



ACCESS TO MEDICINES PLATFORM
"Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage"

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**Increasing Accountability and
Investment for Sustained Health
Systems Strengthening**



Our Vision

“We envision a country where everyone enjoys optimum health and rights, particularly Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights “

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AtMP	Access to Medicines Platform
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CHMT	County Health Management Team
CHReaD	Coalition for Health Research and Development
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CAS	Chief Administrative Secretary
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FGDs	Focused Group Discussions
FP	Family Planning
FPC	Family Planning Commodities
HAI	Health Action International
HCWs	Health Care Workers
HENNET	Health NGOs Network
IEC	Information Education and Communication
LREB	Lake Region Economic Bloc
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MeTA	Medicines Transparency Alliance
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
PFM	Public Finance Management
PP	Public Participation
PHC	Primary Health Care
R & D	Research and Development
RAs	Research Assistants
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health
SCHMT	Sub-County Health Management Team
SRHC	Sexual and Reproductive Health Commodities
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ToR	Terms of Reference

Our Executive Officer's Forward:

As we complete five years working in Kenya and consolidate the voices of grass root community based organizations through our MeTA Kenya CSO Alliance, Access to Medicines remains at the forefront of evidence generation and evidence based advocacy. 2022 presented different challenges and a turning point in terms of innovation in resource mobilization and continuity of the organization. With the end of our long term project funding we had to contend with more short term activity based funding that opened a lot of opportunities for collaboration and partnerships beyond the borders of Kenya.

We successfully implemented the final phase of the sustainable financing of SRH Commodities in partnership with the Waterloo Foundation in Kisumu County. We also started implementation of a project funded by Gates Foundation as a sub-grantee of Path on increasing investment and prioritization of MNCH immunization and nutrition in the LREB counties. This we did by strengthening capacity of CSOs in the use of the asset tracker for advocacy, undertaking community dialogues, engaging policy makers and documenting experiences of CSOs in tracking the Maternal and Child Health assets.

We also on-boarded other projects that required us to provide technical support including:

- Undertaking a study on availability of ARTs in 6 counties, data to be used advocate to protect the rights of children and women and young people from stigma, information, testing, quality and easy to use treatment regimens- funding from Radboud University Medical Center- Netherlands.
- Mapping urban service delivery of adolescent SRHR in Nairobi, as part of a continental study on behalf of the SRHR Africa Trust.
- Capacity building on policy advocacy and multi-stakeholder engagement for CSOs in Burundi working on ASRH programs on behalf of HAI.
- Study on Availability, Affordability and Stock-out of SRH Commodities in Isiolo, Marsabit and Mandera counties for Faith to Action Network.

We also up scaled the Snakebite care management and treatment project in select counties in partnership with Stichting Health Action International (HAI). This year was an exceptional year for this project as we also rolled out the school health program that enabled us to take the education and sensitization agenda to another level.

We launched an illustrated book for school children aged 7-11 years on snakebite prevention measures 'the 8 secrets of Safiya' and disseminated across schools in Kajiado West Sub-county.

We re-invigorated our national level engagement with the Ministry of Health, Department of Reproductive and Maternal Health by participating in various Technical Working Group meetings and being co-opted in the committee of experts on ASRH. We also supported development and dissemination of key strategic policy documents at national and county level. We maintained a robust communication strategy and online engagement across all our social media platforms for information sharing and showcasing of our work. We hope that this year's annual report will provide a learning opportunity, frameworks for more engagement and partnership capturing a good synopsis of our year in review.

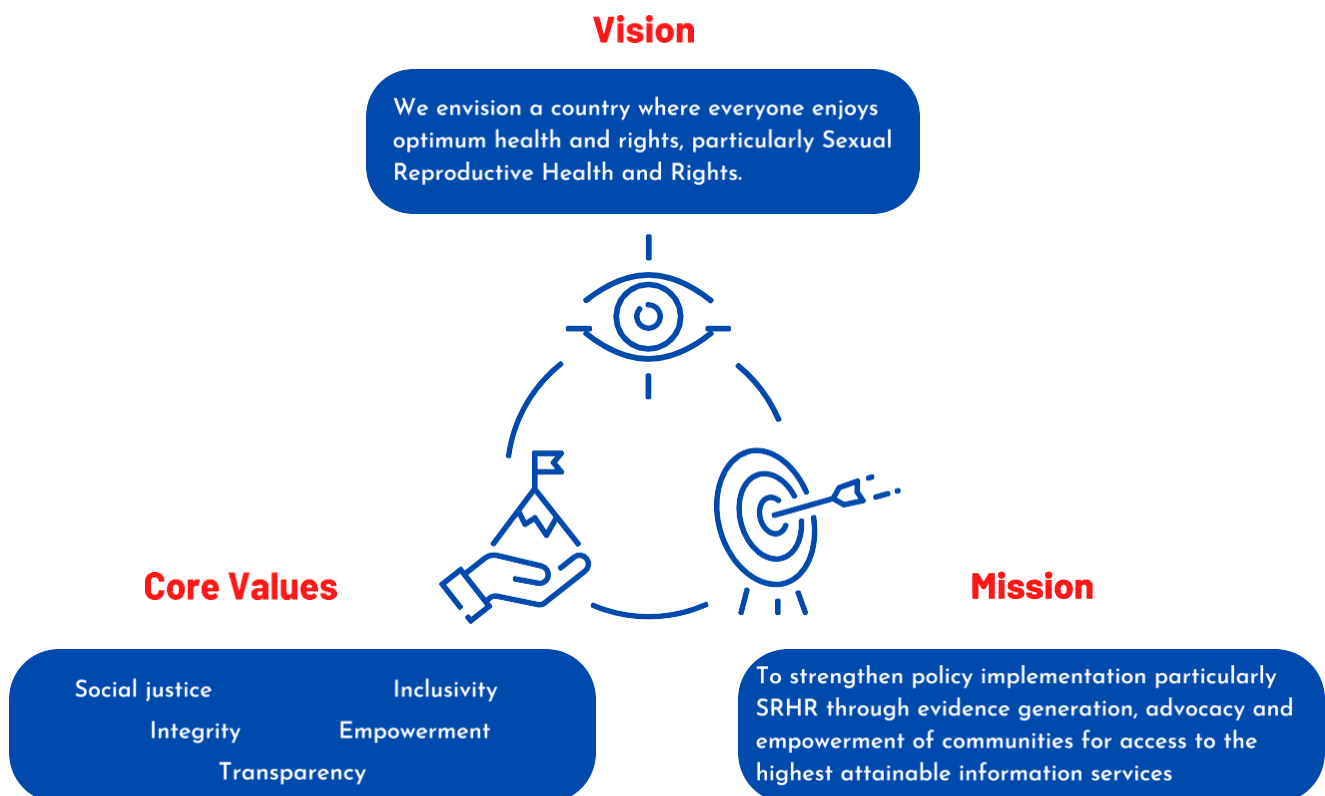
We look forward to expanding our partnerships particularly around preventative health and promotion of primary health care strategies across our key intervention areas of RMNCAH/ SRH and NTDS. Through health systems strengthening and adoption of a robust domestic resource mobilization strategy for these programs, we will all ensure that truly No One is left behind in the attainment of the highest standard of healthcare in Kenya!



Dorothy Okemo, Executive Officer
Access to Medicines Platform & Convener of MeTA
Kenya CSOs Alliance

WHO WE ARE

Access to Medicines Platform a not for profit organization has continued working with partners and multi-stakeholders to contribute to improve the Health System, Increase access to Life Saving Commodities and increase investment to essential health services particularly for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. We have operated in Kenya since 2018 by creating a strong civil society movement that engages effectively with government at all levels, the private sector and other stakeholders accountable for health systems, to deliver equitable, accessible and high-quality SRHR services. Our general objective is to strengthen health systems to ensure women, children and vulnerable groups have access to safe, quality and effective health services and commodities particularly RH, MNCH, NTDs and STI Treatment among other life- saving commodities and devices.

