



## Shujaa

### Comprehensive HIV Prevention Services for Most-At-Risk Populations (MARPs) in Kenya

HIV prevalence in Kenya has been declining in the last two decades, but vulnerability to HIV remains high among some specific population groups, including female sex workers, highly mobile groups such as truck drivers, and men who have sex with men. Unfortunately, many of these high risk individuals have little or no access to HIV services, and appropriate prevention interventions are often lacking.

Shujaa is Kiswahili for champion or hero, and the beneficiaries of the Shujaa project will ultimately become heroes of HIV prevention. This initiative is led by Hope Worldwide Kenya in partnership with DSW and is implemented in Kajiado, Nakuru and Eldoret in Kenya's Rift Valley, targeting MARPs and hard-to-reach populations in urban informal settlements and transport corridors.

The overall goal of the project is to avert new infections among MARPs by improving and scaling up a combination of evidence-based, cost-effective HIV prevention interventions. The project is built on proven approaches tailored to the specific target areas and groups while also incorporating innovative new ideas for service delivery. Over the course of the five year project, Shujaa will:

**Improve and expand behavioural risk prevention interventions to increase healthy behaviours among MARPs:** People need information, motivation, and behavioural skills for them to adopt preventative behaviours. This project facilitates and strengthens peer-to-peer interaction and communication among MARPs using curriculum-based training and peer-led discussions on HIV/AIDS and sexuality.

**Increase access to quality medical services for MARPs and the general population in Rift Valley:** Shujaa uses outreach techniques that are responsive to MARPs, such

#### Shujaa: at a Glance

**Project Duration:** 2010 – 2015

**Donor:** US Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

**Budget:** EUR 799,982

**Location:**  
Kenya (Rift Valley)

**Partners:**  
Hope Worldwide Kenya



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as “moonlight” counselling and testing that targets groups like sex workers, truckers, and bar hostesses; mobile services; and expanded home-based counselling and testing.

**Address the effects of gender on HIV prevention activities:** The Men as Partners (MAP) methodology is used to address gender norms and gender-based violence, by promoting the constructive role of men as supportive partners. Shujaa uses skills-building workshops to confront negative stereotypes of masculinity and supports local and national public education campaigns.

**Strengthen systems to support reduced vulnerability to HIV infection among MARPs:** Shujaa uses a rights-based approach to improve the social, economic and political structures and systems that affect MARPs. It supports the development, review, and implementation of National HIV prevention guidelines, policies, and legislation and trains service providers to ensure “MARP-friendly” centres and services.

Finally, by working closely with existing well-coordinated networks, providing capacity building for local civil society organisations, and strengthening private-public partnerships DSW and Hope Worldwide Kenya are ensuring sustainable impact.

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**DSW**