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USAID 4TheChild Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 10 (October - December 2023)



USAID 4TheChild AGYW Representatives Leading Panel Discussions at ICASA 2023, Zimbabwe

Tuongane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto

Table of Contents

	01	Messages from the Leaders
	02	Project Overview
	03	Performance Highlights
	04	Activity Highlights
	05	Beneficiary Success Stories
	06	Employee Spotlight
	07	Financial Highlights
	08	Next Quarter's Activities
	09	Partners and Collaborators
	10	Contact Information

Message from the Principal, MUCHS



Prof. Robert Tenge

Greetings from Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS), the prime recipient of the USAID 4TheChild award! It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you to the 10th edition of the USAID 4TheChild Project Quarterly Newsletter for the period October to December 2023.

MUCHS remains committed to fostering our enduring partnership with USAID/Kenya and East Africa. During this period, we actively engaged in the Annual USAID Financial Review, aimed at enhancing our institutional capacity in award management.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the ongoing invaluable support and collaboration received from the National and County Government departments in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties towards the implementation of USAID 4TheChild. Furthermore, I extend appreciation for the collaborative efforts with private sector entities in amplifying health and social services for our beneficiaries. Notably, during this reporting period, MUCHS documented KES 5,524,100 in cost share contributions from both public and private sector stakeholders.

The successful implementation of the USAID 4TheChild project requires partnerships and collaborations with like-minded actors and we will continue to build these relationships. MUCHS acknowledges the role played by our sub-recipients in facilitating access to health and social services for our project beneficiaries. These partnerships align with Moi University's mission to collaborate with stakeholders for the betterment of society.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our endeavours.

KES 5,524,100 Documented cost share contribution in Q1 FY 2024



Message from the Acting CoP



Mr. Kenneth Otieno

On behalf of the USAID 4TheChild Management Team (PMT), I am pleased to present, in this 10th Edition, the key performance highlights and successes achieved by USAID 4TheChild from October to December 2023.

This quarter, USAID 4TheChild reported 14,444 active Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW). In addition, the project facilitated successful graduation of 12,135 AGYW (98%) from the DREAMS interventions having completed evidence-based interventions. The project provided services to 101,489 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and graduated 10,438 OVC, achieving 71 percent of the annual household graduation target.

USAID 4TheChild actively participated in the USAID Kenya and East Africa Mid-Term Review for Kenya Health Partnerships and Quality Services (KHPQS), 2021-2026. Moreover, the project was honoured to take part in the PEPFAR@20 celebrations held in Nairobi, where our contributions were recognized by esteemed dignitaries, including H.E. the President of Kenya and H.E. the US Ambassador to Kenya.

USAID 4TheChild hosted the DREAMS Interagency Technical Team, comprising members from PEPFAR, USAID, CDC, and Peace Corps, fostering synergistic efforts to address the needs of our beneficiaries.

Additionally, the project facilitated representatives to attend the WomenNOW! and International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) conferences in Zimbabwe, as well as the 2nd International Conference on Child Protection (ICCP) in Africa in Nairobi, contributing to knowledge sharing and networking in the field.

On behalf of the USAID 4TheChild PMT, I wish to reaffirm our collective and individual commitment to enhancing access to quality county-led health and social services for OVC and their families as well as AGYW across the project implementation sites.

