



Dr. Andrew Nyandigisi - CEO Health Strat

Word From The CEO:

2016 begun on a high note for us at Health Strat. We are grateful to have yet another year to provide 360° health systems solutions to the region. 2015 was a ground breaking season for us as we turned many a milestone including: We celebrated our 4th year of operation in November. Health Strat was born from the vision that all people in Kenya and the region can and should have quality, affordable, and accessible health care. This has continued to manifest in the implementation of all our projects and programs.

Late last year we held a highly successful TACT (Transforming TB and HIV Prevention Care and Treatment in Prisons Program) risk management framework dissemination forum with all the stakeholders of the program. These included senior directors of the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS), Deloitte Consulting Human Capital representatives, KPS AIDS Control Unit and Health Strat leadership. The risk management framework was launched and disseminated at length to ensure that Health Strat is able to sustainably transition the program to KPS in due course. It was an engaging session that brought forth insights into continuous quality improvement strategies within the Kenya Prisons Service health care service delivery. For more on this refer to our bumper issue feature on page 6.



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Commissioner General of Prisons
Mr. Isaya Osugo and Health Strat
CEO Dr. Andrew Nyandigisi



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Mombasa County Governor
Mr. Ali Hassan Joho

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Health Strat as a partner of Kenya Healthcare Federation took part in the 1st annual County Executive Committee Conference hosted by Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) at Kwale County towards the end of the year. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates and sought to bridge the gaps between the private sector and County Governments in the various sectors. The health sector sessions were vibrant and Health Strat was honoured to introduce *Qualicare 360* which is a game-changing, fully digital health systems assessment tool to the County Executives.

We also wish to welcome our Chief Technical Officer Dr. Ambrose Agweyu who joined us in February 2016. Dr. Ambrose is a Kenyan paediatrician and health systems expert with almost 10 years of experience in clinical and public health practice in East Africa. Working closely with the Ministry of Health his early research involved conducting evidence synthesis

for a national exercise for the local adaptation of the World Health Organization's paediatric clinical practice guidelines using the GRADE methodology.

More recently his work has focused on the development, implementation and evaluation of approaches for improving the quality of care for patients in public health facilities. Ambrose joins the team with valuable experience providing care to HIV-infected and exposed children at the Kenyatta National Hospital. He is particularly interested in optimizing the integration of PMTCT programs with routine maternal, new born and child health services in health facilities as a means to improving care and follow up of children born to HIV-infected mothers.

As we approach our 5th year in operation, we remain committed towards making our contribution towards universal coverage of healthcare to all people in the region in an innovative, cost effective and sustainable manner.

About
us

(Introducing our CTO)

Q&A



Dr. Agweyu - Chief Technical Officer

Interviewer: Karibu Health Strat Dr. Agweyu. Tell us more about yourself.

Dr. Agweyu: Thank you. I am excited to be here. I am just an ordinary Kenyan who is passionate about justice and equity specifically in the health sector. I am also keen on developing young people – particularly through career direction as I wish I had the same growing up. Everything I have done has led me here and I am glad how things turned out for me, but I am aware not everyone finds their way and therefore I would like to guide as many young people as I can towards achieving their very best in life. I am also a paediatrician- I love kids!

Interviewer: That is very noble of you. So, out of all you have said above, what has been the most rewarding moment in your career?

Dr. Agweyu: I think the most rewarding thing about being a paediatrician is meeting children who were critically ill as newborns under my care, years later when they are walking and talking and their parents remember me. It makes all the effort worthwhile.

Interviewer: What are some programmatic highlights of your career?

Dr. Agweyu: As the lead consultant on a program evaluating a large intervention supported by USAID to scale up Emergency Obstetric and New-born Care (EmONC) across Kenya,

“ I championed the development of indicators, tools, training modules and a toolkit adopted by the Ministry of Health for the monitoring and evaluation of EmONC across 15 counties.”

This work has resulted in notable improvements in data quality, increased capacity among county teams to undertake analyses of local data and demonstrable use of data collected for decision making and action planning. The project is currently in the third phase of assessments with recent analyses indicating a threefold improvement in the proportion of health facilities ready to provide essential EmONC services. . I have also worked with the Ministry of Health on various occasions supporting the revision of clinical guidelines and facilitating trainings for health workers on evidence-based paediatric care in hospitals.

Interviewer: What are some of your favourite pastime activities?

Dr. Agweyu: I enjoy running. I ran the 21kms *Standard Chartered run for the blind marathon* last year! I would like to learn to play the guitar this year.

Interviewer: Thank you Dr. Agweyu, we are excited to have you on #TeamHealthStrat !

