

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Strategic Regional Engagements:

### Strengthening Feminist Advocacy on Justice and Equality at Africa Disrupt CSW70



Access to Medicines Platform (AtMP) participated in the Africa Disrupt CSW70 convening held in Accra, Ghana from 17th–19th February 2026, which focused on advancing access to justice and equality for African women and girls ahead of the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70). Discussions critically examined the structural barriers that continue to limit women’s access to justice across the continent, including weak enforcement of gender laws, economic barriers to legal processes, patriarchal legal frameworks, and gaps in survivor-centered responses to gender-based violence. Participants also explored emerging threats to gender equality, particularly the potential implications of the proposed African Union Charter on Family Values and Sovereignty, which could affect reproductive rights, adolescent access to sexual and reproductive health services, and broader human rights protections. The convening emphasized the need for stronger accountability systems, inclusive justice institutions, and integrated responses that link legal, health, and psychosocial support for survivors of violence. It concluded with the adoption of a continental Call to Action urging African governments and global institutions to strengthen legal protections, invest in accessible justice systems, and ensure meaningful participation of African women in global policy processes. Participation in this convening was important as the issues discussed directly intersect with ongoing work to advance equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services and essential medicines, particularly for women and girls who face legal, social, and structural barriers to accessing care. The convening also provided an opportunity to engage with regional stakeholders, contribute to policy discussions shaping women’s rights and health on the continent, and ensure that access to medicines and health services remains central to broader justice and gender equality efforts.



### Strengthening Parliamentary Action on Adolescent SRHR in the Great Lakes Region

Access to Medicines Platform co-convened the Great Lakes Regional Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Learning Workshop in Nairobi from 18–19 February 2026 under the EU-funded Solutions for Supporting Healthy Adolescents’ Rights and Protection (SHARP) project. The convening focused on persistent barriers affecting adolescents across the region, including stockouts of essential SRHR commodities, high rates of teenage pregnancy, limited domestic financing for reproductive health services, and gaps in implementing regional commitments such as the Maputo Protocol and the Sustainable Development Goals. Evidence presented highlighted challenges in the availability and affordability of family planning, maternal health, HIV testing, and menstrual health commodities, particularly in underserved areas. Discussions emphasized the role of parliaments in strengthening legislation, safeguarding health budgets, improving oversight of supply systems, and advancing domestic financing to reduce reliance on external support, while also recognizing the importance of community engagement in addressing issues such as early child marriage and adolescent access to services. The workshop attracted regional media coverage, including features on Citizen Digital and segments on KTN, helping amplify the urgency of strengthening accountability for adolescent health services. A key outcome was strong support for the rollout of Phase II of the SHARP Project, aimed at consolidating progress while advancing sustainable, domestically driven approaches to adolescent SRHR across the Great Lakes region.



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## Advancing Health Sovereignty at the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH)



Local pharmaceutical manufacturing and sustainable health financing took center stage at the NEAPACOH meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia (25–27 February 2026), where Access to Medicines Platform joined regional stakeholders to discuss strengthening Africa’s health systems. In a keynote address, AtMP CEO Dorothy Juma emphasized that achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) requires accelerating local production of essential medicines, reducing reliance on donor-funded programs, and strengthening regulatory harmonization through the African Medicines Agency (AMA). Discussions also highlighted the need for stronger parliamentary leadership in safeguarding health budgets, investing in resilient supply chains, and advancing domestic financing for health. The convening concluded with the Lusaka Call to Action, urging African governments to strengthen health systems, increase funding for women’s and adolescent health, and accelerate progress toward pharmaceutical sovereignty.



Kenya is set to host the next NEAPACOH meeting in 2027, providing an important opportunity to build on the commitments and momentum generated in Lusaka.

Read more about the discussions and outcomes from the convening:

1. <https://atmplatformkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Day-1-Neapacoh-Newsletter.pdf>
2. <https://atmplatformkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NEAPACOH-2026-KENYA-COMMITMENTS-AND-NEXT-STEPS.pdf>

## Strengthening Strategic Partnerships for SRHR Advocacy in Zambia

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional partners, Access to Medicines Platform held a courtesy meeting with the HIVOS Southern Africa Office in Lusaka, Zambia to explore opportunities for joint advocacy and programmatic collaboration. The engagement provided a platform for both organizations to exchange insights on their work and identify areas of synergy in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), youth engagement, human rights, and health systems strengthening. Discussions highlighted AtMP’s work on adolescent SRHR, family planning commodity security, addressing stockouts of essential health



commodities, and policy advocacy aimed at improving access to life-saving medicines, while also exploring emerging intersections such as the links between snakebite response, climate justice, and community health resilience. HIVOS shared insights into its regional programming, which focuses on human rights, gender equality, civic engagement, climate justice, digital rights, and support for marginalized communities including women and people living with HIV. The meeting further explored opportunities for joint advocacy on access to quality SRHR services, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and engaging policymakers and Members of Parliament in advancing progressive policies that support health and human rights. Both organizations underscored the importance of evidence-based advocacy, knowledge sharing, and coordinated engagement across community, national, and regional platforms to drive meaningful policy change

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen collaboration moving forward through follow-up technical discussions, the exchange of strategic documents and research findings, and linkages with local partners for expanded engagement. Overall, the courtesy call reaffirmed the value of early stakeholder engagement in building trust, aligning strategies, and fostering sustainable partnerships, while laying the foundation for future collaboration aimed at advancing equitable access to health services, strengthening accountability systems, and promoting rights-based approaches to SRHR advocacy across the region.



