARE

**USAID 4TheChild** is a five-year (2021-2026) PEPFAR-funded project, through USAID/Kenya and East Africa, implemented by Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) in a consortium with Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and Make Me Smile - Kenya (MMS-K). The project is implemented in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. The name is derived from its Kiswahili title – *Tuongane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto* – which, in English, means “coming together to protect, invest, and improve the health and education of the child.”

### Goal and Objectives:

**Goal:**  
Increased use of quality county-led health and social services in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties.

#### Sub-Purpose 1:

Increased access and demand to quality HIV prevention services for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kisumu County.

#### Sub-Purpose 2:

Increased access to quality health and social services for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and their families in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties.



## REMARKS

### Remarks from the Acting Principal, Moi University College of Health Sciences – Prof. Robert Tenge



MUCHS continues to enjoy cordial working relations with USAID and the Government of Kenya (GoK) departments and agencies in facilitating implementation of USAID 4TheChild. We underscore the continued active involvement of government departments in project implementation through the County Project Delivery Committees (CPDCs). During this period, MUCHS signed MoU with different parties. Some notable partnerships with HIV Care and Treatment partners include CIHEB, CHS-Kenya, and our sister program under Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), USAID Dumisha Afya. MUCHS also signed MoU with Postbank which provides a framework for collaboration in supporting financial education and linkages for financial services to beneficiaries across the project catchment area.

I wish to assure our stakeholders that Moi University remains committed to deepening her contributions in health and social services through USAID 4TheChild and working with stakeholders for the betterment of society.

### Remarks from the Acting Chief of Party, USAID 4TheChild – Kenneth Otieno



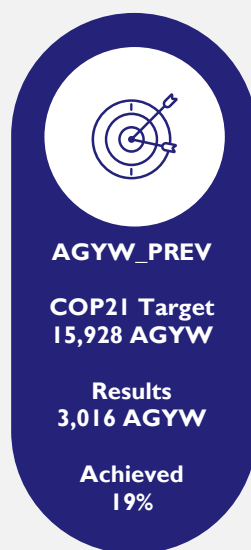
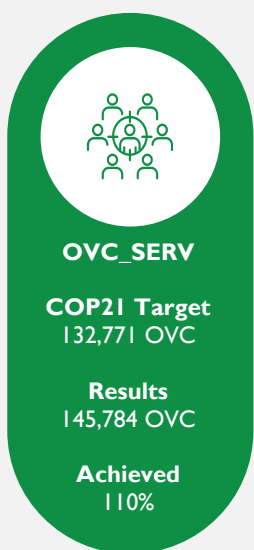
USAID 4TheChild program seeks to increase use of quality county-led health and social services for orphans and vulnerable children and their families, as well as adolescent girls and young women, in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. In this issue 3 of our newsletter series, we highlight some of the key achievements registered during the January-March 2022 implementation period.

USAID 4TheChild continues to support county-led, county-managed, and county-owned programming through the County Project Delivery Committees (CPDCs). The program is keen on promoting strategic partnerships and will continue to strengthen our collaboration with key actors in health and social services sub-sectors to the benefit of target communities and beneficiaries.

Through additional funding from USAID, the program expanded its scope to include support for the County Government of Kisumu in increasing demand creation for COVID-19 vaccination.

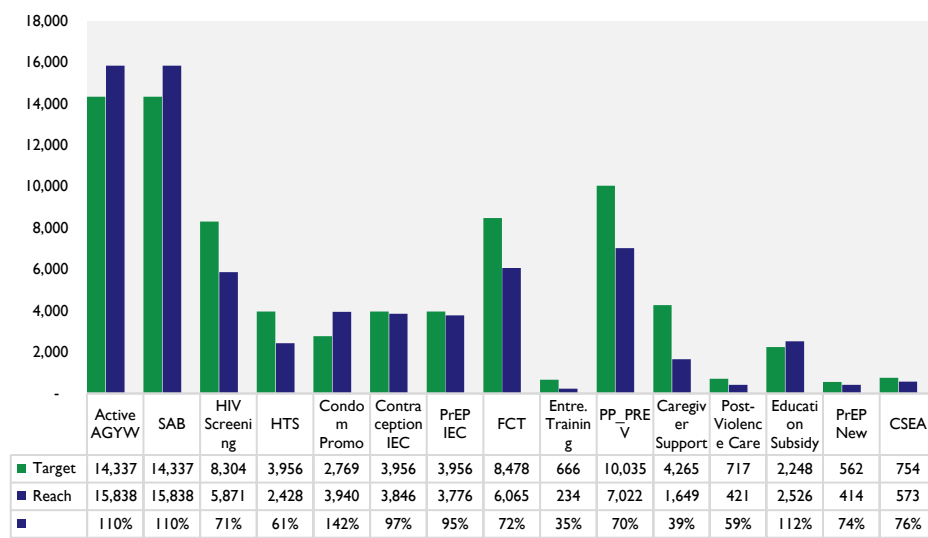
## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### USAID 4TheChild January – March 2022