Programs

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

TACT is a PEPFAR-CDC funded program whose goal is to strengthen the capacity of the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) to deliver a KPS-led and -managed high quality comprehensive HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment program, serving prison staff, their families, and inmates. The program is implemented through a consortium of partners led by Health Strat as the prime recipient and Kenya Prisons Service, Deloitte Consulting and University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

In its second year of implementation TACT held several trainings to equip health facility workers with skills and material to increase capacity to deal with everyday challenges of care and treatment of HIV and TB. One of those was a biosafety and biosecurity training facilitated at Coast General Hospital. Biosafety and biosecurity are fundamental components of the laboratory quality program. Safety of personnel from biohazard agents is critical in day to day operations; and safety of micro-organisms from theft and misuse for bioterrorism activities. The five-day intensive training was done using the national biosafety/biosecurity curriculum which is in line with the international Biosafety/Biosecurity module.

The 5 day training when adequately implemented ensures strengthening of biosafety and biosecurity systems to improve safety for not only health personnel but also to general public.

The overall training objective is to integrate biosafety/biosecurity principles and bio risk management with quality management systems in laboratory operations and thereby enhance awareness at the place of work.

This ensures laboratory staff acquire in-depth understanding, knowledge and skills on biosafety and biosecurity concepts and safety practices to be able to take measures that reduce exposure to health care workers, the environment and community at large to potentially infectious agents and biological hazards emanating from health hazards inherent in health care settings. The workshop was based on the national biosafety/biosecurity curriculum and all modules were covered. The curriculum covers biosafety, biosecurity, bioethics, and dual use dilemma. These were delivered in either of the following formats, though interaction between facilitators and participants was greatly enhanced.

TACT pharmacy and supply chain specialist conducted training on commodity management in the course of year 2. Consistent, uninterrupted availability of health commodities is important as it affects public health impact and mortality outcomes.

A reliable supply chain enables patients to obtain and use health commodities when and where they need them.

This applies to all health commodities including HIV/AIDS commodities, essential medicines, and laboratory commodities in order to help rationalize their selection and use. To this end, TACT program targeted comprehensive care clinics health workers for training on effective commodity management to ensure security of health commodities in their facilities and clinics.

The aim of the training was to provide the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable staff dispensing and handling ART commodities function efficiently and effectively in the provision of commodity management services in support of ART.

The training targeted 35 healthcare workers dispensing and handling ART commodities in

KPS supported facilities. From the results of the pre and post-tests, the training achieved its objective by imparting the intended knowledge on commodity management as evidenced by participants' scores.

Evidence based behavioural Intervention (EBIs) is a critical component in the prevention aspect of HIV reduction.

This is the reason TACT as a program focuses on an EBI training each quarter. RESPECT-K is one such intervention. RESPECT-K is the first individual level intervention to be added to the Diffusion of Effective Behavioural Interventions (DEBI). The RESPECT-K intervention utilizes a patient-focused, interactive HIV risk reduction counselling model based on Project RESPECT-K which is designed to support risk reduction behaviour(s) by increasing the patient's perception of his/her personal risks and by emphasizing incremental risk-reduction strategies. There are at least 82 facilities where HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) is implemented alongside other prevention interventions in Kenya Prison Service stations across the country.

Currently, RESPECT-K is implemented in at least 27 stations, with 33 service providers actively reporting.

The target audience comprised of 24 participants who were selected from Kenya Prison Services offering HTC service within Kenyan Prison setting.

These service providers are experienced HTC providers as per intervention requirements. The purpose of the training was to equip service providers with the required skills, knowledge and attitudes to effectively deliver Respect-K intervention to the key populations mainly: in-mates, sex workers, injecting drug users and men having sex with men.

Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment (PACT) program

Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment (PACT) program is a collaboration between university of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) as the prime and University of Nairobi (UoN) and partners with National AIDS and STD Control Program (NASCO), under the Kenyan Ministries of Health (MOH) and the Nairobi county government in expanding access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services in 50 health facilities within Nairobi County.

PACT is funded by President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through a collaborative agreement with Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

PACT specialists are on-hand at county facilities to build capacity and support county health workers in quality service delivery on a day to day basis.

This ensures skill transfer and overall high quality human resource for health in the county. Over and above the daily continuous quality improvement at the sites PACT specialists and staff were involved in rigorous technical assistance in preparation to closing out the program in September 2016. This also necessitated transition of staff from University of Maryland Baltimore to Health Strat as we seek to transition the same to county health facilities at the end of the project period. PACT specialists also participated in an adolescent forum to create HIV awareness in the key adolescent population of Nairobi County as part of prevention intervention strategy. Evidence based interventions are key in prevention in the adolescent population and a key component of Health Strat's systems strengthening strategy.

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.

