

2023

Annual REPORT



**Empowering Communities-
Catalyzing change for
SRH/NTDS/MNCH in Kenya**



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

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FOREWARD BY THE FOUNDER & CEO

Sustainability is at the heart of every organization's operational mandate and continuity of the progress of interventions and outcomes realized each year. In many instances the modelling of donor funding is not reflective of support that would allow organizations to continue beyond funding cycles. 2023 was such a year for Access to Medicines Platform, with donor funding accounting for 47% of our total income and less than 20% of that supporting organizational and staff costs. The work that we have done over the years has provided us with excellence in our areas of focus and implementation, this is what we leveraged on in 2023 to embark on a journey of implementing none traditional resource mobilization strategies. More than 50% of our income which supported our organizational and staff costs was generated through consultancies and provision of technical support to various organizations and consortiums. We implemented and supported projects on Public Policy and Accountability, Advocacy for Intersectional SRHR with a focus on budget advocacy, advocacy and social accountability for SRH Commodities and improving access to the full package for SRHR for adolescents.

We enhanced our regional reach through different engagements convened by AUDA-NEPAD looking at cross cutting issues on occupational therapy as a Primary Health Care issue and increasing capacities of local manufacturers as a strategy to improve access and affordability in the East African region. We had great opportunity to get into the PHC space not as a sub programme but as a mainstreaming agenda to improve access from the lowest levels and strengthen referral pathways particularly for SRH and MNCH components that also included immunization and nutrition. We strengthened our partnerships at national level, giving substantive input in the national adolescents and young people reproductive health policy that is still under review; cooption as members of the committee of experts under the National Council for Population and Development (NCDP) to develop the national advocacy tool kit for family planning. A tool that will be critical in supporting the realization of the FP2030 re-commitments if implemented well. Towards the end of the year, we on boarded two new projects that would focus on MNCH and SGBV/SRHR across 5 counties. We expect that these projects will firmly put us back on the decision-making spaces to advocate for policies that improve the health and well-being of women children's, adolescents and young people.

That we will contribute to the reduction of preventable maternal and infant mortalities, the reduction in SGBV incidences and improvement in policy implementation including frameworks that safeguard, protect and provide justice and efficient redress mechanisms to victims.

Our robust communication and social media engagement continued to grow and reach audiences from all over the world, a testament to the power of harnessing social media presence and posts for greater change and organizational visibility. We are confident that as we plan forward for 2024, our programming and efforts will primarily be focused on the communities, what they want, what their needs are and how existing or new policies are primed to address these needs. We undertake to put the right holders at the center of demanding for the highest attainable services, access to information for effective decision making and accountability and increasing their knowledge on policy and practice as the key stakeholders of any health system.

As we look at our new strategic plan in the new year, we can only hope that the lessons learnt will help us galvanize our gains and direct the organization on a path of prosperity, results and lasting change for the communities that we serve.



Dorothy J Okemo

**The Executive Officer
Access to Medicines Platform & Convener of
MeTA**



ABBREVIATIONS

AGM – Annual General Meeting

ASRH – Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

AtMP – Access to Medicines Platform

AUDA NEPAD – African Union Development Agency- New Partnership for Africa's Development

CBO – Community Based Organization

CDC – Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

CDF – Constituency Development Fund

CHPs – Community Health Promoters

CHReaD – Coalition of Health Research and Development

CHWs – Community Health Workers

CSO – Civil Society Organization

DHIS – District Health Information System

ENAP – Every Newborn Action Plan

EPMM – Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality

Fif – Facilities Improvement Fund

GBV – Gender Based Violence

GEF – Generation Equality Forum

HAI – Health Action International

IEC – Information, Education and Communication

KEMSA – Kenya Medical Supplies Agency

LREB – Lake Region Economic Bloc

MCAs – Member of County Assembly

MNCH – Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

MNCHN – Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition

MNH – Maternal and Newborn Health

NEPAD – New Partnership for Africa's Development

NGO – Non Governmental Organization

NHIF – National Health Insurance Fund

NTDs – Neglected Tropical Diseases

OHS – Occupational Health Services

PATH – Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

PCNs – Primary Care Networks

PHC – Primary Health Care

PHCPI – Primary Health Care Performance Initiative

PHO – Primary Health Organization

PWDs – Persons with Disabilities

RMNCAH – Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health

SGBV – Sexual and Gender Based Violence

SHARP – Solutions for Supporting Healthy Adolescents and Rights Protection

SRH – Sexual and Reproductive Health

SRHC – Sexual and Reproductive Health Commodities

SRHR – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UHC – Universal Health Coverage

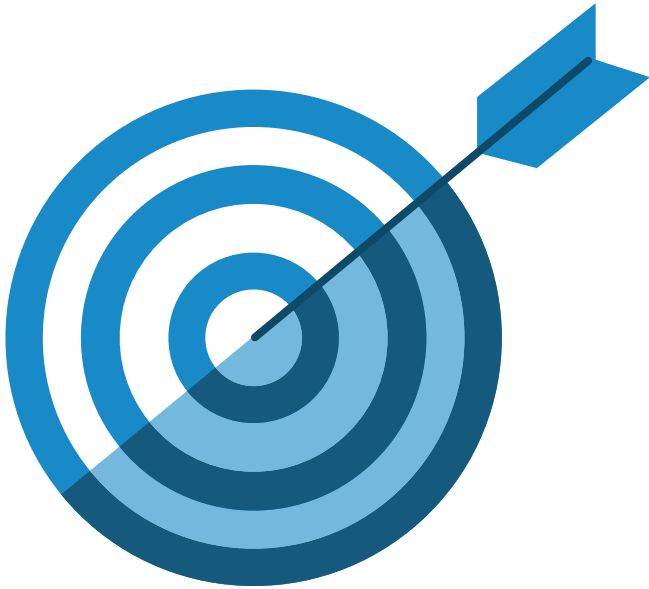
VTC – Vocational Training Center

WHO – World Health Organization



ACCESS TO MEDICINES PLATFORM

"Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage"



OUR IMPACT

● **A Kenya where everyone has access to quality, affordable and effective health service, information, commodities and instruments in attaining the highest health well-being**



MISSION

Our Mission is to strengthen Health Systems for Universal Health Coverage through evidence generation, advocacy, community agency and capacity building for the highest attainable Health and Gender Rights



VISION

We envision a country where all people enjoy optimum Health and Gender Rights, particularly Sexual and Reproduce Health and Rights



GOALS

A country where women and girls' health and gender rights are prioritized and upheld



WHO WE ARE

ACCESS TO MEDICINES PLATFORM (ATMP)

Overview

Access to Medicines Platform (conveners of the MeTA Kenya CSO Alliance) is a not for profit organization registered in Kenya and working at both national level and in the counties. Registered in 2018, AtMP has continued to expand its reach and mandate to realize our goal of Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage by implementing projects in the hard to reach, marginalized and underserved communities in Kenya.

