

SPOTLIGHT

Zahra Farah Ibrahim- community health mobilizer, Eastleigh Community Wellness Center, Nairobi



Caption: Zahra conducting a polio awareness campaign in Eastleigh.

"I am happy when the clients come back to report improvement in their health and when they bring other members of the community to seek professional medical assistance."

"The biggest achievement I would say was the establishment of the pharmacy at the clinic; this has helped in discouraging the use of over the counter medication. The people trust us and they know that once the doctor has diagnosed their ailment they are able to get medicine for free. Unlike previously when most people would prefer to just go to the commercial chemists to buy un-prescribed and over the counter medication".

"I have been working here for almost six years now, it has been a very rewarding journey for me to be able to help people to get health services that they would otherwise not be able to access due to language barrier. Working as a community health mobilizer and a translator has enabled me to gain trust from the migrant and host community. It has not been easy and it has taken a lot of time but ultimately with the support of my colleagues, we are able to help more people."

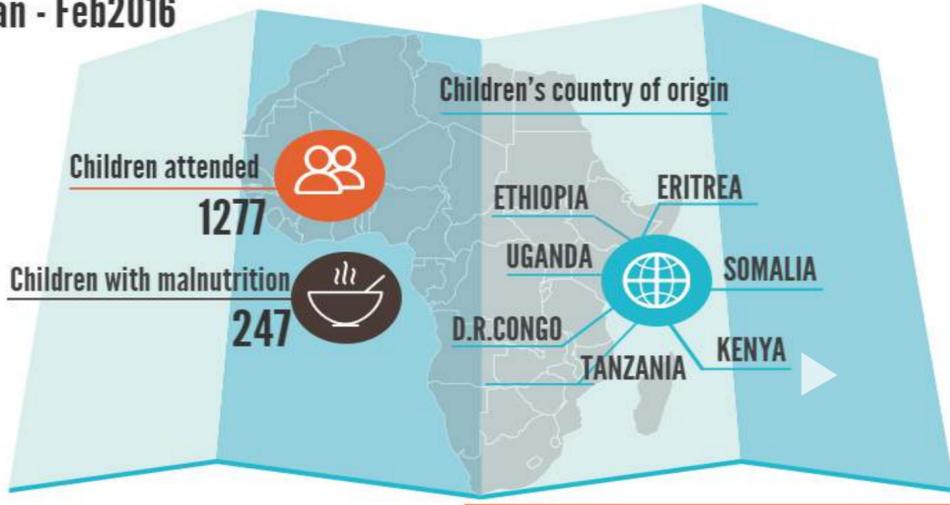
"My work involves going into the neighborhood and people's homes and talking to them about their health challenges, sensitizing them on available health services and encouraging them to visit proper health facilities."

INFOGRAPHIC

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Eastleigh community wellness centre, Nairobi

Jan - Feb 2016



155 Malnourished children came from Somalia

MAIN STORY

Engagement of all Stakeholders and Partners in Cross Border Communities is Key to Delivery of Quality and Equitable Health Care Services to Migrants and Migration Affected Communities



Caption: The Busia Trailer Park and Wellness Centre was officially launched on 25th March 2011 by IOM, National Aids Control Council(NACC) and Ministry of Health officials.

Located 431 kilometers west of Kenya's capital Nairobi, Busia, a cross border town with bustling economic activity largely characterized by small and medium sized enterprises indiscriminately caters to the economic and social needs of East African Community populations. An aerial view of the activities in this town would give one the impression that social amenities such as health are similarly offered in an indiscriminate manner as other socio-economic services.

Since 2010, IOM has been supporting the Ministry of Health in expanding and improving service delivery to migrants who constitute a large majority of the clients at the Busia Trailer Park Wellness Center. In 2014, the government of Kenya embarked on construction of the one stop border post in Busia and this has led to a sharp decline in the number of migrants specifically truckers who visit the clinic to access health services.

In an effort to improve migrant's access to health services in Busia County, IOM, on request from the County Health Management Team (CHMT) Director, Dr. Melsa Lutomia, conducted a one week sensitization workshop with the objective of:

- Support the convening of a multi-sectoral partners meeting to sensitize stakeholders on migrant health, understand existing migrant health initiatives and gaps, and support development of an action plan for addressing the gaps;
- Sensitize the county health management team on migrant health;
- Facilitate a three-day peer educators refresher training, incorporating migration health.

The workshop conducted on 15 to 19 February 2016 was attended by 51 participants, 12 of whom were from the CHMT. During the opening remarks of the workshop the Director of the CHMT, Dr. Melsa Lutomia, said "We have many partners working in Busia county, and in order to ensure that we deliver accessible and friendly services we must be able to know each partner, that is who they are, their location and fully understand what services they offer. This forum will not only help us to identify all this but also help in improving coordination amongst all the stakeholders."

Through engagement of key stakeholders and partners in such fora, IOM intends to ensure there is improved access and utilization of migrant sensitive health services by migrants and communities in the border area. This is very vital in helping the Kenyan government achieve both national and global health objectives.

MEET THE TEAM



PATIENCE BULAGE

Senior Project Assistant, Health Promotion and Assistance to Migrants in Uganda

One year and 10 months in PHAMESA

migration is a cross cutting issue and needs very strategic advocacy. I am proud to have the opportunity to be a voice for migrants on various national and regional platforms and have achieved positive outcomes.

- In your Opinion, What is the most successful intervention that you have worked on?

Enhancing partners understanding of migration and migration health issues in the Ugandan context has been an uphill task, especially the use of the term mobility and mobile populations by policy makers. This is mainly due to the perception that migration is mainly movement of people into the country, also mainly perceived to be refugees. This challenge however provides us with the opportunity to do further advocacy for the policy makers and relevant partners.

IOM carried out a study on Knowledge Attitudes and Practices of Fishing Communities in six districts in Uganda in 2014. Upon successful dissemination of the study, IOM advocated for implementation of the recommendations. This led to key players and the support of donor agencies, aligning their country health strategies and piloting of activities to improve access and delivery of health services in the fishing communities.

IOM successfully advocated for the inclusion of migrants in the Uganda Health Sector Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20).

IOM successfully advocated for the inclusion of migrants in the Uganda Health Sector Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20). The plan fully complies with the 2008 World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 61.17 on the Health of Migrants.

PHAMESA has enhanced my understanding of pertinent issues related to Migration and Health, and provided me the opportunity to advocate at national level for migrants as an under-served population in Uganda. The programme has also provided a platform to enhance my networking and coordination skills because

What do you love most about working with the PHAMESA programme?

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