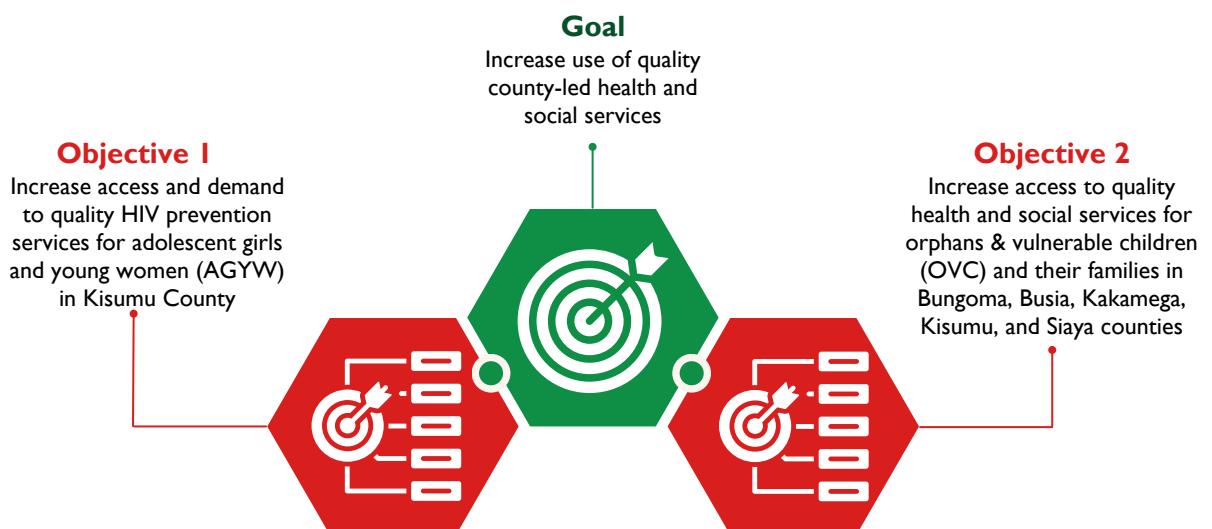
Project Overview

1	Tuungane	Pooling resources together for the benefit of vulnerable children and families
2	Tulinde	Protecting welfare of vulnerable children
3	Tuwekeze	Investing in children and systems strengthening for sustainability
4	Tuboreshe	Improving access to quality services for vulnerable children and their families
	Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto	Health and Education of the Child

4TheChild

USAID 4TheChild is a five-year project (2021-2026) funded by PEPFAR through USAID/Kenya and East Africa. It operates within Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties, with Moi University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) serving as the prime implementing partner under the Academic Model Providing Access To Healthcare (AMPATH) framework. In Kisumu, MUCHS works with Make Me Smile - Kenya (MMS-K) as the consortium partner. The project's name is derived from its Kiswahili title (Tuungane Tulinde Tuwekeze Tuboreshe Afya na Elimu ya Mtoto), that means 'coming together to protect, invest, and improve the health and education of the child.'

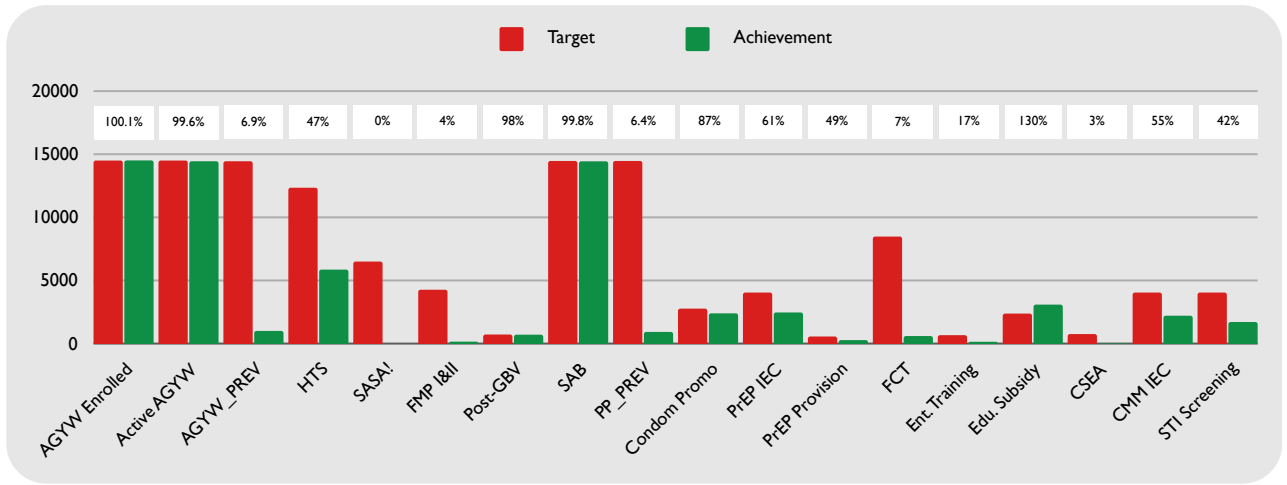
Goal and Objectives



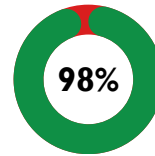
Performance Overview

Objective 1: DREAMS

DREAMS Interventions Targets vs Achievements



USAID 4TheChild reported 14,444 active AGYW. USAID 4TheChild graduated 12,135 AGYW (98%) from the DREAMS interventions having completed primary and secondary EBIs.