Our implementation strategies include, Research and evidence generation; Enhancing knowledge, agency and advocacy among grassroots Organizations to increase accountability; Enhancing social accountability Mechanisms; Policy and budget Advocacy; Media sensitization and engagement, Gender mainstreaming & SGBV policy implementation; Strengthening multi-sectoral and stakeholder engagement; Community sensitization, empowerment and demand creation for improved quality of care.



OUR CORE VALUES



Transparency

At Access To Medicines Platform we are committed to conducting our work in an honest, transparent and ethical manner and advancing open, transparent and accountable interactions, discussions and enlargements



Social Justice

We believe that all people, regardless of their socio-economic status or geographical location, gender, sexual orientation or ability, deserve equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities



Integrity

We are committed to holding each other accountable for excellence in all our work, nurturing the high standards from our staff, partners and volunteers and safeguarding our objectivity and integrity by protecting ourselves from conflicts of interest



Empowerment

We build capacity, share evidenced information and offer our research and advocacy expertise to the members of civil society especially those from marginalized, vulnerable and excluded communities to improve their skills in lobbying and advocacy to improve their access to quality and affordable medicines

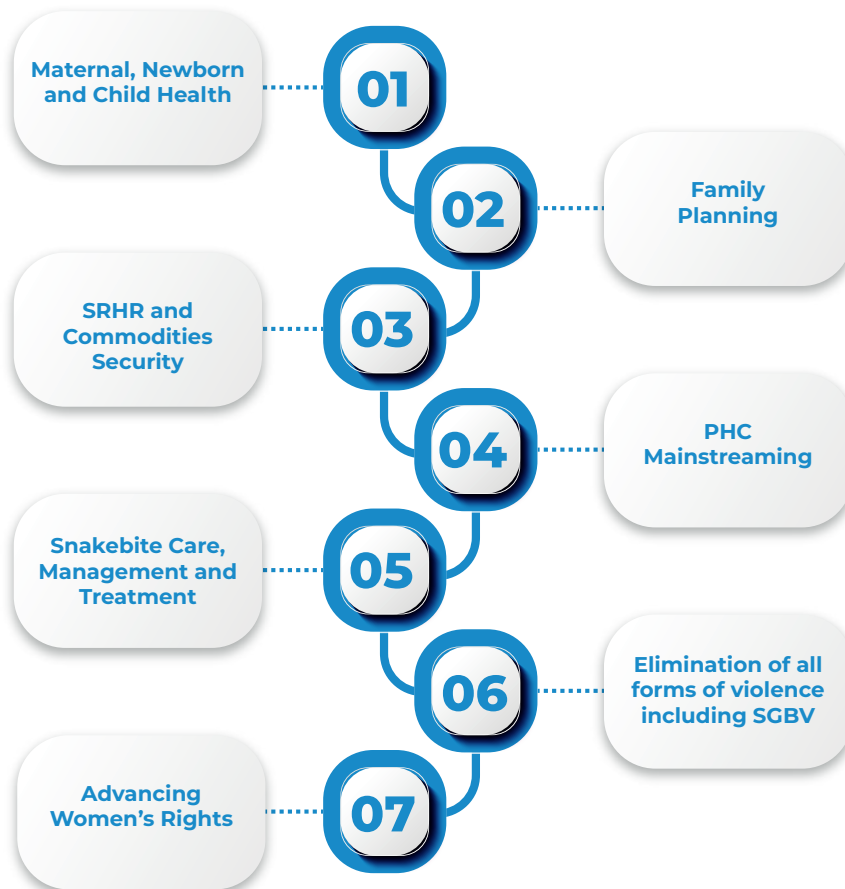


Inclusivity

We work for the attainment of a just and inclusive society where the rights of everyone are protected and upheld



OUR FOCUS AREAS



OUR TECHNICAL STRATEGIES





OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PATH KENYA

We implemented the Public Policy and Advocacy project, initiated in 2022 and supported by PATH where we advocated for prioritization and increased investments in Primary Health Care, Immunization, and Maternal Newborn and Child Health across six LREB counties in Kenya namely Kisumu, Kakamega, Bungoma, Siaya, Homabay and Vihiga Counties. Some of the key interventions under this project were:



Empowering CSOs for transformative Advocacy: Capacity building of CSOs

Under the Advocacy and Public Policy Project AtMP, organized a comprehensive three-day capacity building workshop for key MeTA Kenya CSO Alliance members from 6 focus LREB counties. This workshop, conducted between the 22nd to the 24th of March 2023 strengthened their capacity on policy advocacy and holding their decision makers accountable for commitments made towards primary health care including Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and immunization. This training brought together a total of 20 Civil Society Organizations from Kisumu, Homabay, Siaya, Kakamega, Bungoma and Vihiga.

Training objectives

The three-day immersive training was strategically designed with the following key objectives:

- a) Policy advocacy: To equip participants with a refined understanding of advocacy, fostering a clearer grasp of their roles in effectuating change.
- b) Gender based programming and budgeting: To impart participants with the expertise in understanding and integrating gender-based programming and budgeting, emphasizing inclusivity in healthcare initiatives.
- c) Enhancing social accountability techniques: To build participants' capacities in employing effective social accountability techniques, empowering them to hold decision-makers accountable and ensure the delivery of promised commitments in healthcare.
- d) Utilizing social media for advocacy: To familiarize participants with leveraging social media platforms as potent tools complementing advocacy efforts, thereby extending the reach and impact of their advocacy campaigns.



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

Driving change in the community: World Preeclampsia Day commemoration

Preeclampsia is a serious pregnancy complication that affects many women and is also one of the leading causes for maternal and neonatal deaths in Kisumu County. Alarming statistics from 2022 unveiled staggering figures of pre-eclampsia related maternal complications, with 49 cases reported in Nyakach, 9 cases in Muhoroni, 20 cases in Seme, 5 cases in Kisumu West, 5 cases in Kisumu East, and a staggering 138 cases in Kisumu Central. In response to this pressing issue, AtMP hosted a town hall meeting in collaboration with the County department of Health to commemorate World Preeclampsia Day on the 22nd of May 2023.

