



IOM International Organization for Migration

KENYA

IMPROVING HIV PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN EMERGENCIES

IOM IN ACTION

“AS CO-CONVENER OF THE JOINT UN TEAM ON AIDS (JUNTA), IOM IS BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS IN KENYA TO PREPARE AND RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES IN KENYA.”

Kenya frequently experiences drought, land conflicts and flooding. Such humanitarian crises often result in increased vulnerability to HIV infection for certain population groups and poor access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services as health systems breakdown, home-based care networks dismantle, and existent social inequities are exacerbated.

National Steering Committee (NSC)

In March 2011, NACC in partnership with IOM facilitated a three day

workshop which resulted in formation of a national steering committee. The mandate of the multi-sector committee is to work with humanitarian actors to prepare for emergencies and ensure the continuum of HIV services is available during crises.

Fact-finding mission

The NSC initiated a fact-finding mission to six areas affected by drought or flooding to identify whether humanitarian responses are addressing HIV vulnerability and access to HIV services.

Preliminary findings confirm concerns about breakdown in health systems, limited access to HIV services among vulnerable groups, and inadequate focus on HIV in humanitarian responses. Key concerns include an increase in street and

separated children, sexual and gender-based violence, heightened mobility of vulnerable individuals and sexual exploitation of women and young girls by security forces. The NSC will use these findings to develop an advocacy tool with concrete recommendations to the Ministry of Health, donors and implementing partners to prepare for emergencies and mitigate the negative effects of humanitarian crises on people living with HIV and those at risk of HIV infection.

- IOM is providing **active leadership and partnership** through the **HIV in emergencies National Steering Committee (NSC)** chaired by NACC
- IOM and NSC with the Joint UN Team on HIV and AIDS have **completed six fact-finding missions to drought and flood prone areas** to monitor the integration of HIV in humanitarian responses. Areas visited included Isiolo, Tana River, Turkana, Kwale, Mandera, Budalangi and Nyando. The missions are informing HIV integration within emergency response plans
- IOM is providing guidance on minimum requirements for the inclusion of **HIV as a cross-cutting issue** in the 2012-2013 Emergency Humanitarian Response Plans (EHRP) for the eight humanitarian clusters
- IOM and civil society partners are working with the Kenyan Government to adapt and implement the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines on HIV in emergencies

“He went with the animals, and all he left me with was this virus”

Malkio Manakapua, Isiolo

The Horn of Africa’s worst drought in 60 years grips Isiolo County. Nestled in the centre of Kenya, it is immersed in endemic poverty and is characterized by blistering heat, sandstorms and recurrent droughts. Its population is highly mobile owing to a nomadic lifestyle.

“He was born with it,” Malkio Manakapua says, referring to Kevin, her son, who is HIV positive.

Malkio found out that she was HIV positive when she gave birth to Kevin: “My husband was a pastoralist, he gave it to me.”

As the drought got worse, Malkio’s husband stayed away from home for longer periods. One day, he left with their goats, and never came back.

She says: “He went with the animals, and all he left me with was this virus.”

Malkio is meant to receive nutritional support when she goes to hospital to pick her anti-retroviral drugs, but owing to a deepening drought crisis that has left many including people living with HIV severely malnourished, the growing need for nutritional support far outstrips the local hospital and relief agencies’ capacity to meet the demand.

She says: “Last night, we went to bed hungry. At least my son Kevin eats one meal a day at school.”



When her anti-retroviral medications run out, Malkio walks two hours to the only hospital in Isiolo — often on a hungry stomach

“The time has come to do things differently. The people are waiting.”

Professor Alloys Orago,
Director, National AIDS Control Council (NACC)

WE ASSIST:

- People living with HIV
- People at risk of HIV infection



HEALTHY MIGRANTS IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:

