



# **Hatua Yetu Newsletter**

**Q.1- 2022**





## Message From CEO

Greetings,

PS Kenya commemorates gender month in March of every year as a chance to look back on efforts in advancing gender equality. In this quarter as part of our commitment to women and girls we ensured increased access to family planning services across the Counties we work in. Our work towards zero gender violence also increased the tempo by engaging community leaders and duty bearers to ensure that we are comprehensively responding to Gender-based violence. Our campaign dubbed “Hii ni ahadi yangu” meaning this is my promise was rolled out to increase awareness on GBV prevention and women and girls’ rights.

In the first series of Africa Health Business Symposium events held in Nairobi, Kenya, PS Kenya sought to demonstrate how its programs are addressing health challenges facing women, particularly those in underserved and difficult-to-reach areas in the counties of Kenya (West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Homabay, Kajiado, Kwale, Samburu, Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Baringo, Kilifi, and Narok). The theme of the symposium was “The Role of the Private Sector in Advancing Women’s Health in Africa.”

We also joined the County Government of Kajiado and partners to mark this year’s International Women’s Day celebrations at Isara, Kajiado East, Kajiado County. Under this year’s theme “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow,” the event aimed to sensitize women and the community about gender-based violence and the need to address gender biases and harmful traditional practices that limit women and girls from achieving their goals in life. Through the Accelerate program, PS Kenya, in partnership with the County, is working towards increasing access to and utilization of comprehensive, inclusive and integrated sexual and reproductive health rights/maternal and child health services; increasing access to and utilization of comprehensive, inclusive and integrated GBV response and prevention services; and strengthening respect for human rights. In addition, as part of our campaign towards early detection and timely diagnosis for breast cancer, PS Kenya, through the Tunza clinics, with support from Stanbic Bank Foundation and in partnership with the Kisumu County Department of Health, conducted free breast cancer screening events in Kisumu County that saw over 900 women benefit from the drive.

PS Kenya is leading the way in demonstrating that localization will deliver sustainable health impact. As a local organization working across the country we exhibited at the annual NGO Week event held in Nairobi. This year’s theme, “Celebrating NGOs’ Adaptation, Innovation, and Resilience in a Global Pandemic,” sought to recognize and applaud the NGO sector’s crucial role in complementing the government’s efforts in the fight against COVID-19. PS Kenya powered new partnerships and consolidated resources that supplemented the Ministry of Health’s efforts in the fight against the deadly pandemic that has so far claimed 6,124,396 lives globally (WHO) and 5,647 lives Nationally. As we embark on the second quarter of 2022, PS Kenya continues to lead the way in demonstrating the impact of localization by delivering health impact at scale and strengthening local actors’ capacity to ensure sustainable delivery of health solutions.

Thank you,  
Joyce Wanderi

## Accelerating FP Gains Through the Community Based Distributors Approach

Kenya has made strides in increasing its modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) and sustaining demand but is still faced with a challenge of increasing use in counties with low contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) and sustaining use among counties with high contraceptive prevalence rate.

With an aim to increase access to and use of modern contraceptives across Isiolo County, PS Kenya through the Delivering Sustainable and Equitable Increases in Family Planning (DESIP) programme and in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the County Government of Isiolo has commissioned Community Based Distributors (CBDs) who will play a critical role in ensuring greater and more equitable access to, and uptake of, modern contraceptive services in the County, with a particular focus on poor rural women and persons with disabilities.



Community Based Distributors pose for a photo with Isiolo County Health team together with the DESIP team during their graduation in Isiolo County.

### Why Isiolo County

Isiolo County is categorized under the underserved, hard-to-reach counties with a contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) of 27.0 and a modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) of 26.3, against a national contraceptive prevalence rate of 58 and modern contraceptive prevalence rate of 53 (KDHS 2014). This is a clear indication that interventions like the CBD approach will help increase the CPR by increasing access to contraceptive information and services.

The community-based distributors initiative is a high impact, low cost intervention of accelerating progress toward SDGs. This intervention aims to remove barriers that impede access to FP information and services, with major restrictive barriers in the provision of family planning services in Kenya being distance, cost, religion, culture, rumors and misconception, provider bias, and legal and medical regulations. The Community Based Distributors were taken through a three-week rigorous training that was spearheaded by the Ministry of Health in partnership with the County. This saw them get empowered with the necessary skills to educate, counsel and provide short term FP services to the community.

While officiating the CBDs graduation ceremony, the County Executive Committee Member in charge of health was categorical of the impact the CBD program would have in the County. “We are grateful to our DESIP partners for this program. The Community Based Distributors will play a critical role in ensuring that our communities access reproductive health services close to their door step,” Hon. Wario Galma, CECM Health Isiolo County.



Hon. Wario Galma, CECM Health Isiolo County presents a Certificate to a Community Based Distributor

Similar trainings have been conducted in Narok, Kajiado, Baringo and West Pokot Counties, all supported by the DESIP programme. DESIP is a UK Aid funded programme focused on Delivering Sustainable and Equitable Increases in Family Planning (DESIP) in low Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) counties in line with KENYA ‘Vision 2030’.



“Invest to End TB. Save Lives” Machakos County



PS Kenya joined the rest of the Country in marking this year's World TB Day. The event took place in Machakos County and was graced by Dr. Alfred Mutua, the Governor of Machakos County. The event began with a procession from Machakos level 5 hospital to the Machakos Stadium where over 200 community members were in attendance. World TB Day is observed every year on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March to build public awareness on the global TB epidemic and ongoing efforts to eliminate the disease. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, The Stop TB Partnership headquartered in Switzerland, Geneva, shared the theme for this year's World TB Day: "Invest to End TB. Save Lives". The theme conveys the urgent need to invest resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitments to end TB made by global leaders.

