



IOM International Organization for Migration

KENYA

URBAN MIGRANT HEALTH PILOT PROGRAMME

“OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE TB, HIV, REPRODUCTIVE CHILD HEALTH, AND PRIMARY CARE TO URBAN MIGRANTS AND THEIR HOST COMMUNITIES”

In partnership with the Government of Kenya, and at both national and local levels, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) offers health care services for urban migrants directly through IOM’s health assessment programme, which fulfills the health requirements of countries receiving migrants.

Eastleigh Community Wellness Centre

IOM and partners facilitate the Eastleigh Community Wellness Centre, a budding health clinic located in east Nairobi that meets the needs of migrants and their host

community without discrimination.

The centre, available for both Kenyans and migrants, offers friendly services, a space for capacity building and community dialogue around health and social issues. IOM and partners are able to overcome language and cultural barriers through partnership, with translators, and through sensitized staff. As a result of this programme, migrants across Nairobi have come to know and trust IOM.

The centre also serves as a platform for piloting start-up activities to reduce inequity in health service access, a key objective of the Kenya National Health Sector Strategic Plan II.

Uniquely positioned

As an intergovernmental organization, IOM is uniquely positioned to assist the Government of Kenya to undertake activities that promote migration health, as per the 2008 61st World Health Assembly Resolution *Health of Migrants 61.17*.

With assistance from IOM, the programme is implemented under the umbrella of the Coordinating Centre on Migration Health (CCMH), housed in the Department of Health Promotion and Sanitation.

IOM IN ACTION

- IOM and partners conducted a pilot **study on Maternal and Early Childhood Access to Health Care**. The study revealed a significant difference in health care access between Kenyan-born and migrant women;
- In partnership with the Kamukunji District Health Management Team, IOM implemented a **“Rapid Results Initiative” HIV campaign** in 2010 targeting married men;
- **1,339 clients have been seen for voluntary HIV counselling and testing** since the beginning of 2011; 23 clients are HIV positive and have been provided with HIV management and tuberculosis testing. **142 clients have enrolled** in an anti-retroviral therapy clinic which runs every Thursday;
- **122 community members have delivered sputum samples** for smear testing since January 2011; 14 were positive
- 116 HIV and/or tuberculosis patients have benefited from nutrition support provided by

Services are currently being provided with a limited and finite budget, relying upon existing IOM and partner staff.

Funding gaps

The existing tuberculosis and HIV programme is limited to biomedical interventions due to funding limitations. Tuberculosis is a public health imperative; irregular migrants are living in tuberculosis conducive environments, and aside from IOM's clinic, are unable to access case detection and directly observed treatment, per national and international standards, which invariably leads to drug resistance. Such populations are internationally mobile, therefore the provision of equitable health care must be a core priority.

Comprehensive programme

IOM envisions a comprehensive

programme that covers:

- Primary health care;
- Communicable disease surveillance;
- Reproductive and child health;
- Prevention and treatment of TB and HIV.

This programme will not only be limited to Eastleigh, but will cover Nairobi where there are many pockets of urban migrant populations scattered in different suburbs. IOM has therefore developed a multi-year proposal, that takes into consideration all these components.

It will target:

- 10,000 mothers and children;
- 1,000 tuberculosis patients;
- 1,000 HIV positive patients;
- 20,000 patients with general ailments.



“ IN MY HOUSE, THERE ARE MANY, MANY PEOPLE. THE HOUSE RENTS ARE VERY HIGH. THESE ARE THE HARDSHIPS THAT CAUSE THE SPREAD OF VARIOUS DISEASES. WE DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO ACCESS QUALITY HEALTH CARE. ”

An urban migrant residing in Eastleigh

IOM provides vital vaccinations every Wednesday at the Eastleigh Community Wellness Centre, in collaboration with the Kamukunji District Health Management Team (DHMT). This year, IOM has facilitated growth monitoring, deworming and [vaccination for 431 children under five](#) for measles, polio, tuberculosis, pneumococcal infections among others. IOM also joined the DHMT in facilitating the Malezi Bora immunization, a UNICEF-supported “good nurturing” programme reaching out to marginalized children under the age of five.

“IOM has been one of our closest partners who has regularly facilitated the DHMT to conduct supervision visits of health facilities and communities across the district, and has been a leader in highlighting issues related to the health of migrants. Many of the district health meetings are hosted by IOM at their facility, for example, they played an active role in controlling the measles outbreak in 2011. We want to thank you for your continued support and assistance.”

Dr Rose Misati, District Medical Officer of Health (DMOH)

WE ASSIST:

- Urban migrants
- Host communities



HEALTHY MIGRANTS IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:



N.H.R.L.