

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Courtesy call with the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Lead, Dr. Kisia, at the Ministry of Health

We had a fruitful engagement with the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Lead at the Ministry of Health Kenya, Dr. Kisia, during which we provided a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing implementation of the Supporting Healthy Adolescents and Rights Protection (SHARP) project. The session provided space to reflect on progress to date and to align on shared priorities that remain central to guaranteeing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people at both national and county levels. We collectively agreed on a number of interventions that will ensure continuity of support and strengthen responsiveness to the needs of adolescents, including improved coordination structures and sustained collaboration with relevant health departments and implementing partners. As the SHARP project enters its final year, we are intentionally scaling up engagements with the National Ministry of Health, through the Division of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), to reinforce ownership, institutional anchoring, and sustainability of the various interventions that safeguard the wellbeing and rights of adolescents and young people across the country.



## Meeting with the Marsabit County Health Management Team led by the Chief Officer for Public Health

The SHARP Project team held a courtesy and strategic coordination meeting with the Marsabit County Health Management Team (CHMT), led by the Chief Officer for Public Health, Mr. Omar, to enhance collaboration in addressing the triple threat of HIV infections, teenage pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence. The engagement focused on aligning planned community outreaches and youth-centred activities with existing county health strategies, strengthening referral pathways, and reinforcing multi-sectoral coordination to improve adolescents' and young people's access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. During the meeting, both parties jointly mapped out priority engagements and build-up actions toward the 16 Days of Activism, including youth dialogues and community sensitisation initiatives, underscoring a shared commitment to protecting and empowering adolescents and young people through integrated, rights-based interventions. To support effective implementation at the community level, the SHARP Project team also conducted a strategic engagement with the Marsabit County Assistant County Commissioner. The discussion emphasized facilitation through national government administrative structures, including the involvement of chiefs, assistant chiefs, and local leaders who play a critical role in community mobilization and safeguarding adolescents' rights. The Assistant County Commissioner reaffirmed his support for the initiative and pledged to champion the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women across the county, highlighting the importance of collaborative approaches in reducing vulnerability and advancing sustainable impact.





# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Launch of the 16 Days of Activism, Isiolo County

The launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Isiolo County marked a significant step forward in advancing advocacy efforts that prioritize the protection of adolescents and expand access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights. The event brought together policymakers, decision-makers, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and community stakeholders to support focused advocacy forums, youth dialogues, and sensitization initiatives aimed at addressing violence, strengthening access to services, and safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of adolescents and young people. Through this multisectoral engagement, SHARP CSO champions and county leadership reinforced a shared commitment to ending all forms of violence and promoting safer, healthier communities in Isiolo and its surrounding regions. The initiative also highlighted the importance of a coordinated approach to SRHR that is grounded in accountability and sustained collaboration across sectors. The launch received wide media coverage, including features by Citizen Digital on civil society advocacy for improved GBV treatment inclusion in national policy, local broadcast coverage by Waso TV documenting the county-level launch activities, and print attention through Standard Media and People Daily's coverage of GBV challenges and grassroots interventions in Northern Kenya. This media visibility significantly amplified the advocacy message and strengthened public awareness of the pressing need for comprehensive GBV prevention, response mechanisms, and adolescent SRHR services.

## Strengthening coordination and accountability for adolescent SRHR in Isiolo County

The SHARP Project facilitated a multi-sectoral engagement in Isiolo County focused on advancing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) through collaborative action across health, education, and gender sectors, together with representatives from the National Government, the Children's Office, the police, civil society organizations, and the Interfaith Council. The dialogue addressed the ongoing Triple Threat affecting adolescents and highlighted persistent gaps that continue to compromise their wellbeing, including weak referral pathways, delayed action when cases occur, and fragmented coordination among stakeholders. These challenges have placed adolescents at heightened risk and have slowed the delivery of justice for survivors. A key outcome of the engagement was the joint development of an actionable plan aimed at strengthening coordination, accountability, and access to comprehensive SRHR services. Stakeholders also took an important step forward by signing commitments that demonstrate a shared responsibility and collective resolve to prioritize the health, safety, and rights of adolescents and young people. The meeting underscored the urgency of recognizing teenage pregnancy as an issue of defilement under the Sexual Offences Act and ensuring full enforcement to deter perpetrators and safeguard the lives and futures of adolescents in Isiolo County.





# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Strengthening CSO coordination to advance adolescent health in Northern Kenya

The Solutions for Supporting Healthy Adolescents (SHARP) Project held virtual introductory and planning meetings with CSOs in Mandera, Isiolo, and Marsabit counties, followed by an in-person engagement with Marsabit County CSOs, to strengthen coordination and advance Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) priorities.

The engagements mapped ongoing CSO initiatives, including youth mentorship, menstrual hygiene management, STI and HIV prevention, GBV response, anti-FGM efforts, and community awareness on early marriage and teenage pregnancy while outlining SHARP's focus on multisectoral coordination, policy advocacy, public participation, SRH budget analysis, and CSO capacity strengthening.

