

ZINGATIA MAISHA

GLAXOSMITHKLINE
**POSITIVE
ACTION**



AMREF
Better Health for Africa



LINKAGES

Bridging the Gap between the Community and Health System through Health Facility/Community Linkage Coordinating Committees

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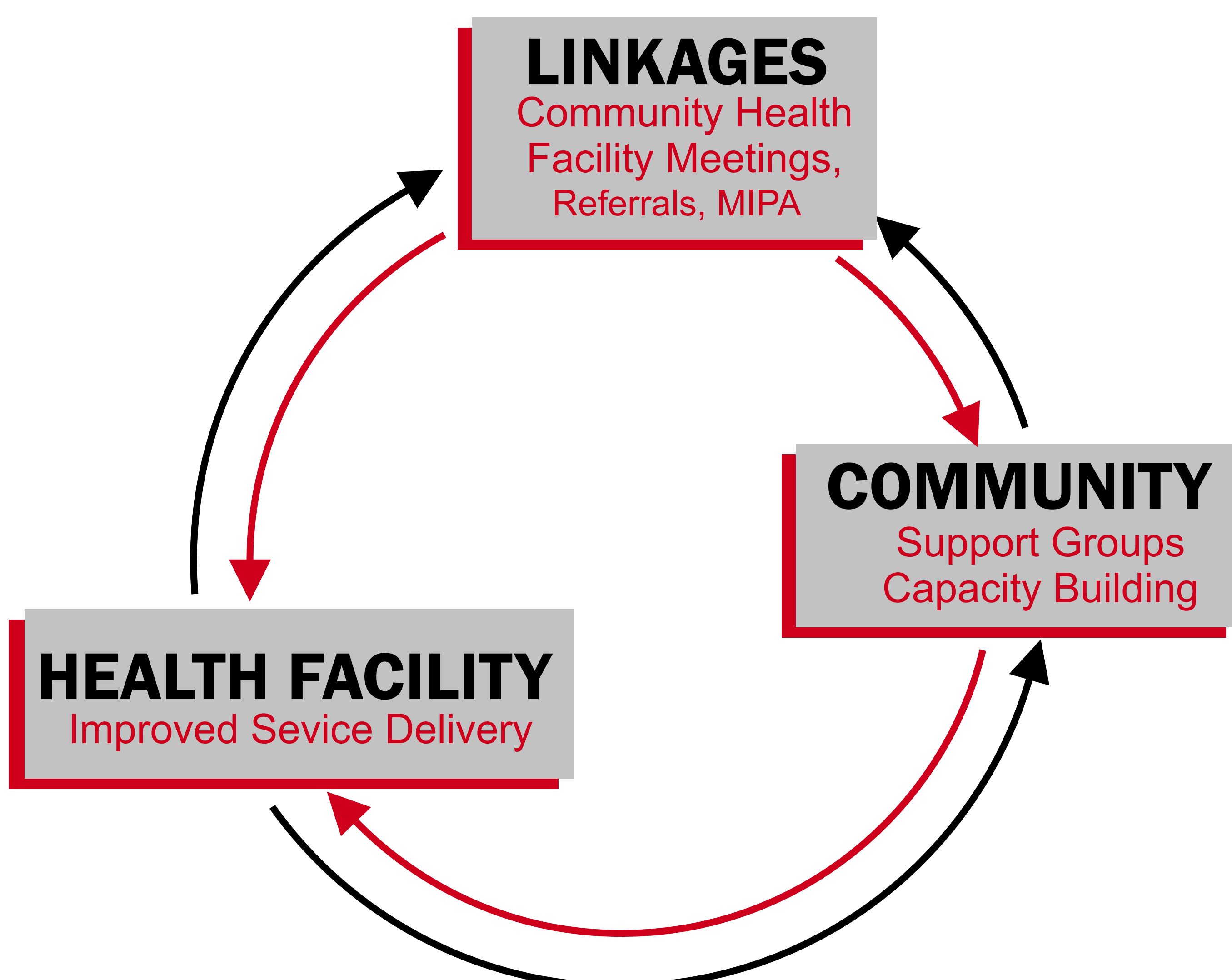
BACKGROUND

The importance of community engagement and participation in health service delivery is often emphasised, but the best mode of engaging the community is often not clear. Health facilities and communities are still viewed as separate entities. Comprehensive Care Clinics (CCCs) in the health facilities are largely understaffed, compromising the quality of HIV care and treatment. The goal of the Zingatia Maisha project is to improve the quality of life of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIVs) by reducing AIDS morbidity and mortality. The objectives of the project are:

1. By the end of April 2009, to strengthen the ability of 38 CCCs to provide effective HIV care and treatment;
2. To build the technical and organisational capacities of PLHIV support groups and National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK) to improve care and treatment outcomes;
3. To institutionalise linkages between 38 health facilities and 190 community PLHIV support groups.

STRATEGY

Enhance a model of promoting community participation in health service delivery through the Health Facility Community Linkage Coordinating Committees (HCLCs) at the CCCs in order to enhance quality HIV care and treatment.



RESULTS

- Enhanced referrals between the health facilities and community PLHIV support groups
- Improved defaulter tracing
- Development of referral directories
- Meaningful involvement of PLHIV (MIPA) in health facilities e.g. giving health talks, and recording in patients cards at the CCC
- Enhanced PLHIV access to quality HIV care and support services
- Decreased stigma and discrimination at the CCC
- Improved quality of HIV care and treatment

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- HCLCs have generated increased confidence, motivation, and participation of PLHIV in service provision, including decision making at the CCC
- The HCLCs promote the MIPA concept
- Community/health facility linkages provide forum for feedback and improvement in the quality of HIV care and treatment
- Health facility staff involved in the HCLC demonstrate a more positive attitude towards PLHIV
- Mutual ownership and responsibility for HIV care and treatment is enhanced through the HCLC
- Next steps:
 - Advocacy for model replication
 - Recognition and linking HCLCs to District Health



Connecting
communities
to their
health system



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