# ACTIVITY PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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



In this quarter (Q2), USAID 4TheChild saw increased AGYW uptaking DREAMS<sup>1</sup> services across 13 wards in Kisumu County. Largely boosted by the March 2022 school holidays, the project registered 13,545 AGYW who visited DREAMS ‘safe spaces’ in Q2, which is 94% of the Country Operational Plan, 2021 (COP21) target (14,337). Cumulatively, the project has served 15,838 AGYW, within the year, a 110% achievement of the COP21 target.

USAID 4TheChild SAPR DREAMS Performance by Intervention

### USAID 4TheChild Establishes an AGYW Advisory Council in Kisumu County



USAID 4TheChild AGYW Advisory Council participating in a Training on Communication and Leadership Skills

In January, USAID 4TheChild launched an AGYW Advisory Council to ensure the voices of the project beneficiaries (*adolescent girls and young women*) are heard throughout the project planning, implementation, and feedback phases. The Council brings together 15 AGYW – 1 from each of the target 13 wards in Kisumu County and 2 DREAMS graduates, who help enrich discussions using past and present experiences. The Council also serves as a platform for designing and incubating new initiatives and maintaining and expanding existing meaningful AGYW/DREAMS interventions.

### USAID 4TheChild Hosts Kisumu County First Lady at AGYW Safe Space in Kisumu



Kisumu County First Lady interacting with AGYW in Angola ‘Safe Space’ in Kisumu East Sub-County, Kisumu

In February, USAID 4TheChild hosted Kisumu County First Lady, H.E. Dorothy Nyong’o, in Angola Safe Space in Kolwa East, Kisumu County, where the project reaches adolescent girls and young women from Kisumu East Sub-County with DREAMS interventions, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and economic empowerment opportunities. The First Lady listened to the girls narrate how they have been empowered through the USAID-funded program and linked to markets and opportunities. The girls benefited from mentorship by the high achiever.

<sup>1</sup> The DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) Initiative is an ambitious public-private partnership aimed at reducing rates of HIV among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in the highest HIV burden countries.



## USAID 4TheChild Hosts a Delegate from NASCOP to Learn about DREAMS



USAID 4TheChild Kolwa East Ward Coordinator taking NASCOP Adolescents and Youth Coordinator and research assistants through DREAMS interventions

In March, USAID 4TheChild hosted a delegate from National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP) – Vickie Koske, the Adolescent & Young Population Coordinator and research assistants – to learn about DREAMS, its linkage to service provision, and implementation cost. The team visited Angola Safe Space where they learned about the DREAMS services delivered to AGYW as well as a link facility where AGYW are referred for biomedical services, e.g., antenatal care. Later, they held key informant interviews with facility focal persons to gather data to help compare the cost and access to services by AGYW.

## USAID 4TheChild Increases Social Asset-Building Activities for Girls during the March School Holidays



DREAMS girls participating in a day filled with fun, dance, and games as part of their social asset-building activities

USAID 4TheChild increased delivery of Social Asset Building (SAB) activities for DREAMS girls in Kisumu County during the March school holidays. The project ensured integrated services across 12 main safe spaces and 104 satellite safe spaces in the 13 wards. A total of 15,928 AGYW received a

continuum of services, including contraceptive methods mix, correct and consistent condom use education, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis education and initiation, HIV testing services, post-violence care screening and linkage to service, and age-appropriate evidence-based interventions. USAID 4TheChild also facilitated nutrition sessions for 55 pregnant and breastfeeding adolescents (PBFAs) on three key food groups nutrition for the girls and for children who are weaning. The discussions also centered on birth plans for pregnant girls.