The Town Hall Meeting, hosted at Mama Grace Social Hall, Kisumu, aimed at achieving various objectives including raising awareness about preeclampsia, advocating for early detection and intervention, and formulating strategies to enhance maternal and fetal health outcomes. The event brought together 129 participants, including healthcare professionals, policymakers, civil society organizations, and community members. Members of the 4th estate were also well represented with both local and national media houses including the Royal Media Services, KTN, Look-up TV, The Star, Kenya News Agency, Radio Namlolwe and Radio Maisha among others participating and conducting media interviews. The event was graced by esteemed chief guests including the CEC Sports, Culture, Gender, and Youth Affairs, Hon. Beatrice Odongo, and Kisumu County Director of Medical Services, Ms. Emma Obegi.



Objectives of the town hall event

The main objective of the town hall meeting was to raise awareness about pre-eclampsia and its impact on maternal and infant health. The specific objectives were:

1. To educate the community about the signs and symptoms of preeclampsia, and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.
2. To share information about the status and advancements in the prevention and management of preeclampsia in Kisumu County.
3. To provide a platform for pregnant women, mothers, and healthcare providers to share their experiences, challenges, and best practices in dealing with preeclampsia.
4. To advocate for increased investment in maternal and newborn health, particularly blood and magnesium sulphate to address preeclampsia.





OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

What the town hall meeting achieved:

1. Experience sharing and awareness creation: The event successfully raised awareness and promoted knowledge sharing among participants through the panel discussions, featuring esteemed experts in the field of preeclampsia who provided valuable insights into the condition and its impact on maternal and fetal health. Women who had suffered from preeclampsia also shared their experiences.
2. Collaborative discussions and actionable recommendations: The nature of the sessions facilitated interactive discussions among participants, enabling them to share experiences, exchange ideas, and propose actionable strategies.
3. Storytelling: The storytelling session allowed women who had experienced preeclampsia to share their personal journeys. Their stories created a powerful impact, highlighting the challenges faced, the importance of early intervention, and the significance of support systems.
4. Multi-stakeholder engagement: Attendees actively participated in the event through Q&A sessions and open mic sessions. This enabled them to ask questions, express their concerns, and contribute to the discussions.
5. Enhanced Partnerships and Collaboration: The town hall meeting served as a platform for stakeholders from various sectors to come together, exchange ideas, and forge collaborations. It facilitated networking opportunities and encouraged ongoing partnerships to drive preeclampsia prevention and management efforts at the local and national levels.



Ongoing panel discussion on preeclampsia causes, symptoms and management



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

Analysis of the status of implementation of the FiF Act in Kisumu County

This study was supported under the Public Policy project funded by PATH that sort to analyze the performance of the facility improvement fund in Kisumu county while making a comparison to other counties. Health is one of the devolved functions under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, which outlines the functions and responsibilities that are devolved to county governments including health. Healthcare in Kenya is facing challenges including underfunding, low staffing at health facilities and lack of critical infrastructure and commodities thus contributing to the failure of delivery and access of quality health services.

The Kisumu FIF Act 2021 was enacted for the improvement of healthcare services in dispensaries, health centres and hospitals, to provide for the administration of the Fund, and for connected purposes. We conducted a status analysis on the implementation of the Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) Act 2021 in Kisumu County, with a focus on assessing its effectiveness in financing health facilities, enhancing service delivery, and ensuring financial autonomy. Through a comprehensive review of key documents, including policy documents, implementation reports, and relevant county reports, the analysis identifies successes, challenges, and areas for improvement in the implementation of the FIF Act.

	KISUMU	NAKURU	KILIFI	MOMBASA	MERU	MAKUENI
Establishment of FIF	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Management and Oversight	Hospital Management Board	Hospital Management Board	Health Services Improvement Fund Board	Hospital Management Board	Hospital Management Board	Hospital Management Board
Revenue	Service charges	Standardized Service charges	Service charges	Service charges	Service charges	Service charges
Revenue Collection	County revenue fund	Automated revenue collection Independent facility revenue accounts	Pooling Revenue Collection FIF Account Health Service Improvement Fund (HSIF)	County revenue fund	NHIF collecting accounts (Insurance) County revenue fund	County revenue fund

Table: Comparison of FIF Act implementation across Kisumu, Nakuru, Kilifi, Mombasa, Meru, and Makueni Counties



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

Analysis of the status of implementation of the FiF Act in Kisumu County

Key findings

- The enactment of the FIF Act has led to a significant increase in revenue collection within the healthcare department of Kisumu County. Notably, Kombewa Sub County Hospital emerged as a leader in revenue collection, setting an example for other facilities. Level two and three facilities also experienced improvements in revenue collection, attributed to effective implementation of the FIF Act.
- The FIF Act has facilitated smoother and more efficient service delivery at health facilities by allowing them to retain and utilize a portion of the collected funds internally. This autonomy has enabled facilities to procure necessary services and supplies directly, eliminating bureaucratic delays and ensuring prompt and effective response to the community's health needs.

Recommendations

FIF has provided much relief to the service provision in hospitals in Kenya by reducing loss of income in key areas of service delivery in the hospitals. As the implementation is ongoing the following are some recommendations to ensure the effectiveness of the fund:

- 1. Standardization of Service Charges:** to ensure fairness and consistency. This means that all hospitals in the county should charge the same amount for the same services to not only enhance revenue collection but also promote transparency and accountability.
- 2. Fast-track the FIF Regulations:** to guide the administration, management, and utilization of the FIF, improving the quality of healthcare services, and ensuring the right to health for all its residents.
- 3. Automation of Revenue Collection:** to mitigate revenue leakages and enhance efficiency. This will also facilitate real-time tracking and monitoring of revenue collection, thereby enhancing accountability and transparency.
- 4. Infrastructure Development:** There is a need to invest in infrastructure development in public hospitals. Good infrastructure not only enhances the quality of healthcare services but also attracts more patients to the hospitals. This, in turn, will increase revenue collection from user fees.
- 5. Strengthening Oversight and Management :** This includes enhancing the capacity of the Hospital Management Board and the health centre and dispensary management committees to ensure effective administration and utilization of the Fund.
- 6. Partnerships with Health Stakeholders:** There is a need to forge partnerships with health stakeholders such as donors, development partners, and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to augment the FIF and reduce over-reliance on the treasury for budgetary supplementation at the facility level.



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

Recommendations

- 7. Community Engagement in the management** and oversight of the FIF will not only enhance transparency and accountability but also ensure that the needs and priorities of the community are taken into account in the allocation and utilization of the funds.
- 8. Performance Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing a robust performance monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and impact of the FIF. This will provide valuable insights for decision-making and policy formulation.

