

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Courtesy Call to Governor Dr. Ottichilo on Sexual and Gender Based Violence Milestones

As part of our continued commitment to advancing survivor-centered GBV response, AtMP, together with partners, paid a courtesy call to His Excellency Governor Dr. Ottichilo ahead of the official launch of the Vihiga SGBV Recovery Centre in Wodanga Ward, Sabatia Sub-County. During the visit, we presented our RAP4SRHR success stories booklet, highlighting the progress made in prevention, response, and community empowerment in addressing SGBV. The Governor commended the collective effort of partners and reiterated his administration's commitment to ensuring operationalization and budget allocation for GBV interventions that provide end-to-end support for survivors. He further emphasized the importance of strengthening referral pathways and building the capacity of duty bearers to deliver timely and comprehensive services. AtMP is proud to have joined hands with the County Government of Vihiga, UNDP Kenya, Embassy of the Netherlands, Vihiga Women in Business, SHOFCO, Twajali Initiative, and other stakeholders in this milestone moment, reaffirming our resolve to prevent SGBV, enhance access to justice, and create safe spaces where survivors can heal and rebuild their lives.



Knowledge in Action: Schools Shine at International Snakebite Awareness Day

On the 19th of September 2025, Access to Medicines Platform (AtMP) led the commemoration of International Snakebite Awareness Day (ISBAD 2025) at Jidereri Primary School in Vihiga County, under the global theme "Disabilities from Snakebite Envenoming." The event, organized by AtMP in collaboration with the Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), brought together community members, local administrators, health representatives, and learners under the Snakebite School Health Program. It provided a vibrant platform to emphasize the critical role of awareness and education in preventing snakebite incidents and mitigating both fatalities and long-term disabilities.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the enthusiastic participation of students from different schools, who captivated the audience through powerful performances — including poems, songs, and skits — all centered on snakebite prevention and first aid. Their creativity transformed the serious subject of snakebite awareness into an engaging, educational, and memorable experience. These performances proved that when young people are equipped with knowledge, they become influential change agents within their families and communities.

AtMP, through the Snakebite School Health Program, recognized participating schools and students with certificates, medals, and packages to honor their creativity and commitment. This not only celebrated their efforts but also encouraged them to keep spreading life-saving messages beyond the classroom. The activity also attracted media coverage from West TV, which helped amplify the program's impact and extend its reach to a wider audience across the region. Through this feature, the students' innovative contributions gained visibility, further underscoring the importance of community-driven awareness in advancing snakebite prevention and response efforts.



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Vihiga County Marks a Milestone in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

Ahead of the official launch of the Vihiga County Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Rescue Centre, AtMP joined partners in a community dialogue and legal aid clinic hosted by Vihiga Women in Business under the theme “Strengthening Community Action Against GBV: Prevention, Protection & Response.” The pre-launch offered a vital platform to sensitize community members on the upcoming center’s services — including psychosocial support, legal aid, ODPP (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions) assistance, and police intervention — while fostering collective preparedness and accountability. Stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen referral pathways and sustain community-driven prevention efforts. The dialogue also underscored Vihiga’s high GBV prevalence, ranking among the top three counties nationally, and celebrated progress made through interventions like the 2024 SGBV Policy, the establishment of gender desks at police stations, and the Haki Mashinani legal awareness forums. On 30th September 2025, Vihiga County achieved a historic milestone with the official launch of its first GBV Rescue Centre in Wodanga, Sabatia Subcounty, led by Honorable Dr. Otichillo and supported by the Embassy of Netherlands, UNDP



Kenya, and partners including AtMP, SHOFCO, VIWIB, and the Twajali Initiative. The center symbolizes a renewed commitment to protecting survivors by offering integrated medical, psychosocial, legal, and shelter services under one roof. During a high-level panel discussion, AtMP’s CEO Dorothy Okemo underscored the importance of advocacy, partnership, and accountability in ensuring the center’s sustainability and effectiveness, calling for stronger multi-sectoral coordination and survivor-centered programming. In his address, Governor Ottichilo reaffirmed the county’s dedication to sustained funding and operational support, marking the launch as a turning point in advancing justice, healing, and equality for survivors of GBV across Vihiga County.

Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Action on SRHR and SGBV in Vihiga County

Access to Medicines Platform (AtMP) convened a Multi-Stakeholder Coordination Meeting on SRHR and SGBV in Vihiga County bringing together the county’s gender department leadership, civil society organizations, health representatives, and development partners. The meeting served as a critical platform to review progress on the implementation of the county’s SGBV policy, align priorities across departments, and co-develop a joint action plan with clear accountability measures. In her remarks, the CECM for Gender underscored the importance of public-private partnerships and invited partners to the launch of the Sabatia GBV Rescue Center. The Chief Officer and Director for Gender echoed this commitment, highlighting investments in policy structures and resource allocation, while AtMP’s CEO emphasized the value of intergenerational ward committees and reaffirmed our dedication to strengthening linkages between community-level interventions and county systems. Partners including Twajali Initiative, Vihiga Women in Business, CSO Network, NSDCC, NCPD, and others shared insights on their ongoing contributions, ranging from survivor-centered service delivery to awareness creation and community engagement. Key discussions focused on improving GBV case reporting through KHIS, addressing gaps in data harmonization, tackling challenges like kangaroo courts and witness protection and ensuring stronger coordination across sectors.

