For more than a decade, the United States President’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Kitui County to strengthen health systems towards the delivery of sustainable health services.

Using the World Health Organization (WHO) approach to health systems strengthening, CDC has invested heavily in service delivery, health leadership and governance, human resources for health, health infrastructure and equipment, health information systems as well as health products and commodity security.

In support of devolved health functions, CDC through its implementing partner Centre for Health Solutions - Kenya (CHS), has a Memorandum of Understanding with Kitui County Government that guides this investment. In the current PEPFAR year 2017/18, the Kitui County Department of Health is operating on a budget of US$ 1,617,630 from CDC towards stemming the HIV epidemic. This funding is channelled to the county through a sub-grant managed by CHS.

With support from PEPFAR through CDC, CHS supports 86 health facilities in Kitui County to implement and expand sustainable high quality HIV services specifically comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment with improved yield and retention of patients on treatment.
SNAPSHOT OF KITUI COUNTY

Population: 1,086,598 (Male - 48 %, Female - 52 %)

Population Density: 33 people per KM2

Area (KM2): Kitui is one of the largest counties in the country covering an area of 30,496 Km2

Location: Kitui County is in the former Eastern Province of Kenya, about 170KM East of Nairobi. It borders seven counties; Tharaka and Meru to the North, Embu to the Northwest, Machakos and Makueni to the West, Tana River to the East and Southeast, Taita Taveta to the South.


Source: Kenya HIV County Profile, 2016, Kenya Open Data (opendata.go.ke), Commission on Revenue Allocation Kenya (crakenya.org)

SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES

1. Thaana Nzau Dispensary  
   Chuluni Dispensary  
   Endau Dispensary  
   Inyuu Dispensary  
   Kaliku Dispensary  
   Kasunguni Dispensary  
   Kyamatu Dispensary  
   Makongo Dispensary  
   Malalani Dispensary  
   Mutitu Hospital  
   Mwitika Dispensary  
   Nzangathi Dispensary  
   Voo Health Centre  
   Yanzuu Health Centre  
   Kalulini Dispensary-L/Yatta  
   Kanyangi Hospital  
   Kanza Dispensary  
   Kisasi Dispensary  
   Kwa Vonza Dispensary  
   Mbitini Health Centre  
   Nthongoni Dispensary (Kitui)  
   Yatta Health Centre  
   Ikanga Hospital  
   Ikutha Hospital  
   Kalambani Dispensary  
   Kamutei Health Centre  
   Kisayani Health Centre  
   Kyatune Health Centre  
   Mutha Health Centre  
   Mutomo Hospital  
   Ndakani (Syamatani) Dispensary  
   Yongela Dispensary  

2. Kakeani Dispensary  
   Kalimani Dispensary  
   Katutu Dispensary  
   Kauma Dispensary (Kitui)  
   Kauwi Hospital  
   Kwa Mulungu Dispensary  
   Kwa Mutonga Dispensary  
   Maseki Dispensary  
   Matinyani Dispensary  
   Nduni Dispensary  
   Syathani (Kyethani) Dispensary  
   Tulia Dispensary  
   Kasyala Dispensary  
   Katulani Hospital  
   Kavuta Dispensary  
   Kitui County Referral Hospital  
   Kyangunga Dispensary  
   Miambani Health Centre  
   Neema Nursing Home  
   Tiva Dispensary  
   Kanyunga Health Centre  
   Mathuki Health Centre  
   Mutyangome Dispensary  
   Mwingi County Hospital  
   Nguni Health Centre  
   Nuu Hospital  
   Thitha Dispensary  
   Uaksi Model Health Centre  
   Wahta Health Centre  
   Winjemi Health Centre  
   Kamuwongo Dispensary  
   Kaningo Health Centre  
   Kalivuku Dispensary  
   Katse Health Centre  
   Konyu Dispensary  
   Kyuso Hospital  
   Masyungwa Health Centre  
   Mivukoni Health Centre  
   Ngomeni Health Centre  
   Ngungani Dispensary  
   Tharaka Health Centre  
   Tii Dispensary  
   Tseikuru Hospital  
   Tyaa Kamuthale Dispensary  
   Itongolani Dispensary  
   Kyethani Health Centre  
   Mbondoni Dispensary (Mwingi)  
   Migwani Hospital  
   Nzatani Dispensary (Mwingi)  
   Nzawa Health Centre  
   Nzeluni Health Centre  
   Thitani Health Centre  
   Winzyeei Health Centre  
   Wanzoa Dispensary

With support from PEPFAR through CDC, CHS supports 86 health facilities in Kitui County
CDC through CHS strengthens human resource capacity by supporting facilities with different cadres of health care workers to bridge the human resource gap.

Through the CHS managed sub-grant, Kitui County is currently receiving support for 253 health care workers to the tune of US$ 1,318,554 (82% of the sub grant), while 18% is used to complement the management functions of the County Department of Health including joint support supervision/mentorship, laboratory networking and defaulter tracking.

CDC through CHS supports the training of health care workers to promote the delivery of quality health services including enhancing health worker capacity on the current Ministry of Health HIV management guidelines and the roll out of the test and treat strategy to complement other HIV prevention strategies towards HIV epidemic control.

### Kitui County Highlights (as at the end of June 2017)

- Estimated HIV prevalence: 4.4%
- Estimated number of people living with HIV: 27,183 adults and 1,735 children below 15 years
- 14,979 patients on antiretroviral treatment (ART) including 1,843 children under the age of 15 years
- 13,668 of patients on treatment had a viral load test done.
- According to routine program data, 11,525 (84%) of the patients were virally suppressed.
KITUI COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL

CHS has deployed 17 health care workers to support the delivery of quality HIV services at Kitui County Referral Hospital: These include three (3) Clinical Officers, four (4) Nurses two (2) Health Records Officers, five (5) HTS Counsellors, one (1) Laboratory Technologist, one (1) Pharmaceutical Technologist and three (3) Accountants.

Kitui County Referral Hospital serves as a model health facility where 86% (PMP data) of patients on ART are virally suppressed. Since October 2015, the facility has managed to reduce vertical transmission of HIV to 8% among HIV-exposed infants. This is attributable to a robust elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV (eMTCT) program as well as the quality of care provided to mother-baby pairs.

Equipment provided to the facility includes: a FACS CD4 machine and a laboratory biosafety cabinet. Other USG investments at Kitui County Referral Hospital include:
• Cryotherapy for management of pre-cancerous cervical lesions
• Development of standard operating procedures for various laboratory and clinical procedures
• County coordination of health service delivery through quarterly supportive supervision and mentorship
• Electronic health records to improve management of HIV and track patient outcomes

EQUIPMENT SUPPORT

CDC has invested US$ 678,831 worth of equipment in Kitui County ranging from 14 binocular microscopes, three (3) laboratory biosafety cabinets, one (1) FCs count CD4 analyser, 44 computers, 23 refrigerators, 18 haematology analysers and 156 stethoscopes, among others.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Kitui County has demonstrated ability to sustain the gains accruing from the partnership with CDC through universal health access and commitment to transition/absorb partner supported staff into the County health work force.