The enactment of the Kisumu County Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) Act 2021 has catalyzed significant enhancements within the county's health sector, particularly in revenue collection and service delivery. By providing health facilities with the autonomy to manage and utilize funds locally, the FIF Act has contributed to the overall improvement of healthcare service provision and financial management in Kisumu County.

Continued efforts are necessary to sustain these improvements and address challenges for the Act to realize its full potential in enhancing the quality of healthcare services in the county.

Case Study: Advancing Data Driven Advocacy for Women and Children

There is no greater joy than that of seeing, hearing, and holding your baby for the first time, yet women and newborns are at greatest risk of infection at and around the time of birth, and infants born prematurely are especially vulnerable. High-quality health services during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postnatal period can significantly improve maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition (MNCH+N) outcomes. However, equitable access to MNCHN interventions—including medicines, devices, and approaches—remains a challenge.

PATH's MNCH+N Asset Tracker was designed to provide advocates from civil society organizations (CSOs) with an innovative tool for data-driven decision-making. To ensure this new tool reached advocates who could benefit from it, PATH partnered with Access to Medicines Platform to disseminate the Asset Tracker to grassroots advocates working in Kenya's Lake Region Economic Bloc and train them in its use. As a result, CSO advocates have been better able to access data on MNCH+N interventions in Kenya, identify gaps in the provision of services, and target their communications with decision-makers in their counties to achieve health outcomes and improve quality of care. We documented the impact of the use of the MNCH asset tracker by the CSOs advocates and proposed recommendations for improving the usability of the tool to maximize impact of advocacy efforts by the CSO advocates.

A woman with braided hair is smiling and looking down at a baby she is holding. The baby is wearing a white headband and a colorful patterned dress. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

TESTIMONIALS

“

“The Asset Tracker has been quite useful in enabling us to link the available data we have at county level with the national data found in the Asset Tracker, thus using the findings to inform our advocacy asks.”

Elizabeth Gwaro

Manyatta Development is Power- Kisumu

“

“In Bungoma County, we have been using the Asset Tracker in generating evidence to inform decisions during our advocacy engagements”

Rahma Issa

Bungoma Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health(RMNCAH) Network



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

LREB Counties Health Directors Quarterly Meeting

Access to Medicines Platform was part of the Lake Region Economic Bloc County Directors of Health quarterly meeting convened by the LREB secretariat bringing together Directors of Health from Kisumu, Kakamega, Siaya, Kericho, Migori, Busia, Homabay, Vihiga, Bungoma counties. The meeting aimed to provide a platform for counties to learn, share best practices and discuss progress of ongoing priority interventions in the counties including status of counties Primary Care Networks roll out. Key recommendations proposed to guide the next course of action in advancing primary healthcare (PHC) services across the bloc included:

1. Development of minimum facility package: To ensure optimal service delivery, it was recommended that a standardized minimum package be established for healthcare facilities undergoing construction. This package should encompass essential elements such as facility design, necessary equipment, and human resource allocation, fostering a comprehensive approach to healthcare infrastructure development.
2. Fast-tracking implementation of Facility Improvement Fund(FiF): Efforts should be expedited to operationalize FIF across all healthcare facilities within the bloc. By enabling facilities to utilize generated revenues, FIF serves as a catalyst for enhancing service quality and promoting financial sustainability. Collaboration among counties will facilitate knowledge exchange and address implementation challenges.
3. Equitable focus on Primary Healthcare Facilities: attention should be directed towards primary healthcare facilities alongside hospital development and equipping initiatives. Proportional resource allocation to level 2 and 3 facilities,

4. Optimization of revenue opportunities: Counties were encouraged to capitalize on all available revenue streams, including initiatives such as Linda Mama, Edu Afya, and PHO funds. Additionally, exploring avenues for revenue collection through waivers, particularly in prisons and other relevant contexts, presents an opportunity for revenue optimization and service enhancement.

5. Prioritizing repair and maintenance of medical equipment is paramount to ensuring their sustained functionality and usability. Counties were advised to allocate resources towards this end, thereby maximizing the lifespan and efficiency of existing healthcare infrastructure.

6. Standardization of PHC services by encompassing both preventive and curative measures. Special emphasis should be placed on immunization as a cost-effective intervention with significant public health impact.

7. Optimizing ambulance services and strengthening Primary Care Networks (PCN) will contribute to reducing unnecessary referrals and improving healthcare accessibility. Efficient resource management strategies are pivotal in enhancing healthcare delivery efficiency and efficacy.

8. There is a pressing need for high-level follow-up on delayed NHIF reimbursements, particularly regarding Linda Mama services. Counties are encouraged to collaborate with NHIF to promote uptake and explore innovative approaches to increase community participation in NHIF programs.

9. The rollout of Primary Healthcare services should prioritize immunization initiatives and strive for harmonization throughout the LREB bloc. By focusing on immunization as a cornerstone of PHC, counties can significantly mitigate the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases and safeguard community health.



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

These recommendations underscored the collective commitment of LREB counties to advancing healthcare excellence and fostering sustainable health systems that prioritize the well-being of our communities.



Pic 1: Dr. Fredrick Oluoch Kisumu CDH Public Health Services



Pic 2: Easter Okello – Pillar Lead Education LREB



THE SNAKEBITE PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HEALTH ACTION INTERNATIONAL (HAI)

Community empowerment, sensitization and education

Our snakebite program interventions in 2023, strategically anchored community empowerment, sensitization and education as a key implementation strategy. Our unwavering commitment to reducing inequalities, enhancing social justice, reaching the unreached and supporting the marginalized and vulnerable communities was well reflected within the Neglected Tropical Diseases project.

Scaling impact: Empowering pupils through snakebite awareness

Initiated as a pilot program in 2022, our Snakebite School Program gained momentum and expanded its reach significantly in 2023, notably in Kakamega and Kisumu counties.



Ms. Okemo reading out to pupils a section of Safiya's 8 secrets

This comprehensive intervention aimed to empower school children with crucial knowledge about snakebite prevention and first aid measures.

Our collaboration with the county department of health, teachers and headmasters ensured the seamless execution of our awareness program, delivering vital insights to a total of 418 pupils reached directly from a total of 6 schools namely: Kit Mikayi, Nyabondo and Kambudi Primary schools in Kisumu County and Nderema, Bushili and Mirere primary schools in Kakamega County.

