mothers2mothers (m2m) brought our Mentor Mother Model to Kenya in 2008, training and employing HIV-positive women to eliminate paediatric AIDS and create healthy families, while providing opportunities for economic empowerment. These “Mentor Mothers” work in local communities and at health facilities to ensure that women and their families get the health advice and medication they need, are linked to the right clinical services, and are supported on their treatment journey.

Our Impact

Since 2008, m2m Mentor Mothers have reached 541,538 pregnant women and new mothers with PMTCT/ RMNCAH* services in health facilities and communities in Kenya.

m2m recorded a 0.6% mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV for clients we served directly in 2016.

HIV+ babies of m2m clients  0.6%  HIV+ babies nationally**

Kenya Mentor Mother Program (KMMP)

In 2012, Kenya adopted the Mentor Mother Model as national policy. The KMMP is one of the core strategies in Kenya’s national framework for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis (2016-2021). In close partnership with the Ministry of Health’s National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP), m2m helped prepare the KMMP for national roll-out, and provided technical assistance and policy advice for the first five years of implementation. That included training and equipping more than 20 organisations to roll out and manage the Mentor Mother programme—from large international NGOs to small faith-based organisations.

As of December 2017, the KMMP was delivering benefits in 33 of Kenya’s 47 counties in both public and private health facilities. 655 Mentor Mothers were employed by 16 implementing partners and three county governments at 399 sites.

In January 2018, the Ministry of Health reached an agreement with The Global Fund to further expand the KMMP into all 47 counties of Kenya by hiring, training, and deploying an additional 300 Mentor Mothers on multi-year contracts.

* Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH)

** On the Fast-Track to an AIDS-Free Generation, UNAIDS, 2016
Cementing the Gains of the KMMP: Technical Assistance

m2m Kenya is uniquely positioned to provide further technical assistance for the continued success of the KMMP and its planned national expansion in order to ensure The Global Fund investment achieves the desired impact. m2m has been a trusted partner of NASCOP since launching the KMMP in 2008, through its successful roll-out, and its institutionalisation as part of Kenya’s health system.

Today, m2m provides advice and technical assistance to partners and operates a KMMP model site in Nairobi demonstrating operational and programme excellence.

m2m recently developed a Scheme of Service for KMMP Mentor Mothers, approved by NASCOP, detailing job qualifications, scope of work, and career progression.

m2m’s proposed expanded technical assistance activities include:

- **Review and update essential components of the KMMP** originally created in 2012, including: training curriculum, service delivery materials, and M&E tools.

- **Train new KMMP trainers and provide refresher training for current KMMP trainers.**

- **Lead KMMP quality assurance and quality improvement initiatives, in collaboration with NASCOP,** including: site visits to counties with a high HIV-burden—to take place at least quarterly—to ensure effective service delivery, regular review of programme data to identify performance gaps and recommend actions, and the development of performance improvement plans for sites not meeting targets.

Our Technical Assistance in Practice:

As part of its capacity building activities to nationally roll-out the KMMP, m2m supported Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES), an HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programme in Kisumu County. Twenty FACES programme and M&E staff and 54 healthcare workers at the Ministry of Health received m2m capacity building trainings and implementation support in 2013, 2014, and 2016. This has allowed FACES to deliver impact: they currently operate at 17 KMMP sites—employing 34 Mentor Mothers—in Kisumu County and supported 1,339 clients in the first quarter of 2018 alone.

“If all health facilities could implement the KMMP... Kenya would be able to achieve the elimination of paediatric HIV and AIDS,” said Jannes Okinyi K’Odero, Regional HIV Linkage and Referrals Cluster Lead at FACES.

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