



Nurse Aneles inside the new Mwandoya Hospital in Meatu District, Simiyu region in Tanzania.

Program Highlight

UZAZI UZIMA - MEANING "SAFE DELIVERIES" IN SWAHILI

Nearly 200,000 women in sub-Saharan Africa die every year from preventable conditions during childbirth, primarily due to the inaccessibility of health centers. In Tanzania specifically, the mortality ratio is 454 in every 100,000 births. Over the last four years, Amref Tanzania has been working in the Simiyu region to address the lack of access to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health care and inform the community about their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The *Uzazi Uzima* project, made possible with the financial support of the Government of Canada, had two primary goals: improve health care access and increase the use of health services by community members. Through this project, **over 350,000 people were reached** directly through health care education and community events.

WE'RE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT

- **80%** of births happened in a healthcare facility.
- **82%** of children and young people (ages 10 – 24) utilized the 16 newly established youth-friendly health services to get HIV counseling, testing, and SRHR services.
- **1,356** secondary school peer educators were trained on SRHR.
- **4,800 youth** were taught about SRHR topics at **146 participating schools**.
- **800 community health care workers**, who are often the first point of contact for health information, were trained on SRHR.

Spotlight

UPGRADING NURSE MIDWIFE TECHNICIANS TO REGISTERED NURSES

In Malawi, where the current estimated lifetime risk for maternal death is 1 in 14, Amref is working to implement an e-learning program to upgrade Nurse Midwife Technicians to become Professional Registered Nurse-Midwives. Once learners complete the training, they will be able to provide adequate coverage of comprehensive maternal and child health care services including antenatal care, care during delivery, postpartum care, and family planning at all levels – which are critical skills for saving lives.

Most of the learners are based in health facilities in rural and remote areas where access to quality health care is a challenge. With e-learning, health workers can continue to work at their health facilities, while simultaneously pursuing advanced training.

Without the amazing support of our donors to help upgrade so many Nurse Midwife Technicians, we would not be able to make such a positive impact on women and children's health. Thank you!

MEET KELVIN

Kelvin has always had a passion for caring for the sick, and in 2010 he enrolled at St John College of Nursing and Midwifery in Mzuzu, Malawi. He finished his studies and was employed, before applying to be a part of the e-Learning program in 2018. The program would see him upgraded from a Nurse Midwife Technician to a Registered Nurse.



“”

The e-Learning program has helped me acquire skills that have gotten me promoted to a Program Coordinator at our local hospital. I am trusted to make decisions regarding courses of treatment for patients. And this is the case across our graduating class, several of my classmates are now also coordinating programs and have become the person in charge at their respective workplaces.

-Kelvin, Registered Nurse

PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Since the spring of 2020, Amref Health Africa has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 response in sub-Saharan Africa. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created an increased need for our unique expertise: not just in responding to the pandemic, but in strengthening health systems in a sustainable way – an essential step in preparing for future public health emergencies.

With the support of individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations around the world, Amref was recently chosen by the Africa CDC – the African Union's public health agency – as the lead partner for setting up COVID-19 Vaccination Centers in **24 countries**. The aim is to assist these countries in vaccinating at least 60% of their populations by the end of the year. As we speak, we are working with Ministries of Health and partners to strengthen every facet of vaccination efforts.

Amref is working in collaboration with communities and partners to increase access to and education about the vaccine. We are investing in frontline health workers and universal health coverage for all. Amref is also strengthening laboratory testing and diagnostic systems which is improving the overall resilience of health systems. Perhaps most importantly, we will continue to use our platform to amplify African voices and expertise, working from the grassroots level to share accurate COVID-19 information and to call for policy changes that are responsive to local community needs.



An Amref health worker administering the COVID-19 vaccine at a community vaccine pop-up site.



An Amref community health worker sharing sanitation techniques with community members.



ATC Uganda handing over oxygen tanks at a regional hospital in Uganda.

OUR IMPACT SO FAR

- We **delivered 85,000 vaccines** to remote areas across Africa, ensuring safe storage, and training health workers to administer the vaccine in almost 80 vaccination centers.
- We **trained over 336,763 health workers** across the continent in COVID-19 specific topics through in person trainings and our digital training platforms Leap and Jibu, and **provided more than 111,000 health workers with PPE**.
- Amref leadership continues to serve on COVID-19 emergency response taskforces in **nine countries**, and our COVID-19 response extends to **31 countries**.
- Our fleet of Flying Doctors has provided emergency hospital transportation for more than **400 critically ill COVID-19 patients**, from the continent's most hard-to-reach areas.
- We **reached 5.4 million people with Infection Prevention and Control measures**, integrating them into almost all our ongoing water, sanitation, and hygiene programs to curb COVID-19 infections.
- We **reached 10 million young people with vaccine demand creation messaging** through multi-media campaigns, dispelling myths, and educating youthful populations on the importance of vaccine uptake.
- We supplied **400 oxygen cylinders and 15,000 liters of liquid oxygen to 22 facilities in Kenya**. Additionally, **100 oxygen regulators were supplied to 25 facilities** across the country.
- We supplied **88 oxygen cylinders plus accessories** to Uganda's Ministry of Health.