A key outcome of the engagements was the identification of CSO capacity-building needs considered critical for effective ASRH programming. CSOs highlighted priority areas for support, including policy advocacy and public participation, SRH and GBV budget tracking, monitoring and documentation of results, safeguarding policies and organizational systems strengthening. These insights will directly inform SHARP project capacity-building approach, ensuring that support to CSOs is responsive, practical and aligned to the realities on-the-ground.

## ATMP engages in digital civic advocacy training to enhance institutional capacity



The Access to Medicines Platform (ATMP) was pleased to participate in the Digital Civic Space Advocacy Training hosted by UNDP under the Amkeni Wakenya programme, which brought together civil society partners to strengthen advocacy in Kenya's evolving digital and AI landscape. The workshop provided ATMP with valuable insights on leveraging digital tools to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in health governance—especially for equitable access to essential medicines. Key lessons focused on ethical communication, data protection, digital rights, and mitigating risks such as misinformation and gendered online harms. The collaborative development of digital campaign concepts demonstrated the power of coordinated mobilisation and storytelling in shaping policy dialogue. The training strengthened ATMP's readiness to design responsible and inclusive digital advocacy initiatives that advance healthcare access and responsive governance.

## High level meeting on advancing sustainable health financing

Access to Medicines Platform (ATMP) participated in the HENNET Pre-AGM High-Level Session on Domestic Resource Mobilization for Health, a timely convening that brought together national and county leaders, health stakeholders, civil society actors, and the private sector to interrogate sustainable financing pathways for Kenya's health system amid declining donor support and growing healthcare needs.

ATMP's participation was particularly relevant given its ongoing work on Primary Health Care (PHC) strengthening, RMNCAH, and community-led social accountability. Key deliberations highlighted the need to increase government investment through progressive taxation, strategically engage the private sector without compromising equity, and strengthen civil society's role in tracking health budgets, monitoring expenditure, and holding duty bearers accountable for results. Importantly, the session reinforced that mobilizing resources alone is insufficient—effective execution at facility and community levels is critical to ensure that funds translate into functional health facilities, adequate staffing, essential commodities and quality care.



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Integrating culture of science into health initiatives: ATMP at CHReaD's national workshop

The Coalition for Health Research and Development (CHReaD) successfully convened a two-day co-creation workshop in Machakos, bringing together leading health advocacy, research, and policy organizations—including Access to Medicines Platform to shape the upcoming year-long “Culture of Science” campaign. The working session marked a major milestone in defining Kenya’s pathway toward strengthening public appreciation, understanding, and ownership of science as part of everyday life anchored by the overarching vision: “Making science an everyday practice. Over the two days, participants jointly developed the campaign’s core narrative, strategic pillars, audience-specific messaging, rollout framework, and branding direction. Key insights emerging from the workshop emphasized that strong science communication must be audience-tailored, that cultural beliefs and literacy levels influence uptake, and that youth remain a powerful amplifier of evidence-based decision-making.



Participants underscored the importance of collaboration between policymakers, media, researchers, and community actors to shift attitudes, improve engagement, and bridge the persistent gap between research and implementation. The workshop also highlighted cross-cutting priorities including inclusivity for persons with disabilities, integration of traditional knowledge systems, and leveraging national advocacy moments to sustain momentum. With clear roles assigned and a roadmap in place, the campaign now moves forward with renewed energy, setting the stage for the inaugural Culture of Science Conference in 2026, and positioning science as a relatable, accessible and celebrated part of Kenya’s national identity.

## Strengthening community action to end Gender-Based Violence

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence build up activities, Access to Medicines Platform organized a live radio dialogue at Vihiga FM 105.0 featuring Haki Mashinani representatives from Chavakali ward, Vihiga County. The discussion highlighted the structure and impact of Haki Mashinani, noting that active community accountability structures continue to play a vital role in supporting survivors, strengthening referral pathways, and improving access to justice and essential services, while acknowledging the persistent challenges survivors face when seeking medical assistance. The speakers emphasized the need for sustained support from the County Government to ensure the continuity and reach of Haki Mashinani initiatives. The participation of county leadership alongside community actors reinforced the importance of linking community-led initiatives with formal health and justice systems. Speakers emphasized the need for sustained County Government support to institutionalize and scale Haki Mashinani efforts, ensuring their continuity and effectiveness across wards. They further called on the community to report cases within 72 hours and unite to end gender-based violence through collective responsibility, timely action, and stronger protection systems for women, adolescents, and families.

**Bridging Gaps in GBV Response: What Communities Need to Know**

2 DEC 2025

7.30 pm

VIHIGA FM-105.0


**DISCUSSION:**  
A Radio Conversation with Haki Mashinani Champions on strengthening community structures for GBV prevention and response

  
**Eusabia Isumba**  
GBV focal person-Sabatia

  
**Sammy Mugita**  
Paralegal, Haki Mashinani Champion

  
**Abigael Osendi**  
Head of Family Health Division, Vihiga



### FOLLOW US ON;

 @MeTAKenya2018

 @MeTAKenya

 @metakenya2018

 Access to Medicines Platform

 Access to Medicines Platform