

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Courtesy call to CECM Hon Nicholas Kitungulu to discuss critical county health interventions

Access to Medicines Platform (AtMP) paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed Vihiga County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health, Hon. Nicholas Kitungulu. While updating the CECM on the different interventions implemented by AtMP in the County, the discussions focused on strengthening collaboration and sharing updates on ongoing initiatives while highlighting critical areas requiring his action, including the passage of the amended Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Act, whose review was supported by AtMP. The discussion also addressed the concerning rise in maternal and newborn mortality in the county and the need for more targeted interventions to curb preventable deaths. With regard to the snakebite project, we advocated for the decentralisation of Antivenom availability from the county referral hospital to facilities in high-burden sub-counties to enhance accessibility and ensure timely treatment. In response, the CECM committed to issuing a directive on Antivenom redistribution and procurement, while commending AtMP for its continued partnership with the county. He reaffirmed his support to ensure that the gains made so far from the different investments made by AtMP would not be lost by following through with pending policies and commitments.



County Health Leaders and Partners Review Progress of MDT Model within PCN Framework

AtMP was invited to participate in the Kisumu County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Review Meeting, which brought together key county health leaders and sub-county management teams from Muhoroni and Nyakach to evaluate the implementation of the MDT model within the Primary Care Network (PCN) framework. In his remarks, the County Director of Public Health emphasised the MDT's vital role in advancing integrated, community-centred healthcare delivery and contributing to Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda. Discussions highlighted progress in coordination through Ward

Practice Groups (WPGs), digital health adoption via Kenya Electronic Medical Records system (EMR) and Wonder Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems, this interventions have led to improved maternal outcomes following the revitalization of MPDSR committees. However, challenges such as high teenage pregnancy rates, low antenatal care attendance, especially for the 8th ANC visit, low family planning uptake, staff shortages, and commodity gaps were noted.

Key resolutions included standardising MDT structures and reporting lines, aligning MDT operations with PCN guidelines, and establishing a unified Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track progress. Sub-county teams were directed to adopt standardised templates, develop organograms, and enhance mental health data reporting using MOH 204B tools. The CHRIO was tasked with sharing customised tools to capture 8th ANC data, while county leadership committed to mentorship, cross-learning, and restructuring PCN hubs to enhance referral efficiency. The meeting ended with a commitment to improve MDT functionality and accelerate progress towards equitable, high-quality primary healthcare in Kisumu County.



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Kisumu County Health Department Holds Annual Work Plan Performance Review

The Kisumu County Department of Health held a performance review meeting for the FY 2023/2024 and FY 2024/2025 Health Annual Work Plans, bringing together county and sub-county health teams and partners, including AtMP. The discussions highlighted two key priorities for the health sector—Digital Health and Preventive Health—as major drivers of improved service delivery and long-term health outcomes. The Chief Officer for Health, Dr. Lusi Ojwang, raised concern over the rising maternal and perinatal mortality rates, urging teams to strengthen Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) processes and promote accountability in care. The meeting reaffirmed the county's commitment to collaborative, data-driven planning and advancing the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda.

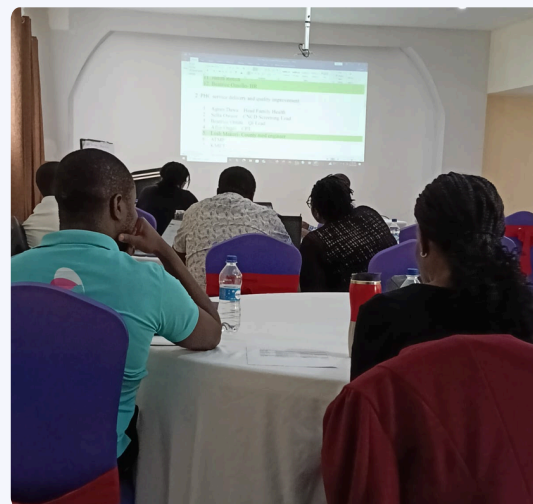
Vihiga County NTDs TWG Meeting Marks Funding Milestone

AtMP participated in the Vihiga County Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Technical Working Group review meeting, reaffirming its commitment to advancing health equity and accountability. The meeting marked a major milestone for the county, with KES 1.3 million allocated for NTDs in the current financial year—the first such funding after several years of advocacy. Partners welcomed this progress as a reflection of joint efforts but emphasized the need for continued advocacy to secure a dedicated vote head for NTDs and ensure funds are ring-fenced for sustainability. AtMP further called for an itemized budget that includes specific provisions for snakebite mitigation and management to protect vulnerable communities. County health leaders, including the Director of Public Health and County Pharmacist Dr. Jerusa, underscored the importance of collaboration, leveraging Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) reimbursements, and strengthening TWGs to improve access to essential NTD commodities such as antivenom and enhance treatment outcomes.



