



Eunice Ogongo, a caregiver of seven OVC can feed her family and sell different kinds of vegetables after she was trained on kitchen gardening by MWENDO project. MWENDO OVC Project aims to improve the wellbeing of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV. Photo/USAID

KENYA

MWENDO ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN PROJECT

There are an estimated 2.6 million Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Kenya, of whom 650,000 are orphaned by AIDS. More than one million households care for an orphan. In the absence of a coordinated multi-sectoral response, OVC are at risk of: (1) not knowing their HIV status; (2) delayed treatment; (3) economic difficulty due to caregiver illness and death; (4) family separation; and/or (5) situations that put them at greater risk of protection violations and HIV infection (school dropout, early marriage, risky behaviors).

MWENDO (Making Well-informed Efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged OVC) is a \$70,390,253, five-year USAID funded project that targets OVC in 13 Counties in Nyanza, Western and Rift Valley. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) leads a consortium that also includes Maestral International and Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES). MWENDO aims to ensure children remain healthy, safe, stable and schooled by: addressing the social determinants of health to improve the wellbeing of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV; enhance the capacity of caregivers and communities to sustainably provide care and support to OVC; and strengthen institutional capacities of formal and informal structures to respond to child welfare and protection needs.

OUR WORK

MWENDO's holistic, child-focused, and family-centered approach sees child wellbeing as nested within household wellbeing, community resilience and its support to vulnerable children and strengthening of social services systems.

Using approaches and tools validated through 4Children project, MWENDO uses comprehensive case management as the foundation and entry point for an evidence-based and informed program of interventions. The project supports Kenya in reaching the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets by strengthening the HIV and social support system from the household to the national level and across systems and sectors, with a specific focus on protection, household economic strengthening, health and HIV, and the intersections between them. This draws directly on evidence that a multi-sectoral approach is the most promising and sustainable way to address HIV and child protection issues.

The project emphasizes on provision of graduation-focused, age appropriate services to OVC and their caregivers and strengthening the capacity of communities and government to provide coordinated services for OVC and their households. Through community-led sustainability planning, the project aims to promote self-reliance and resiliency of OVC households and communities.

Project Goal

Improved welfare and protection of children affected by HIV/AIDS in the target counties of Nyanza, Western and Northern Rift Valley.

Project Outcomes

- Increased access to health and social services for OVC and their families
- Strengthened capacity of households and communities to protect and care for OVC
- Strengthened child welfare and protection structures and systems for effective responses in targeted counties and sub-counties

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since May 9, 2017 MWENDO Project has:

- Provided services to 302,570 OVC
- Referred 21,965 OVC for HIV testing services
- Provided services to 12,208 active HIV+ OVC, of whom 12,192 were linked to treatment, 7,546 received their viral load results and 6039 (80%) achieved viral suppression.
- Supported 20,531 caregivers to participate in SILC and VSLA groups and cumulatively saved KES 25,329,406 (approx. USD 253,294). These savings were largely invested in the provision of OVC basic needs and expanding caregivers' small-scale businesses.
- Trained 427 youth in Basic Employability Skills Training (BEST), of whom 94 percent are currently employed, in internships, running their own business or proceed for further education.
- Conducted capacity assessments to Department of Children Services (DCS) and Area Advisory Councils (AAC) in 13 project counties and 92 sub-counties. Results of the assessment were used to develop 13 Costed County Work plans that were operationalized in 86 sub-counties through trainings, tools development and guidelines review.

BUDGET: \$70 million

DURATION

2017 – 2022

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Nyanza, Western, and Northern Rift Valley (Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, Nandi, Nyamira, Siaya, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Vihiga Counties.)

KEY PARTNERS

Government of Kenya
34 Local Implementing Partners(LIP)
Clowns without Borders
Picture Impact
Feed the Future Kenya:Kenya Crops Dairy and Market Systems (KCDMS); International Potato Centre (CIP)
International Centre for AIDS Care and Treatment Program (ICAP)
Kenya AIDS Response Program(KARP),
Walter Reed Project
Kenya Youth Employment and Skills Program(K-YES)

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