98% AGYW Graduated

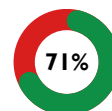
Objective 2: OVC Support

OVC Served per County

County	COP 22 Target	OVC_Comprehensive			OVC_Preventive			DREAMS			Total OVC Served - APR 23			% Achieved - APR 23
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bungoma	7,568	3,388	3,603	6,991	0	0	0	-	-	-	3,388	3,603	6,991	92%
Busia	12,972	6,343	6,804	13,147	134	58	192	-	-	-	6,477	6,862	13,339	103%
Kakamega	11,903	5,430	5,790	11,220	168	65	233	-	-	-	5,598	5,855	11,453	96%
Kisumu	48,025	20,239	21,766	42,005	245	224	469	-	11,417	11,417	20,484	33,154	53,638	112%
Siaya	16,365	7,824	8,244	16,068	0	0	0	-	-	-	7,824	8,244	16,068	98%
Total	96,833	43,224	46,207	89,431	547	347	894	-	11,417	11,417	43,771	57,971	101,489	105%

USAID 4TheChild served 101,489 OVC, with 88,560 aged below 18 years. The project served 89,431 OVC with HIV status reported to the IP; 21,730 OVC were HIV-positive.

OVC Graduated



USAID 4TheChild graduated 10,438 OVC, including 476 CALHIV, from PEPFAR support, achieving 71% against a target of 14,731 OVC.

Activity Highlights

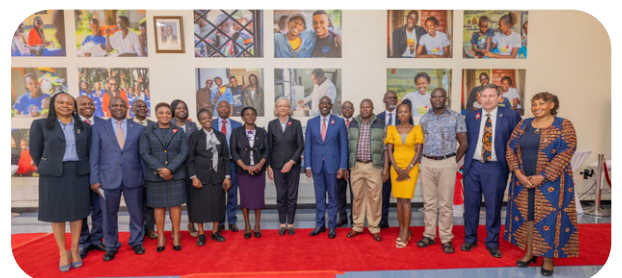
PEPFAR@20 Celebrations: USAID 4TheChild Beneficiaries Share Their Stories



PEPFAR Beneficiary Delegates Pose for a Photo with the President of Kenya and the US Ambassador

USAID 4TheChild delegates joined other USAID mechanisms, individuals, and government officials in marking PEPFAR's 20 years of hope in Kenya. The PEPFAR@20 celebrations were held at The Kenya National Library (Maktaba Kuu) located in Upperhill Nairobi, Kenya, presided over by the President of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Ruto and the US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman.

USAID 4TheChild facilitated two beneficiaries who seized the moments to share their stories of resilience and transformation. One, Ruth, a former DREAMS girl turned Assistant Chief in Kisumu, recounted her journey from adversity to leadership, crediting PEPFAR/USAID-funded DREAMS interventions for her transformation. Another, Sara, a caregiver in the USAID 4TheChild OVC support project, highlighted the positive changes in her life, including her daughter's journey to achieving a zero viral load as a result of project interventions.



Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Hosts DREAMS Interagency Technical Team at Angola Hub



USAID 4TheChild welcomed the Interagency Kenya DREAMS Technical Team comprised of members from PEPFAR, USAID Kenya, CDC, and PeaceCorps. The team visited USAID 4TheChild's Angola DREAMS Integrated Hub to learn from the implementation, achievements, best practices, and impact of DREAMS interventions in Kisumu.

During the activity, USAID 4TheChild provided an overview of the interventions targeting AGYW, illustrating how the project identifies beneficiaries based on vulnerabilities and links them with tailored services. The project also shared data demonstrating delivery of high-quality services, providing a platform for beneficiaries to share their stories.



