



Accelerate Newsletter

Q.3 JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

TOWARDS THE THREE ZEROS

- **Zero preventable maternal deaths**
- **Zero unmet need for contraception**
- **Zero Gender-Based Violence and harmful practices**

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS



ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health	RDQA	Routine Data Quality Assessment
CBO	Community Based Organization	RH	Reproductive Health
CHA	Community Health Assistant	RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn,
CHEW	Community Health Extension Worker		
CHMT	County Health Management Team	SCHMT	Sub-County Health Management Team
CHRIO	Health Record Information Officer	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
CHV	Community Health Volunteer	TWG	Technical Working Group
CME	Continuing Medical Education	COC	Combined Oral Contraceptives
FP	Family Planning	POP	Progestin Only Pills
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	NFP	Natural Family Planning
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	IUCD	Intra Uterine Contraceptive Device
HRIO	Record Command Officer	EC	Emergency Contraceptive
IPC	Interpersonal Communication	BTL	Bilateral Tubal Ligation
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning	AWP	Annual Work Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Dr. Charlotte Pahe - Reproductive Health Program Director

Accelerate is a five-year programme (2021-2025) funded by the Embassy of Denmark In Kenya that focuses on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). It is implemented using a user centred, integrated, adaptive, iterative, and sustainable approach. The project is contributing towards the ICPD-25 promises of zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for contraception and zero gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices. The goal of the project is to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, reduce the unmet need for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including family planning and contribute to the reduction in the prevalence of GBV including Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs).

Accelerate is focusing on 13 underserved, hard-to-reach Counties of Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Garissa, Homa Bay, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, Mandera, Marsabit, Nairobi, Narok, Samburu, and West Pokot.

Accelerate Project continued to work with 424 health facilities and achieved a cumulative 150,524 Couple Years of Protection (CYPs), which translated to an achievement of 108% of the stipulated quarterly target. The project supported 1,913 survivors in accessing quality health services at project-supported facilities. Additionally, 186 survivors were actively engaged in support groups, receiving crucial psychosocial support and providing expert testimony to 174 survivors.

In Q.3, Accelerate project reached 785,439 people through social media, 97,644 CBOs from 1348 sessions. Printed and distributed IEC materials, supported World Contraception and World Population Day. The project equipped 92 teachers from Kajiado, Narok and Nairobi Counties with skills and knowledge on school-related GBV, child protection and human rights. Accelerate actively participated in raising awareness about child protection among 64,535 learners across 13 counties through engagement with patrons who enrolled 4,776 learners in the Kings and Queens Clubs as peer champions against child abuse.

During this period, Accelerate has advanced its research and implementation efforts through an enhanced learning agenda. Ethical clearance was secured to enrich the research protocol, enabling deeper insights and collaborative ventures with the Ministry of Health(MOH). Notable developments include engaging MOH co-investigators, refining study tools, and widening sampling methods. Shelter mapping was conducted that exposed notable gaps in GBV shelter services that was disseminated to key stakeholders prompting strategic improvements.

Accelerate maintained rigorous monitoring and evaluation, enhancing data accuracy and reporting rates. Quality audits pinpointed areas for improvement, prompting focused interventions. Active engagement in county meetings addressed provider challenges and emphasised accurate reporting.