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## Standing Together for Girls: Isiolo Marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM



Access to Medicines Platform, through the SHARP Project, joined partners and county stakeholders in commemorating the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Isiolo to raise awareness and strengthen community action against the harmful practice. The event brought together community leaders, faith leaders, youth, government agencies, civil society organizations, and health professionals to discuss the health risks, human rights implications, and legal consequences of FGM, while promoting community-led solutions to end the practice. Panel discussions emphasized the role of faith leaders, cultural elders, and youth advocates in challenging harmful norms and advancing positive cultural alternatives. The dialogue also highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration, survivor-centered support, and stronger reporting and protection mechanisms to safeguard girls at risk. A key highlight from the engagement was the strong and united stance taken by religious leaders against FGM. They underscored that the practice has no basis in faith and called on communities to abandon harmful cultural practices that undermine the dignity, health, and sanctity of girls' lives. Their message reinforced the role of faith leadership as a powerful force in shifting social norms and accelerating progress toward the elimination of FGM.



## Strengthening Collaboration on Gender Equality and Adolescent SRHR in Isiolo



Building stronger partnerships to advance gender equality and adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) was the focus of an engagement between Access to Medicines Platform and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Isiolo Regional Office. The discussion created space to share insights on AtMP's work under the SHARP Project, which supports improved adolescent SRHR outcomes in Isiolo, Marsabit, and Mandera counties, while identifying opportunities for collaboration on community sensitization, policy advocacy, research, and stakeholder engagement. The conversation also highlighted NGEC's role in promoting equality, protecting special interest groups, and supporting gender-responsive planning and accountability at the county level. Both institutions expressed commitment to working more closely with county leadership and technical working groups to strengthen coordination and expand access to rights-based SRHR information and services for adolescents and vulnerable communities

## Strengthening RMNCAH Data Systems and Coordination

Key stakeholders in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health convened for the RMNCAH MERL Technical Working Group meeting led by the Ministry of Health to review national performance trends and align priorities for 2026. The discussions highlighted progress in health reporting rates, adolescent family planning uptake, and neonatal interventions such as Kangaroo Mother Care, while also identifying ongoing challenges including maternal and neonatal mortality, family planning commodity stock-outs, and data quality gaps. Updates were shared on major digital health initiatives including the Kenya Digital Health Superhighway and the Taifa Care rollout, as well as the EWENE Acceleration Plan and the Rapid Results Initiative targeting high-burden counties to reduce maternal and newborn deaths. The meeting emphasized the need to strengthen data governance, integrate health information systems such as DHIS2/KHIS with Taifa Care, improve research coordination, and enhance partner alignment to support evidence-based decision-making and accelerate progress toward improved RMNCAH outcomes.



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## Strengthening SRH service delivery through support supervision in Isiolo

Through the SHARP Project, Access to Medicines Platform supported the Isiolo County Department of Health in conducting support supervision visits to Eremet Health Centre and Daba Dispensary to assess the availability and management of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) commodities and the quality of adolescent SRHR services. The supervision aimed to strengthen commodity management practices, prevent stockouts, and identify gaps affecting service delivery. Key observations included the absence of youth-friendly spaces for adolescents seeking SRH services, delays in commodity deliveries, gaps in record-keeping and forecasting, and limited infrastructure such as disability-friendly access and condom dispensers. The visits also highlighted broader community challenges including teenage pregnancies, child marriage, and limited adolescent engagement with health facilities, while recognizing the important role of Community Health Promoters in reaching young people with SRH information and services. The exercise provided an opportunity to mentor facility staff, identify priority areas for improvement, and strengthen collaboration between the county health team and partners to enhance adolescent-friendly services, outreach activities, and effective management of SRH commodities to better respond to community health needs.



## Strengthening Partnerships for Improved Health Outcomes in Kakamega

Access to Medicines Platform joined fellow stakeholders at the Kakamega Partners Meeting, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening health systems and advancing maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (MNCAH) in the county. In her opening remarks, H.E. the First Lady of Kakamega County, Professor Janet Barassa, acknowledged the important role played by development partners in improving health indicators through coordinated programming and sustained support to community health initiatives. However, she also raised concern over the increase in teenage pregnancy cases from 21% in 2024 to 22% in 2025, highlighting the urgent need for strengthened collaboration and targeted interventions to address the challenge. During the meeting, AtMP shared updates on ongoing initiatives in the county and outlined key priorities for 2026, emphasizing continued efforts to enhance service delivery, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and deepen community engagement to improve health outcomes.



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