As part of the visit, the team toured the AGYW safe space and observed the integration of various services aimed at encouraging the girls to access essential support. These services include a youth-friendly center, craft center, safe park, health center, ICT hub, permaculture farm, beauty and hairdressing, and community business center.

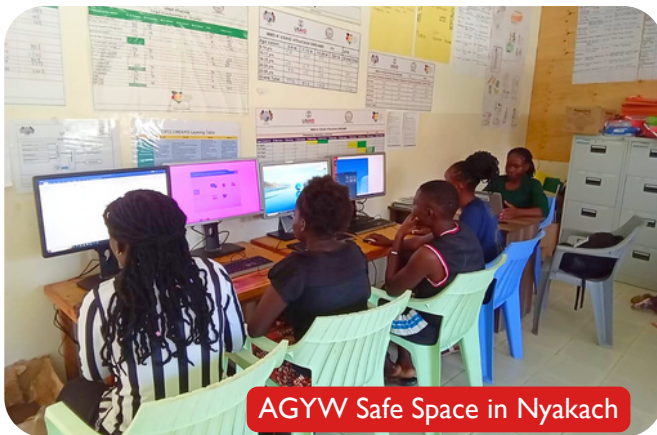
Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Scales Up DREAMS Coverage in Kisumu County

USAID 4TheChild scaled up DREAMS coverage to 20 wards within six sub-counties of Kisumu County, achieving 80 percent coverage in the region. This expansion was guided by an analysis of secondary data utilizing multiple vulnerability indices aligned with the Kenya Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (KENPHIA) conducted between May 2018 and February 2019 to evaluate Kenya's national HIV response.

Kisumu County Vulnerability Estimates

Sub-county	Estimated AGYW 10-24 Yrs.	Ever Layered	COP 22 Target Allocation	Active AGYW (Q3)	# Fully Layered as at 30th June	# Expected to be fully layered by the end of COP 22	# Expected to be graduated by the end of COP 22	# Expected to be Carried forward in COP 23	% Saturation	Eligible AGYW for enrolment	COP 23 Allocation	Total COP 23 Allocation
Kisumu Central	32,073	17,689	1,805	1,968	1,737	1,875	1,249	719	55%	14,384	0	719
Kisumu East	41,126	56,744	6,993	5,250	4,696	5,100	4,063	1,187	138%	-15,618	0	1,187
Muhoroni	27,726	3,769	3,382	3,344	2,597	3,160	2,287	1,057	14%	23,957	3,799	4,856
Nyando	30,452	9,960	2,287	2,220	1,793	2,080	1,635	585	33%	20,492	1,543	2,128
Nyakach	27,768	679		2,162	482	1,412	964	1,198	2%	27,089	4,412	5,610
Total	159,145	88,841	14,467	14,944	11,305	13,627	10,198	4,746		70,304	9,754	14,500



Building on the insights gained from the analysis, the project strategically redirected efforts from the saturated Kisumu East Sub-County, instead expanding its reach to two new wards: Ombeyi and North Nyakach in Muhoroni and Nyakach sub-counties respectively and increasing coverage in three existing wards: Shauri Moyo-Kaloleni, Kabonyo-Kanyagwal, and Awasi-Onjiko in Kisumu Central, Kadibo, and Nyando sub-counties respectively.

To ensure the success of these expansions, USAID 4TheChild facilitated stakeholder meetings to discuss the expanded coverage. These meetings played a key role in securing co-located office spaces, recruiting AGYW mentors, and initiating the enrollment of vulnerable AGYW into the DREAMS project.

Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Participates in WomenNOW! Conference, ICASA 2023



USAID 4TheChild took part in the 22nd edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2023) in Harare, Zimbabwe, held from December 4th to 9th, 2023. The project facilitated the attendance of two former DREAMS beneficiaries and a staff member, who actively participated in discussions and interactive sessions to exchange knowledge, learn from others' experiences, and develop strategies to further the project's efforts in combating AIDS in Kenya.