## USAID 4TheChild Supports A Pregnant Adolescent to Access Skilled Delivery



Jane\* receiving her baby whom she delivered normally, after intervention from USAID 4TheChild

Jane (not her real name), a 16-year-old girl, was enrolled in USAID 4TheChild DREAMS program from an antenatal care clinic by a Department of Health staff based at a health center in Kisumu. During a home visit in March, the project found her demoralized. From her Mother-Baby Pair Booklet records, Jane's due date had passed, and she had been referred to a hospital to book for caesarean delivery as her baby was in a breech position. However, Jane's parents could not afford caesarean and had opted for a traditional healer to help administer her safe delivery.

USAID 4TheChild intervened and supported Jane to have a scan at the referral hospital. The scan confirmed that the baby was fine and that the initial diagnosis was false. The hospital also found that Jane's due date was two weeks away. On follow-up, USAID 4TheChild found Jane a happy and strong girl since her fears had been allayed through the facility visit. The project also supported her to develop a birth plan. Jane successfully delivered a healthy baby girl late in the month at her local health facility through normal skilled delivery.

## Increased Access to Quality Health and Social Services by Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their Families

County	COP 21 targets	Current OVC Case Load			OVC served in Q2 (Jan-Mar 2022)			% Achievement
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bungoma	10,696	5,522	5,728	11,250	5,551	5,753	11,304	106%
Busia	18,336	9,158	9,668	18,826	9,359	9,885	19,244	105%
Kakamega	16,810	8,061	8,641	16,702	8,659	8,592	17,251	103%
Kisumu	63,521	30,127	32,394	62,521	29,534	42,877	72,411	114%
Siaya	23,408	11,830	12,392	24,222	12,523	13,051	25,574	109%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,771</b>	<b>64,698</b>	<b>68,823</b>	<b>133,521</b>	<b>65,626</b>	<b>80,158</b>	<b>145,784</b>	<b>110%</b>

### OVC served achievement per county

As at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, USAID 4TheChild served 145,784 OVC (65,626 male; 80,158 female) against the annual target of 132,771 OVC (translating to 110% achievement). Of these, 132,551 benefitted from comprehensive OVC services, 2,381 from HIV prevention interventions, and 10,852 AGYW were served with eligible OVC services. Out of the total served, 128,895 were below 18 years.

### USAID 4TheChild Supports Dissemination of Violence against Children (VAC) Report



*Spot it! Stop it! Campaign during VAC Report Dissemination in Kakamega County*

USAID 4TheChild supported the Directorate of Children Services (DCS) in Kakamega County to disseminate the Violence against Children (VAC) Report (2019) and the National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children (2019-2023) to children officers, civil society, charitable children institutions (CCIs), and the County Area Advisory Council (AAC). The participants were later commissioned as Champions of the “Spot it! Stop it! Campaign” aimed at changing attitudes and behaviors related to violence against children. The champions will sensitize the community on VAC, encourage them to take responsibility for children’s wellbeing, and advocate for the rights of children against violence.

### USAID 4TheChild Supports Convention of Children Assembly, 2022



*Kisumu County Director of Children Services, Mr. Humphrey Wandeo, overseeing the Children Assembly*

USAID 4TheChild supported and participated in Kisumu & Bungoma counties Children Assembly chapters for the year 2022, which brought together 70 children (37 girls; 33 boys). The Assembly, coordinated by the Department of Children Services (DCS), is aimed at empowering children on their rights to participate in decision-making processes, ensuring that their views are captured in all matters that concern them in local and national spheres, including County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). The Assembly is premised on the Principle of Child Participation as entrenched in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and domesticated in Kenya through the Children's Act of 2001.



## USAID 4TheChild Disseminates Findings from the Market Assessment



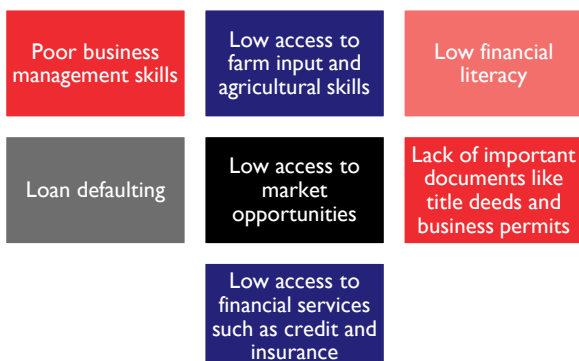
A participant from Kisumu County Government reacting to USAID 4TheChild market assessment findings on HES and TVET gaps and opportunities for OVC and caregivers

USAID 4TheChild conducted a market assessment on household economic strengthening (HES) and technical and vocational education training (TVET) gaps and opportunities in December 2021. Data obtained were analyzed to guide the project's capacity-building and livelihood support for the beneficiary households. The project disseminated findings on areas of need and opportunities for adolescents, young women, and OVC caregivers.

