



APHIA II Eastern Newsletter

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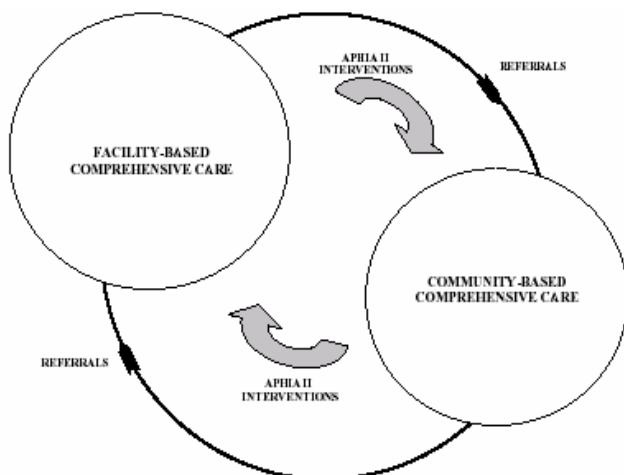
JANUARY 2007

Introduction

In June 2006, JHPIEGO was awarded a grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with the support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Population funds, to implement the AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance Program (APHIA II) in Eastern province, Kenya. JHPIEGO will lead efforts in providing high-quality HIV/AIDS services that will increase the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy and services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as a wide range of palliative care services.

The Program will integrate and improve reproductive health and family planning, tuberculosis, and selected maternal and child health services at both the facility and community levels. To avoid duplication of work carried out by other nongovernmental organizations, JHPIEGO will initially concentrate on the imperative sites within Eastern province in order to sustain all patients currently on antiretroviral therapy and initiate care for new patients at these active sites.

The core approach of the APHIA II Program is illustrated in the figure below:



APHIA II Program Eastern Province—Improved and Expanded Network of PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE and SUPPORT

The Program is working to improve and expand:

- Facility-based services for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, reproductive health/family planning, malaria, and maternal and child health;
- Civil society activities to increase healthy behaviours; and
- Care and support for people and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Program activities will include:

- Developing human capacity and corresponding systems;
- Expanding services to people living with HIV and to orphans and vulnerable children;
- Strengthening community structures and networks to implement behaviour change, gender awareness and community mobilization; and
- Linking facility- and community-based services for multiple service delivery points of comprehensive care.

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APHIA II Eastern Team with colleagues from other JHPIEGO programmes in Nairobi

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Dr. William Obwaka

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APHIA II Eastern Team Leaders

APHIA II Eastern is led by a multi-sectoral team. Each individual brings unique strengths, experience and potential.



Dr. Kenneth Chebet, Project Director

During his 20-year career, Dr. Chebet has become a proven leader in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. He has been designing and implementing health programmes in his native Kenya since 1989. Prior to his

appointment, Dr. Chebet was the Coordinator of HIV/AIDS programmes for the East, Central and Southern African Health Community and Director of the Kenya National HIV/AIDS and STI (sexually transmitted infection) Control Programme (NASCOP).



Dr. William Obwaka, Deputy Director

Dr. Obwaka, an obstetrician/gynecologist trained in Israel, Kenya and England, has more than 20 years of experience in health care. He is the Chairman of Family Health Options Kenya (formerly Family Planning

Association of Kenya) and Chief Medical Officer for the Kenya Special Olympics. Dr. Obwaka is based in the APHIA II Eastern, Embu field office, where he oversees the technical implementation of APHIA II activities.



Caroline Blair, Senior Technical Advisor

As Senior Technical Advisor to the APHIA II Program, Ms. Blair is assisting with its rapid start-up activities and is providing programmatic and management support. Ms. Blair has more than 20 years of

experience managing public health projects, including eight years in Kenya.



Dr. Ravi Ram, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

A Johns Hopkins University- and Harvard-trained professional with more than 15 years of field experience, Dr. Ram has evaluated HIV/STI programmes in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda,

Nepal and India. He will lead the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation activities.

Rajshree Haria, Financial Management Specialist

A long-term employee of JHPIEGO, Ms. Haria offers more than 13 years of experience in financial management of USAID- and other donor-funded programmes. Ms. Haria will carry out a full range of financial management functions including budget development and management, financial analysis and financial reporting. She is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of local grantees to operate under fiscally sound practices.



Dr. Judith Kose, Results 1 Team Leader

Dr. Kose has more than six years of experience working in HIV/AIDS care and treatment programmes, with a focus on pediatric HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kose is an experienced trainer in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, pediatric HIV management and antiretroviral therapy. She will lead the expansion of service delivery activities.



Juma Mwatsefu, Results 2 Team Leader

Mr. Mwatsefu has more than 11 years of experience working with youth-centered programming. He has expertise in community mobilization for resource generation, design and

implementation of comprehensive youth programming, and capacity building through training. He will engage community networks and promote behaviour change communication activities.



Elizabeth A. Okoth, Results 3 Team Leader

Ms. Okoth has more than seven years of experience in design, management and monitoring of HIV and AIDS programmes and projects at local, national and international levels. She has extensive experience in

networking and partnerships with communities, civil society organizations, and government in the areas of health, HIV and AIDS, and gender mainstreaming. She has served at the international level in HIV and AIDS reference groups and nationally on technical committees for HIV/AIDS projects.