At the end of these sessions, each participating student received a dignified pack tailored to their educational needs included in the dignity pack was stationery: a clipboard, a geometry set, pens, erasers, and exercise books.

Moreover, we disseminated a total of 300 copies of Safiya's 8 Secrets comic book, 300 copies of snakebite prevention measures and 300 copies of first aid measures posters in Swahili and English language to the participating schools and students. This distribution not only equipped students with vital information but also encouraged them to spread awareness among their peers and wider community members.



Ms. Okemo handing over IEC materials to a teacher at Mirere Primary School after a sensitization session



THE SNAKEBITE PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HEALTH ACTION INTERNATIONAL (HAI)

Community Sensitization and Engagement on Snakebite prevention and first aid measures in Kajiado County

In partnership with the Kajiado County Department of Health, Access to Medicines Platform (AtMP) organized a comprehensive sensitization program on snakebite prevention and first aid in Oletepesi, Kajiado West, held on December 19, 2023. Led by Backson Likama, Kajiado County NTD Coordinator, and Ms. Okemo, the HAI, Kenya snakebite program coordinator. The session aimed to address the alarming lack of knowledge and incorrect first aid practices prevalent among community gatekeepers, Community Health Promoters (CHPs), village elders, and local health authorities. The session involved various components, including an overview of the prevailing snakebite and NTD situation in Kajiado, an interactive dialogue to assess participants' experiences and understanding of first aid and prevention measures, and comprehensive sensitization on snake identification, recommended first aid, and prevention methods.

Findings and discussion

1. Misconceptions and improper first aid practices: All participants were found to be employing incorrect first aid methods, such as sucking out venom, applying herbal remedies, or attempting to kill the snake before seeking medical attention. These practices were identified as ineffective and potentially harmful.
2. Identification of common snakes: Community leaders and health promoters successfully identified prevalent snake species like the puff adder and the red spitting cobra, a step towards enhancing community awareness.

3. Discussion on Treatment Costs and Accessibility: Participants engaged in emotive discussions concerning the exorbitant costs of anti-venom treatments, priced at Kshs. 6,000 per vial from KEMSA, creating a significant barrier to its availability. The scarcity of anti-venom in health facilities, limited to the county referral hospital, was highlighted, resulting in prolonged travel distances for victims seeking treatment.



Participants identifying the different types of snakes from the IEC materials disseminated in a session led by Mr. Likama, NTD coordinator, Kajiado County



TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO SHARP & MAKE WAY CONSORTIUMS

In 2023, Access to Medicines Platform enhanced alternative strategies for resource mobilization by providing technical support to two consortiums. These were the Makeway Consortium funded by the Dutch Government and working on advocacy for Intersectional SRHR and Solutions for Supporting Healthy Adolescents and Rights Protection (SHARP) project funded by the EU which is strategically designed to dismantle sociocultural and religious barriers, amplifying access to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) services and commodities by ensuring their availability, acceptability and quality.

The Makeway Program

We provided technical support to the Makeway consortium members in Kenya in framing advocacy interventions that broke barriers to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) using an intersectional lens. Funded by WEMOS, AtMP continued to build capacity, handhold and enhance the knowledge of youth, decision makers and consortium members in policy, budget advocacy and public participation.

Highlights of Activities

1. Targeted technical support, comprehensive training, and mentorship on crucial elements such as budget analysis, development and submissions of memorandums, engagement strategies and empowering youth panels and county assemblies in their advocacy endeavors.
2. Facilitated Make way's active participation in key county-level engagements, including RMNCAH planning technical working group meeting and World Contraception Day celebrations, amplifying their visibility and impact in SRHR advocacy.
3. Contributed significantly to the development of an interactive game aimed at fostering understanding and dialogue on the multifaceted aspects of SRHR intersectionality.

Key Results

- Enhanced Makeway partners' visibility and partnership within county health leadership to enhance collaboration and participation in policy making processes
- Identified and propose high value opportunities to enhance Make way's recognition and engagement in significant world health day events including World Contraception Day.
- Spearheaded the recognition of intersectionality in reporting RMNCAH program indicators by the County Department of Health.



Sensitization of MCAs on budget advocacy, social accountability and Public Participation

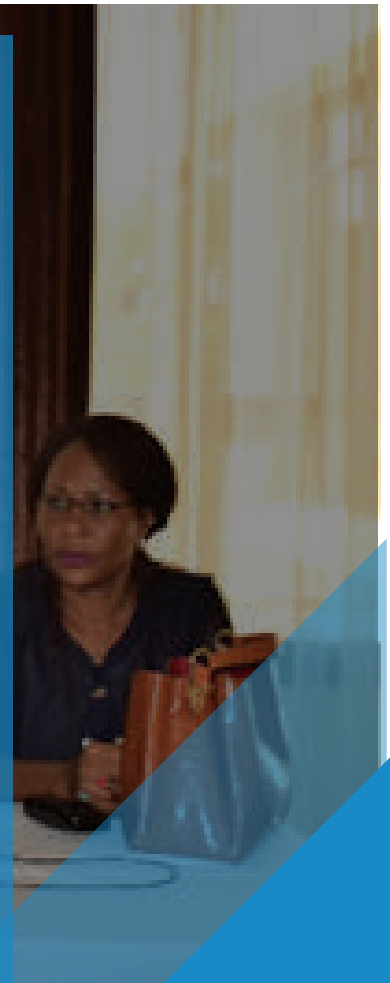
As a technical partner to the Make Way alliance consortium, Access to Medicines Platform led the training of Kisumu Members of County Assembly (MCAs) on budget advocacy, social accountability and public participation as an advocacy entry point to build champions and entrench evidence-based decision making to enhance access to intersectional SRHR. The participants were taken through the concept of Social Accountability and Public participation emphasizing on the role of county assembly in enhancing citizen participation and service delivery. The sessions focused on the core roles of MCA's including representation, legislation and oversight with members providing an overview of how public participation works within the county assembly and challenges. In addition, the MCAs were taken through the different social accountability tools and their stages of involvement with key duty bearer for effective oversight by community members on service delivery from the county assembly of Kisumu to avoid division between the citizens and their leaders.



“Social Accountability is also effective when having feedback mechanism between community members, CSOs and leaders so as to avoid reporting on negatives on the side of the elected MCAs in their respective wards” – Hon Seth Okumu-Seme East MCA

“Once we are able to provide information to the citizens of Kisumu through our website, we have already played a role in promoting public participation” - Hon Seth Okumu – East Seme MCA

“Our role is to provide proper information and engagement with the community members but this is not possible due to the challenges we face and the expectations of community members from their elected member and we need support from the CSOs” – Hon Oraro – Kisumu County Assembly Speaker.





