**HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE (HCBC) HEALTH MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The Home and Community Based Care is an initiative by Non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Health within the City of Nairobi and its environs. Community health workers are selected from known and trusted members of the community. These members better understand their community, have influence, understand the difficulties and dynamics of their communities, therefore they can easily approach, interview, educate, provide medical assistance and referrals to medical facilities when necessary. This approach is used as most affected people feel uncomfortable to share or disclose issues affecting them to strangers.

The selected health workers are trained by relevant health officers that are stationed in public health facilities within their community. After their initial training the health workers meet at the health facility every month for reviews and additional training when necessary.

The HCBC initiative allows health workers to conduct data collection and surveys, perform monitoring and evaluation exercises, report, provide referrals for free medicine (ARV and TB) and treatment, and counseling to members of their communities.

Depending on the complexity of the participants/patient (e.g. pregnancy, HIV AIDS etc.) the community health is required to fill in the daily activity diary or the delivery log book. The referral form is used when the health worker directs a participant/patient to a public health facility in cases where their condition deteriorates or they require immediate treatment.

The data collected by the health workers is aggregated and grouped by the various civic and administrative regions i.e. Wards, Constituencies, Sub-counties and Counties. The data is also used to generate specific reports on the various health issues affecting the communities. These report are used by the various stakeholder to conveniently understand the community, act and/or react to situation such as outbreaks and marginalization.

The current HCBC data management system at the community level is manual as the Health workers are provided with various forms required to capture predetermined data. Every month the Health workers create a schedule of people they require to visit in their community. When they visit a participant, they interview and evaluate the person and record their finding on the provided forms as required.

The following forms are distributed to all community health workers to facilitate their activities.

1. The HCBC diary.
2. Community Health Worker(CHW) Referral form.
3. Facility summary form.
4. HCBC daily activity diary.
5. Community Health Worker(CHW) service delivery log book.

The community health workers may use other forms of writing material such as note books or their smartphones to collect the required information, provided that they will eventually transfer the information to the officially provided forms for processing. This may occur for instance; the official forms were not provided on time or when the health worker forgets or misplaces the required form.

At the end of the month the community health worker gathers all the filled forms and fills in the HCBC diary with summaries from the daily activity forms.They then take all the forms to the designated ministry of health official in their area. This data is aggregated and the summaries entered in the facility summary form, which is then sent to the next level of administration of the ministry until it gets to the county and national level. This process involves a lot of paperwork and takes time. At the end of each month the Community Health Workers are paid a stipend for the work they do.