

From the CEO's Office....

Welcome to our fourth edition of Afya 360. It has been yet another eventful quarter at Health Strat. This quarter we are excited about the completion of the first 5 year grant cycle of Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment (PACT) program. PACT is a CDC funded program of which Health Strat is a sub-recipient. PACT supports Nairobi County Health facilities with HIV care and treatment delivery. PACT was awarded a 15 month extension by CDC from 1st July 2015- 30th September 2016. This means that Health Strat will continue to support and strengthen service delivery and ensure sustainable transition of care delivery to Nairobi County. On this account an all staff annual review and year 6 planning forum was convened and attended by over 100 PACT service delivery staff to be part of the planning process, to exchange ideas and to rejuvenate communally as they prepare to tackle the next milestone. This was an exciting session as the entire PACT staff participated in planning sessions and a thoroughly rejuvenating team building session thereafter. We are geared to achieving over and above our call to ensure quality improvement and sustainable transition of HIV care and treatment delivery is achieved in all Nairobi County health centres.

In the canvas mantra of Health Strat which is to be a leader in 360 degrees health systems strengthening, the Transforming TB and HIV Prevention Care and Treatment in Prisons (TACT) program has embarked on selected intensive trainings. TACT is a PEPFAR-CDC funded program aimed at providing comprehensive HIV prevention care and treatment in Kenya Prisons Service facilities. One of those trainings is data management training. Equipping data officers with Health Management Information Systems is a critical building block of health service delivery. Health information and research is a catalyst to improve systems for continuous quality improvement. It ensures milestones are reported and documented thus facilitating accounting of all progress in the program. Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) is another crucial training that ensures national and international standards are realised with consistency. These and more trainings have contributed hugely to capacity building which is a key aim for the program.

Health Strat continues to distinguish itself as an all-round capable partner in the contribution to public health's success. We have recently partnered with Born Free Africa in an innovative health care management project in partnership with National STI and AIDS Control Program (NAS COP) to provide financial stewardship as a core strategy in reversing of HIV prevalence among mothers and their unborn children specifically Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). We believe in evidence-based innovative and sustainable systems and strategies to take the health sector in our country to the next level. For more on this and other game-changing stories, read on.



Dr. Andrew Nyandigisi
CEO Health Strat

Quote of the quarter:

***"Wherever the art of medicine is loved,
there is also a love of humanity."***

by Hippocrates

PROGRAMS

Transforming TB and HIV Prevention Care and Treatment in Prisons (TACT)

TACT is the largest Health Strat program with a countrywide reach and a rich expertise portfolio both at national and regional level. The program's beneficiaries are; inmates, prison warders, their families and the communities around prisons. It is funded by United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and its partners include Kenya Prisons Service, Deloitte, and University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB). The program has had a successful year 2 quarter 1 season. Some of the activities by the program include:

1. Data reconstruction training

The main objective of the training was to capacity build Kenya Prisons Services (KPS) staff identified as data point of contact persons at HIV/ TB care and treatment sites to be able to understand the national Health Management Information System (HMIS)/ HIV/AIDS/TB data collection and reporting tools, to facilitate monthly reporting of site level data and to be able to utilize data for decision making. A total of 70 participants were trained, 64 of them were uniformed officers from KPS Health facilities, from 31 counties where HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) is offered. Working closely with the County and Sub county health records and information officers, the Regional AIDS Control Unit Coordinator (RACU), Regional Clinical Specialists (RCS) and the Regional Data Officers, this facility data point persons will be able to;

- Develop systems for using data for continuous quality improvement at the site level
 - Conduct periodic data reviews and sharing forums at facility level
 - Ensure availability of data collection/reporting tools at facility level
 - Conduct data reconstruction/updating of registers at site level
 - Ensure timely submission of complete and accurate facility data
 - Conduct data quality audits at sites
 - Track facility performance based on results and targets
- Initiate "Talking walls" (information correctly showcased accessibly at the facility) at sites .