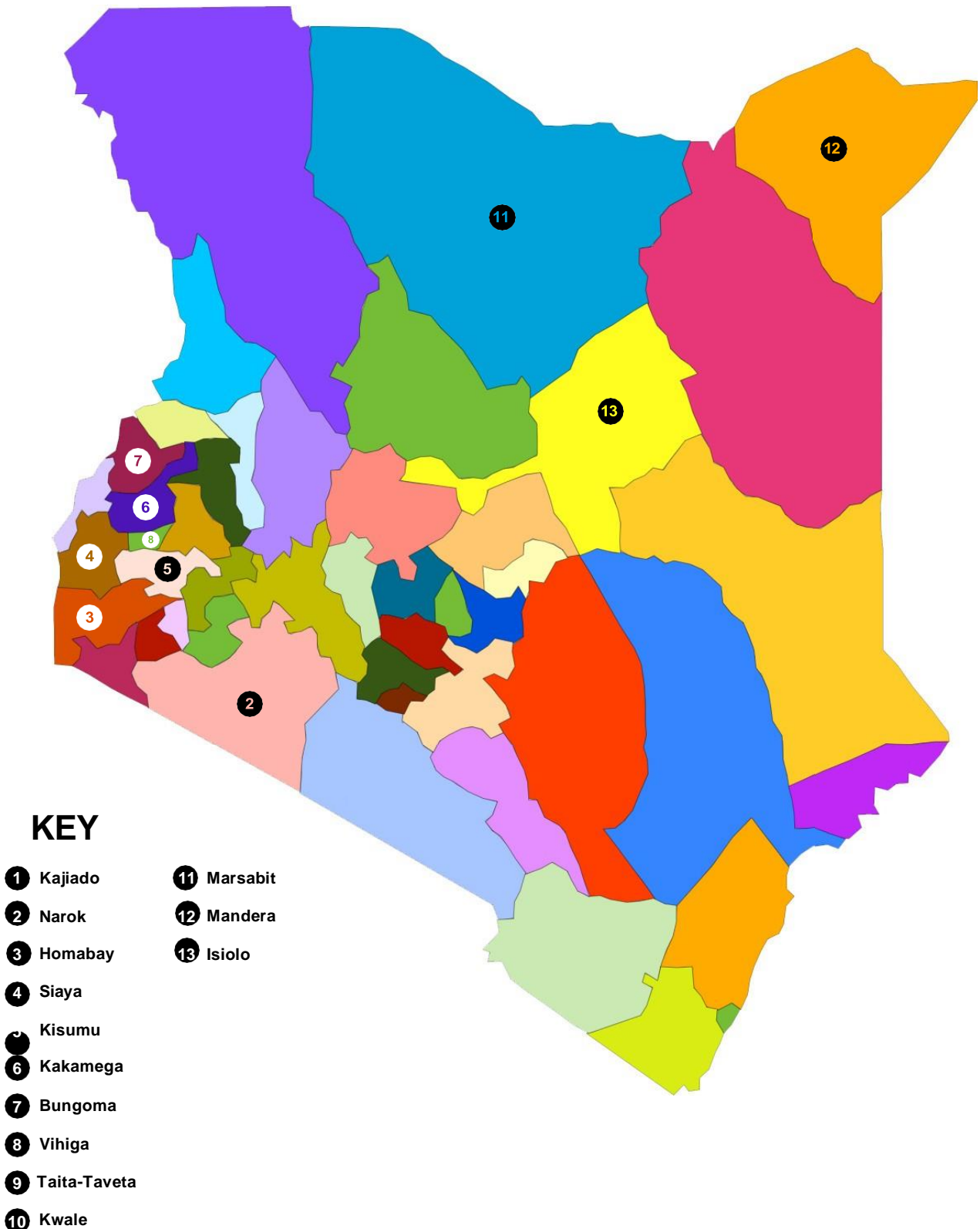


Technical strategies and focus areas



Where we worked in 2022

Access to Medicines Platform has continued to expand its reach across the 47 counties in Kenya over the years. This year we onboard counties in the Lake Region Economic Bloc as well as the North Eastern part of Kenya. In 2022 we implemented our various projects across 15 counties in: Nairobi, Kwale, Kilifi, Taita-Taveta, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kisumu, Siaya, Homabay, Bungoma, Vihiga, Baringo, Mandera, Marsabit and Isiolo.



Our work: 2022 Projects

Sustainable Financing of Sexual and Reproductive Health Commodities(SRHC)

This 2-year project started in 2021 to advance sustainable financing of SRHC in Kisumu County. This project was implemented with funding from the Waterloo Foundation and in partnership with Health Action International with the purpose of advocating for increased domestic resource mobilization, increased investments and prioritization for SRHCs. This culminated in the development of a robust advocacy roadmap through a multi-stakeholder approach to guide the county stakeholders in Kisumu to realize optimal SRH, MNCH, SRHC across all the sub-counties.

Key highlights-2022

1. Development of a 3-year multi-stakeholder advocacy strategy for Kisumu county for sustainable financing of SRH Commodities.
2. Kisumu County budget analysis looking at allocation, utilization, absorption and implementation of RMNCAH budgets over 4-year period.
3. Strengthening the capacity of community based CSOs on gender-respective budgeting, effective public participation, development of memorandums, proposals, problem statements and effective reporting.
4. Strengthened multi-stakeholder engagement in collaboration with Kisumu County department of health, an approach that has led to greater accountability, data cleaning to improve commodity security, transparency in sharing indicator performances, data-driven of priorities for the annual work plan.
5. Strengthened the structure of the RMNCAH Technical Working Group, through a consultative process to develop the TORs which were signed and formalized. The TWGs adopted an inclusive system of joint reviewing and planning of MNCH/FP priorities at sub- county level as per the Annual Work plan.
6. Supported the development of the Kisumu Family Health Operational Plan, which was launched in June 2022 that will prioritize Primary Health Care to include RMNCAH
7. Roll out of the LREB focused project to increase investment and accountability for MNCH, immunization and nutrition through advocacy and capacity strengthening of grassroots CSOs in the region around the use of the asset tracker.

Outcomes:

- Development of an evidence based advocacy roadmap to increase domestic resource mobilization for SRH Commodities
- Formalization of the quarterly county stakeholder review and planning forums with updates on performance of RMNCAH indicators and commodity security situation, which also includes CSO representation.
- Formation of sub-county MeTA Kenya CSOs to coordinate and monitor implementation of county FP/RMNCAH priorities as developed by CSOs
- Formalization of the MeTA Kenya CSO alliance through membership and payment of annual subscription fees.

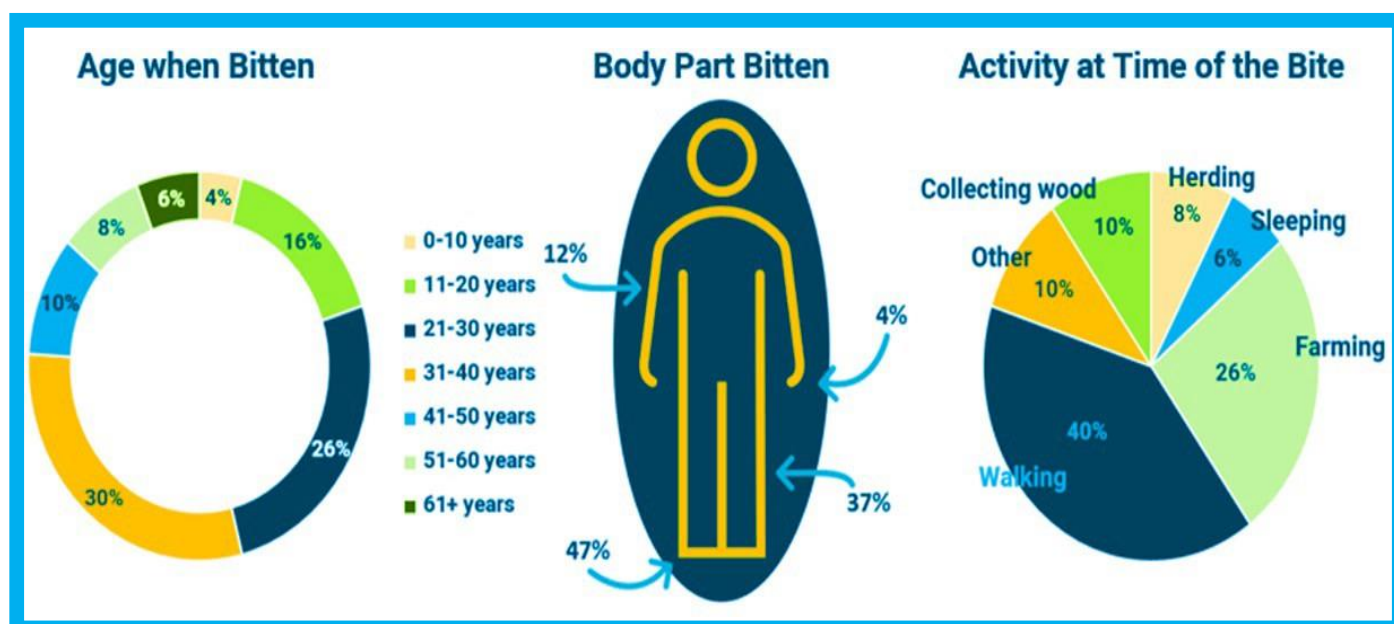
Key highlights-2022

1. Participated in quarterly LREB County Directors of health meeting convened by the LREB secretariat which not only provided a platform for cross county interaction but also learning and sharing among the 14 LREB counties. to the Forum gave a glimpse to some of the gaps and progress made in the counties in the implementation of the Facility Improvement Fund (FiF) act, community health strategies and other key policies that contribute to the implementation of PHC, MNCH and Immunization.
2. Oriented 32 CSOs from six LREB counties on the use of Maternal Newborn and Child Health(MNCH) asset tracker which provided a new innovation in the use of data driven advocacy interventions. This tracker was useful for the trained CSOs to enable them identify the gaps in quality service provision and access to commodities and target the correct decision makers to remedy the gaps identified. It enabled CSOs to access data on maternal and child health as well as nutrition which they would ordinarily not have access to support their evidence based advocacy for improved MNCH in their various counties. The trained CSOs developed joint advocacy action plans which they started implementing to guide their interventions in improving maternal, newborn and child health outcomes and which they are in the process of implementing.
3. Undertaking period reviews to gauge the extent of implementation of policies, adaptations made to protect services, and scale-up and availability of assets.
4. Tracking the implementation of the CSOs joint advocacy action plans and documenting their experiences in the use of the trackers by advocates to improve usability.