Additionally, the USAID 4TheChild delegates attended the WomenNOW! 2023 Summit from November 30th to December 2nd, 2023, and participated in sessions focused on addressing economic inequity, gender disparity, and the violation of sexual and reproductive health rights and bodily autonomy.



Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Leads Action Against GBV During 16 Days of Activism



USAID 4TheChild joined the world in marking 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, from November 25th to December 10th, 2023.

The project partnered with Ciheb-Kenya and the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital's Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centre to conduct legal aid clinics across the DREAMS implementation sites. Furthermore, the project partnered with Ciheb-Kenya to host 20 motorbike riders from Nairobi en route to Homabay County. Making stopovers in Ahero and North Nyakach wards, they engaged with AGYW and conducted community sensitization sessions on the impacts of gender-based violence.

USAID 4TheChild also facilitated the participation of AGYW in various activities organized by the County Government of Kisumu, including the campaign launch in Awasi-Onjiko Ward, where the beneficiaries presented a skit depicting community obstacles to accessing justice and called for a multi-sectoral response to the issues.

On the International Day of Human Rights Defenders, USAID 4TheChild hosted the Chief Magistrate of Kisumu Law Courts at the Nyalenda DREAMS Integrated Hub. During this event, the judiciary provided refreshments and sanitary pads to AGYW in session while also pledging to expedite children's cases in court for resolution.

Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Promotes Community Leadership During WAD23



USAID 4TheChild took part in observing the December 1st World AIDS Day 2023 (WAD23) across Siaya, Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, and Kisumu counties. Over 7,500 people attended the event across the five counties, where the project, working with local partners, raised awareness about HIV among its target groups.

In Siaya, at Ugunja Primary School, the project collaborated with the County Department of Health, featuring Madam Betty Murungi as Chief Guest. Emphasis was placed on data-driven interventions to achieve UNAIDS goals, with support provided through various means including transportation and refreshments. In Bungoma, the Amtala Grounds event saw the celebration of 100 HIV-Exposed Infants turning HIV-negative, with support extended to participants and mobilization of community health promoters and OVC.

In Busia, observance at Bubiri Primary School attracted over 700 attendees, celebrating the graduation of 77 HIV-Exposed Infants. Kakamega's event in Navakholo Sub-County saw support with banners and facilitation for attendees. Kisumu County, on the other hand, marked the day at Kenyatta Sports Ground with a procession and speeches highlighting progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Notably, creative displays and testimonials exhibited the project's impact.



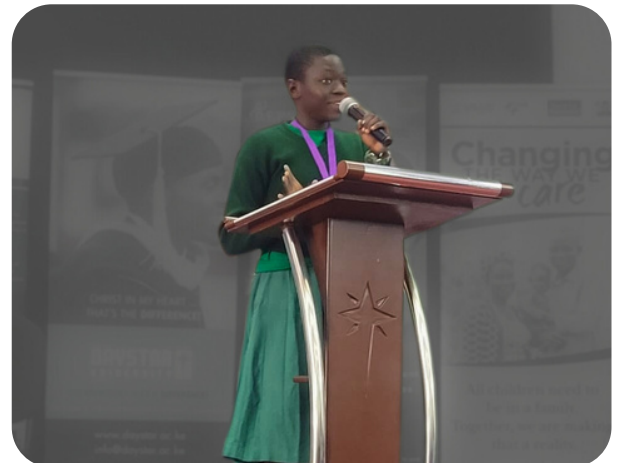
Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Participates in ICCP 2023



USAID 4TheChild funded and participated in the 2nd International Conference on Child Protection (ICCP) in Africa at Daystar University, Nairobi, from November 22 to 24, 2023. Themed “Violence Against Children - From Evidence to Action,” the event attracted over 400 delegates from 20+ countries. Attendees explored evidence and strategies to end violence against children.

The conference offered a vital platform for the USAID 4TheChild team to share intervention strategies and evidence on preventing child exploitation with key stakeholders, fostering collaboration in combating this issue. Two staff members and two DREAMS girls presented insights on critical topics, including the project’s gender-based violence response as well as prevention of violence against children through sports targeting adolescent boys. One DREAMS girl shared a poem advocating for girl child rights.