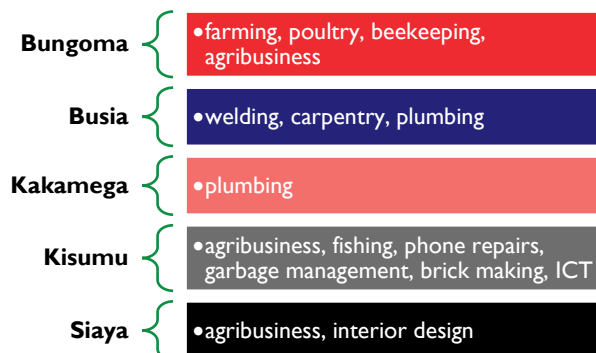
The market assessment identified the following gaps for OVC and AGYW beneficiaries:



Gaps for caregivers identified by the market assessment include:



The market assessment also highlighted promising sectors that youth need to venture into in the five different project counties as highlighted below:



Based on these findings, USAID 4TheChild has prioritized interventions geared toward building the capacity of OVC, AGYW, and caregivers.

## USAID 4TheChild Delivers Materials to Support Child-Friendly Health Facilities



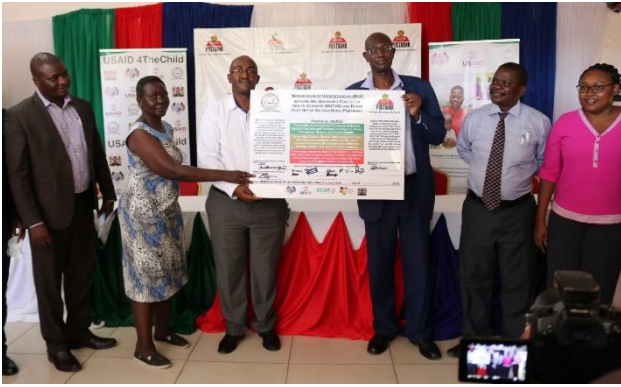
USAID 4TheChild Acting Chief of Party, Kenneth Otieno, handing over facility-based child play materials to Kakamega County Department of Health (CDoH)

USAID 4TheChild handed over facility-based child play/therapeutic materials to health facilities in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. The items – which included assorted board games, child-friendly chairs, tables, wall stickers, dolls, toys, drawing books, crayons, modeling plasticine, balls, and skipping ropes – are used to create a child-friendly clinic environment by making them more attractive, educative, and entertaining to enhance clinic attendance by children.

During the handing-over of the materials in Kakamega, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM), for Health, Dr. Collins Matamba urged the health facilities benefitting from the materials to take good care of them and ensure they are put into proper use for the benefit of the child.



## MUCHS Signs MoU with Postbank Kenya



Postbank Managing Director (in white shirt) and AMPATH Executive Director for Care displaying a signed MoU model witnessed by Kisumu County Director of Health, Policy, and Partnerships (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and program beneficiary (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

USAID 4TheChild signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenya Post Office Savings Bank (Postbank) to provide a framework for collaboration in supporting financial education and linkages for financial services across the project catchment. The Postbank Managing Director (Mr. Raphael Lekool) said that the bank would ensure that the savings program that the project beneficiaries wish to undertake comes to fruition. The event was witnessed by Kisumu County's Director of Health Planning, Policy, and Partnerships (Dr. James Odiga), AMPATH Executive Director for Care (Prof. Sylvester Kimaiyo), USAID 4TheChild Acting Chief of Party (Mr. Kenneth Otieno), staff, local implementing partners, and beneficiaries.

## MUCHS Principal Leads USAID 4TheChild Engagements with County Leaderships

MUCHS Acting Principal, Prof. Robert Tenge, accompanied by USAID 4TheChild staff engaged the Department of Children Services (DCS) and the Office of the County Commissioner in Kisumu County.



MUCHS Acting Principal engaging ACDCS during a courtesy call to the Department of Children Services

During a courtesy call to the DCS, the Assistant County Director of Children Services (ACDCS), Mr. Mark Keya, appreciated the partnership and support by USAID 4TheChild to the county's OVC and AGYW programming and committed to continue providing necessary support towards achieving the overall project objective.