The Snakebite Programme

The burden of snakebite envenoming in Kenya is an issue that can no longer be overlooked. The program we have implemented in partnership with HAI has seen the prioritization of care, management and treatment of snakebites in Kenya. We have integrated advocacy aspects to ensure availability of commodities to treat snakebites, community sensitization and education as well as Healthcare Worker training on the practical aspects of care, treatment and management of snakebites across our counties of focus. Access to Medicines Platform has been implementing Snakebite Project in partnership with Health Action International since 2020.

Survey results:



After being bitten, I went to the hospital in Ewaso but the doctor could not help. I went to St Mary in Nairobi but there was no medicine [anti-venom] there. The same instance was at Mbagathi hospital. I ended up going to Kenyatta Hospital.” (FGD1.2)

“The snakebite victims should be helped as some of them are breadwinners in their families. In my case for instance, I am paying off the loan that I borrowed to cover the hospital bill and yet my business is failing. I urge the government to offer any assistance to my business or school fees for her children both in primary and secondary schools.” (FGD 2.4).

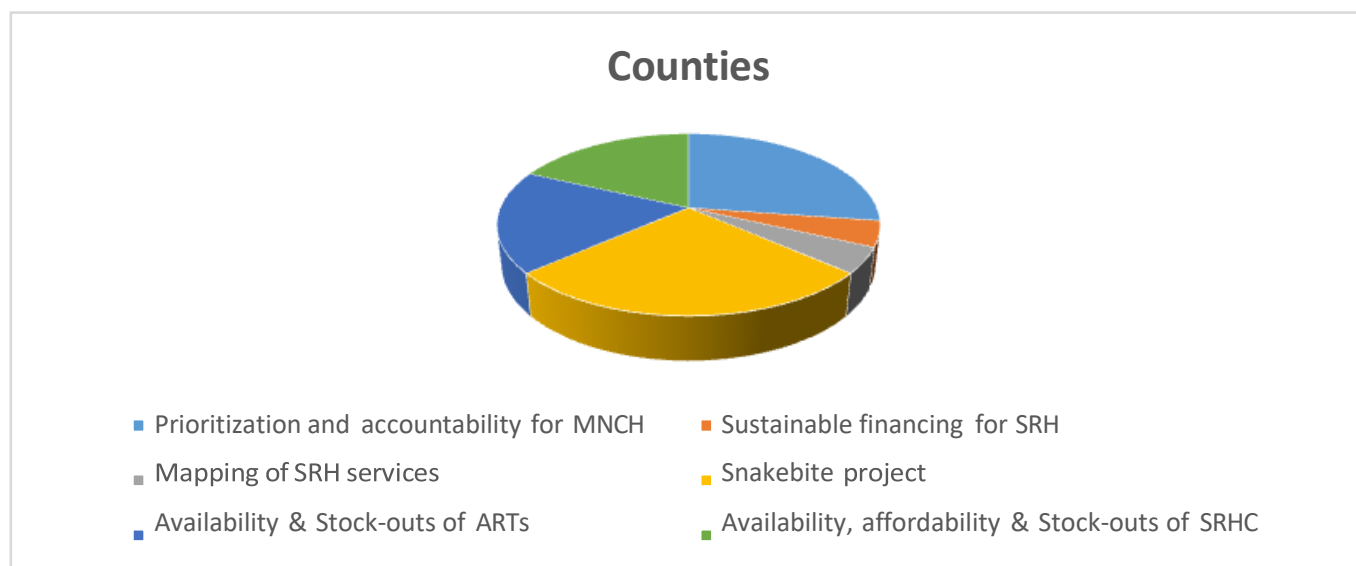
The main interventions implemented through the snakebite project:

1. Generated evidence on snakebite incidence, community perspectives, healthcare worker knowledge levels, cultural barriers to effective treatment and the socio-economic consequences of snakebites.
2. Ensure effective treatment interventions by training healthcare workers on care, management and treatment of snakebites from Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, Kakamega, West Pokot, Kajiado, Taita-Taveta, Kwale and Kilifi.
3. Empower communities through sensitization and education on snakebite prevention measures and first aid measures.
4. Dissemination of prevention and first aid posters to health facilities in the 8 counties
5. Community engagement forums to sensitize of over 200 community members and community health workers on prevention and first aid measures.

In 2022, we on boarded our flagship addition dubbed the snakebite school program. We developed a prevention comic book targeted at school children aged from age 7 years of old. This comic book was validated by over 200 schoolchildren drawn from Kajiado West Sub County as well as 25 healthcare workers (clinical officers and public health officers) across 3 counties.

We incorporated the comments from the validation and finalized the comic book, which continues to be received very well. This project provided us an opportunity to adapt a multi- sectoral approaching working with both the Ministry of Health and Education to successfully roll out this initiative.

Program reach by county



2022 Activities and Outcomes

Research and evidence generation

As part of our key technical strategies, research and evidence generation continued to be an integral part of our work in 2022. The years of experience in research, evidence generation and development of knowledge products has placed us in a credible position to provide our expertise in this area to our partners. Therefore, in 2022, aside from the research work we were implementing under the Snakebite Project, we supported three partners both local and international to undertake research in Kenya on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV treatment.

Snakebite Research

We have been conducting research as part of our snakebite project interventions since its inception in 2019. In 2022, we carried out 12 focused group discussions and 20 one-on-one interviews focused in two counties with high burden of snakebites i.e. Taita-Taveta and Kwale. We sought to better understand the socio-economic effects of snakebites on victims and their families, gauge their health seeking behavior and perceptions while putting a gender perspective on these cross-cutting parameters. We complied with all ethical approval protocols including receiving permission letters from the respective County Directors of Health, to develop a solid body of evidence whose findings will inform prioritization and planning to address the burden of snakebites in the two counties.

Paediatric antiretroviral formulations – Evaluation of availability and stock-outs at African HIV treatment facilities (PLENTY Study)

About 500 children are infected with HIV every year. In 2020, an estimated 1.7 million children were living with HIV globally. Without diagnosis and treatment, 50% of HIV infected infants will die before their second birthday. It is against this backdrop that we supported Radboud Medical University College based in the Netherlands to undertake a study under the Plenty project. The study looked at the availability and stock-outs of paediatric ART formulations in Kenya to inform interventions that would improve national policies and access to high-quality treatment for children living with HIV.

Objectives:

- To determine availability and stock-outs of paediatric ART formulations
- To compare availability and stock-outs of paediatric ART formulations with adult ART formulations
- To define health care worker's perception on barriers to accessibility of ART

The methodology adapted for this particular study was from the standardized WHO-HAI methodology for collecting evidence on medicine prices & availability but excluded the pricing component and included stock-outs and health care workers' perceptions. We collected this data in 72 public and private not-for-profit facilities (level 3-5) across 6 counties

i.e. Isiolo, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kwale and Nairobi. This study was undertaken across 4 African counties and the findings will be vital in informing the next steps for Kenya as well as comparing our performance in access to ARTs compared to other countries.

Mapping of urban ASRH service delivery in Nairobi

The study looked at teenage pregnancies, contraceptive use among adolescents, HIV prevalence and prevention among teens and how education outcomes affect these indicators.

The study also looked at the barriers adolescents faced in accessing ASRH services which were socio-cultural barriers, accessibility barriers, information barriers and provider and service delivery barriers.

The study used a cross sectional study design combining desk review and key information interviews of stakeholders in MOH, MOE, NCPD and public health facilities in 6 constituencies in Nairobi.

Some of the recommendations made related to the study findings were:

- ✓ Increasing the number of youth friendly sites and trained staff
- ✓ Integration of FP/ASRH at service delivery points by improving infrastructure in health facilities for comprehensive and inclusive ASRH services
- ✓ MoH and MOE to adopt multi-sectoral approaches to harmonize policies
- ✓ Support dissemination of national policies at county level
- ✓ Adoption of inclusive SRHR/HIV services as part of PHC/UHC programmes to increase coverage among others.

This study revealed glaring gaps in the provision of ASRH services. The study was undertaken in 4 African cities and the findings will be used to inform further advocacy interventions with reference to some of our peer countries.

Survey on availability, affordability and stock-outs of SRH commodities

The Solutions for supporting Health Adolescents and Rights Protection (SHARP) project aims to contribute to improved adolescents sexual and reproductive health and rights. One of the objectives of the project is to ensure that health service providers in the public, private and faith based organizations have quality assured SRH services and commodities (SRHC), including for family planning.

Access to Medicines Platform supported Faith to Action Network to conduct health facility research to measure the price, availability, affordability and stock-outs of SRH including HIV commodities in 126 facilities across the northern counties of Kenya including Mandera, Isiolo and Marsabit counties.

