

Project Overview.

The USAID 4BetterHealth initiated in 2021 is a five-year program focusing on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), aiming to improve their quality of life by increasing access to and uptake of quality health and social services across six counties: Kajiado, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Murang’a, and Nakuru.

The program delivers a family-centered and child-focused interventions designed to ensure that OVC remain healthy, safe, educated, and that their households achieve economic stability. It follows a comprehensive case management approach, supporting both the children and their caregivers. leveraging on data-driven framework. The program utilizes data collection and analysis to inform decision-making, draw lessons, and enhance programming, culminating to improved outcomes for the target populations.

Partners

This is a PEPFAR- USAID funded program; under the leadership of St John’s Community Centre as the Prime; Anglican Development Services Eastern and the Anglican Development Services Central Rift as local implementing partners (LIPs).



DECEMBER 16, 2024

USAID 4BetterHealth Newsletter. Issue No. 002

Foreword: a year of growth, Resilience and Transformation.*The Executive Director's Desk*

2024 has been pivotal in accelerating our collective efforts that have strengthened local health systems, empowered families and provided life- saving interventions to the OVC and their families. Looking at the COP Targets, we have been able to exceed expectations, ensuring that children are able to access vital health and social services, and in return, able to attend school where we have supported with provision of scholastic materials, school fees and household economic strengthening.

The success of this project would not have been possible without the great support of our donor, the immense collaborations that we have harnessed through the year and most importantly the trust of the community we serve.

As we move forward, we remain committed to the course, inspired by the lives touched through USAID 4BetterHealth, cognizant that community owned initiatives are key in service provision for the children who have been exposed, affected and infected by HIV/Aids, we soldier into the year 2025 with the values that we uphold of equity, access and compassion that define our work.

I look forward to a new year filled with promise, innovation, and even greater impact.



Peter Njuguna

Reflections from the Chief of Party

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible milestones achieved through the collective effort of USAID 4BetterHealth and our partners. This is a purpose driven program and inspired by the lives we uplift, making sure OVC and their families access to quality health and social services is not only a goal but a reality. Our success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our teams, resilience of the communities we serve, and the strong partnerships that make this work possible.

The financial year 2024 achievement was 105%, these numbers reflect more than just statistics, they are a representation of lives impacted directly through the 4 domains addressing health, safety, stability and schooled. USAID 4BetterHealth, has offered holistic support that has led to OVC; families being economically strengthened, facilitated with birth certificates acquisition and Children and Adolescents Living with HIV(CALHIV) accessing community level care and support. The areas that we work in face numerous challenges, but we have been able to combat this face to face, driven by the passion and knowledge that every child's life matters.

In the financial year 2025, we are committed to amplifying our impact, sustaining our gains/progress, and leaving no OVC behind. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each one of you, that is, our donors, the county and national governments, private sector, USG implementing partners that we have fostered partnerships and collaborations with, not forgetting the USAID 4BetterHealth team. Many thanks to the great community who have been directly impacted by our work, and in return have made 2024 a year of transformation and triumph.

Together we are changing lives and creating a better future!



Rudia Ikamati

DECEMBER 16, 2024

USAID 4BetterHealth Newsletter. Issue No. 002**USAID 4BetterHealth Goal and Objective.**

The overarching goal of USAID 4BetterHealth program, is to increase access to quality health and social services for OVC and their families. The program has further been divided into three sub-purposes: namely:-

Sub- purpose 3.1:
Increased targeted
Services for HIV
Exposed, Infected, and
Affected OVC.

Sub-Purpose 3.2:
Increased Economic
Stability of Households to
Care and Protect OVC.

Sub-Purpose 3.3:
Strengthened Capacity
of Local Systems and
Structures to Support
OVC Services.

Program interventions backed by Data.

The success of this OVC program solely lies in the robust and data driven interventions across the regions that we work in, USAID 4BetterHealth has employed innovative approaches to address the diverse needs of children exposed to, infected and affected by HIV.

By leveraging targeted service provision and community driven strategies, we have ensured the delivery of comprehensive care and support to OVC, enhancing their overall well-being and improving their access to essential health, education and birth certificates as well as household economic strengthening. At the onset of Year 4, the program's achievements underscore its role in addressing the health and social needs of OVC while empowering caregivers and strengthening local systems, this is aimed at creating sustainability and alienating over-dependence on the project.

