

# Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST)



Photo: Esther Kahinga, USAID/Kenya



*Lydia, a birth champion for the ASSIST program encourages women to seek health services during pregnancy and delivery.*

**Funding:** \$185 million

**Duration:** March 2012-17

**Activity Location:** Nationwide

**Implementing Partner:**  
University Research CO., LLC

**Key Partners:**

Ministries: Health and Labor Social Security & Services; Directorates of Health Standards & Preventive and Promotive Services; Quality Assurance and Regulations; Programmes: Malaria Control, Occupational Health, the Parasite Diseases Control and National AIDS/STI Control; National Council for Children Services; the Department of Children Services

**USAID Contact:**

Alice Micheni, Activity Manager  
Office of Health, Population and Nutrition  
Tel: +254 (7)14606709  
Email: [amicheni@usaid.gov](mailto:amicheni@usaid.gov)

**USAID ASSIST-Kenya Contact:**

Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell, Chief of Party  
University Research Co., LLC  
Tel: +254 (7)25709109  
Email: [fmwangipowell@urc-chs.com](mailto:fmwangipowell@urc-chs.com)

**Website:** <https://www.usaidassist.org/>

**U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES**

- Global Health Initiative
- President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

**ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

The Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) activity enhances the quality of service delivery in the health sector and the care of orphans and vulnerable children. It provides training on the “science of improvement” and builds improvement teams in high-volume facilities that track progress. The activity strengthens systems at national and county government levels to support the institutionalization of quality improvement in child protection and programs for vulnerable children, improving the welfare of children. The activity is guided by the National Health Sector Strategic Plan II and the Ministry of Labor Social Security and Services’ outlined priorities for improving quality of services.

**ACTIVITY GOALS**

- Support the development of a national quality improvement policy, standards and syllabus in collaboration with key stakeholders
- Provide training on the science of improvement, develop systems that allow for its scale up and institutionalization
- Support the institutionalization of quality improvement in child protection and programs for orphans and vulnerable children
- Build county governments’ capacity for quality improvement to meet health service goals in HIV care and treatment; malaria control; and maternal, newborn and child health

**ACTIVITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Supported the Ministry of Health to develop tools that institutionalize quality improvement and introduced these tools to all 47 county governments
- Identified six national improvement priorities, targets and tracking measures. Draft Kenya Health Improvement Policy, Strategy and Plan of Action submitted to MOH for sign off
- 203 centers of excellence were identified, and assisted to apply the science and model of quality improvement
- Supported the MOH to begin the preliminary steps towards developing an accreditation framework for the sector. Technical working subcommittee at the MOH has been established to spearhead this work
- Offered quality improvement training to high volume facilities in 24 high-burden counties
- In collaboration with MOH and FUNZO Kenya, ASSIST started working with 4 medical training institutions and the regulatory bodies, towards integrating improvement science in the core curricular for the various cadres.