Activity Highlights

USAID 4TheChild Expands eCMS to Enhance OVC Case Management

USAID 4TheChild expanded the utilization of the electronic Case Management System (eCMS) across Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, and Siaya counties. Case management is a collaborative process to identify OVC and families, assess their needs and strengths, set goals, provide direct or referral services, conduct follow-up, evaluate progress, and terminate support when no longer needed. eCMS offers vital information on OVC and families, enabling case managers and stakeholders to assess needs and make informed decisions. It streamlines referrals to other providers, tracks service access, customizes beneficiary plans, and enables supervisor oversight of case manager performance and beneficiary outcomes.



USAID 4TheChild integrated the eCMS with CPIMS, ensuring seamless interoperability. The project then rolled out eCMS to the remaining counties, adding 167 more case workers to the digital platform, totaling 245.

The project also conducted a refresher training for 78 case workers and on-site mentorship to improve platform utilization and address issues. This led to an enhancement in system utilization and data quality, averaging 98 percent.

Beneficiary Success Story

Act Nicely DREAMS Girls Transforming Communities through Art

In Kisumu, an initiative, born of USAID 4TheChild's DREAMS program, empowers AGYW through art and advocacy. Started at Mama Sisi Safe Space, 23 girls aged 10 to 24 crafted educational skits tackling sexual and gender-based violence during a session. Encouraged by their mentors, diverse talents emerged, fostering community engagement and the birth of "Act Nicely DREAMS Girls."



Act Nicely blends theatre with community concerns, tailoring performances to connect with various audiences. Their impactful engagements range from spotlighting children's issues during Children Services Week to challenging HIV/AIDS stigma on World AIDS Day. Praised for their work, they even performed for the Chief Justice of Kenya.



Act Nicely also educates peers on vital topics like HIV/AIDS and justice. They have achieved wins at Kisumu Central Auditions and secured a contract for the Kisumu Agricultural Show. The group welcomes AGYW passionate about acting and aims to reach 10,000 vulnerable girls. Sakina Abdalla, the group chair, highlights acting's empowering nature: "It has enabled us to positively impact our community."

Employee Spotlight



Luke Okeyo
Household Economic Strengthening Officer

Luke Okeyo, Household Economic Strengthening Officer at Green Zone - Kenya, spearheads initiatives to uplift OVC livelihoods in Siaya County. Partnering with World Bicycle Relief (WBR), Okeyo facilitated the distribution of 166 Buffalo bicycles, benefiting 182 OVC households, improving access to education, healthcare, and markets. His efforts also streamlined transit for volunteer health workers, enabling more efficient care delivery. His dedication reflects the project's commitment to transformative community development in Siaya County.

Performance

182 OVC HHs reached against 82 targeted



Achievement

227.5%



Willis Mulaa
OVC Service Delivery Coordinator

Willis Mulaa, OVC Service Delivery Coordinator at Akukuranut Development Trust, showcased exemplary dedication by assisting a struggling grandmother in providing for her orphaned grandchildren. Recognizing the financial strain of daily transport, Mulaa advocated for adopting bicycles, significantly reducing costs and ensuring safer mobility for the OVC. His initiative not only improved access to education and healthcare but also empowered the family towards financial stability. Mulaa's saved the OVC household KES. 55,200 in 12 months.