Group work session at the TACT data reconstruction training

2. Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) Training:

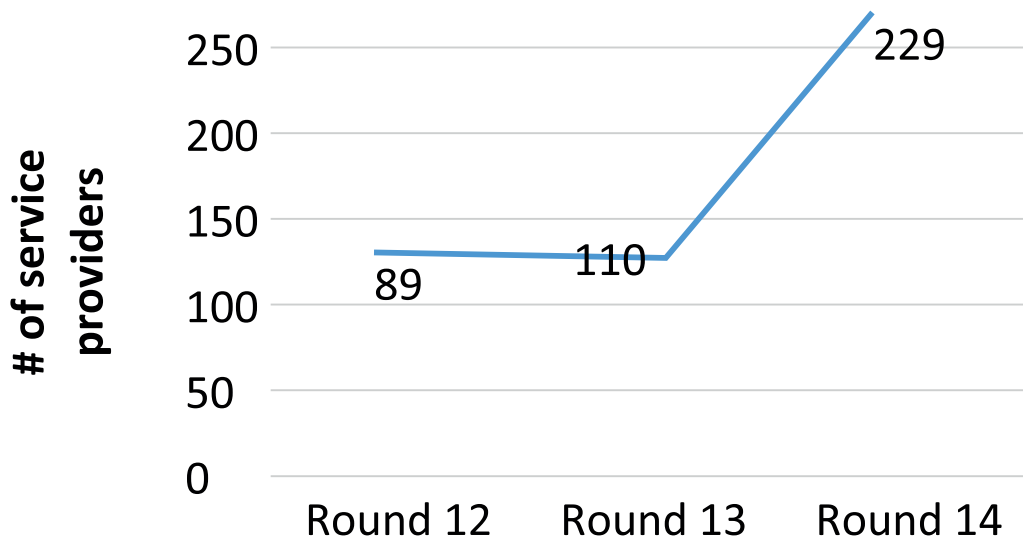
The Health Strat laboratory services specialist together with the regional laboratory team organised a Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) training in response to gaps identified in quality assurance at the prisons during the program's joint baseline assessment. 22 participants of whom 18 were from KPS facilities country wide, and 4 Ministry of Health Health workers were trained and certified. The program was developed to promote immediate, measurable improvement in laboratories of developing countries. The training is aimed at developing systematic laboratory quality management and also to prepare facilities for attaining national recognition and international accreditation.

3. Technical Assistance (TA) Visits:

Rigorous Technical Assistance (TA) visits were carried out in Nyanza, Western and Coast regions. The TA team comprising of Health Strat clinical, laboratory and prevention specialists and KPS AIDS Control Unit (ACU) personnel visited facilities in the regions to mentor facility health workers and to build their capacity for TB and HIV service delivery.

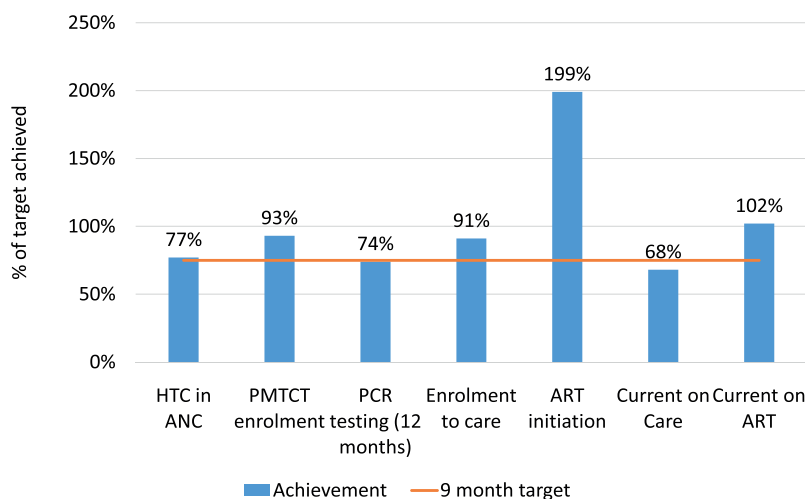
More activities from the quarter represented in infographs include:

Enrolment in National HTC Proficiency Testing



Working with the National HIV Reference Laboratory, TACT has advocated and supported the participation of 229 HIV testing service providers in the National HIV Proficiency Testing program in this year. This represents an increase of 108% for the program as compared to the last round of testing.

