

From the Frontlines of Health Service Delivery

'JICA's interventions continued to be centered on the two main support programs - HIV Prevention and Health System Strengthening for Improvement of Primary Health Services'



A Community Health Worker in Taita screens a child.

The year 2010 marked another period that JICA continued to actively engage with the Government of Kenya and Partners in the health sector. The Agency's interventions continued to be centered on the two main support programs - HIV Prevention and Health System Strengthening for Improvement of Primary Health Services'. As reported in our Bulletin for 2009, these two programs were closely aligned with the sector priorities as defined in the Kenya National AIDS Strategic Plan (KNASP) III, the Kenya National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP) II.

During the year under review, two Technical Cooperation Projects with a combined total of five (long term and one short term Japanese experts, progressed with implementation of planned

activities. In addition, four individual Japanese experts continued with their assignments at the central and district levels of the Ministry of Public Health & Sanitation (MOPHS). These were in the fields of school health, community health and arbovirus research.

On the other hand, the two Grant Aid Projects on supply of HIV Test Kits (Phase II), and improvement of hospital facilities in Kisii and Kericho, that were reported as ongoing in 2009 were completed. JICA also dispatched a total of 19 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), in the field of HIV/AIDS control and school health, all working at district and grassroots levels in various parts of the country.



This incubator is among medical equipment donated towards Improvement of Hospital Facilities in Kisii and Kericho districts.

As regards sector co-ordination, JICA participation in the joint co-ordination structures, among them the Health Sector Coordinating Committee (HSCC), Inter-Agency Coordination Committees (ICCs), Development Partners for Health in Kenya (DPH – K), and the Kenya Country Coordination Mechanism of the Global Fund (KCM) remained active.

Response for HIV Prevention and Other Infectious Diseases

In support of the Government of Kenya's national response to HIV/Aids, a four-year new Technical Cooperation Project on 'Strengthening People of Empowerment Against HIV/Aids in Kenya', also known as SPEAK Project (Phase II) was signed on 10th December 2009 and launched on 20th January 2010. Housed at the National Aids and STI Control Program (NAS COP), the Project aims to strengthen national capacities to scale up quality HIV testing and counselling (HTC) services in Kenya. The project procured and supplied three vehicles to NAS COP for use in the Project operation and management as well as support field works.

In 2010, SPEAK Project II provided technical and financial assistance to verify all facilities providing HIV/Aids related services in Kenya, disseminate National HTC Guidelines, develop orientation package of HTC, national training curriculum, National Quality Management Guidance Framework, and National HTC Lab Registers and draft two operational manuals. The Project also supported harmonization and unification of the NAS COP to provide quality HIV/Aids services. In 2011, the project plans to support development of demonstration sites for quality HTC services to shape the defined standards and measurements. The evidence and lessons learnt from the demonstration sites will be expected to lead to effective HTC policy and strategies.

Further, the Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement between the Governments of Kenya and Japan on the Project for HIV/AIDS Control were signed in Nairobi on 10th December 2010. Through this agreement, the Government of Japan agreed to extend at grant of 294 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to KES 319 million) for the supply of HIV test kits in the year 2011. The test kits will be procured and delivered to the central stores of the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency in three shipments over the period of implementation.

On the research in the infection control, the JICA Expert for the Project on 'Development of New Diagnostic Methods for Arbovirus Infections' continued work at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). During the year 2010, the Project realized the improvement of the capacity and operational environment of the laboratory at the KEMRI production department. There was procurement of equipment (microscope, incubator, waterbath, magnetic stirrer, heatblock etc) as well as greater involvement of KEMRI staff in the preparation for development of rapid and simple test kit for diagnosis of arbovirus.

Health System Strengthening (HSS) for Primary Health Services.

The HSS Program for Primary Health Services continued with the following projects being implemented in line with the Program Goal:

1. Project for 'Strengthening Management for Health in Nyanza Province' (July 2009 – June 2013).
2. Project by the Community Strategy Advisor (Oct 2009 – Dec 2010).
3. Project by Expert on 'Development of Community Health in Taita district' (July 2009 – July 2011).
4. Project by the School Health Advisor (March 2008 – December 2010).
5. Project by JICA Volunteers for School Health and Community Strategy.
6. JICA partnership program 'Project on Promotion of Maternal and Neonatal Care focusing on breastfeeding in Kericho district' (Japanese NGO, Health and Development Service (HANDS)).
7. JICA partnership program 'Enhancement of Health Service Delivery and Capacity Building of Health Personnel for the Poor Through Community Participation in Suba District*.' (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University) *Now Mbita District.