Driving Change Through Impactful Interventions

The year 2024 has seen tremendous milestones achieved in the four thematic areas that we work in, leading to increased access to quality health and social services for OVC and their families. The USAID 4BetterHealth has reached a target for FY 24' supporting 33,890 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (16,018M, 17,872F), which is 105% of the 32,208 COP'23 target. the program has active 249 Village Savings and Loans Associations(VSLA) which has contributed to sustainability of the families that we support. These accomplishments of the care and support for HIV have a story to tell of unrelenting commitment, precision, and collaboration. Targeted interventions reached 9,129 OVC, with almost equal representation among boys and girls, at 4,573 and 4,646, respectively.

Of the OVC served under this comprehensive care approach, a total of 32.3% were children and adolescents living with HIV. Consequently, the fight against HIV prominently intensified, as 73% (6,753) of CALHIV had valid viral load results. Among these, 87% (5,881) achieved viral suppression, testament to the effectiveness of this treatment strategy and adherence support put forward by the program. This aside, 100% of CALHIV had linkage to care and treatment in place, ensuring that indeed no child would be left behind. Of the 27,406 OVC with known HIV status, 62.4% (17,848) were confirmed HIV-negative, offering a beacon of hope for a healthier future. Meanwhile, a small but crucial 1.2% (339) of children did not require testing, reflecting careful and precise health assessments.

Ensuring Lifelong Care for CALHIV and OVC

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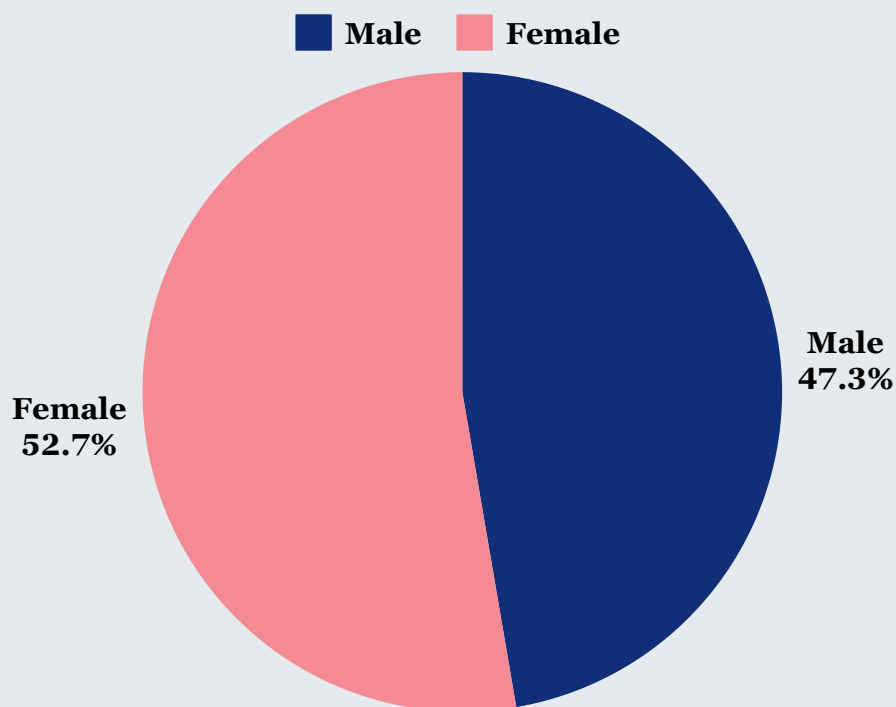


Fig 1: Gender representation of OVC reached in FY 24'

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Empowering Communities, One Family at a Time.

To many, economic empowerment opens the door to sustainable well-being. This year, 4,292 caregivers were empowered with the key competencies in managing household assets—the foundation of financial stability. Feeling confident in taking ownership of their futures, 553 caregivers started small income-generating activities through the use of a startup kit provided under the program. Grassroots financial interventions of this kind have proven how economic strengthening contributes to household resilience and subsequently improves the welfare of children.

Celebrating Graduation.

This year, 84% of the OVC in the program graduated successfully after attaining their case plan goals. For 4,659 children and their families, this milestone marked a passing into self-reliance and a brighter future. Another 4.2%, exited without graduation for various reasons which included: relocation and aging out. While these exits were inevitable, they also pointed to the need for continued collaboration in ensuring consistency in services wherever these families resettle.

Collaboration for Sustainability.



The success of the program has been amplified through solid partnerships, reinforced by quarterly Program Advisory Committee(PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee(TAC) meetings, these forums have provided a platform for review of progress and challenges, fostering a culture of transparency and shared accountability.

At the county level, the development and approval of joint work plans for FY'25, demonstrated the seamless integration of the program's initiatives into government service delivery frameworks. This alignment with local priorities not only enhances ownership but also ensures the program's impact is sustainable, transformative, and responsive to community needs.