

# SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

## KENYA



Faith Network Committee sharing maternal and child health messages to households in their community.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Dennis Erot, SCOPE Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant

### NAME AND ROLE

Katiko Faith Network Committee

### LOCATION

Katiko Village, Turkana North, Kenya

### SUMMARY

Katiko Faith Network Committee is a network of faith community members who were a part of SCOPE's *Making Our Communities Better* training. Through this work, they were inspired to identify and address reproductive, maternal newborn and child health challenges in their community.

[WORLDRELIEF.ORG/SCOPE](https://www.worldrelief.org/scope)

## POSITIVE FAITH LEADER ENGAGEMENT TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Faith communities have a big stake in recognizing community health needs. They can positively strengthen and improve health within their communities: assessing the health needs of the community, helping to mobilize locally available resources for health promotion, developing and implementing strategies for action, and laying the foundation to make it happen. Faith communities help bridge where responsibility meets results. This is why the SCOPE Project, a five-year USAID-funded project working to reduce preventable maternal and child mortality and morbidity in Kenya, is working with faith leaders at the community level.

Through SCOPE, a faith network called Katiko Faith Network Committee in Katiko village in Turkana North-Katiko was formed. The Faith Network Committee includes eight members, embodying different denominations in Katiko. In partnership with the SCOPE project, they received training about how they can envision change in their communities through the *Making Our Communities Better* training. The objective of this training is to inspire faith leaders to act as community "eyelid openers" to increase support for improved care-seeking reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health behavior.

The faith leaders came jointly and identified where they could support, teach and inform their communities about maternal health care, breastfeeding, immunizations, and improve hygiene and sanitation through the construction of pit latrines with functioning tippy taps (handwashing facilities).

## IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

The Katiko Faith Network Committee met together and identified solutions to the problems they saw in their community. One strategy they used to share health messages was to go house to house sharing health messages. Each member held a flipchart with hand-drawn pictures with the image of pregnant woman, malnourished, lactating woman, pit latrine, and Tippy tap. They personified themselves as the picture they picture had drawn. Below are some of the messages shared.



Faith leaders sharing health messages to women seated at the shopping center.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Dennis Erot, SCOPE Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant.

Daniel who represented children under five shared: "I am a child under five years, I need to be taken to the hospital and get immunized and supplementary feeds in case am malnourished." Daniel also shared about pregnant women: "I represent a pregnant woman, I need to go to visit ANC [the clinic] and get maternal health care."

Choo shared, "I represent a pit latrine. I need to be constructed for proper fecal matter disposal."

For Tippy Tap: "I represent Tippy Tap. I need to be erect at the entrance of a household and used to wash our hands and to avoid diarrheal diseases".

Lactating mother: "I am lactating a mother. I need to breastfeed my child for at least six months without giving food or water except for medication."

Faith leaders went from house to house, sharing information reaching 60 people in ten households.

But the work didn't stop there. After three months of follow-up, they've seen a change. Pregnant women had started going to the clinic, lactating women are breastfeeding, and people had commenced constructing the handwashing facility (tippy taps) at the passageway to the households for proper sanitation.

## ENGAGING FAITH ACTORS TO MAKING GOOD CHOICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Faith leaders are working closely with SCOPE to increase reproductive health services for women of reproductive age, utilization of primary health care services by children under five, and emphasizing timely and appropriate treatment of childhood illnesses and malnutrition cases. Through these faith leaders who are committed to opening their community's eyes on how to make better choices for better health outcomes, the SCOPE project will realize its aim of reducing preventable maternal and child mortality and morbidity in Turkana North.

*This story was written by Dennis Erot, SCOPE Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant*