



IIATUA YETU

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Ministry of Health Launch Reproductive and Maternal Health Documents

On the 7th of June 2022, the Ministry of Health, launched 14 Reproductive and Maternal health documents that aim to improve the quality of maternal and newborn health services in all Counties of Kenya. The documents are set to reach healthcare professionals, policymakers, health academia and researchers, as well as health implementers across all levels.

Kenya has made great progress as a Country in improving reproductive maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH) outcomes. PS Kenya has contributed to this feat by having their hand in a number of reproductive health missions in the Country, thereby cementing themselves as key stakeholders in its journey towards the FP2030 goals of 66% modern CPR.

“We need to work with the grassroot community leaders, religious leaders, youth leaders and community health workers to ensure that we are reaching the one in ten women that have unmet need for family planning,” said Joyce Wanderi, CEO PS Kenya.

The main goal of PS Kenya's DESIP program is to ensure that young rural and marginalized women and girls can safely plan their pregnancies and improve their SRHR, by supporting the development of policy and guidelines development greatly. DESIP, which is currently working in 12 counties has reached more than 1.8 million CYPs (Couple-Years of Protection) in the last three years.

The program also ensures that people with disabilities (PWDs) are well catered to when it comes to their family planning needs by training health providers and ensuring that their facilities are easily accessible to PWDs.

It was therefore a proud moment for the organization, the Ministry of Health and all development and implementing partners when the following documents were launched:

1. National guidelines on quality obstetrics and perinatal care, Maternal and new-born health standards 2022.
2. National reproductive health and family planning commodity security strategy.
3. Kenya Family planning costed implementation plan 2021-2024.
4. National family planning standards for healthcare facilities in Kenya.
5. Female genital mutilation prevention and response fast-track plan.

6. Female genital mutilation prevention and management of health complications training manual.
7. Management of intimate partner violence in healthcare settings.
8. Forensic Module on the Management of SGBV.
9. Trainers Manual.
10. Understanding Adolescence: Community Health Package.
11. Total Market Approach for family planning strategy.
12. National post-abortion care standards.
13. National DMPA –SC Training curriculum for health care providers.
14. Post-pregnancy family planning document.



Ministry of Health launching 14 Reproductive and Maternal health documents.

The existence of these guiding policies and strategies is a step in the right direction in addressing the gaps that inhibit the provision of quality reproductive health services and information to those who need them. PS Kenya's Reproductive Health Coordinators (RPCs) will hold meetings with the different County Health Management Teams to decide on appropriate dissemination dates.

PS Kenya Addresses Teenage Pregnancies in Kilifi County



Maverick Next Fellows meeting with the County Health Team.

PS Kenya has had a strong partnership with Kilifi County and has implemented several maternal and reproductive health projects in the county, the recent one being the Maverick Project (Project Riziki) that was succeeded by the current Maverick Next Project. Since inception the county has offered great support which has seen realization of the project goals. With such a strategic partnership, PS Kenya is committed to ensuring that more young women benefit from such noble projects.

Kilifi County leadership led by the County Director of health singled out the Binti Biashara project as a model that will be adopted by the county to help address the high teen pregnancy in the county. He highlighted this during a meeting with a visiting team from PS Kenya, PSI and the Maverick Next Fellows, a group of young philanthropists who have dedicated their resources to empower young mothers in Magarini through the Binti Biashara project.

“On behalf of the department to say that Binti Biashara is the way to go. We are looking into ways of how we can lobby the county leadership led by the governor to support girls by ensuring that they receive free training in our Vocational Training Institutes. As a department, we will also allocate some funds which will enable the sustainability of this project,” stated Dr Mulewa.

Binti Biashara project is a learning-based project being implemented in Magarini Sub County, Kilifi County. The project brings together young women, their influencers, and key stakeholders to co-design, develop, test, and iterate concepts and models that will help the young women feel more empowered to make decisions about not only their bodies, but their futures, finances, and potential career paths. The girls benefit from various skills ranging from hair dressing, tailoring, plumbing and catering.

“We are committed to grow this partnership and are in the process of figuring out how to on board other partners and investors who will play a critical role in providing initial capital and starter kits for the girls who graduate from the skills training,” stated PS Kenya CEO Joyce Wanderi.

Integration of sexual and reproductive health component to economic empowerment has enabled young mothers to benefit from sexual and reproductive health information and services. This enables young mothers to make informed sexual and reproductive health decisions like child spacing to concentrate in raising an income that will help them support their children.

“PS Kenya has also supported us through the supply of non-pharmaceuticals so that we are able to conduct health in-reaches and outreaches. They have also supported us with the STI treatment drugs to handle cases during outreaches. We also received T-shirts that have increased awareness,” stated Celestine Muye, Magarini Sub-county Reproductive Health Coordinator.

Selection of the girls is rigorously done by the Community strategy focal person with assistance from Community Health Assistants and Community Health Volunteers. After their training, the young mothers are celebrated by their community through a graduation ceremony. During the ceremony the young mothers get a chance to showcase their newly acquired skills.

From implementation of this project, it is clear that integration of Economic Empowerment and AYSRH will go a long way in addressing the burden of teenage pregnancies while ensuring that young mothers get a chance to acquire skills that will enable them to realize their dreams.

Maverick Next Fellows Witness the Graduation of 'Pendos'

The Maverick Next fellows met and interacted with Pendo (project archetype and beneficiary) during their maiden visit to Kenya. The visit took place between 20th to 23rd June 2022 in Magarini, Kilifi County where the project is being implemented. Dubbed 'Binti Biashara' (translates to business minded girl), the project seeks to empower Pendo economically by equipping her with skills that will link her to economic opportunities while at the same time strengthen her decision making ability on sexual and reproductive with access information and services.

PS Kenya Lense in Kilifi County

Kilifi county has a high unmet need for FP/Contraception at 34% (Kilifi FP CIP 2017) with high teenage pregnancy rate at 22 % compared to the national average of 18 per cent. Early childbearing among adolescents (15-19 years) has been occasioned by early marriages, poverty, high rates of school dropouts (high illiteracy levels), high unmet need for contraception among adolescents and poor access to contraceptives.

During the field visit, they got to engage with pendo through sessions dubbed aspiring together, where young women and their influencers share accurate information on sexual and reproductive health and discuss how the community can create an enabling environment for them to achieve their dreams.

On the last day of the visit, the fellows got a chance to witness a cohort of Pendos who were graduating from the local vocational training institutions.



The Maverick fellows join Pendo in a dance during their graduation.

For the Maverick next fellows, getting to see empowered girls was a game changer.

“I have been passionate about supporting girls my whole life. I think that this is a very impactful project and I'm grateful to be a part of it,” stated Olivia Chowdri.

They also got a chance to engage with the county health leadership who appreciated what their support had done for the young mothers.

“We want to take this early opportunity to really thank you for the impact you have created strengthen and explore many other ways of collaboration to the benefit of our young girls,” Dr Mulewa.



Visit to a mentorship site by the Maverick fellows.

Through the Binti Biashara project, 242 girls have benefited from the skills training while over 600 girls have benefited with sexual and reproductive health information.

Lessons Learnt from HIV Self-Testing Projects in Private Sector

NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL COUNCIL
WEBINAR

LESSONS LEARNT FROM HIV SELF-TESTING PROJECTS

SPEAKERS

DR. CHARLOTTE PAHE
Project Lead - Integrated Portfolio

WENDY ADAMBA
Learning Advisor

HARRIZON AYALLO
Project Assistant

ISRAEL NZUKI
Project Assistant

POPULATION SERVICES KENYA

Wednesday, 15th June, 2022
2:00PM EAT

Registration link:
<https://bit.ly/hivstprjctwebinar>

mai:ha!

On 15th June 2022, PS Kenya's SHIPs (Strengthening HIV Self-testing in the Private Sector) team facilitated a knowledge sharing session organized by the National AIDS Control Council (NACC). The session aimed to showcase the organizations work with HIVST kits in the private sector with public health impact.

The HIVST Project intends to:

- Resolve key barriers and failures that limit growth of the market by

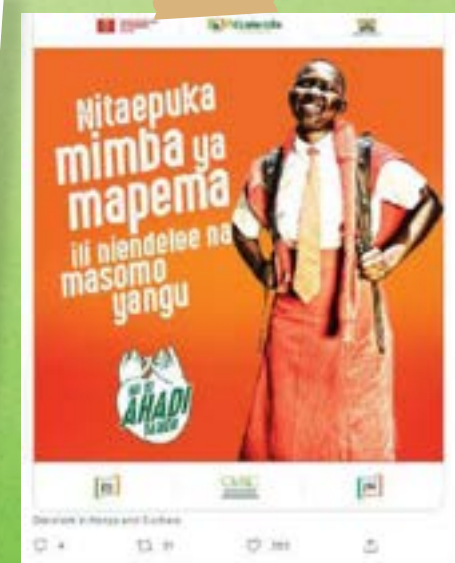
developing and testing demand and supply side interventions using a design approach.

- Engage stakeholders actively throughout the process to develop a consensus agreement on market growth, and effectively coordinate with other donors and implementers to optimize investments.

The team also shared the projects achievements from its initiation phase to the current implementation phase. Among other areas of discussion were;

- **Why the HIVST needs a private sector scale upgrade:** The PS Kenya team outlined the progressive decline in donor funding in the past decade as one of the factors, thus pointing out why leveraging on the private sector is key for continuous supply of HIVST kits.
- **Insights and lessons from market research:** The facilitators shared their insight on enablers and barriers to uptake of HIVST kits gathered from representation of young sexually active males and females aged 18-34 and pharmaceutical service providers.
- **Co-design Outputs and Intervention Prototypes:** The team shared the three main prototypes to address the design questions that came up from the human centered design workshop with target users, key stakeholders and service delivery providers and the results after testing the intervention prototypes with the target segments.
- **What success looks like for HIVST in private sector:** PS Kenya's team outlined the demand side indicators including increased awareness of the HIVST kits and referrals on where to purchase them, i.e. physical pharmacies, E-pharmacies and vending machines and increased ease of purchase by offering HIVST kits alongside other SRH and self-care products. Success in the supply side would include an increase in the number of pharmacies that stocked HIVST kits and self-care products.
- **Implementation progress: The team shared a variety of systems established for implementation including:** partners establishment and onboarding, support supervision tools and monthly data reporting to keep track of overall performance, make informed decisions, identify challenges and back up the project arguments to inform scale up.
- **Success elements towards addressing HIV Self testing unregulated market and pricing:** This encompasses formation of a HIVST advisory board under which NASCOP (National AIDS and STI Control Project) will provide leadership on development of a sub-committee to discuss private sector engagement policy frameworks. The advisory board will also prioritize an agenda that will guide on project implementation and key decision making and build a business case for scale up of HIVST in the private sector.

Ahadi Yangu Campaign Photo Gallery



Engage with Us



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