Enhancing Coordination and Accountability in Primary Health Care: AtMP Joins key PHC Committees

AtMP participated in the 3rd Primary Health Care (PHC) Technical Working Group meeting convened by the Kisumu County Department of Health, bringing together representatives from various county departments, development partners, and health stakeholders. The meeting, led by CECM Health Dr. Ganda and Director of Public Health Dr. Oluoch, reviewed progress from previous sessions and restructured subcommittees to enhance coordination and efficiency. AtMP was nominated to three key committees: Service Delivery and Quality Improvement, Financing and Sustainability, and Community and CHU Strengthening. Key discussions focused on improving PHC integration, addressing SHA reimbursement gaps, and strengthening data quality and functionality of health teams. The meeting underscored the importance of collaboration, standardization, and continuous engagement to enhance PHC performance and accountability across the county.



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Empowering Community Champions to Advance SRHR and GBV Prevention

The Community Champions Induction Forum on SRHR and GBV Prevention and Response was held in Seme and Kisumu West Sub-Counties, bringing together 71 newly identified community champions, community health promoters, and assistants to strengthen grassroots action on SRHR and GBV prevention and response. The forum, facilitated by the AtMP team with support from the department of health, equipped the champions with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to lead community-driven interventions and support survivors through the Haki Mashinani model. Topics covered included understanding SRHR and GBV concepts, legal frameworks, referral pathways, and access to justice mechanisms. Through participatory sessions, champions learned how to navigate support systems, link survivors to services, and work collaboratively with local duty bearers and institutions such as the national police service and judiciary. The sessions also highlighted the importance of localised solutions through the Haki Mashinani forum that emphasised community participation and shared accountability. Champions further developed a joint action plan outlining their prevention and response strategies, coordination mechanisms, and key commitments to advancing SRHR and GBV work at the community level. While some champions demonstrated a strong grasp of their roles, others expressed the need for continued capacity strengthening, especially in legal and justice processes, to enhance their effectiveness. Overall, the induction was successful, marking an important step toward building a community-led movement that promotes awareness, protects rights, and supports survivors of GBV in accessing justice and essential services in a sustainable way.



Enhancing accountability through Citizen led dialogues for improvement of service delivery for Maternal and Newborn Health

In a continued effort to promote community-driven health accountability, the Access to Medicines Platform convened a town hall meeting in Seme Sub-County, one of the areas with persistently high maternal mortality rates, to discuss ways of strengthening health systems and improving service delivery. The meeting brought together community members, members of the Community Health Management Team (CHMT) led by the Director of Public Health, and local leaders to openly examine the root causes of maternal health challenges, identify existing service gaps, and propose actionable solutions that can be implemented at the county level. The dialogue underscored the critical role of community voices in influencing decision-making and enhancing the effectiveness of health interventions. This engagement is part of AtMP's wider commitment to advancing Primary Health Care (PHC) by ensuring that communities are not only recipients of care but also active participants in shaping, monitoring, and holding duty bearers accountable for the quality of health services provided. Through such forums, AtMP continues to strengthen partnerships that foster transparency, inclusivity, and improved health outcomes for women and families. A key outcome of this forum was a commitment from the Director to investigate and take action on issues raised regarding complacency and poor service at the local health centre.



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AtMP Joins Stakeholders to Strengthen Sustainable Financing for Family Planning Commodities

Access to Medicines Platform participated in a strategic consultation convened by the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) to address Kenya's Family Planning (FP) commodity financing and sustainability challenges. The meeting, which brought together key stakeholders including UNFPA, KEMSA, the Ministry of Health, FP2030, HENNET, and the Council of Governors, reviewed the current FP commodity situation and funding gaps. It was revealed that the Government of Kenya has not disbursed funds for FP commodities since 2022, resulting in critically low stock levels—ranging between 0–7 months, far below the recommended 16–22 months. With only a three-month supply of male condoms expected in the pipeline, participants emphasised the urgent need to prioritise FP as a strategic national development agenda. The meeting culminated in the development of a roadmap to fast-track the finalisation and presentation of a Cabinet Memo aimed at securing sustainable domestic financing for FP and SRHR commodities.



Strengthening Advocacy for SRHR and Women's Rights: AtMP Engages in Kenya's 4th UPR Consultative Forum

AtMP participated in a two-day consultative meeting on Kenya's 4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations for the SRHR and Women's Rights Thematic Groups, convened by EACHRights and GEM Trust. The meeting brought together key civil society actors to review implementation progress, identify advocacy priorities, and refine action matrices for advancing Kenya's commitments on SRHR and women's rights. Discussions highlighted progress in policy development, including the National Reproductive Health Policy 2022–2032 and the recent court ruling upholding women's reproductive rights, while noting persistent gaps in service access, funding, and coordination. Participants emphasised the need for stronger advocacy around sustainable health financing, policy reform, and domestication of frameworks such as the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AUCEVAWG). The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, enhance accountability, and drive unified advocacy efforts that ensure Kenya's human rights obligations translate into real, lasting improvements in the lives of women and girls.



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