Improving Mother and Child Health in Kisumu County

PRESS RELEASE and MEDIA INVITATION

Date of launch of project: Tuesday, 19th May, 2015, 10.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs

Venue: Open Prison Grounds (Opposite Nyaori stage in Nyalenda)

Focus of Project Launch: Mother and Child health, Family Planning and Nutrition in Manyatta and Nyalenda, Kisumu County

Press Invitation: The Press is invited to attend and cover the event, and will be given opportunity to interview guests and participants on mother and child health issues, take pictures and listen to speeches. Guests will include the Kisumu County Governor, the Deputy Governor, the County Executive Committee Members and County health officials; officials from the Ministry of Health; representatives of the European Union delegation, Women Representatives in Kisumu County, various maternal and child health implementing agencies, community leaders and project beneficiaries.

The News: The Government of Kenya and European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation and Care will today launch a project on maternal and child health. This is a three year 118.7 million shilling project to improve the health and nutritional status of mothers and children in Manyatta and Nyalenda slums, Kisumu County. The project will be implemented by CARE International in Kenya, the Kenya Red Cross Society and Family Health Options Kenya in close partnership with the Kisumu County government and the Ministry of Health. This project is funded by the European Union to the tune of 81.6 million shillings (or Euro 800,000), the Austrian Development Cooperation to the tune of 25.5 million shillings (or Euro 250,000) and CARE to the tune of 11.6 million (113,808). Kisumu is one of the top ten Counties with highest maternal mortality1 with 495 mothers dying out of every 100,000 live births. This initiative builds on the First lady’s beyond Zero Campaign recently launched in the County.

Overview: The project will increase access and enhance coverage of quality maternal and child health services, sexual reproductive health, family planning and nutrition thus contributing to the reduction of maternal and child deaths and improve nutritional status of residents within Kisumu urban slums. Through this project, an estimated 43,000 women and girls including 4,000 pregnant women, 18,000 children and 15,000 men and boys will be reached. This project will also support health facilities in Nyalenda and Manyatta by training staff on various packages and strengthening their capacity to do health outreaches to the unreached sections of the slums.

1 Counties with the Highest Burden of Maternal Mortality 2014, UNFPA
The **European Union** has been supporting maternal and child health in Kenya for almost 20 years, and continues to be one of Kenya’s largest partners in this area, reaching out to thousands of women and children in urban slums as well as the arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya. The European Union is currently launching a series of projects with focus on nutrition, family planning and maternal child health in poorer urban areas of Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi Counties. Today’s launch of the maternal and child health project in Kisumu is part of the 1.9 billion shilling in programme funding from the European Union, and is one among the 21 projects currently being implemented in the country. The European Union has allocated 2.8 billion shillings to enhancing maternal and child health in Kenya since 2008, supporting the Government of Kenya and the First Lady’s Beyond Zero Campaign efforts to improve maternal and child health.

**CARE International** has been working in Kenya since 1968, fighting poverty and improving health outcomes of populations. Through this support from the European Union, CARE will strengthen maternal and child health interventions at the community level as well as support health facilities. CARE will also use innovative social change approaches to address social-cultural practices that negatively affect maternal child health services.

The **Kenya Red Cross Society** works closely with communities to strengthen their capacities and alleviate human suffering. Through this support from the European Union, the Kenya Red Cross Society will strengthen maternal and child health nutrition interventions right at the community level, working closely with community health workers and volunteers to better reach children, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and the families as a whole.

**Family Health Options Kenya** is a leader in reproductive health with a network of countrywide clinics. The organization reaches out to those in need of reproductive health services through outreaches and other service delivery channels, providing reproductive health choices to needy populations countrywide. Through this support from the European Union, Family Health Options Kenya will enhance outreach services to the unreached populations within Nyalenda and Manyatta as well as provide support to the already established health facilities within the area, thus better maternal and child health services.