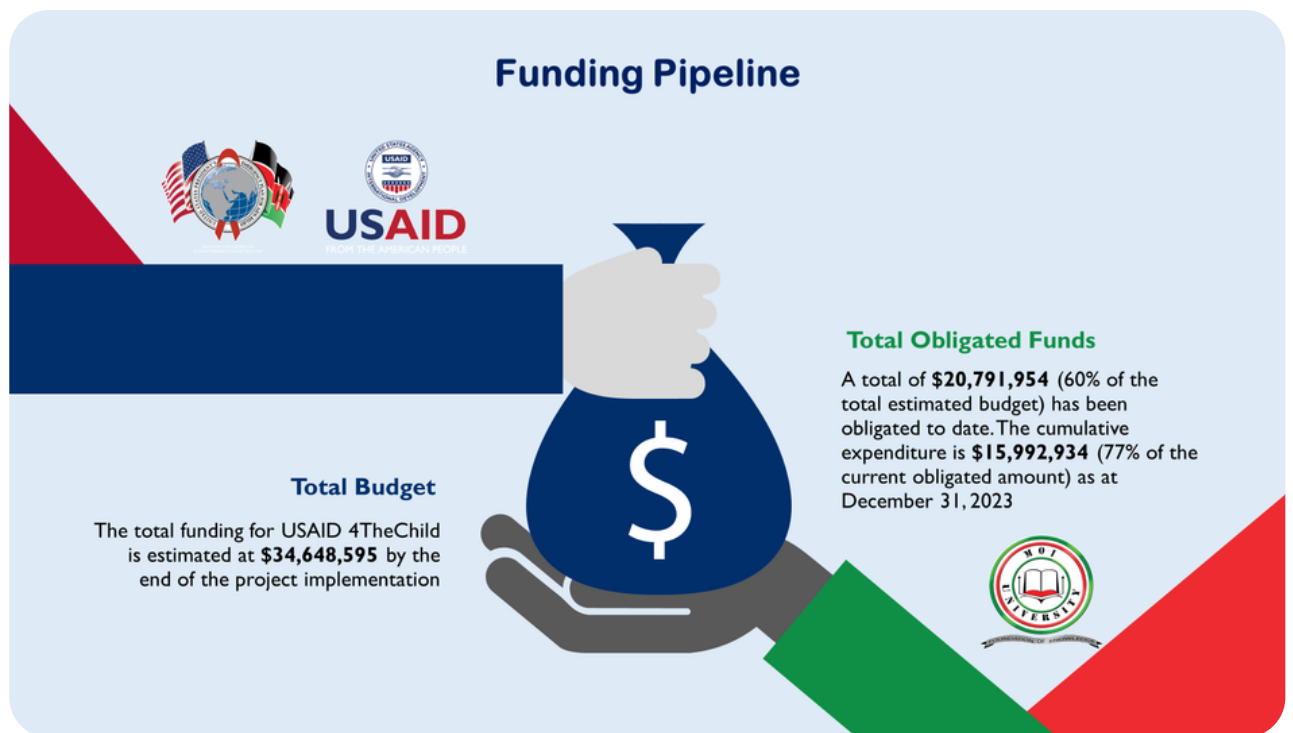
Savings to OVC Household (each child)

	Transport to School	Transport to Clinic	
Daily Transport Cost (KES)	140	Daily Transport Cost (KES)	200
# of School Days in a Year	180	# of TCA per Year, incl. OTZ, VL uptake	12
Total Transport to School	25,200	Total Transport to Clinic	2,400

Financial Highlights

During the quarter, MUCHS continued to support the seven local implementing partners (LIPs) across the project counties in implementing the USAID 4TheChild Project. Additionally, the prime implementing partner took over responsibility for the implementation of OVC support activities in Likuyani, Lugari, and Malava sub-counties in Kakamega County.

Below is a summary of the financial status during the period:



→ Total Budget	\$34,648,595	100%
→ Total Obligated	\$20,791,954	60%
→ Total Expenditure	\$15,992,934	77%

Partners and Collaborators

Thank you to all our donors, partners, and collaborators. We couldn't have done it without your generous support

This quarter, OVC and DREAMS/AGYW stakeholders in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties came together to protect, invest, and improve the health and education of the child with the generous support of the American People through PEPFAR and USAID/Kenya and East Africa.

Local Implementing Partners (LIPs):

- Akukuranut Development Trust (ADT)
- Busia Parish Family Life Education Programme (FLEP)
- Community Asset Building and Development Action (CABDA)
- Community Research in Environment and Development Initiatives (CREADIS)
- Green Zone - Kenya (GZ-K)
- Health Innovations Kenya (HIK)
- Make Me Smile- Kenya (MMS-K)



