



EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH POLICY IN KENYA AND IDENTIFYING IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY CHANGE

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- **INTEREST AND INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY HEALTH.**
- **CLOSE-TO-COMMUNITY PROVIDERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE.**
- **CLOSE-TO-COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO LINK THE COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEM.**
- **HIGH ATTRITION RATES AMONG COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND FUNDING CHALLENGES HAVE LED TO REVISION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH STRATEGY IN KENYA.**
- **POLITICAL DEVOLUTION IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ONGOING CHALLENGES.**

CURRENT STRATEGY



2 Community Health Extension Workers

PAID GOVERNMENT STAFF SUPERVISORY ROLE

50 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MEMBERS CARRY OUT HEALTH TASKS

REVISED STRATEGY



5 Community Health Extension Workers

PAID GOVERNMENT STAFF CARRY OUT HEALTH CHECKS

10 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

METHODS

QUALITATIVE METHODS

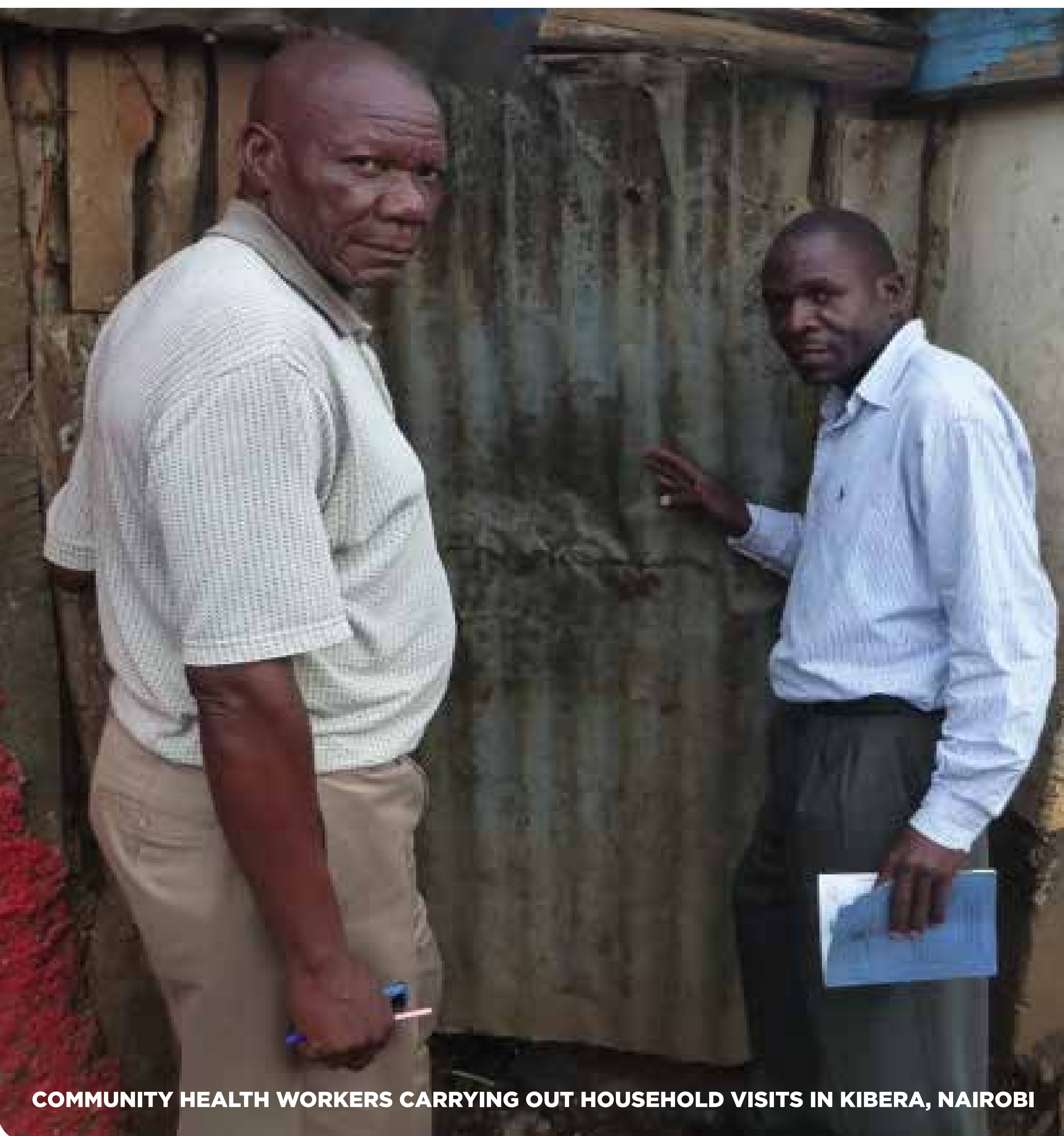
40 IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS
10 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

LOCATION
URBAN-NAIROBI
RURAL-KITUI COUNTY

WHAT DID WE DO?

RESPONDENTS
POLICY MAKERS AND DISTRICT HEALTH MANAGEMENT TEAM, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH EXTENSION WORKERS, COMMUNITY

ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK APPROACH
NVIVO 10



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS CARRYING OUT HOUSEHOLD VISITS IN KIBERA, NAIROBI

FINDINGS

- **Widespread community appreciation.**
- **Uneven coverage creates challenges providing equitable services for all.**
- **High Community Health Worker attrition, lack of funds for salaries, high Community Health Extension Worker workload.**
- **Unclear supervisory structure for Community Health Extension Workers.**
- **Limited community knowledge of strategy revision. Unclear future for community engagement following revision.**
- **Demand for integrated community services, including home-based HIV testing and counselling.**
- **Policy maker commitment to learn lessons and improve.**

"THEY [COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS] DO A GOOD JOB."
(KITUI_CLIENT2)

"I THINK THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE LESSONS AND THE CHALLENGES SHOULD INFORM THE DECISION TO REVISE THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY ... SO THAT WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT CAN WORK WELL FOR US AND WE CAN REMOVE WHAT WE FEEL DID NOT WORK WELL FOR US."
(POLICY MAKER)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **ADVOCATE WITH COUNTY DECISION MAKERS TO BUDGET FOR TASKS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE REVISED STRATEGY**
2. **DEVELOP SUPERVISION CURRICULUM AND TOOLS**
3. **IDENTIFY EQUITY INDICATORS AND TRACK COVERAGE FOR MARGINALISED GROUPS**
4. **INTEGRATE HIV SERVICES WITHIN COMMUNITY HEALTH STRATEGY**
5. **RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH STRATEGY REVISION**



Royal Tropical Institute

REACHOUT is an international research project to understand and develop the role of close-to-community providers of health care in preventing, diagnosing, and treating major illnesses in Africa and Asia

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