MUCHS Acting Principal engaging Muhoroni Sub-County DCC during a courtesy call to Kisumu County Commissioner

In a separate engagement, the Ag. Principal met the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) for Muhoroni Sub-County, Mr. Benedict Munywoki, (representing Kisumu County Commissioner) who commended USAID 4TheChild for championing county leadership in project implementation through the CPDC.

## County Project Delivery Committees Enhance Acquisition of Birth Certificates by Orphans and Vulnerable Children



CPDC meeting ongoing at the Ministry of Education Boardroom in Kakamega County

USAID 4TheChild had identified birth certificate acquisition for OVC as one of the service areas that needed more support from the government partners. Thus, the project engaged the CPDCs to help improve acquisition of birth certificates. The CPDCs tasked members from the Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government and Registrar of Births and Deaths to prioritize low-performing sub-counties for accelerated action. As a result, the project registered an improved acquisition of birth certificates - in Bungoma County, acquisition rose from 59.2% reported in Q1FY22 to 63.4%. Ikolomani Sub-County in Kakamega County improved from 39% in Q1FY22 to 64%.

## USAID 4TheChild Supports Demand Creation for COVID-19 Vaccination in Kisumu County

### Background

In January 2022, the Government of Kenya (GoK) relaxed COVID-19 protocols. This gave the public the impression that COVID-19 was no longer a threat. Consequently, the country has witnessed low uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. Kisumu County has a target of 675,806 persons above 18 years to reach with COVID-19 vaccinations. As at 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, only 208,144 (30%) of the eligible population were fully vaccinated while 8,016 had received the third/booster doses.

### Project Overview



A youth indicating that he is okay after taking a COVID-19 vaccine during a community outreach in Kisumu.

In February 2022, USAID 4TheChild received a modification from USAID – under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds (ARPA) – to support Kisumu County to create demand for COVID-19 vaccination, address infodemic leading to vaccine hesitancy, and conduct accelerated outreaches to improve uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. The short-term project is implemented in Kisumu Central, Kisumu East, Muhoroni & Nyando sub-counties.

### Activity Highlights



Chief Carilus Okaka of Masogo Location in Nyando Sub-County, Kisumu County, overseeing a COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach in Nyakoko Health Centre



Community outreach conducted in Chemelil market to address infodemic leading to vaccine hesitancy and avail COVID-19 vaccines to traders



County health care workers administering COVID-19 vaccines to a congregation during a church crusade at Masogo, Nyando Sub-County, Kisumu County.

### Achievements (Feb-Mar 2022)



✓ **9,010** people reached with risk communication messaging



COVID-19 VACCINE

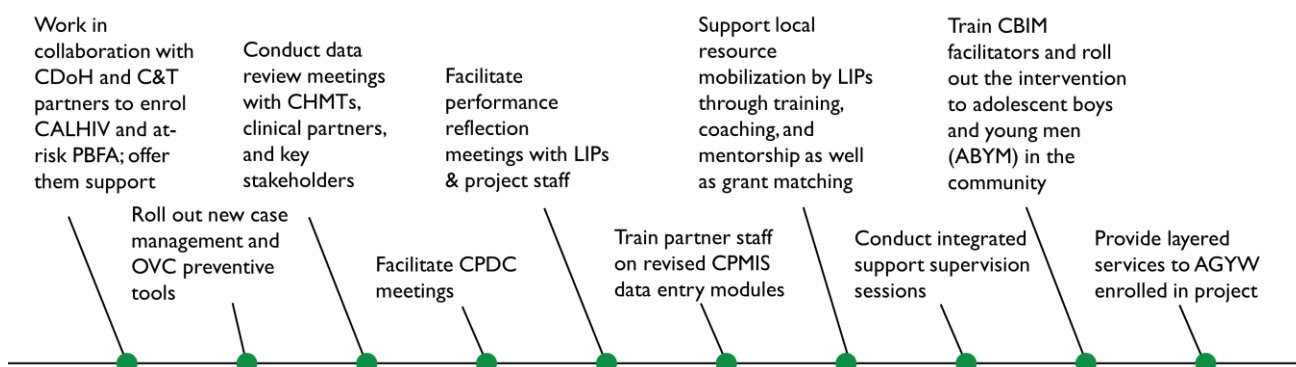
✓ **157** people received their 1st dosage of COVID-19 vaccines

✓ **700** people received their 2nd dosage of COVID-19 vaccines

✓ **81** people received COVID-19 booster shots



## NEXT QUARTER'S WORK PLAN





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