Following structured two days training sessions, data collectors surveyed the selected health facilities using the modified version of the HAI/WHO methodology to measure price, affordability and availability of SRH commodities and interviewed health care workers who provide SRH services at the respective facilities to determine existing challenges to providing SRH services and commodities to adolescents. The findings we got supported data released by the Kenya National Bureau of statistics on FP and SRH commodities and services in northern Kenya. These findings and recommendations will make a good baseline for developing a robust advocacy strategy.

Capacity strengthening



Access to Medicines Platform (AtMP) recognizes the value and impact of continuous capacity development of existing and new community based organizations, members and healthcare workers to effectively advocate, engage and plan with duty bearers for the achievement of the highest standard of health. The value of a strong, vibrant and well informed Civil Society actors is vital for sustained and lasting change.

In 2023 we remained committed to one of our core mandates of equipping civil society actors and health stewards with needed knowledge, technical skills and tools to develop and implement evidence-based advocacy strategies. In 2022, the capacity building trainings focused on topics, such as advocacy for SRH commodity financing, snakebite care, management and treatment, identification of venomous snakes and first aid and prevention measures, access to Family Planning commodities, networking and alliance building, Gender responsive budgeting, ecosystem development and effective public participation.

Increasing the capacity of local CSOs



In 2022, we convened the 5th in a series of annual capacity building workshops for our grass root CSO partners in Kisumu county.

This year's training was made possible through the Sustainable Financing of SRH commodities in Kisumu County supported by the Waterloo Foundation and implemented in partnership with Health Action International.

The two-day sensitization workshop took place between 31st March and 1st April 2022 in Kisumu County. The topics covered included:

Gender Responsive Budgeting, Effective Public Participation, Ecosystems in CSOs operations and development of memorandums, proposal writing and effective reporting. The training brought together a total of 27 Civil Society Organizations representing youth led and women focused organizations that work on Gender Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health as well as women empowerment programs.

The workshop was facilitated by a team of seasoned and experienced facilitators well versed in Public Finance Management(PFM), the budget making process and effective public participation with years of experience working in public policy and financial inclusion. The facilitators took the participants through interactive sessions of learning whereby the participants were able to bring out the various challenges they went through while taking part in budget processes including for public participation and with their help and based on the years of experience in that area were able to brainstorm solutions to help the CSOs forge ahead.

Some of the proposed solutions suggested are as summarized below:

- Building of relevant allies with key institutions particularly the ward administrators to enable ease in access to information and key documents derived from public participation forums. The facilitator advised that the first step would be for the alliance members to know their ward administrators.
- Identification of local champions to sensitize the communities on public participation, the constitutional mandate and the benefits of meaningfully participating.
- Building of institutional memory to ensure that the knowledge on public participation is cascaded down to other members of their organizations so that even when a representative of an organization leaves the organization, the other staff who remain can still continue with the work
- Advocacy for inclusion and representation of marginalized groups including persons with hearing impairment and disability in public participation forums to ensure that they are also part of the process.



MeTA Kenya CSOs training participants

Sensitization of CSOs on Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) asset tracker

In partnership with PATH, we sensitized a total of 32 Civil Society Organizations working in the Lake Region Economic Bloc representing women and youth led organizations from Kakamega, Kisumu, Homabay, Siaya, Bungoma and Vihiga Counties. The sessions were facilitated by technical experts from PATH with the objective of orienting civil society actors on the MNCH asset tracker as a tool for use in advocacy to support MNCH policy implementation in their various counties. The participants were provided with data on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health indicators which provided a platform for them to discuss various issues facing SRH sector in their counties creating a learning and sharing platform among the CSOs. Since gender is pivotal in programming the participants were taken through essential gender concepts to help them understand the basic gender considerations and how to integrate and mainstream gender aspects in programming.



The real gist of the sensitization was to demonstrate to the CSOs why it was important for MNCH interventions to be informed by data and evidence and introducing the MNCH asset tracker tool to them provided a new innovation in access to and the use of data driven advocacy. Having been taken through navigation of the portal and practical illustrations of how to use the MNCH asset tracker dashboard, the CSOs are in a better position to access data on different Maternal, Newborn and Child health interventions and nutrition and are able to use the data in their advocacy interventions. The tracker draws data from the national health information system portals, global surveys, and other widely accepted data sources to provide data for each MNCH and nutrition assets around population coverage, availability, and further detail on the extent of implementation of each milestone for the asset. The orientation on use of the MNCH asset tracker gave a comprehensive overview of information of the different interventions in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health which opened up an interactive opportunity for the CSOs advocates to discuss the gaps and challenges around MNCH. The CSOs developed advocacy action plans for the six counties outlining how they planned to address the gaps and included timelines. The meeting also made other CSOs who are not part of the MeTA Kenya CSOs Alliance gain keen interest to joining the alliance thus providing an opportunity for AtMP, as the coordinating and lead organization for the alliance to expand its mandate across the Lake Region Economic Bloc counties. The CSOs team also created a WhatsApp group platform to keep their communication open even as they share and learn from each other.

Training of Health Care Workers on snakebite care, management and treatment

The second in a series of Trainer of Trainers(ToT) module for the Health Care Workers(HCWs) on care, management and treatment of snakebites drew HCWs from Elgeyo Marakwet, Kakamega and Baringo counties. The composition of the health workers selected included: Public health officers, Clinical officers and NTD Coordinators from these counties whereas the facilitators were from Ministry of Health, Division of Neglected Tropical Diseases, Dr. Eugene Erulu who is a renowned epidemiologist and syndromic management specialist as well as our Executive Officer, Ms. Okemo.

The County Director of Baringo county, Dr. Boruett officially opened the workshop and lauded the collaboration between Health Action International, Access to Medicines Platform and The Ministry of Health (MoH) through the NTD Division for the timely actualization of the training for the represented counties who faced immense challenges with the effects of snakebites and the limited knowledge and capacity to prevent and manage snakebites.

He stated that the WHO strategy aimed to reduce mortality and disability causes by snakebites by 50% and noted that prevention was the surest way of doing this since snakes were part of the ecosystem and cannot be eliminated as they also play a key and important role in the ecosystem. Dr. Boruett also recognized and appreciated the timing which the training was taking place as it was necessary for increasing demand for health services, behavior change communication in the community, adequate budgets for commodities, strengthening the health system and resource mobilization and partnership. He also pointed out that the healthcare workers held the key to changing the outcomes of snakebites and that the training served as a spark to learn, unlearn and cascade the training and grow personnel capacity and increase the spectrum of knowledge on this neglected disease.



The healthcare workers were taken through six comprehensive sessions covering:

Clinical management of snakebites

1. Management of snakebites at different levels of care
2. Snakebite prevention and recommended first aid measures
3. Syndromic management of snakebites and administration of anti-venom
4. Commodities for treatment of snakebites and how to effectively use anti-venom
5. Identification and knowledge on venomous and non-venomous snakes

Various county teams also made presentations on the snakebite situation and management in their respective counties providing a platform for experience sharing and consolidation of lessons learnt. With guidance from Ms. Okemo, Our Executive Officer, who is also the Kenya snakebite program coordinator, the county teams developed action plans for roll out of training in-county and for the community sensitization programs as well as for the effective reporting of snakebite cases and treatment.



County teams developing their action plans





County teams developing their action plans

Building organizational capacity in data analysis

Research being the cornerstone of the work that we do, Access to Medicines Platform recognizes the importance of efficacy in data collection processes. In 2022, we prioritized training of our research assistants in the use of digital data collection devices which facilitated timely collection of data. Additionally, we also capacitated our research assistants and staff members on qualitative data analysis which entailed practical illustrations of coding of transcriptions and summarizing findings.



Research assistants participating in data collection training sessions

Coordination and convening

MeTA Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

In collaboration with the Kisumu County Department of Health, we organized a MeTA Forum in February 2022. This stakeholder forum was attended by 77 participants from: Department of Health headquarters, the sub-county health teams, facility in charge of the county hospitals, a private sector representation, healthcare workers across the 7 sub-counties, MeTA Kenya CSO members, the local media and other international organizations working in the county.