TACT COP15 Target Achievement



TACT has been tracking its performance in meeting the CDC targets for the period Oct 2014 to Sept 2015. As as the end of June 2015, the program was on track and had already surpassed its targets in more than three quarters of program indicators.

Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment (PACT)

Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment (PACT) program had a busy 4th quarter of its 5th year. They held their annual program review attended by all stakeholders. Following the review, Health Start's scope for PACT year 5 was revised to focus on providing technical guidance through the clinical services improvement specialists team covering the following areas of specialty:

1. Service Delivery

- a. Laboratory Support at both facility level and county level as well as sample networking
- b. Supply chain management at both facility level and county level; and;
- c. Longitudinal care system development;
- d. Maternal, newborn and Child Health;

All the above working through the leadership of the Senior Technical Advisor, the clinical services improvement team alongside the sub county management teams charged with the responsibility of increased access to comprehensive prevention services, maintenance and expansion of quality HIV care and treatment and expansion of TB/HIV services at PACT supported facilities within Nairobi county. In addition the team is responsible for ensuring uninterrupted commodity supply, institutionalize best commodity management practices at facility level and strengthen county commodity management to ensure sustainability. Laboratory support included site level system strengthening and sample networking from facility to the testing laboratories.

2. Strengthening facility management capacity related to ART service delivery through mentorship visits by service delivery improvement specialists

3. Capacity building of the site based staff achieved through Continuous Professional Development, onsite mentorship, and work improvement teams.

PACT Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) specialists offered focused technical support to address issues identified through the Site Improvement Monitoring System (SIMS) carried out by CDC at the beginning of the quarter. The specialists also reviewed these findings with respective site staff at various facilities and agreed on plans to improve program related performance. They also attended a CQI planning meeting for 2015 at the County level and in addition facilitated CQI meetings at the various facilities to discuss with facilities plans for scale up of the Isoniazid Preventive Therapy which have been delivered at the various facilities. Other activities by the Continuous quality improvement specialists during the quarter included;

- Attending of National TB/HIV Implementing partners, Quarterly review forum and presented TB findings and progress for PACT supported facilities in Nairobi County Council (NCC)
- Organizing a 3 day QI best practice forum for NCC where all 21 PACT supported CCCs attended and presented their STOCs together with other facilities supported by other partners in the county.
- Conducting and participating in training of site data clerks on DATIM Indicators
- Participating in training of Sub-HRIOs and Sub-CASCOs on 731 indicators and proper reporting for NCC

The quarterly Feature

In this quarter's feature we celebrate PACT program for a highly successful 5 year program implementation and subsequent extension period award of 15 months by the donor. Following the good news an all staff program review was held to strategise on the additional 15 months awarded. The forum comprehensively reviewed program activities, opportunities and challenges of the last year, and laid out a solid strategy for the next year. At the forum the Clinical lead shared the journey of PACT which was an opener to majority who were not part of the team from inception of PACT. Many milestones have been achieved since then. Later each component lead (Improvement specialist) shared with his/her team the work plan for PACT Extension period to come up with site specific activity and individual based activity to help achieve the period's targets. The forum included a highly engaging all staff team building session. . The objective of team building was to rejuvenate the team and improve their appreciation of team work and execution of the organizations objective for the remaining implementation period. The activities were designed in such a way that teams were formed and were taken through different activities to emphasize certain objectives such as communication, teamwork and harmonious interactions. The session was very lively, rejuvenating and overall motivating!



