

SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

KENYA



A health worker using the cascade training to reach women of reproductive age with maternal and child health messages in the community.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Nancy Pesi, World Relief Care Group Supervisor

NAME AND ROLE

Peter Koipitat, Care Group Promoter and community health volunteer

LOCATION

Kajiado West Sub-county, Kenya

SUMMARY

SCOPE's Care Groups are working to reach the once hard-to-reach populations in the interior areas with maternal and child health message, improving community health outcomes.

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CARE GROUPS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN KAJIADO COUNTY THROUGH CASCADE TRAINING

Kenya has made great progress in the reduction of maternal and child mortality over the past 20 years. Community health volunteers have played a role in providing access to community-level services in the areas they serve. SCOPE is working with Care Groups to help multiply the efforts of community health volunteers in Kajiado West Sub-county.

Community health volunteers regularly meet with households to share health messages and collect information about vital events such as births and illnesses. Such tasks are usually tiresome and require frequent travel to every household.

Peter Koipitat is a community health volunteer in Imbilin village Singiraine Community Unit shared the way the Care Group model was able to help his work: "We really had challenging time reaching our people on the ground since most of them live far away from each other due to the vast remote area that is riddled with a shortage of water and inadequate opportunities to seek health care services since the health facilities are scarce. As a community health worker, I had a rough time addressing health issues in the community since most women are ever looking after water and pasture throughout the day. Hence, meeting them was an uphill task for me".

Peter went on to share: "When World Relief came to my community with the SCOPE cascade training through the Care Group– the downtrodden women of reproductive age in my community are currently informed on maternal and

child health issues. With the method of cascade training, I can easily reach the households within a month and fortnightly meet the Care Group volunteers and share with them the biweekly lesson. Afterward, they go back to the community and share the information with their neighbors. Each Care Group volunteer is issued with Care Group registers. She fills in relevant community health data that we use to easily improve our community health outcomes as we share the information with the facility staff. Any case of illness does not go unnoticed. All cases that require reference get to be referred on time by the help of my lead Care Group volunteers. I really appreciate this improved system of service introduced by World Relief. I feel that my community has gotten healthier and I look forward to serving with World Relief.”

CARE GROUPS CREATE A MULTIPLYING EFFECT IN COMMUNITIES

Care Groups are groups of volunteers who meet regularly together with community health workers for training and learning. These volunteers are then responsible for meeting with and sharing their learnings with neighbors creating a multiplying effect of behavior change communication in a community. SCOPE is utilizing Care Groups to share lifesaving reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health messages to communities in Kenya. By 2024, SCOPE Kenya will reach over 22,000 households through almost 1,100 Care Groups.

This story is written by Adrian Simiyu, Care Group Coordinator and Nancy Pesi, Care Group Supervisor.