



kenya

health



Kenya is one of many Sub-Saharan African countries which battles various life-threatening diseases. Malaria persists as an extremely serious threat that kills more Kenyans than any other communicable disease. Maternal and infant mortality, mal-nourishment, and lack of access to basic health care are all extremely problematic issues as well. However, in the health realm, HIV/AIDS continues to be one of the most pressing problems that Sub-Saharan Africa faces. The virus affects at least seven percent of the population and is a major obstacle to the general development of the country and its people. The situation is particularly striking in the Kakamega region, where awareness levels remain low, traditional customs that quickly spread HIV persist, and medical facilities are few and far between. Funding is also a major issue, as antiretroviral drug therapy is prohibitively expensive to most Kenyans and generic, locally produced drugs are scarcely available.

Fortunately, grassroots solutions are making substantial progress in generating HIV/AIDS awareness, increasing condom usage, and reducing high-risk behavior. FSD partner organization work to train personnel at the community level, while offering other forms of support. Volunteers and interns immerse themselves with underserved populations, offering education, research, expertise, treatment, or simply time and support for the improvement of health initiatives in Kenya.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in health in Kenya include:

- Work at a medical clinic that offers primary care, family planning services, and/or counseling to around 100 rural community members each day. Support the clinic's home-based care for nearly 200 HIV-positive clients, offering antiretroviral medications and prevention of mother to child services. Promote HIV/AIDS awareness and education in these rural communities through outreach programs.
- Conduct home visits to provide holistic, psychosocial services to people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children, and those suffering from chronic illness. Offer counseling sessions, therapy, education, sensitization, and general medical assistance.
- Work at a 24 hour hospital that offers an operating theater, an intensive care unit, a variety of inpatient and outpatient services and wards, a lab with an X-ray machine, pediatric services, and an on-site nursery school. Provide treatment, counseling, research, outreach and/or administrative duties
- Provide health education and counseling to members of micro-finance groups to ensure the stability of their micro-enterprises through proper health practices for themselves and their families.
- Train community members, who do not have access to conventional medicines, on the use of local herbs to alleviate symptoms of HIV/AIDS, while providing home-based care, income-generating activities, support group meetings, and other initiatives for people living with HIV/AIDS.

For more opportunities in health in Kenya visit our website or contact us directly.