PACT staff during the all staff annual review meeting



PACT staff team building in session



PACT staff team building in session



PACT staff pose for a photo after team building



The PACT staff and Health Strat management team in session during the all staff annual review meeting



Health Strat CEO addresses PACT staff at the annual review meeting



PACT staff debriefing after a team building activity



Health Strat COO Cecilia Keiru addresses staff at the PACT all staff annual review meeting

Christian Health Association of Kenya HIV/AIDS Project (CHAP)

The Christian Health Association of Kenya HIV/AIDS Project (CHAP) of which Health Strat is a sub recipient from Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK), is in its fourth year of implementation. In the April-June quarter they held the mid-year review meeting which the Health Strat Project Director was in attendance. The outcome of the workshop was a revolutionised revised Technical Assistance (TA) mode which involves targeted TA specifically dependent on gaps identified. Other activities the team took part in include:

- Abstract writing workshop facilitated by senior technical advisors from Health Strat.
- Sensitisation on Adolescent Package of Care (APOC) and dissemination of the same to all supported sites
- Mock dashboard for the TA team in preparation for the dashboard and semi-annual review
- Vigorous country-wide TA through the quarter for continuous quality improvement

Community Transformation Center (CTC) Program

The Community Transformation Center (CTC) is a multi-acre “campus” that will serve Seme Sub County and the surrounding sub locations with a combined population of approximately 146,000 people to help improve the socio-economic determinants of health. During the quarter they were involved in the following activities:

- Community Sensitization - We have embarked on sensitization of the community toward the CTC project. The Community Health and Education Coordinator was able to bring together a community working group for agriculture where farmer groups were identified. We conducted a community meeting comprising village elders, youth groups, women groups and other organized groups around Kit-Mikayi area. During the meeting, issues pertaining to project security, community participation and leadership were discussed. During the meeting, the community proposed that they be included in the affairs of the center so as to help in security matters.
- County collaborative meetings-The project director held two meetings with the County government to discuss access roads and electricity to the site, and future county engagement in the project. This ensures that the project has county buy-in now and in future.
- Micro-finance -A local group, ESPHNET (East Seme People Living with HIV and AIDS Network), which is currently involved in table banking and microcredit activities, has been identified as a potential group for scaling up micro-finance activities. The Health Strat team met with ESPAHNET for four group sharing sessions. After the meetings, ESPAHNET micro-finance model was evaluated and currently the project accountant is looking into the possibility of using the model to train other farmer groups.

Born Free Africa in conjunction with NASCOP and Health Strat PMTCT Project

Born Free is a private sector-led initiative with the sole objective of eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV (eMTCT) around the world by December 31, 2015. Born Free invests people, time, and business acumen in local African talent who work behind the scenes to drive change within their own governments to achieve a generation born HIV-free. These individuals have extensive experience in project management and are well-positioned to work with partners in the country to set clear targets, build actionable plans, and execute the plans with grit, resilience, and humility while gracefully navigating the local politics. With financial and coaching support from Born Free but reporting directly into their local government structures, these individuals work behind the scenes to accelerate progress toward elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV. Born Free and the Ministry of Health worked together to recruit and hire a team (6 technical advisors and 1 logistics officer) of Kenyan professionals with stellar management, relationship, and problem solving experience. These individuals are a part of the national PMTCT team and work within the system to boost the ability of the government both at national and county level to plan and execute towards the Kenya’s eMTCT targets. Based on demonstrated strong capacity, Health Strat was selected as the local partner and operating unit that manages the administrative elements of this project to:

- Hire staff and manage payroll, benefits and gratuity
- Manage operational expenses
- Administrative and financial disbursement of funds for project implementation.
- Produce timely and accurate financial reports

