

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Policy orientation meeting on PHC with County Assemlby in Kisumu

On the 8th of July, the Access to Medicines Platform, in collaboration with the Kisumu County Health Management Team convened an orientation meeting with MCAs from the health and budget committee to advocate for strengthened domestic resource mobilization and allocation to critical health programs. The meeting focused on sustainable health financing opportunities for improving Primary Health Care (PHC) and Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) outcomes. Key attendees included the Director of Public Health and Sanitation, the Director of Medical Services, and other key members of the County Health Management Team (CHMT). Key Commitments made were:

- ✓ Mobilization of community members for mass SHA registration.
- ✓ Development of legislation to establish a dedicated fund supporting SHA payments for indigents and vulnerable populations.
- ✓ Support accountability mechanisms to ensure prudent utilization of funds at the facility level whilst tracking key health indicators to monitor performance and outcomes.



Special Technical Working Group meeting to address maternal and newborn mortality in Kisumu County

Kisumu County convened a special RMNCAH Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting at the Kisumu County Referral Hospital to review progress in implementing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) recommendations from the 2024 Access to Medicines Platform study. The meeting brought together 25 key stakeholders from the County Health Management Team, sub-county teams and health care providers. Participants reviewed RMNCAH indicator performance, revealing critical issues such as declining ANC visit coverage, persistent anemia in pregnancy, teenage pregnancies, and low skilled birth attendance, gaps in 24-hour facility operations, stockouts of family planning commodities, poor immunization rates particularly in Nyando and Seme, and underreporting of SGBV cases were also discussed. Sub-counties shared significant progress in rolling out SRHR care package recommendations, including policy dissemination, service integration (notably youth-friendly and GBV services), community engagement, digital innovations like telemedicine and SMS reminders, and capacity building for CHPs and providers. Action points included strengthening ANC risk stratification, expanding 24-hour services, addressing staffing gaps via SHA funds, enhancing GBV response systems, and scaling up digital tools and respectful maternity care. The meeting underscored the importance of community involvement, integrated service models, and sub-county-led strategies to improve maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health outcomes. Notably, the AtMP team was invited to contribute to the upcoming Kisumu SRHR Bill, marking a strategic step toward institutionalizing these gains.



*Facilitators
presenting
to
stakeholders*



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The snakebite school sensitization program in Lugari Sub county- Kakamega

The Snakebite School Program continued its impactful outreach in Mautuma and Turbo wards in Lugari sub-county, Kakamega, a region with some of Kenya's highest snakebite incidences. Supported by Health Action International and aligned with the WHO Snakebite Roadmap, the two-day sensitization sessions reached over 100 students from Mukuyu and St. Kizito primary schools, demystifying harmful traditional practices and promoting life-saving prevention and first aid measures. A major highlight was the use of the Safiya's 8 Secrets comic book and board game, which sparked high engagement and improved knowledge prevention and treatment of snakebite.

Post-assessment showed a significant increase in awareness, including the importance of wearing closed footwear—initially overlooked in pre-tests. Schools committed to integrating snakebite content into health clubs and interclass skits, while headteachers pledged to use school platforms to spread awareness across the zone. This initiative, in partnership with Kakamega County's Department of Health and NTD Coordinators, is a strong step toward sustainable, community-driven prevention efforts.

Enhancing social accountability in SGBV prevention through community dialogues

In a recent community dialogue in Nyahera, what was discussed were emerging issues that is; alarming prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly defilement of young girls, often hidden or settled informally by families. Survivors face stigma, lack of support services, and weak legal responses, while male survivors rarely report abuse. In the multi-stakeholder forum including youth, parents, police, clergy, and healthcare providers, they identified poverty, poor parenting, peer pressure, and social media as key drivers of teenage pregnancies and SGBV. The dialogue emphasized the need for survivor-centered care, stronger reporting systems, and greater male engagement to end impunity and protect women and girls.



Enhancing the role of Male champions in GBV mitigation

Male engagement forums held in Kisumu shed light on the urgent need to involve men in reproductive health and GBV prevention. Supported by UNDP Kenya and Embassy of Netherlands in Kenya, these dialogues have brought together male stakeholders: teachers, elders, clergy, and chiefs who acknowledged cultural barriers, misinformation, and weak parenting structures as major contributors to rising teenage pregnancies and SGBV. The forums emphasized the need to restore active, responsible fatherhood and strengthen male roles in RH decision-making. Key outcomes included:



- ✓ Establishment of a community-led Haki Mashinani accountability platform in Ogada
- ✓ Identification of 12 male champions to advocate for women's and girls' rights
- ✓ Commitment to promote joint antenatal visits and family planning discussions
- ✓ Recognition of the need to end the normalization of resolving defilement cases at home
- ✓ Calls for integrating male-friendly services and faith-based advocacy to combat stigma and misinformation.

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STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

a. RESPEKT Conference

AtMP participated in the youth-led RESPEKT Conference, a powerful platform that emphasized meaningful youth engagement in advancing SRHR for all. Young people defined true engagement as intergenerational collaboration, co-creation, shared leadership, and transparent communication. A key takeaway was the need to counter SRHR misinformation with accurate, evidence-based information. The conference reinforced youth as agents of change, calling for shared decision-making between adults and young people.



b. National SRHR stakeholder forum

We participated in the National SRHR Multi-stakeholder follow-up meeting to the one hosted in November 2024 jointly with Access to Medicines Platform on Adolescent SRHR under the EU-funded SHARP Project in Nairobi. It was highlighted that expanding SRHR to include human rights, maternal health, and SGBV, while sharing progress on key policy and legislative reforms was necessary. The meeting featured powerful testimonies from teen mothers and calls for urgent action against obstetric violence, as stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to youth-centered, rights-based health interventions.

In her opening remarks, the AtMP CEO emphasized the need to broaden the SRHR agenda to fully integrate human rights, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and maternal health. She also shared critical updates on bills and policies in development—many informed by AtMP-led research recommendations.

Staff Planning & Review meeting to enhance knowledge and use of MEARL approaches

Staff at AtMP participated in a capacity-building session on adoption and use of the MEARL framework—Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Research, and Learning—as part of our strategy to strengthen organizational capacity, accountability, and implementation. The training built staff capacity in MEARL components, improved M&E systems, and promoted evidence-based, adaptive learning. Key takeaways included the use of monitoring tools for real-time progress tracking, regular evaluations to inform strategic adjustments, and the role of accountability mechanisms and research in driving program relevance.



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