Sensitization of MCAs on budget advocacy, social accountability and Public Participation

The training also provided a platform for young people to share their key asks to the MCAs as summarized below:

- Request to have SGBV desks in all the sub-counties and for county to hire sign language interpreters
- Conducting awareness and information sessions on available youth, women and PWDs opportunities
- Increasing local and social media engagements
- MCAs to champion for the construction of a rehabilitation centre in the county
- Advocated for more enrolment of youths in the VTCs
- The Kisumu County Assembly to prioritize construction of 2 new youth friendly centres in Seme and Muhoroni
- Construction of a maternity wing in Muhoroni
- Review of the Kisumu County PWD policy/Act
- Development a database for PWDs



Hon David Oraro-Kisumu County Assembly Speaker making his submissions on public participation during the session

AtMP facilitated a one-day memorandum development training on the 5th June, 2023 with 15 youth champions working with St Francis Oriang' Development CBO in Seme-Sub-county. The training equipped the youth champions with knowledge to analyse the proposed Kisumu County budget estimates FY 2023/24. After the training session, the participants developed a memo with a key focus in the areas of health, youth and agriculture with reference to the Kisumu County Budget Estimates FY 2023/24.



The SHARP Project

Within the Solutions for Supporting Healthy Adolescents and Rights Protection (SHARP) project, AtMP supported Faith to Action Network to roll out a number of activities across three counties of Marsabit, Isiolo and Mandera in Kenya as highlighted below:

- Training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Isiolo, Mandera and Marsabit Counties, in policy advocacy and social accountability.
- As the Principal Investigators for the study on availability, affordability and stock out of SRH Commodities in Isiolo, Mandera and Marsabit counties, we supported the validation and dissemination of knowledge products derived from the SRHC Baseline Evaluation to county health management teams to enhance evidence based decision making, planning and prioritization.
- Prepared training guide and facilitated comprehensive training sessions for youth and adolescents from six countries including DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia, to lead conversations with adolescents to identify barriers and propose recommendations that would affecting address barriers limiting access to ASRH services. Further we also shared on the recommended SRH Care package.





MORE FROM OUR 2023 INTERVENTIONS

Snakebite awareness day 2023

Campaign title

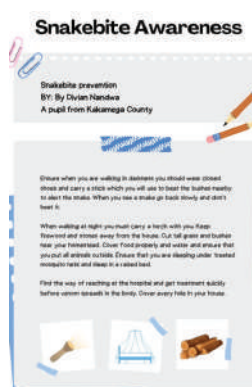
Promoting Snakebite Awareness and Safety: This initiative was an awareness campaign involving the schools and school children that had been sensitized to participate in an art and essay competition.

Campaign Objective

1. To increase awareness among school students on snakebite prevention and first aid measures.
2. To encourage students to express their understanding and ideas about snakebite awareness and safety through art and essay campaign
3. To gauge the knowledge levels and outcomes of our school health programme

Achievements

- Increased awareness about snakebites prevention and first aid.
- Create a body of empowered student champions who can educate their families and communities about snakebite prevention and first aid.
- Create a sense of community ownership and sustainability of the snakebite school programme interventions



Samples of the drawings submitted by the students who participated in the art competition



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: CATALYZING CHANGE FOR MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

2021 marked the global launch of the EPMM (Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality) coverage targets, milestones, and roadmap to track progress to 2030. These milestones were developed for 10 key areas – policies and plans, quality of care, equity, data for action, investment, health workforce, response and resilience, commodities, accountability, research, innovation, and knowledge management; and were a product of consultative processes with relevant stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels. These milestones are not only critical for maternal health but provide opportunity for integrated action on other global initiatives, including ENAP (Every Newborn Action Plan), FP2030, Universal Health Coverage(UHC), Primary Health Care Performance Initiative(PHCPI), Generation Equality Forum (GEF) among others. Kenya is a priority EPMM/ENAP focus country and has a rich landscape when it comes to reproductive maternal and newborn policies. However, the extent to which these policies adequately respond to women's and mother's self-articulated health needs, and the accountability measures to ensure implementation of these policies remains weak. There is a need to ensure that the significant improvements realized in maternal, newborn and child health are not eroded. It is against this background that AtMP partnered with White Ribbon Alliance Kenya to convene the regional women's health forum in Kisumu County to broaden the conversation on strengthening accountability mechanisms of the two related EPMM and ENAP milestones to multi-stakeholders in 6 counties – Kakamega, Kisumu, Siaya, Vihiga, Bungoma and Homa Bay.

The forum took the form of a public hearing to provide a constructive space for communities, especially women, girls, mothers, to raise maternal and newborn-health related gaps and grievances in the presence of duty-bearers and decision-makers who can make change. A total of 53 participants comprising of women, girls, parent groups, MNH civil society, media journalists and county policy makers from the 6 counties actively participated in the forum. The women and civil society members were given an opportunity to share evidence of the MNH challenges and the put forward priority solutions using a community lens; while decision-makers were given an opportunity to respond by addressing existing accountability structures in place and trace linkages to the global mechanisms such as ENAP-EPMM.

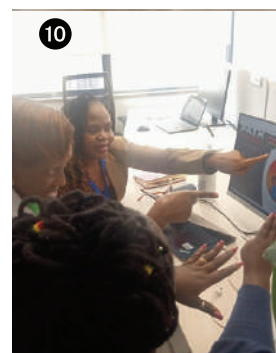


Forum achievements

- Created a feedback loop between women and communities and health decision-makers on MNH priorities at the subnational level
- Drew linkages between local MNH processes/accountability structures and ENAP-EPMM framework at the global level
- Established a diverse subnational multi-stakeholder platform to drive the ENAP-EPMM advocacy agenda at the subnational level.