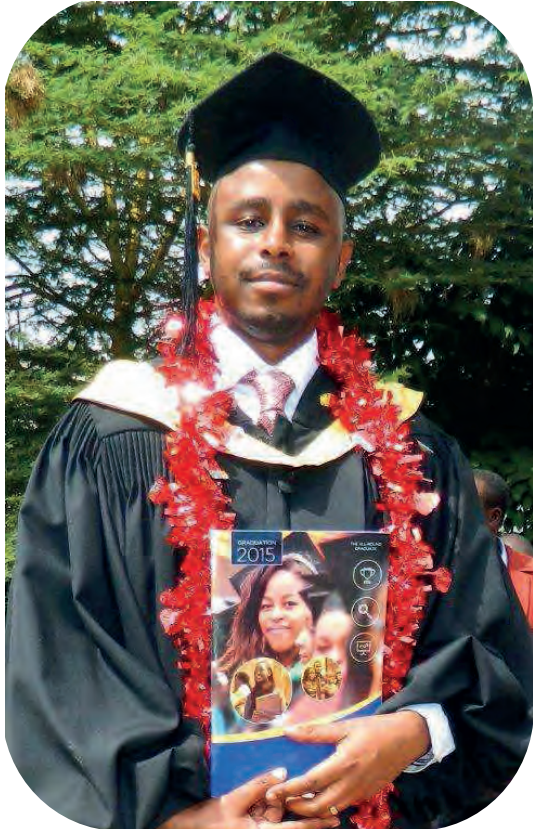
Health Strat works in close collaboration and partnership with the Ministry of Health NASCOP and Born Free to execute this function. The program was launched in April 2015. We are excited about the opportunity to work with game changers in the health sector such as these.

Employee of the Quarter

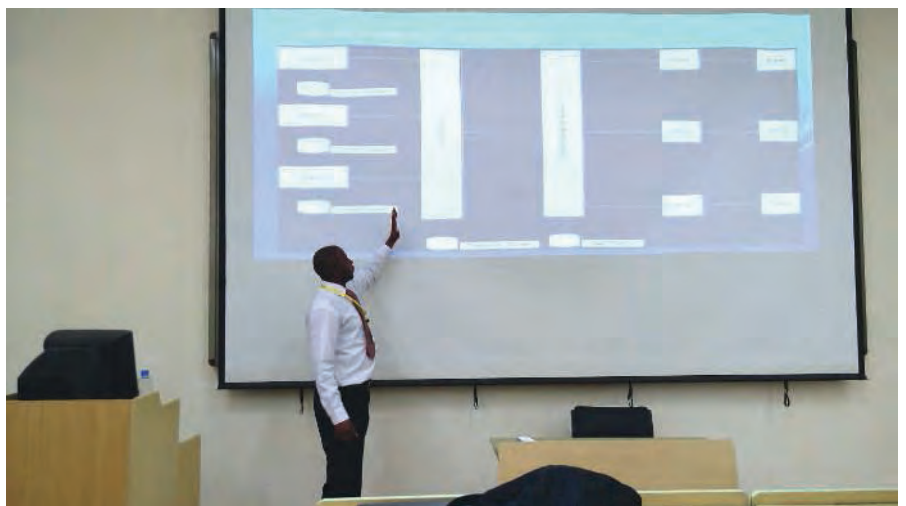
Sammy Wamae recently graduated with a Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) from Strathmore University, majoring in Information Systems Management. He was further selected to present his thesis titled Data Centric Decision Making Healthcare prototype at the 16th annual ICT conference held at Strathmore University. Among the guests at the event that was sponsored by Orange and IBM was the Cabinet Secretary for planning and devolution Hon. Ann Waiguru, Nicholas Nesbitt; Country General Manager IBM East Africa, and Said Rechchad; General Manager, EMC Corporation East & South Africa.

Sammy is the ICT administrator at Health Strat, and is always happy to help. His hobbies include music production, studying aeroplanes, and playing basketball.

Congratulations Sammy!



Sammy Wamae



Sammy Wamae doing his presentation at the International ICT conference at Strathmore University



CTC team planting seedlings. 95% germination was realised.



TACT staff participating during the laboratory training



TACT Regional staff at a SLMTA (Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation) training.



Mr. Joshua Otiende from the Directorate of Health Services at KPS counter checks documentation at a prison health facility. He is assisted by Mr. Anthony Maina and Dorothy Ngugi of KPS headquarters, Diana Atieno - Laboratory Services Coordinator of Health Strat and a facility prisons officer.



TACT Technical Assistance (TA) team pose for a photo after rigorous TA in Coast region