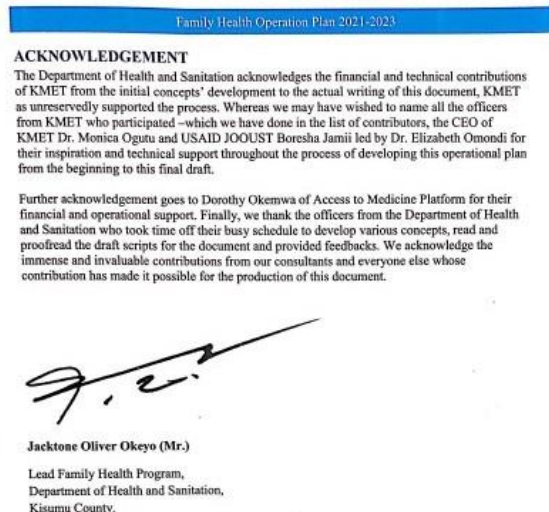
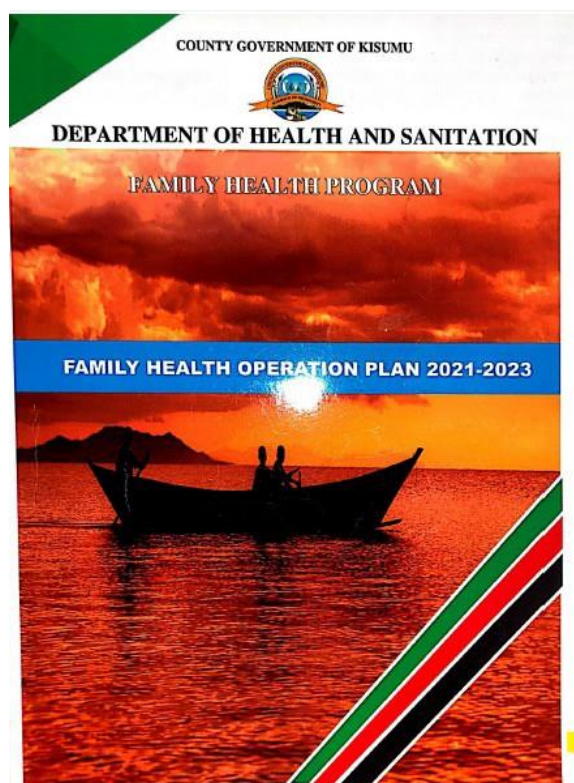
During this forum, findings of the budget analysis were presented and the outline of an advocacy roadmap was introduced for discussion and input by members. As a result of this meeting, the County Department of Health invited the sub-county reproductive health CSO teams to present a status update on the performance of RMNCAH, identify gaps, and plan for the next quarter. This multi-stakeholder approach has led to higher level of accountability and rapid response to the gaps at health facility level, transparency in sharing indicator performances, and promoted data-driven development of annual workplan priorities. The plan to present, plan and review RMNCAH performance was adopted and has continued to guide all subsequent TWG meetings.



Technical Working Group Meetings

A RMNCAH TWG meeting was held on 25-26 July 2022. This meeting was attended by RH Coordinators from all the seven sub-counties who presented a status report of the RMNCAH indicators, the gaps, achievements, and priorities for the next year. In attendance also were the two Directors of Health, CSOs from the MeTA Kenya CSO alliance, healthcare workers, as well as the private sector. This meeting attracted 70 participants and was a key meeting as it was the last one just a week before the general elections. This meeting further took stock of action plans from the meeting while reviewing the priority actions for SRH for 2022. It further provided an opportunity for the sub-county teams and healthcare workers to plan and prioritize SRH programmes for the electioneering period that lasted 2 months. The findings and recommendations of the budget analysis were presented, and endorsed.

By virtue of our participation and support of the RMNCAH-TWG, we were invited participate in the validation process of the Family Health Operational Plan, which was launched in June 2022. This plan seeks to support program interventions to provide access, quality, and financial safeguards to health service delivery in Kisumu County. In our feedback we emphasized the importance of prioritizing SRHR and FP under this plan and considering them part of Primary Health Care (PHC) a suggestion that was incorporated in the costed plan.



AtMP Executive Officer making a presentation during RMNCAH TWG in Kisumu County

Advocacy remains integral to the work we do as an organization. Our evidence advocacy approach heavily draws from the research we undertake to inform our advocacy work, the robust documentation we do in developing knowledge products and tools, strengthening the capacity of our CSO members to enable them effectively engage with policy makers. Some of the advocacy engagements we participated in are:

Participation in the Kisumu County Health Stakeholder Forum to review and prepare a joint plan for the county.

- i. Attended the Committee of Experts meeting on ASRH to review the lapsed 2015 ASRH policy and give recommendations of way forward in the process of development of a new policy.
- ii. Had a one-on-one meeting with the Director of Public Health Kisumu county in February 2022 to discuss the county SRH/ RMNCAH priorities. Our long-standing relationship has seen us receive close support for our work from this Director, who has personally signed and sent out invitations for all our joint activities and meetings.
- iii. Invitation to and participation in national level SRH meetings that had impact at county level. For instance, the launch and dissemination of key Reproductive Health (RH) policy documents and the launch of the 10-year national RH policy. These policies will be the main sources on which Kisumu County will develop and update their own RH policy.
- iv. In November 2022, we conducted a one-on one meetings with Vihiga County Health Management Team(CHMT), the Chief Officer as well as Kisumu County Director of Health Planning, Policy and Research to understand the priorities of the two counties around MNCH, PHC and immunization so as to inform our continued engagement and prioritization of key issues identified in our advocacy strategy.
- v. Participated in the County Directors of Health quarterly meeting in June 2022 which provided platform for us to understand the gaps and progress made in the 14 LREB counties around MNCH, PHC and immunization and how we can plug in with regards to support, partnership and advocacy.



Inception meeting with Vihiga County Health Management Team



Courtesy call meeting with Kisumu County Director of Health Planning, Policy & Research-Dr. Odiga

Advocacy roadmap for Kisumu county

In collaboration with our MeTA Kenya network of local CSOs, we developed an advocacy roadmap consisting of comprehensive set of activities lined up through which we could continue the model of work under the sustainable financing for SRH commodities in Kisumu County program. The issues raised in the budget analysis were discussed and prioritized through a collaborative process within the advocacy roadmap development process. The roadmap contains four budgeting objectives which we will focus our efforts on during the coming years should funding be secured:

1. Budgeting for SRH Commodities: county allocations are increased and disbursement in a timely manner.
2. Budget evaluation framework and tracking systems are developed, adopted and implemented.
3. Public access to budget information and public participation in County budgeting processes is enhanced.
4. Domestic Resources for Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) are mobilized to cater for funding gaps.

The roadmap links to several crucial national and county policies and strategies which have been finalized or are under development such as the Facility Improvement Fund Act being implemented in Kisumu, the Kisumu County Family Health Operation Plan (2021-2023), the Kisumu County Public Participation Policy discussion paper (2022), and the Public Finance Management Act (2012). We aim to push for their implementation since they will improve SRH service provision and opportunities for sustainable budgeting.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS BY META KENYA CSOs

- Simplify budget disbursement processes to allow for timely disbursement and high budget absorption rates;
- Develop a separate SRH Commodity budget and ring fence this budget to protect it from unexpected reductions;
- Develop protocols for public, online access to official RMCAH disaggregated budget and budget implementation information;
- Enhance inclusivity and opportunities for public participation in budget processes (E.g. how budget estimates are arrived at, collection of public views on priorities for the Annual Development Plan formulation process, public participation forums are advertised and conducted in a way which promotes accessibility of the public)
- Develop a robust resource mobilization framework for RMNCAH which takes into account the public health and RMNCAH needs, gaps, opportunities, indicators and targets.

MeTA Kenya LREB CSOs Alliance planning and review meetings

As a follow up to the earlier CSO capacity building forums and orientation on Maternal newborn and Child Health(MNCH) asset tracker, we held a hybrid planning and review meeting with the LREB CSOs to track the implementation of the joint advocacy action plans formulated during the orientation. This meeting also provided a platform for the CSOs for cross county learning and sharing among the CSOs as well as to discuss the priorities for 2023 which would inform the year 2023 work plan. Some of the outcomes from the joint implemented action plans are summarized below:



CSOs partners Testimonials

Joseph Ojuki

Organization of African Youth (OAY)

“

MeTA Kenya/Access to Medicines Platform has helped many grassroots CSOs to understand and engage in budget processes through a number of trainings that have equipped them with knowledge on key budget documents, developing memorandums as well as when to get involved in the budget processes and public participation forums and this has ensured that the views of the community have been taken into consideration in these crucial decision making processes!

”

OUTPUTS/ RESULTS:

1. The trained CSOs Oriented the Rarieda Sub-County Hospital management team in Siaya County on the use of the MNCH asset tracker. The hospital management team were made aware of the 14 essential assets necessary to ensure reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates and to prioritize their availability.
2. Meaningful participation of MeTA Kenya CSO alliance members in the development of the County Integrated Development Plans(CIDP) who ensured issues around maternal and new born health were prioritized.
3. 150 girls from Kibiri Ward, Homabay County were sensitized on reproductive health in efforts to reduce teenage pregnancies. Additionally, teen mothers were sensitized on nutrition, child health care, stigma associated to being young mothers and viable economic opportunities for teen mothers.
4. Inclusion of community inputs and recommendations on gaps around access to health and essential commodities in the CIDP after undertaking community scorecard at Homa-Hills.
5. Identification of 20 legislators as champions for RMNCH from the Kisumu county assembly after sensitization of CHMT and MCAs on issues of RMNCAH and the need for increased budgetary allocation for RMNCAH.
6. Sensitization and identification of community champions to engage in the public participation foras and speak with one voice to push the MNCH agenda forward.
7. Social audits were conducted in 12 sub counties of Kakamega County and through the findings memorandums to influence the county health budgets were developed and presented during the public participation for County Integrated Development Plans.
8. Incorporation of Kakamega CSOs in Kakamega County's Health sector TWG. This is the team will be involved in the developing of county annual work plan as well as policies.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW 2022 Highlights



A pupil reading a comic book developed as an educational material on snakebite prevention for school going children.