2023 PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS





2023 PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS



Pic 1: Courtesy call by the Marie Stopes Kenya team at AtMP Nairobi offices to discuss possible areas of collaboration
Pic 2: Snakebite Kenya project coordinator leading a sensitization on snakebite prevention measures in Kambudi primary school
Pic 3: Community members participating in 16 days of activism campaign
Pic 4: Successful co-creation meeting with the team of UNDP-Kenya Amkeni Wakenya and the Embassy of Netherlands staff
Pic 5: AtMP Executive Officer awarding a certificate of successful completion of the two days CSOs training on advocacy and social accountability
Pic 6: AtMP's Founder and Chief Executive Officer at the AUNEPAD engagement in Kigali together with PATH and MeTA partners from Uganda.
Pic 7: A training and sensitization on snakebite prevention and first aid measures for community gate keepers, Community Health Promoters (CHPs), the village elders, the facility in charge as well as the area local chief in Kajiado West
Pic 8: Nyaguda Primary School sensitization on snakebite preventive and first aid measures

Pic 9: Joint town hall meeting in collaboration with Kisumu County department of health to commemorate World Preeclampsia Day
Pic 10: AtMP's program and communications coordinator at the MNCH asset tracker human centered design workshop. Practical orientation by PATH advocacy and public policy country lead
Pic 11: Young people participating in our social media campaign challenge for International women's day dubbed "embrace equity"
Pic 12: Group photo of CSOs training participants on policy advocacy, public participation and social accountability
Pic 13: AtMP Executive Officer, Ms. Okemo attending the 3rd Women in Governance conference as a speaker to share insights on Partnerships for Sustainable Social Impact.
Pic 14: AtMP's staff engaging in the 16 days of activism campaign
Pic 15: AtMP's chief Executive Officer leading a training on policy advocacy for Isiolo and Marsabit CSOs
Pic 16: Awarding ceremony of the snakebite awareness day campaign participants. Students who submitted their drawing and essays were awarded with a certificate and school bags for being snakebite champions



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

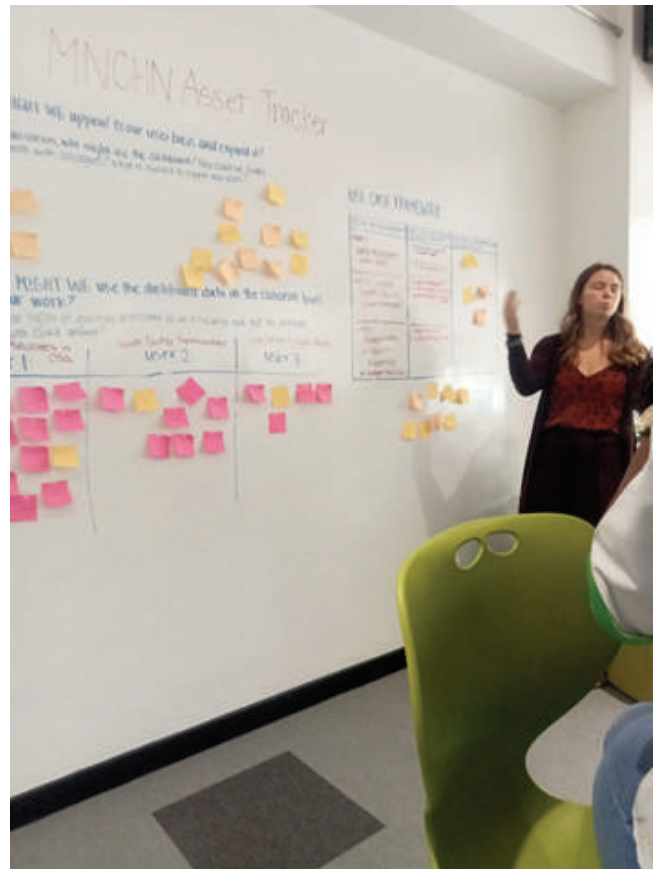
Throughout the year, Access to Medicines Platform/MeTA Kenya actively participated in various strategic engagements and workshops that increased organizational visibility while enhancing our capacities as a hub for actionable data and research with expertise in advocacy and convening of grassroots CSOs through our MeTA Kenya CSO Alliance.

MNCH Asset Tracker Human Centred design workshop

High-quality MNCH+N health services are not possible without access to essential medicines, devices, and interventions—referred to as “assets.” Despite marked improvements in access to these MNCH+N assets globally, progress has been slow and uneven, and significant gaps remain in their coverage, particularly in low- and middle-income country settings. In order to address these challenges, decision-makers and advocates need data to better understand what barriers are preventing these assets from scaling up. PATH undertook a rapid and rigorous analysis of the access, uptake, implementation, and coverage of 14 proven MNCH+N interventions across 81 countries, including Kenya and compiled the resulting set of data online in an interactive Asset Tracker tool to inform global, national, and local strategies for improving MNCH+N.

In 2022, in partnership with PATH, we oriented CSO advocates on the use of the asset tracker and documented a comprehensive case study with recommendations from the CSOs advocates on areas for improvement within the MNCH asset tracking system. By delving into the intricacies of the tracker's functionality and engagement strategies, we catalyzed a transformative process for the improvement of the MNCH asset tracker's effectiveness and engagement methodologies which informed the human centred design workshop that was hosted by PATH on the 16th August 2023.

As participants, our presence at the workshop underscored our commitment to leveraging data-driven insights and user-centered design principles to enhance decision-making processes and reduce maternal and child mortality rates in the country. We actively engaged in the discussions by sharing our experiences, challenges, and recommendations, hence contributing to valuable perspectives that would directly inform the refinement and optimization of the MNCHN Asset Tracker dashboard.





STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

CHReaD Engagements

Throughout 2023, our participation in the Coalition of Health Research and Development (CHReaD) remained steadfast, demonstrating our commitment to collaborative efforts aimed at advancing health research and development in Kenya. As a member of CHReaD, we actively engaged in various events facilitated by the CHReaD secretariat, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and quarterly review meetings. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to review the progress of ongoing interventions, enhance coordination among members, and collectively contribute to the achievement of the coalition's objectives.

The AGM served as a pivotal platform for members to reflect on the work accomplished throughout the year, identify areas for improvement, and strategize for the future. It fostered an environment conducive to open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative decision-making, ensuring alignment with the coalition's overarching goals. Moreover, the AGM incorporated team-building activities designed to promote bonding, conflict resolution, and camaraderie among members. These activities were highly interactive and participatory, featuring small group exercises, reflective discussions, and skill-building sessions aimed at strengthening interpersonal relations within teams.

The last review meeting of the Coalition of Health Research and Development's (CHReaD) provided a platform for over 25 member organizations to collectively assess progress, achievements, and future directions. The meeting, attended by key stakeholders, aimed to foster a shared understanding of CHReaD's trajectory, address evolving health challenges, and strengthen collaborative efforts within the coalition. Discussions during the meeting delved into emerging national and regional dialogues in health, focusing on critical areas such as the intersection of climate change and health, mental health, and digital technologies. These discussions provided valuable insights into contextual changes and informed strategic planning for CHReaD's future endeavors.



