360 Village Health PROFILE

360 Village Health is a local initiative with an objective to implement innovative, culturally appropriate and evidence based interventions to ensure equitable access of maternal and child health services to marginalized Maasai community living in remote areas often unable to access such services due to poverty, lack of information and geographical inaccessibility.

Our interventions are based on views and needs of the people, developed with people, and subject to modification by the people as we believe working with individuals, families and communities is the critical link to fostering positive social and behavioral change.

We believe community participation is central in improving maternal health care through removing barriers that often prevent women from accessing health services, such barriers includes: social cultural, economic and physical.

360 Village Health Establishment

360 Village Health is a registered Community Based Organization (Kjd/CBO/1800103/13) with its operations in Magadi (Olkeri Group Ranch), Kajiado West constituency within Kajiado County. Olkeri Group Ranch covers an area of 53,180 hectares with a population of approximately 6000 inhabitants. The ranch is
predominantly inhabited by the Maasai whose source of livelihood is purely livestock keeping with illiteracy rate of 85%. The area is classified as Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) and lies in the Great Rift Valley about 120kms South West of Nairobi and 36km from Tanzania border.

**Vision:** A society in which men, women and children can enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships.

**Mission:** To provide sustainable community outreach programs through evidence based interventions that are effective, equitable and culturally appropriate by focusing on Women Health and Empowerment and Men Engagement through individual interaction and community dialogue.

**Goal:** To fill the gap in the lack of educational outreach programs aimed at childbearing age women, girls and men in an effort to improve birth outcomes and decrease Infant Mortality and unintended pregnancies.

**360 Village Health Programs**

**Making pregnancy and child birth safer:** 360 Village Health will empower pregnant women and their partners to take the steps necessary for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery. We aim to integrate the following key safe motherhood health interventions:

- Attend ANC within the first 16 weeks of pregnancy
- Test for HIV together with their partner
- Enroll in PMTCT services if HIV positive
- Sleep under a treated net every night
- Individual Birth preparedness plans
- Husband involvement
- Recognition of pregnancy danger signs and
- Deliver at a health facility with a skilled provider
Child growth and monitoring: The community health based organization will support and promote the following interventions through Village Education Centers:

- Promote infant nutrition with particular attention to exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding during weaning;
- Promote immunization and micronutrient supplementation;
- Growth monitoring and promotion using simple anthropometric measurements (MUAC, Standard deviation);
- Strengthening household water sanitation and hygiene practices to reduce and control diarrhea diseases that will include use of PUR and building of prefabricated mobilets for proper fecal disposal;
- Improve household air quality, including the use of smokeless cooking and lighting systems;
- Training of CHWs on early recognition of malnutrition and counseling of mothers on breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Menstrual Hygiene: Among the Maasai community, most women wear “menstrual clothes”, rugs, due to unavailability of sanitary pads, economic inaccessibility and or prevailing customs. Similarly, and traditionally so, the girl child receives little or no attention regarding personal matters especially menstrual hygiene unlike the male child who are socially organized along age-set system (olporor) that can easily be reached. Lack of awareness and knowledge about menstrual hygiene is rife among the girls and the community in general. We aim to run Community Based Reproductive Health Services that includes family planning, menstrual hygiene management in the surrounding primary schools and the community at large.

Cervical Cancer screening and awareness: Many women in low-resource countries die from cancer of cervix because it’s not identified until symptoms appear. There is also poor understanding of considerable benefits of effective prevention and screening program. Among the Maasai, early sexual debut, multiple sexual partners as a result of polygamous marriages and other cultural practices predisposes women in this community the more. 360 Village Health aims to integrate cervical cancer prevention services with existing community education programs that provide health and prevention messages to generate community involvement.
Sanitation and Hygiene Public health outcome can be maximized when the entire community adapts improved sanitation behavior where excreta are safely and hygienically confined. This is only possible when the community is made aware of the negative effects of poor sanitation, sensitized about fecal-oral transmission route, understanding the links between sanitation and health and the community made to abandon traditional practices of open defecation. we will promote Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) that aims to create behavior change that leads not only to use of latrines but also a range of other activities; washing of hands, cutting of nails, safe preparation of food and refusal to spit in public.