Courtesy call meeting to the Vihiga County Chief Officer Ms. Mary Anyiendah



Snakebite school program-Kajiado Visit. Present: HAI team, Kajiado NTD Coordinator, AtMP Executive Officer and the school teachers



Breakout session-MNCH asset tracker orientation



AtMP Executive Officer taking pupils through snakebite first-aid measures during the snakebite school program outreach



LREB CSOs at the planning and review meeting of joint implementation of action plans



AtMP Executive Officer issuing dignity packs to pupils during the snakebite school program outreach



MeTA Kenya CSO enthusiastically participating in an ongoing discussion at the MeTA Kenya CSOs training on Budget advocacy



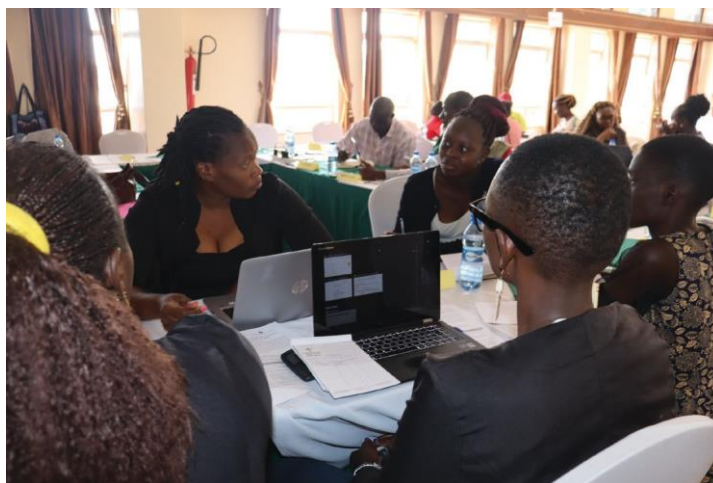
Group photo of secondary school students at Kajiado County snakebite school program after an outreach session



AtMP Executive Officer making remarks at the LREB MNCH asset tracker orientation



AtMP Executive Officer sensitizing teachers and CHVs on snakebite prevention measures in Kajiado County



MeTA LREB CSOs developing advocacy action plans



Engaging partners and staff in striking the "break the bias" pose for International Women's Day campaign



Understanding adolescence guide book launch-partners banner



AtMP Program & Communications officer representing AtMP at an engagement hosted by HENNET



LREB CSOs after the MNCH asset tracker orientation forum



AtMP Executive Officer, Ms. Okemo making a presentation at an advocacy engagement in Kajiado County



Documentation of effects of GBV in Kibra slums



Kajiado community members being sensitized on different types of snakes by Ms. Sterrin, a herpetologist



AtMP Communications Officer at the CHReaD Quarterly Review Meeting

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a critical element of successful health programs to achieve “the health for all” goals. It plays a significant role in reducing inequalities, improving social justice and accountability, enhancing health benefits and sharing responsibility towards public health.

Snakebite school health program

In efforts to empower communities on snakebite prevention and first aid measures, we rolled out the snakebite school health pilot program in Kajiado West sub-county. With a script provided by Health Action International, we oversaw the drawing and design of snakebite prevention comic book suit for young school going children with regards to readability and understanding. In the collaboration of the office of the Director of Public Health and Sanitation through the NTD Coordinator, we obtained the necessary permissions from the Department of Education in Kajiado County. Moreover, initial discussions on this coloration were done at the advocacy meeting that we convened in Kajiado and attended by among others the Director of Public Health and Sanitation and the Director of Medical Services. The NTD coordinator, Mr. Baxson Likama was instrumental in coordination and getting all the approvals from the department of education. This was followed by a successful launch of the school health program in June 2022.



Executive Officer taking the students through snakebite first aid measures- the Do's and Don'ts



The intervention started with a half day sensitization of teachers, community members, healthcare workers and community health volunteers drawn from Kajiado west sub-county.

The resource persons included: Mr. Baxson Likama- the NTD Coordinator for Kajiado, Dorothy Okemo AtMP Executive Officer & Kenya snakebite project coordinator as well as a Dutch ecologist, herpetologist and author, Ms. Sterrin Smalbrugge.

The participants were educated on living in harmony with snakes, types of venomous snakes and characteristics of venomous bites as well as snakebite prevention and first aid measures. Additionally, HAI's research officer made a presentation on Snakebite Research in Kenya and shared the findings particularly for Kajiado County.

We then visited 3 schools on the second day whereby 2 of the schools were of primary school level and the 3rd one secondary school. With support of teachers and the head teachers who ensured smooth running of our sensitization program, we educated the pupils on snakebite prevention, first aid measures and living in harmony with snakes.

At the end of each session we presented the students who participated in the sensitization with dignity packs:

- The girls pack contained: a branded HAI waterproof bag, a geometrical set, 2 pens, a rubber, sanitary towels and 3 exercise books.
- The boys pack contained: a branded HAI waterproof bag, a geometrical set, 2 pens, a rubber, a pair of socks and 3 exercise books.

We presented 100 complete packs (50 for boys and 50 for girls) in each of the 3 schools we visited. We also disseminated the snakebite prevention and first aid measures posters to the schools and community members so that they could pass the information to the rest of the students and community members.

In November 2022, we organized a post visit to two schools that were part of the school program launch in liaison with Mr. Baxson Likama the NTD Coordinator, as a follow-up collaborative activity with the County Department of Health to gauge the knowledge levels of the school children based on the sensitization on first aid and prevention that was administered in June 2022. We administered an evaluation tool to a total of 85 students across the two schools and with help of a teacher, the students were taken through the instructions of filling out the questionnaires.



The school administration was very happy about our post visit- they reiterated how beneficial it was for them to also learn more about prevention and first aid from snakebites. In general, the school health program and particularly the comic book were a very big success- based on the findings of the evaluation administered. It is an important element of snakebite programming that not only needs to be scaled across Kajiado County but also introduced to schools in other snake endemic areas. Our hope is that we will be able to continue with such programs that provide generational change in attitudes while addressing knowledge gaps and improving the health outcomes of those considered to be at the last mile- the ones often forgotten and most neglected.



“We are very grateful to Access to Medicines Platform for coming up with this initiative of sensitizing the community and school children on how to prevent snakebites and access healthcare. This initiative is a first in this locality and in our school and has provided us with the knowledge we never had before. I believe that this knowledge will be extended to other members of the community. I also hope that this initiative will help our county government to intervene and help community members who are vulnerable to snakebites.”

Mr. Josephat Kanana, Teacher- Enchororo Senteu Primary school

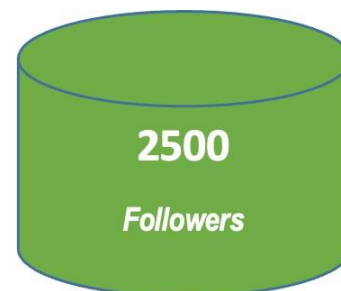
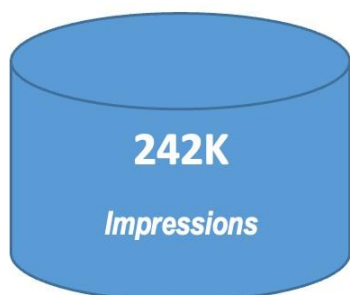
Communications & Documentation

Online Engagements

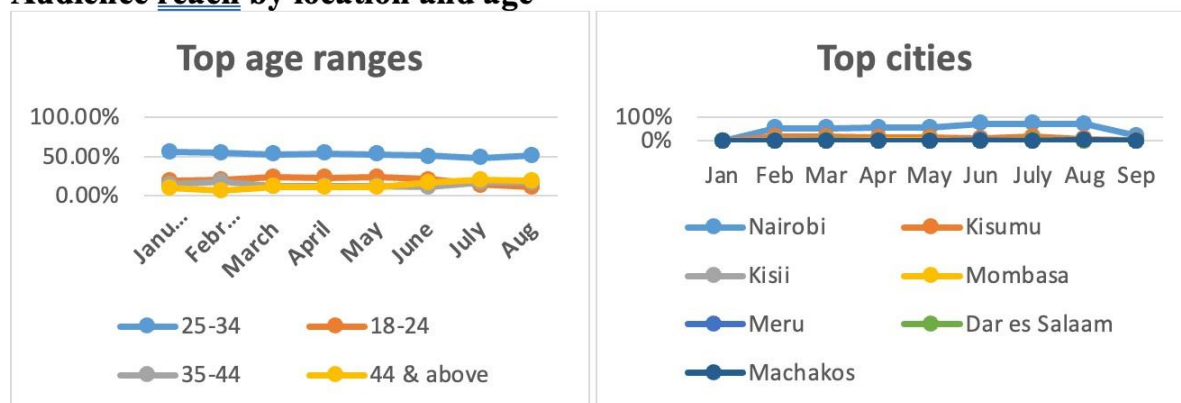
Our robust and dynamic online engagement strategy formed an integral part of our communication and information sharing agenda in 2022. Our YouTube channel also remained crucial in documenting and amplifying the voices of our members, communities and partners. In addition, our website was instrumental in establishing our online presence and creating a platform for us to share blog articles on a range of topics in commemoration of different international health days as well as reports, policy briefs, analysis and infographics. Some of the topics covered by our blog articles included:

- Understanding Gender Based Violence: Culture, Boiling Frog & Stockholm syndrome Mental health: the sleeping giant!
- The criticality of Menstrual Hygiene Management
- Gender equality: Why it matters
- Create an Equitable Access to Cancer Care for All!
- Actualize the Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy Now!