APHIA II Eastern Partners

Working in very close collaboration with JHPIEGO, USAID and the Government of Kenya, the partners of the APHIA II Program, Eastern province consortium are:

JHPIEGO, an affiliate of The Johns Hopkins University: JHPIEGO brings more than 18 years of experience in Kenya to lead the APHIA II Program, Eastern province. JHPIEGO will leverage its experience and widely-acclaimed training methodologies to create a lasting impact on the health of residents in Eastern province.

African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF): AMREF's mission is to improve the health of disadvantaged people in Africa as a means for them to escape poverty and improve the quality of their lives. AMREF will be working in Eastern province to build the capacities of local community and faith-based organizations through small grants and mentorship.

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF): EGPAF creates a future of hope for children and families worldwide by providing care and treatment for people living with HIV, and accelerating the discovery of new treatments for other serious and life-threatening pediatric illnesses. EGPAF will provide technical assistance on antiretroviral therapy and services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in APHIA II Eastern.

Family Health International (FHI): FHI works to improve lives worldwide through research, education and services in family health. FHI will lead the monitoring and evaluation activities for APHIA II Eastern.

Liverpool VCT Care & Treatment (LVCT): LVCT provides superior technical assistance to the government and others wishing to start high-quality voluntary counselling and testing services in public health care settings. LVCT is responsible for coordination of counselling and testing activities for APHIA II Eastern.

PATH: PATH creates sustainable solutions to break longstanding cycles of poor health. A major component of the APHIA II Eastern Program is reaching out to groups in Eastern province to effect behaviour change. PATH will mobilize communities to reduce stigma and increase the use of services.



APHIA II Team Leaders in Isiolo



APHIA II Staff in Eastern Province with Pepo La Tumaini Isiolo

Progress to Date

1st APHIA II Eastern Partners' Meeting

The APHIA II Eastern partners held their first meeting on 20 July 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the partners and highlight their roles and missions in the APHIA II Eastern Program. The partners discussed the technical approach and program description for Eastern province, and had a brainstorming session on the challenges of working together in this partnership.

2nd APHIA II Eastern Partners' Meeting

On 1 and 2 August 2006, the APHIA II Eastern partners held their second meeting and discussed major decisions that would assist in the rapid start-up of the Program. Twenty-four consortium members from AMREF, EGPAF, FHI, JHPIEGO, LVCT and PATH attended the meeting.

National Steering Committee Meeting

APHIA II partners and USAID met with the Ministry of Health on 16 August 2006. This was the first of the APHIA II National Steering Committee meetings, which are scheduled to be held twice a year. The Steering Committee comprises of the Permanent Secretary and Director of Medical Services, Dr. Sharif representing the line departments, the USAID Chief of Health, Population and Nutrition, the APHIA II USAID CTOs (Cognizant Technical Officers or Project Monitors) and the APHIA II Project Directors. The purpose of the meeting was to establish whether APHIA II partners were aware of the Ministry of Health's plans and to discuss how critical gaps present in service delivery can be addressed in the development of partners' work plans.

APHIA II Directors' Meeting

The Directors of all of the APHIA II programs met with the USAID Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor on 22 August 2006. The emphasis of the meeting was to agree on the work plan format and the need for APHIA II Eastern to work closely and collaboratively with the Ministry of Health, as well as to harmonize approaches with all of the APHIA II programs being implemented nationwide.

APHIA II Directors' Meeting with U.S. Government Partners

The APHIA II Directors' meeting with U.S. Government partners was held on 24 August 2006. Prior to implementation in the field, APHIA II programs are to be coordinated with those funded through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S.

Department of Defense. The meeting emphasized that in the first year, the APHIA II programs should focus on identified imperative sites and areas where APHIA II partners have existing activities.

Introductory Meeting with Provincial Medical Officer

An introductory meeting with the Provincial Medical Officer (PMO) and Provincial Health Management Team (PHMT) was held on 12 September 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to formally introduce the APHIA II Eastern Program to the PMO and PHMT.

Embu Stakeholders' Meeting

A stakeholders' meeting was held on 26 September 2006 in Embu. The Ministry of Health team and other stakeholders were present and discussed APHIA II Eastern Program activities and strategies.

The meeting was attended by 150 people including representatives of the USAID team and Ministry of Health district teams from Embu, Isiolo, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Marsabit, Mbeere, Meru Central, Meru North, Meru South, Mwingi and Tharaka. Other organizational partners that joined the district health teams included ACK Church, CIPK, CCF, Child Welfare, CFW shops, HOPE worldwide, KANCO, Kenya Red Cross, Kitui CDC, Meru Hospice, NACC, NASCOP, Reach CDC, Plan International, Population Council, Salvation Army, Solidarity Center, Swedish Cooperative and World Vision.

From 4 to 18 October 2006, the APHIA team visited seven districts in Eastern province: Mbeere, Meru North, Meru South, Isiolo, Tharaka, Embu and Meru Central. The purpose of these visits was to review annual operational work plans and identify priority gaps that APHIA II can address in the coming years.



Stakeholders' meeting in Embu

JHPIEGO (pronounced "JA-PYE-GO"), an international health organization affiliated with The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, builds global and local partnerships to enhance the quality of health care services for women and families. JHPIEGO's focus is on training and support for health care providers—including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators—working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

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