CHReaD members engaging in a team building sessions



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

Enhancing the role of pharmaceutical manufacturing associations in vaccine manufacturing in Africa

On the 12th -13th September 2023, Our Executive Officer, Ms. Dorothy Okemo joined other partners in Entebbe, Uganda in a regional meeting on vaccine manufacturing in Africa. The meeting brought on board Policy makers from WHO, Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD, Government departments including Ministries of Health, Trade, Regional Affairs, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations, Civil Society Organisations to discuss the role of strengthening pharmaceutical manufacturers' associations in providing a coordinated private sector voice for vaccine manufacturing in Africa. Our Executive Officer, as the Coordinator of MeTA Kenya, not only joined in the insightful sessions set for the regional meeting but also moderated a panel discussion looking at the role of local pharma manufacturing in Africa with a focus on sustainability, independence, policy frameworks and crucial role of advocacy and multi-stakeholder engagement in making local vaccine manufacturing a reality in Africa.

Integration of Occupational Health into Primary Health Care- A NEPAD Initiative

Primary health care is the first point of contact of any person within the health system to receive essential health care. The comprehensiveness and quality of services offered at this level has a high impact on health outcomes of an individual as well as the society. Community health workers (CHWs) are frontline health workers who connect underserved populations to the health care system, provide health education, and advocate for their clients. CHWs can be particularly helpful to their clients in addressing social determinants of health responsible for many chronic illnesses but currently in the world of work CHWs are not active facilitators and or advocates.

Rural communities, low-income and other disadvantaged workers face many hazards to their health and well-being as they seek livelihood or work, and knowledgeable CHWs trained in workplace issues would be able to educate their communities on workplace related health risks, how to prevent them, help in early identification of occupational related health problems and initiate early referral. The inclusion of initiatives for strengthening CHWs capacity in Occupational Health Services(OHS) will have positive traction in improving the quality of health services for their communities. AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with partners organized a 2-days meeting in Kigali, Rwanda to help in identifying necessary actions and capacities required to better integrate OHS into primary health and Access to Medicines Platform's Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Okemo was invited to attend the engagement.



Ms. Okemo moderating a panel discussion at the regional meeting



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

Media Engagement for health service quality improvement

In line with our project's objective to actively engage with the media to advocate for the enhancement of essential health services, we organized a targeted media engagement during the World Preeclampsia Day town hall meeting in Kisumu County. This event served as a platform to raise awareness about preeclampsia and highlight the urgent need for improved access to maternal health commodities, specifically Magnesium Sulphate, for the management and treatment of this condition.

Our media engagement efforts garnered significant attention from both local and national media outlets, resulting in extensive coverage across various platforms including print, broadcast, and online channels. Through interviews and discussions, we aimed to deepen public understanding of preeclampsia and its impact on maternal health, while also advocating for increased investments in essential health commodities.

The comprehensive media coverage generated by our engagement activities not only raised awareness about the importance of addressing preeclampsia but also contributed to ongoing discussions on the improvement of maternal health services. By leveraging the power of the media, we were able to amplify our message and catalyze action towards ensuring quality improvement and delivery of essential health services for women in Kisumu County and beyond.



Media interviews during the town hall meeting.

We also facilitated the conduct of two radio talk shows in Vihiga and Siaya Counties with LREB MeTA Kenya CSOs taking part in the critical conversations during World Preeclampsia Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day. The discussions were centered around:

1. Increasing awareness about this potentially fatal pregnancy condition – because awareness levels are still too low. Included in the media engagement was the hosting of radio talk shows at Vihiga FM.
2. Advocating for adequate provision of medical commodities like Magnesium Sulphate and continuous training of health personnel on the condition.
3. Popularizing the 2023 theme for the day, which was: 'Advancing Preeclampsia Research' - this emphasized the importance of using evidence to enhance better understanding and find effective solutions for preeclampsia. Sensitizing the communities on the importance of menstrual hygiene and investments to improve access to essential menstrual health commodities for vulnerable adolescents and youth.
4. Breaking the taboos and stereotypes surrounding achievement of proper menstrual health in the communities.
5. Calling for male involvement in Reproductive Health issues for improved health outcomes





SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

We leveraged social media platforms as powerful tools for advocacy, outreach, and community engagement. Our social media campaigns were designed to spark conversations, educate audiences, and amplify our advocacy efforts on various topics around advancing women and girls' rights, sexual and reproductive health, neglected tropical diseases particularly snakebite envenoming. Through compelling storytelling, impactful visuals, and strategic messaging, we reached a diverse audience and fostered meaningful interactions around key issues related to our organization's work.

Performance of Social Media Engagement

World Preeclampsia Day 2023

A targeted social media campaign was also launched in parallel with the town hall meeting. Engaging and informative posts were shared on various social media platforms, using a dedicated event hashtag #MeTAPreeclampsiaAwareness to amplify the message. The campaign included key messages, facts, graphics, gifs related to preeclampsia, its prevention, early detection, and management. The social media campaign encouraged audience participation, facilitated discussions, and created a virtual community around the event. Through the social media campaign, we were able to garner a total 35,481 potential reach, 231 likes and 94 retweets.



16 Days of activism campaign

In 2023, AtMP led a robust and impactful 16 Days of Activism campaign to combat gender-based violence (GBV) under the theme "Invest to End Violence Against Women and Girls." This annual global campaign, spanning from November 25th to December 10th, aimed to raise awareness, advocate for policy changes, and mobilize action to end GBV in all its forms.

Campaign Overview

Theme: "Invest to End Violence Against Women and Girls"

Duration: November 25th - December 10th, 2023

Objectives: Raise awareness, advocate for policy changes, mobilize action to end GBV

Target audience: Community members, stakeholders, policymakers, and the general public



Key highlights

- Educational initiatives: Through a series of engaging social media posts, videos, and interactive resources, we raised awareness about the prevalence and impact of GBV. Our content focused on understanding GBV, its various forms, and the importance of investing in prevention strategies.
- Advocacy: We actively engaged with stakeholders, policymakers, and community members through advocacy campaigns, webinars, and dialogues. We emphasized the need for policy reforms, increased funding for GBV prevention programs, and strengthened support systems for survivors.



DONOR AND PARTNER APPRECIATION

We extend our sincerest gratitude to our valued partners and generous donors who have stood by us throughout the year. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to make meaningful strides in our mission.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the possibilities that the coming year holds. With your continued support, we are eager to embark on new projects and initiatives that will further advance our mission and bring about positive change in our communities. As we prepare to usher in the next chapter of our journey, we are filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead.



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