During his speech Dr. Mutua emphasized on the importance of continuous advocacy and awareness of TB and the importance of adherence to treatment for those infected “As a Country, we must push for more education on Tuberculosis and other preventable diseases, advocate for more education on prevention and treatment to the grassroots and not just towns and urban centers” he said.



The World Health Organization lists Kenya among the 30 high burden TB Countries globally. The 2016 Kenya National TB prevalence survey indicated a 426 per 100,000 population of TB prevalence, TB/HIV and Drug Resistant TB (DRTB). According to the National TB Program 2020 annual report, Kenya has an estimated incidence of 140,000 TB and 2,500 DRTB cases respectively. 72,943 people with Drug Susceptible Tuberculosis (DSTB) and an additional 961 with DRTB were diagnosed and started on treatment in 2020. 66% of all cases notified with TB in 2020 were men, hence they remain the most affected population. In 2020, 20 – 44 years age group carried the majority of TB burden with 8% of all notified cases constituting children under the age of 15 years.

**“I was diagnosed with TB in 2019 at the age of 17 years, I was initiated on treatment immediately. The clinician advised me on the importance of drug adherence to avoid developing drug resistance TB.”**

Gladys, TB Champion.

Breast Cancer Screening in Partnership with County Government of Kisumu and Stanbic Bank Foundation

In 2020, breast cancer reported 2.3 million new cases and 685,000 deaths globally, making it one of the world's most prevalent type of cancer (WHO). In Kenya, breast cancer registered 5,985 new cases and accounted for 9.2 % of all cancer deaths, making it the third leading cause of all registered deaths due to cancer (GLOBOCAN, 2018).

Such data exposes gaps in the diagnosis and management of breast cancer. Breast cancer patients could be presenting at a late stage either due to a lack of information on the need for early screening or to existing challenges in breast cancer management, hence the higher mortality and low overall survival. To address this, there is a need to strengthen the three pillars

- 1 Health promotion for early detection
- 2 Timely diagnosis
- 3 Comprehensive breast cancer management) that are critical in reducing global breast cancer mortality by 2.5% per year.

Reducing global breast cancer mortality by 2.5% per year would avert 25% of breast cancer deaths by 2030 and 40% by 2040 among women under 70 years of age (WHO).

In response to pillars 1 and 2 that advocate for health promotion for early detection and timely diagnosis, Population Services Kenya (through our Tunza clinics), with support from Stanbic Bank Foundation and in partnership with Kisumu County Department of Health, conducted free breast cancer screening events in Kisumu county that saw over 900 women benefit from the drive.

**“When I learnt about this free event, I made a decision to get screened in order to know my breast cancer status. I have seen women lose their lives to breast cancer and I would not wish to be the next.”**

Loreto Achieng, resident of Kondele Kisumu

The event was launched by the County first lady, Dorothy Nyong'o, accompanied by the Stanbic Bank Chief Executive Officer, Charles Mudiwa. The screening took place in several select locations, namely Kisumu County Referral Hospital and Ahero Sub County Hospital. Airport Health Center, Ober Amoth Health Center, Nightingale Health Center, St. Consolota Health Center, Kondingo Health Center, and Sangorota Health Center.





## PS Kenya joins other NGOs to celebrate Adaptation, Innovation and Resilience during the COVID-19 Pandemic

PS Kenya marked the annual NGO week by exhibiting at the NGO week event held between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the KICC grounds, Nairobi. The event was organized by the NGO Coordination Board with this year's theme being, 'Celebrating NGOs Adaptation, Innovation and Resilience in a Global Pandemic'. This year's theme sought to recognize and applaud the NGO sector's crucial role in complementing the Governments efforts in the fight against COVID- 19.



PS Kenya staff educating the public on some of our reproductive health programs at the annual NGO week held at KICC

As Kenya grappled with the Coronavirus pandemic, PS Kenya powered new partnership and consolidated resources that supplemented the Ministry of Health efforts in the fight against the deadly pandemic that has so far claimed 6, 124,396 million lives globally (WHO) and 5,647 lives nationally.

Through the Hygiene and Behavior Change Coalition project (HBCC) that was funded by FCDO and Unilever, PS Kenya carried out activities that supported MOH to combat COVID-19. The activities included:

- 1 Supporting the Ministry of Health to develop and increase reach for the COVID-19 communication campaign dubbed “Komesha Corona Okoa Maisha” (Stop Corona, Save Lives) with an emphasis on handwashing, surface hygiene, social distancing, and proper use of masks.
- 2 Activities at the community level in Nairobi and Mombasa.
- 3 Using digital platforms to build the capacity of private health providers and community health workers.
- 4 Distribution of COVID-19 PPEs (Hand washing equipment, masks and gloves) and Unilever hygiene supplies such as soaps and scouring powders aimed at improving infection prevention at the health facility level.



Members of the Public visit the PS Kenya booth during the NGO Week Event at KICC Grounds.

Held once a year, The NGO week event serves as a forum for information and experience sharing, as well as to raise awareness of the role of the NGO sector and effect in society, by exhibiting their efforts and accomplishments and boosting collaboration and networking across the charitable public and private sectors.

## Photo Gallery







Engage with PS Kenya

Email: [info@pskenya.org](mailto:info@pskenya.org) | Website: [www.pskenya.org](http://www.pskenya.org)

Tel: +254 271 14346/54 | +254 020 271 5104 | +254 271 5096/98

Cell: +254 722203199 | 733363630

Jumuia Place, Wing B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Lenana Road P. O. Box 22591 - 00400 Nairobi, Kenya



PSKenya



@PSKenya\_



PSKenya



@populationserviceskenya



PS Kenya