

Fact sheet

Ndhiwa HIV Impact in Population Survey (2nd survey)

Despite significant major increase in the Kenyan antiretroviral treatment coverage and a reduction in mortality of AIDS-related causes since the beginning of the 2010, the HIV Epidemic in Kenya still varies with an overall national prevalence among the 15-64 years age group of 5.6 %, and ranging regional prevalence from 2.1% in Eastern North region to 26% in Homa Bay County where Ndhiwa sub-County is located. In 2102 Médecins sans Frontières, Epicentre and the MoH implemented a population based survey to assess the HIV epidemic in the sub-County. The findings of the survey have helped MSF and the MoH to implement activities and adapt strategies in the sub-County. After 4 years of MSF working in the sub-County, it is expected that the implementation of the HIV activities will result in increased of HIV positive status awareness coverage, ART coverage and viral load suppression among those on ART, and in turn that this will lead to decreased transmission and consequently a reduction in HIV incidence. Therefore the same partnership is now interested in carrying out a similar survey, 6 years after the first one, as part of an evaluation of the changes in the HIV epidemic since 2012.

The study will be a cross-sectional population study that will be implemented in Ndhiwa sub-County, Homa Bay County, Kenya. With this study we will assess the HIV positive status awareness, the linkage to care, the ART coverage, the viral load suppression, prevalence and incidence in 2018 as well as compare the results with the previous HIV survey of 2012. The study population will be composed of adults aged 15-59 resident of Ndhiwa county or visitor of the household visited. We aim at including 6,935 individuals living in 3,350 houses. The survey will be based on individual interviews (questionnaires) conducted at house-level and HIV testing on site. For participants who will be found HIV positive at the time of the survey, additional testing will be conducted (viral load, CD4, recent infection tests). For participants found discordant on spot, HIV confirmatory tests will be provided.

Eligible participants who are interested in participating in the study will receive detailed oral and written information about the study objectives, study procedures, and a clear explanation of the risks and benefits derived from participation in the study. The patient information note will be provided in the appropriate local language (Luo, English or Kiswahili). A trained counsellor will take the patients through all the details mentioned in the patient information sheet and answer any queries raised. Patients willing to participate in the study will be asked to sign a consent form.

The study results will be used first at individual level for patient management. Participants will benefit to receive their HIV tests results as well as, for the ones HIV positive, their virological and CD4 results.

Study results will also contribute to calculate HIV prevalence and incidence in Ndhiwa sub-County as well as to provide important information to MSF and the MoH on the HIV cascade of care and the 90-90-90 in the sub-County and an evaluation of the outcomes already achieved by the program. Finally, the main results will be communicated to scientific and civil societies through national and international conferences and peers-reviewed specialized journals.