The meeting concluded with the development of sub-county action plans, renewed commitments by county gender leadership to operationalize management committees, track resource allocation, and roll out a sustainability strategy for the GBV center. By bringing together diverse voices, the forum reinforced the power of multi-sectoral collaboration to drive inclusive, rights-based responses to SRHR and SGBV, ensuring interventions are both locally owned and sustainable.



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Convening CSOs voices for PHC strengthening in Kisumu County.

Recognizing the critical role of partnerships in driving sustainable health reforms, AtMP continues to champion meaningful engagement between civil society and government actors. On September 5, 2025, AtMP convened a consultative meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Kisumu, to input into the county's Annual Work Plan (AWP) with a focus on Primary Health Care (PHC). The session emphasized the value of CSOs' grassroots insights in shaping inclusive health strategies, reviewing financing gaps, and aligning priorities with reforms such as the Primary Health Care Act and the Social Health Insurance Act. Participants reflected on Kisumu's pioneering Primary Care Networks (PCNs), discussed budget trends, and shared community-level innovations in Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, gender equality, Menstrual Health Management, and mental health. AtMP's CEO highlighted the need for sustained advocacy, financing, and mentorship to strengthen CSO capacity. The meeting concluded with an agreement to consolidate recommendations into a joint CSO memorandum for submission to the County Department of Health and County Assembly.

Key Highlights:

- Review of Kisumu County's draft AWP with a focus on PHC and RMNCAH.
- Budget gaps identified, calling for sustained financing and transparency.
- CSOs showcased grassroots advocacy and community innovations.
- Agreement to draft a joint CSO memorandum for county health actors.

Strengthening County-Level Accountability in GBV Prevention and Response

In a continued effort to reinforce gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response mechanisms, AtMP remains an active partner in fostering coordination and accountability at the county level. On September 4, 2025, AtMP supported the convening of Kakamega County's GBV quarterly review and monitoring meeting. The session assessed progress on GBV prevention and response between June and August 2025, providing a platform to evaluate what was working, identify gaps, and chart localized strategies tailored to county realities. The meeting emphasized accountability, collective ownership, and improved service delivery, while highlighting Kakamega's notable strides—including the operationalization of the GBV rescue center, provision of free legal aid, and implementation of the Kakamega Control and Management Act 2025. Participants engaged in open dialogue through roundtable discussions and data review, identifying challenges such as inconsistent reporting, weak coordination between actors, limited documentation, and gaps in clinical and forensic management. As a way forward, the meeting resolved to strengthen data quality audits, enhance police and health sector collaboration, intensify mentorship on forensic case management, and prepare a joint action plan. These commitments signal renewed momentum toward a survivor-centered GBV response that prioritizes protection, justice, and prevention.



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AtMP CEO Amplifies the Call to End Teenage Pregnancies and Sexual Violence on KBC's Tamrini Show

On Monday, 22nd September 2025, our CEO, Dorothy Juma, was featured on KBC Channel 1's Tamrini show to discuss the pressing topic "Mimba za Utotoni na Dhulma za Kingono" (Teenage Pregnancies and Sexual Violence). In the live interview, she emphasized that teenage pregnancies are largely fueled by factors such as peer pressure, social media influence, and inadequate parental guidance, while also highlighting the urgent need for action at multiple levels. She outlined clear recommendations including the provision of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to equip adolescents with accurate knowledge and life skills, implementation of the return-to-school policy to safeguard girls' education, promotion of evidence-based policies responsive to real community needs, and expanded access to adolescent and youth-friendly reproductive health services. As a passionate advocate for adolescents and



women's health rights, she used this platform to call for stronger protection, empowerment, and support for young people and women across communities. In case you missed the enlightening conversation, you can catch the full interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1lQ9em9hltts?si=8oH0Eom8qrQ71wLG>

Enhancing MEARL practices in organizational planning, review and implementation to enhance impact

As part of our commitment to continuous learning and accountability, we recently held a comprehensive Project Review Meeting and M&E Workshop under the RAP4SRHR Project. This important session brought together staff to reflect critically on the progress made in the implementation of key activities, assess outcomes and lessons emerging from the field, and align on strategies to strengthen delivery in the coming quarter. By creating space for open dialogue and evidence-based reflection, the workshop not only highlighted successes but also provided valuable insights into areas that require renewed focus and innovation. The forward-looking discussions culminated in clear action points aimed at enhancing program efficiency across all departments, fostering stronger partnerships, and ensuring that our interventions remain responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.



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