Through our online engagement, we garnered a total of 242,000 impressions, 43,800 profile visits and 2500 followers across our social media platforms. Our social media analytics also demonstrated that our greatest reach according to age was among ages 18-34 years. These statistics confirm that our work and outreach is actually reaching our intended target group of beneficiaries.



Audience reach by location and age



Knowledge Management

Access to Medicines Platform recognizes the role of packaging information in a clear, concise and easy-to-understand format targeted at different audiences and purposes and particularly to aid evidence based advocacy. Understanding how essential it is for advocates to have access to well packaged information to utilize while engaging key decision makers and in explaining complex issues that need action. One key documentation was the updated Health budget analysis briefs for Kisumu County to include the latest budgets statistics based on Annual Work Plans, Annual Development Plans, Approved Budget Estimates, and budget expenditure covering the financial years between 2017-2022. The analysis looked at allocation, utilization and absorption rates among other parameters.

HEALTH BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The Kenyan government makes a distinction between recurrent and development budgets. The recurrent budget includes personnel costs, procurement of medicines and essential medical supplies, interest payments, training, and expenses for general maintenance and operations, while the development budget includes spending on infrastructure (e.g., furniture and fittings, refurbishment and construction), equipment (medical and non-medical), and sometimes transfers or grants.

According to the law, and in line with the principles of fiscal responsibility, a minimum of 30% of the County Government's budget should be allocated to development expenditure. However, Kisumu County's health budget continues to be dominated by recurrent expenditure (3,800 million KES in 2021/22, which is 94.6% of the total health budget), of which 75.0% is spend on personnel emoluments (compensation for employees), 8.7% on goods and services, and 16.4% on grants. 214 million is spent on development (5.3% of the total health budget).

Further, what stands out is that the budget absorption rate (actual expenditure as a percentage of approved budget) is variable across years, especially the development expenditure is erratic. In FY 2017/18, only 1.4% of the development budget allocation was actually spent. Insufficient budget execution on development budgets is a common problem across Kenya's counties. In Kisumu, high wage bills and high pending bills on development activities are issues which affect development budget execution rates.

Figure 4 shows Kisumu County's health budget and performance.

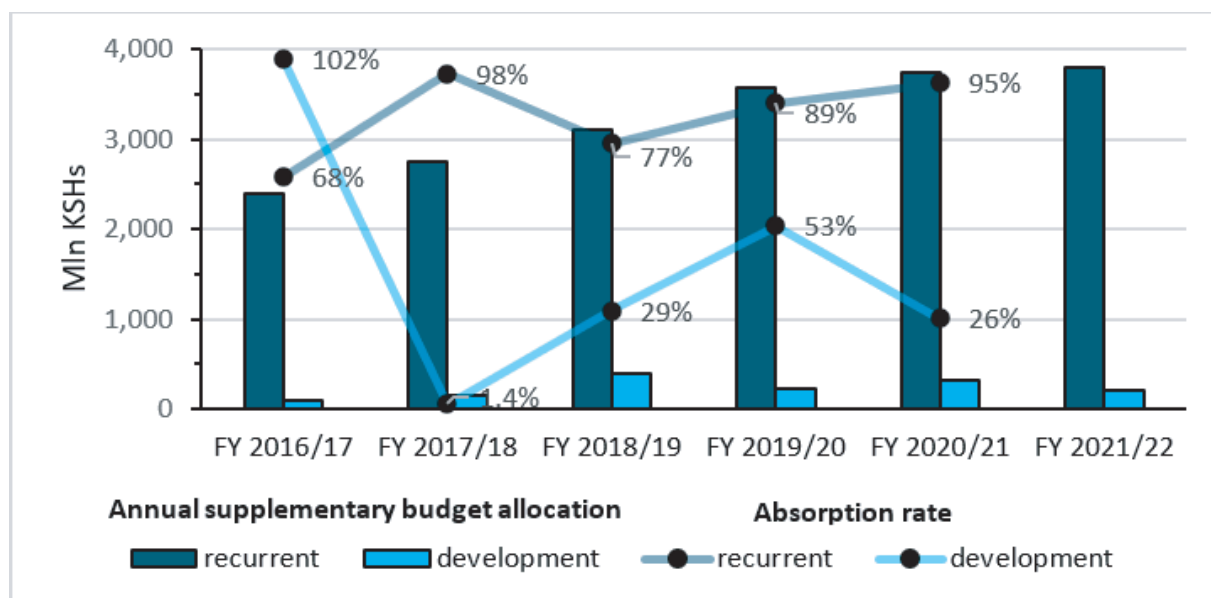
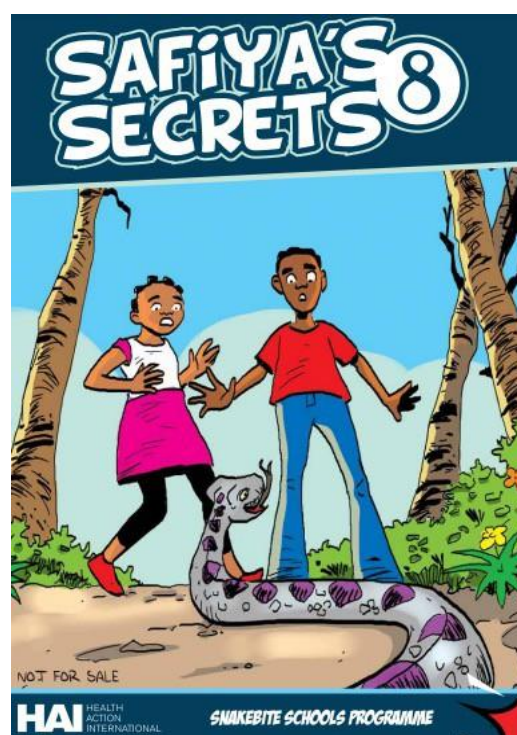


Figure 4. Health services budget performance

The snakebite prevention comic book

In partnership with HAI, we pioneered our contribution for the school health policy through a project dubbed the snakebite school programme. We commissioned the development of a comic book with support from Health Action International targeted at school children aged between 9- 14 years of age. This comic book is customized in a way that is well understood by school going children to educate them on snakebite prevention measures and is a great community advocacy tool in addressing the burden of snakebites. The comic book was piloted among school children in Kajiado West Sub-county, The MoH-NTD Division and among healthcare workers across 4 counties who validated the initial draft. The comic book was finalized incorporating comments from all stakeholders and disseminated to over 200 school children in Kajiado County.



Snakebite first aid and prevention posters

We also disseminated posters for snakebite prevention as well as those of snakebite first aid measures showcasing the Do's and Don'ts of dealing with snakebites in both English and Swahili languages.



We continued to strengthen our partnerships and strategic engagements in 2022. Through our engagements strategy we expanded our reach, leveraged on each other's strengths and resources to achieve mutual objectives as well as enhanced our credibility and reputation. Some of the strategic engagements we participated in were hosted by NCPD, HENNET, Make Way Alliance, Radboud Medical University College among other partners. Below is a summary of some of the engagements we had in 2022:

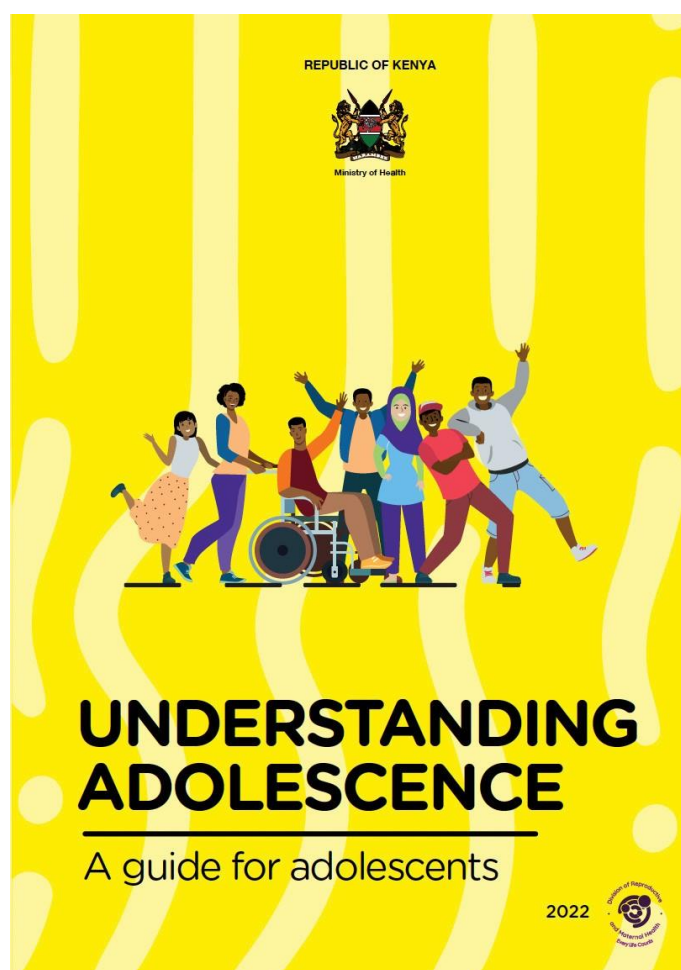
World Contraceptives Day Celebrations

World Contraceptives Day celebrations themed 'breaking myths in family planning' aimed at re-orienting family planning services to dispel myths against contraception that hinder uptake and access to family commodities and services among the youth. To mark this day, we joined the Ministry of Health together with different collaborating partners and stakeholders including UNFPA, National Council for Population and Development, Amref and Reproductive Health Network Kenya among others. Also present were National Government officials including the Nairobi County Women representative, CAS Esther Passaris. The celebrations included presentations in form of skits by influencers, narrations of lived experiences on impact of lack of access to Family Planning Commodities by youths as well as Q & A sessions which debunked some of the common myths that hinder uptake of contraceptives.

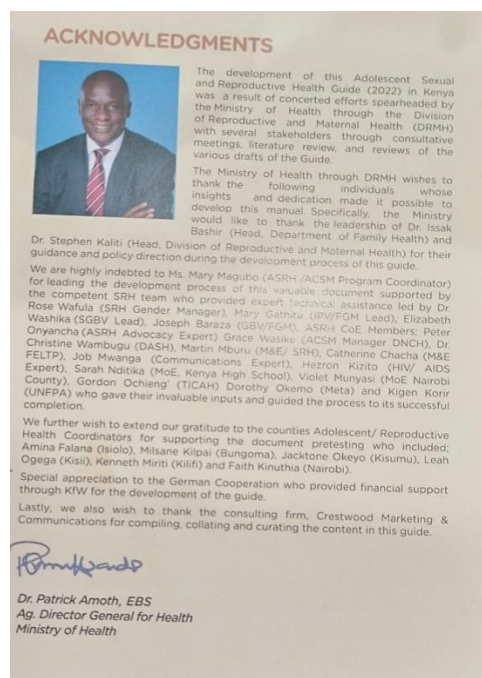


Launch of understanding adolescence guidebook

The development of this Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Guide (2022) in Kenya was a result of concerted efforts spearheaded by the Ministry of Health through the Division of Reproductive and Maternal Health with several stakeholders through consultative meetings, literature review, and reviews of the various drafts of the Guide. This guide aims at increasing adolescents' knowledge about their body growth and development. It also provides information about the unique challenges and solutions that come with growth including relationship issues, health related problems as well as drugs and substance abuse. Additionally, it gives exciting information, education and communication on nutrition, personal hygiene and physical activity which will help an adolescent become a healthier and responsible individual who is in control of what takes place in his/her life.



With support from partners who work in the sexual and reproductive health space, The Ministry of Health launched the adolescents guide book at Kenya High School. This colorful event was graced by adolescent girls and boys from different secondary schools in Nairobi who commended the efforts by government to ensure that they had access to the right information on important issues to do with their growth and development including their mental health. We supported the printing of the understanding adolescence guide book and the hardcopies were disseminated to the students during the launch. We further disseminated these guidebooks during our visit to three schools in Kajiado for the snakebite school program as well as to our youth-led partner organizations in the lake region economic bloc for them to disseminate the information during their engagements with adolescents. A portal was also created by the Ministry of Health to enable access to the soft copy version online.



Launch of reports on Rapid assessment of equity and gender barriers to COVID-19 vaccine in the EAC region

The Coalition of Health Research and Development (CHReaD) is a membership coalition with member organizations working around advocacy for improved health technologies, programs, and services—from HIV and tuberculosis, to non-communicable diseases, to maternal, newborn, and child health. Through coordinated advocacy, CHReaD underscores the importance of health R&D in increasing access to lifesaving technologies across the health spectrum. As members of the coalition, we participated in launch of reports for three different studies undertaken in Kenya and the other East African countries.

The three reports were on:

1. The systematic equity and gender issues affecting product introduction and access to COVID-19 tools in the East African Countries.
2. An Evaluation of the Regulatory Processes of Health Products in Kenya
3. Experiences and effects of COVID-19 on accessibility and delivery of HIV, TB, and malaria services among health care workers and users in Kenya



AtMP represented at the launch of reports on access to COVID 19 tools

The event brought together different stakeholders including different government ministries, the private sector, PPB and representatives from the EAC. During the launch, key findings, lessons learnt and pertinent issues highlighting recommendations from the reports were discussed as part of concerted efforts to strengthen health security during and the post pandemic period.

Other engagements hosted by CHReaD which we participated in included the Annual General Meeting and the 3rd quarterly review meeting to review the progress of various interventions and enhance coordination by members to enable them contribute to the achievement of the coalition's objectives:

To advocate for an enabling policy, regulatory and financing environment that facilitates research, innovation, development of and access to health products and technologies. The annual general meeting provided a platform for members to review work done throughout the year, discuss what went well and opportunities for doing better.



CHReaD Members group photo at the 3rd Quaterly Review meeting

Team building activities were also incorporated in the Annual General Meeting to provide a platform for bonding, conflict resolution and fun. The sessions were designed to be highly interactive and participatory, using a combination of techniques including small group exercises as well as reflection. In addition, the sessions organized along a progression of activities that increasingly focus on the coalition and its plans for strengthening its effectiveness. Each activity contained a balance of theoretical material with opportunities for reflecting on its application within the team. It also introduced a model for understanding individual perspectives of team members. Skill-building sessions then focused on strengthening interpersonal relations within teams through collaborative communication and conflict management. Finally, the group was able to bring all these threads together by assessing its own team development, discussing principles and behaviors for supporting high performance and strengthening its interactions to achieve its team mandate.



CHReaD members being engaged in Teambuilding activities: The Human Wheel and Island

Networking & Engagements

In 2022, we engaged with our partners in different workshops, trainings, advocacy meetings and community engagements as highlighted below:

FEBRUARY



Convened MeTA Kenya CSOs Alliance Planning and Review meeting in Kisumu County.

MAY



Convened an advocacy planning and review meeting in Kajiado County under snakebite project

JULY



Participated in LREB County Directors of Health quarterly planning and review meeting convened by LREB Secretariat

OCTOBER



Participated in CHRead quarterly review meetings

Undertook a survey on availability, affordability and stockouts of SRHC commodities

DECEMBER



Development of an advocacy roadmap for sustainable financing of SRHC in Kisumu County

Convened MeTA Kenya CSOs training workshop Effective Public Participation, Ecosystems in CSOs operations & Gender responsive budgeting

MARCH



Conducted Health care worker training on care, management and treatment of snakebites in Eldoret

JUNE



Participated in World Contraceptive day celebrations convened by the Ministry of Health

SEPTEMBER



Conducted Kajiado County schools post visit to evaluate the impact of snakebite comic books launched in June 2022.

NOVEMBER

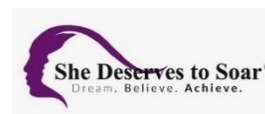


Review meeting with LREB CSOs to track implementation of county action plans and inception meeting with Vihiga County CHMT

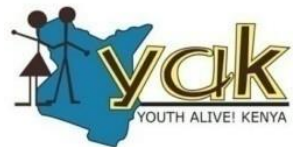
Access to Medicines Platform is grateful for the support and collaboration from our partners and donors. In 2022, we oversaw the successful conduct and completion of the sustainable financing for SRHC project in Kisumu county. This project that has impacted increased financing for reproductive maternal, new born health in Kisumu and provided a dialogue space for stakeholders to discuss issues around reproductive health that need prioritization. From the projects' implementation, we recognize that there is still more to be done in terms of intensifying advocacy. We also brought on board a new project that seeks to impact the prioritization of investments for Primary Health Care, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health as well as Immunization and we are excited to be part of journey in the actualization of its objectives.

As an organization and convener of the MeTA Kenya CSO alliance on SRH, a national voluntary membership network with over 70 active members across 10 counties, we look forward to fostering more stakeholder engagements and strengthening partnerships while strengthening the networks ability to effectively advocate. We continue to work on health systems strengthening to ensure women, girls and vulnerable groups have access to safe, quality and effective health commodities and particularly reproductive health and other life-saving commodities and devices. We look forward to prioritizing new areas of work that seek to increase investment and prioritization of Primary Health care particularly on maternal, newborn and Child Health, immunization and nutrition to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality.

Our international partners, National Partners and donors



Our local partners



+2 54 71 22 70 458



www.atmplatformkenya.org



admin@atmplatformkenya.org



@MeTAKenya2018



@metakenya2018



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