VACCINES IN SCHOOLS

Since we began distributing COVID-19 vaccines, reaching teachers has been a top priority not only because they are at risk of contracting COVID-19 at work, but they can also expose students who are not yet eligible for the vaccine. With great effort, as of January 29, 2022, **Kenya has reached around 85% of teachers (410,393) with both doses of the vaccine.**

While Kenya is trying to reach 100% of teachers, they are also prioritizing teenage students, since both populations need to be healthy to keep schools operating. As of January 27, 2022, 30,749 teenagers were partially vaccinated, and only 9,504 were fully vaccinated, a tiny fraction of the 5.8 million teenagers in Kenya. Much more needs to be done to vaccinate these populations.

This is where we come in. Safe and healthy school environments are essential for keeping schools open and accessible to all students, which impacts not only educational outcomes but issues like nutrition, gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, and beyond.

With support from our donors, we are leading vaccination outreach campaigns to bring COVID-19 vaccines to primary and secondary schools, along with the surrounding community in Kajiado County. For many of the families living in these school communities, getting vaccinated at their local school may be much closer and more familiar than going to a larger health facility.

Thank you for helping us to deliver vaccines to the communities where they are needed the most.

OUR IMPACT SO FAR

- Deploying groups of nurses to schools to administer COVID-19 vaccines.
- Providing the necessary equipment to establish temporary vaccine centers, such as tents, chairs, PPE, vaccine carriers/boxes, and necessary medical supplies.
- Maintaining cold chains in health facilities near the schools and orchestrating the transport of COVID-19 vaccines, maintaining requirements to ensure optimal vaccine storage and access by the school community.
- Dispelling rumors and misconceptions and sharing accurate information with the school community to make sure that teachers and students feel safe and encouraged to complete their COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Integrating school-based vaccinations with existing projects and health services (like routine immunizations, nutrition monitoring, school health programs, etc.).
- Supporting strong infection prevention and control measures within the school environment.

Program Update

KEFETA: ELEVATING ETHIOPIAN YOUTH

In an exciting and unprecedented partnership with USAID, Amref launched a new program this March called *Kefeta* (meaning “to elevate” in Amharic). Through this partnership, we will be working hand-in-hand over the next five years with two million of Ethiopia’s vulnerable youth. *Kefeta* will address the growing youth unemployment gap across the country and create a nationwide network of supportive services that empower young Ethiopians to build a new era of opportunity in their country.



Youth at the launch event for the 'Kefeta' program.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Expanding essential services that help young people to thrive:

- Establishing youth hubs in 18 cities that provide social service referrals, trainings, and career and entrepreneur services.
- Launching Career Development Centers in partnership with Higher-Education Institutions to provide students with ongoing work readiness assistance, life skills training, coaching, and exchange forums.
- Building and supporting connections for internship/fellowship/mentorship programs for youth to find meaningful jobs in business.

Expanding Youth-Friendly Health Services:

We are improving access to comprehensive, youth-friendly, and gender-sensitive health services: sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, sanitation, nutrition, substance abuse, family planning counseling, psycho-social support, and sexual and gender-based violence support.

Youth Financial Services:

Together with our youth, we created a Youth Savings and Credit Cooperative to develop attractive loan packages and ensure young women and other disadvantaged young people are equally given financial opportunity.

In addition, we will be creating a **Youth Empowerment Fund**, to finance youth-led and youth-serving organizations and entrepreneurs through seed grants, matching grants, and the creation of a Youth SACCO for low-interest loans. Amref is working to raise \$1 million for the fund, building on the \$10 million already committed by USAID. This will ensure hundreds of young people can access new grants and loans to generate strong returns and success stories all across the country!

The *Kefeta* program will provide life-changing opportunities by connecting youth to services that meet their unique needs. By building the capacity of young people and youth-serving organizations, we can expand opportunities for millions across the country – transforming their futures and the future of Ethiopia.

To learn more about our work, visit amrefusa.org

OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER



Run with Team Amref!

Join Team Amref to run in the historic TCS New York City Marathon, the biggest race in the world!

Team Amref is dedicating our 26.2 to helping more women in Africa get access to quality maternal care.

Applications are now open!

Visit amrefusa.org/2022NYCM

Our limited-edition, artist-designed water pitchers are still available!



Featuring works by:
Shantell Martin, Hugo McCloud,
Patrick Martinez, and Amy Amalia.

Pick up a collector's item while supporting our clean water programs.

Learn more at amrefusa.org/WaterIsLife



thanks for reading!

Donate