CHAP specialists embarked on manuscript writing to document program progress and to develop competence in health manuscript writing and abstract presentation. All consortium representatives participated in a one-week program management training as part of continuous professional development with focus on program leadership and governance. The technical assistance team were also trained on multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) by KEMSA.

Health Strat's CHAP paediatric specialist participated in the Interagency Task Team Prevention and Treatment of HIV infection in pregnant women, mothers and children (IATT) B+ monitoring and evaluation framework dissemination and country consultation. This was held in Kampala, Uganda.

The forum included delegates from focus countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Mozambique, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

The objective of the forum was to disseminate B+ monitoring & evaluation (M&E) framework for antiretroviral treatment for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and their infants, and to build capacity in countries for M&E systems

with a focus on; cohort and retention monitoring, enhanced monitoring, better data use through use of dashboards and cascade analysis, and using program data for outcomes and impact measurement.

The CHAP implementation team has also developed a self-assessment dashboard at facility level for review of project milestones every quarter as seen on the table below:

Indicator	Target	Reached	%
Number of pregnant women with known HIV status	22918	29500	129
Number of HIV-positive pregnant women who received HAART	2065	1570	76
Number of HIV- positive pregnant women identified	2065	1683	82
Number of individuals who received Testing and Counselling (T&C) services for HIV and received their test results	183228	216311	118
Number of adults and children receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) [current] (DSD)	45830	38461	83
Number of adults and children newly enrolled on antiretroviral therapy (ART)	5640	5080	90

Feature Story

Health Strat is the prime recipient of the CDC funded TACT grant. The grant's main aims are;

1. **To ensure that KPS has the capacity to plan, implement, evaluate, and manage a USG-funded grant for comprehensive HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment services.**
2. **To provide evidence-based combination HIV prevention services to KPS staff, their families, and inmates**
3. **To provide comprehensive HIV care and treatment services to HIV-infected KPS staff, their families, inmates, and surrounding community members**
4. **To provide TB prevention and treatment services to KPS staff, their families, inmates, and surrounding community members**
5. **To monitor and evaluate program performance**

As part of aim 1's goal to ensure sustainable transition of the grant to KPS, Health Strat in partnership with Deloitte Consulting developed a risk management framework for the grant.

The launch and dissemination of this framework was a huge success as the participants included representation by notable stakeholders - CDC TACT activity manager, senior directors of KPS, Health Strat's leadership, Deloitte human capital representatives, NASCOP, NACC officials to name a few. Facilitators from Deloitte Consulting took the participants through the pillars of risk management and engaged the leadership in risk aversion and reduction mechanisms as pertains United States Government funded programs, their implementation and accountability systems.

Key aspects of risk management as discussed are:

1. **Definition of Risk and risk management**
2. **Risk management process**
3. **Roles and responsibilities of each stake holder**
4. **Internal fraud control and corruption prevention**



Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons Mr. Josephat Ituka gives his speech before officially launching the risk management framework document.



KPS Head of AIDS Control Unit (ACU) Madam Mary Chepkonga addresses the forum.



CDC activity manager Dr. Herman Weyenga addresses the forum



All represented stakeholders unveil the risk management framework



Stakeholders were presented each with a copy of the published framework document



Madam Chepkonga introduces the ACU committee



From left: Health Strat's CEO Dr. Nyandigisi, Health Strat COO Cecilia Keiru, Lang'ata Prison Officer In Charge Madam Olivia Obel and Officer in Charge of Naivasha prison Mr. Kiriinya Mwenda



Deloitte Consulting representatives

Pictorial



Mombasa County Governor Mr. Ali Hassan Joho visits the Kenya Prisons stand (supported by Health Strat) at the Mombasa County ASK show



Health Strat's Mohamed Mwakazi explains the prisoner (health) form 10 (PF10 form) to a participant at the Mombasa ASK show



PACT staff and adolescents from within Nairobi County at the adolescents forum participating in teambuilding



Commissioner General of Prisons Mr. Isaya Osugo and Health Strat CEO Dr. Andrew Nyandigisi sign the TACT partnership Memorandum Of Understanding.



Commissioner General of Prisons Mr. Isaya Osugo and Health Strat CEO Dr. Andrew Nyandigisi at the TACT partnership Memorandum Of Understanding signing.



TACT leadership and governance team pose for a photo during the MOU signing.



A TACT training of trainers' (TOT) session. The training are in an effort to build capacity for Kenya Prisons to manage and implement the program upon transition.



Health Strat CEO Dr. Nyandigisi during the KEPSA 1st annual CEC conference



Health Strat stand at the KEPSA 1st annual CEC conference



CHAP supply Chain Best practice site in Naivasha



Group photo after the TACT risk management launch and dissemination forum



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