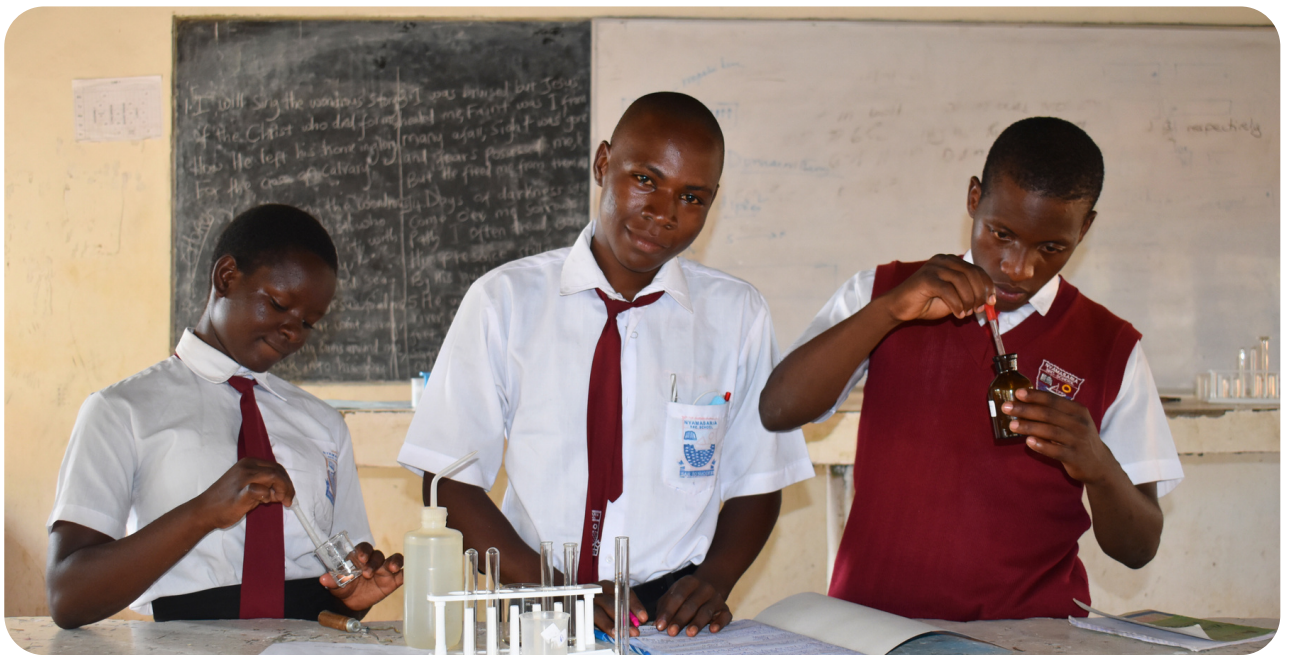
Partners and Collaborators:

- World Bicycle Relief
- Ketia Supermarket, Kisumu
- Royal City Hotel, Kisumu
- Swan Hotel, Bungoma
- Bungoma Royal Suites Hotel
- National Bank, Kisumu
- Maningi Poultry Farm Enterprises, Siaya
- Rhouzen Garments, Siaya



Next Quarter's Work Plan

USAID 4TheChild will further interventions to increase use of quality county-led health and social services in Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. The project will scale up impactful and evidence-based interventions across multiple sectors to accelerate efforts to control the HIV/AIDS epidemic among AGYW as well as improve health, education, protection, and socio-economic outcomes among OVC, CALHIV, their caregivers, and families. Key activities in the subsequent quarter include:



- Expedite the layering of AGYW HIV prevention services through training facilitators for the Healthy Choices for a Better Future (HCBF), My Health My Choice (MHMC), Entrepreneurship, and Family Matters Program! (FMP!).
- Complete the Youth Programming Assessment Tool (Y-PAT) for OVC and AGYW to actively engage young people in HIV programming.
- Leverage PMTCT_OVC implementation in collaboration with clinical partners.
- Enhance CALHIV management by prioritizing services tailored to specific age cohorts, enhancing the scale-up of beneficiary linkage to non-suppressing adolescents, and conducting caregiver literacy sessions
- Conduct post-graduation monitoring for OVC households and AGYW who have graduated from PEPFAR support.
- Hold Data Quality Assessments (DQAs) and implement Site Improvement Monitoring System (SIMS) for both OVC and DREAMS selected sites.

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