ACCELERATE'S TRANSFORMATIVE PHASES

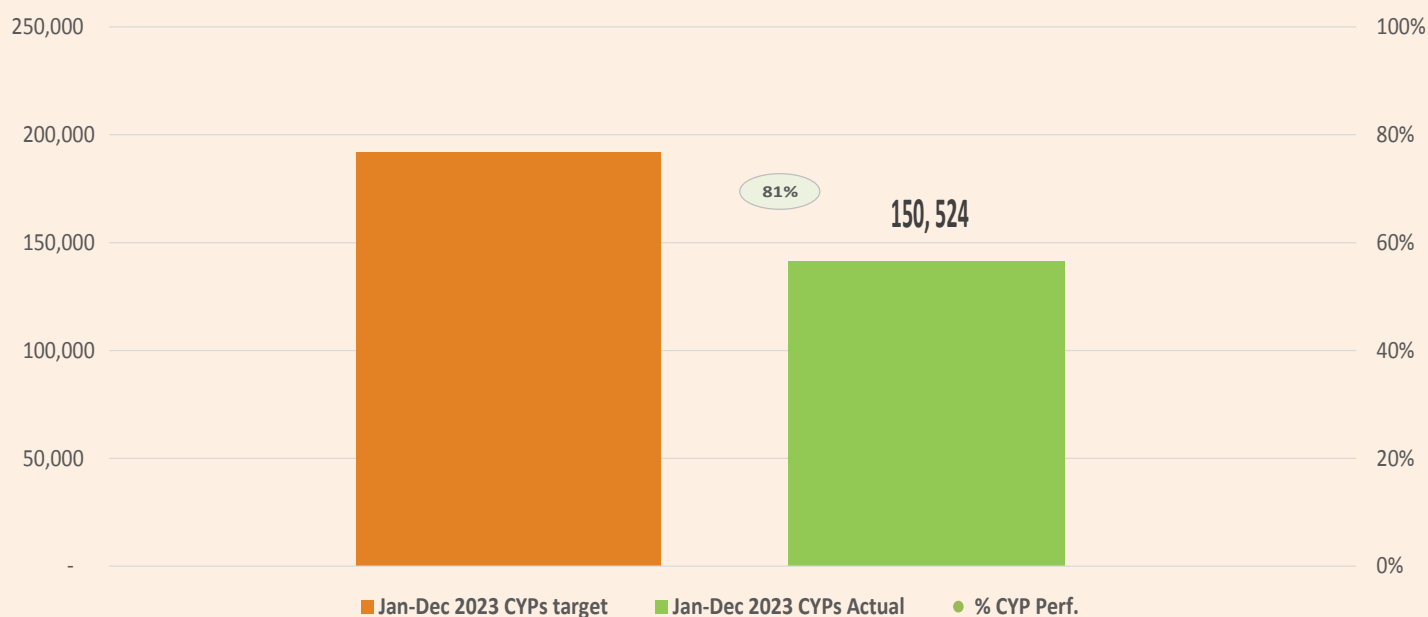


KEY OUTPUT AREA ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

Provision of Family Planning Services

The Accelerate Project continued to work with 424 health facilities and achieved a cumulative 150,524 Couple Years of Protection (CYPs), which translated to an achievement of 108% of the stipulated quarterly target. The project focused on structured mentorships and on-the-job trainings following Family Planning module 1 and 2 classroom trainings conducted in year one and two. The community component of demand creation also contributed to this stellar achievement in the three quarters of year three through continuous community sessions on family planning. The project continued to support commodity Technical Working Groups (TWGs), which addressed issues of stockout through quantification and forecasting and support for redistribution of commodities. The bar chart below shows the achievement.

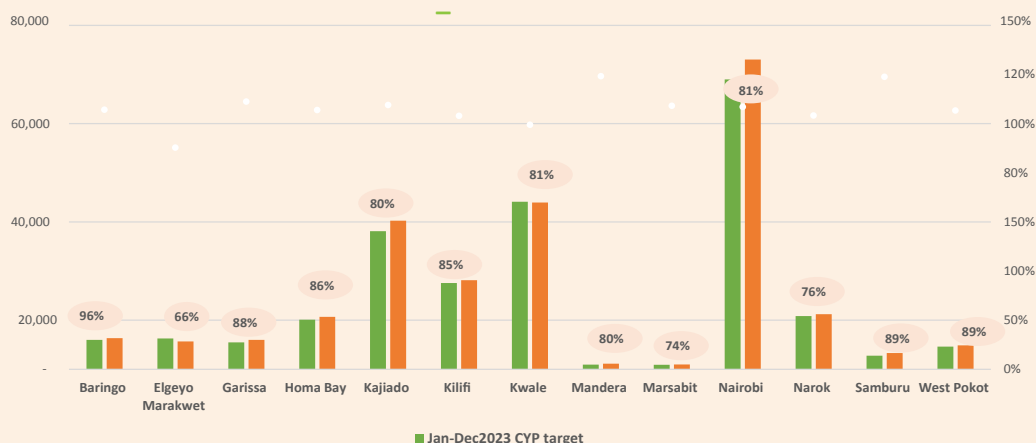
Accelerate CYP Performance



County Performance

The bar chart below illustrates county-specific performance across the 13 counties, and notably, all counties are tracking well, save for Elgeyo Marakwet at 66% and Marsabit at 74% against the expected 75% by end of quarter three. In Elgeyo Marakwet, pervasive challenges such as insecurity, inadequate road networks, and entrenched harmful traditional practices—including FGM, child marriage, and GBV, —create significant obstacles, particularly in reaching Marakwet East, one of Accelerate's designated sub-counties.

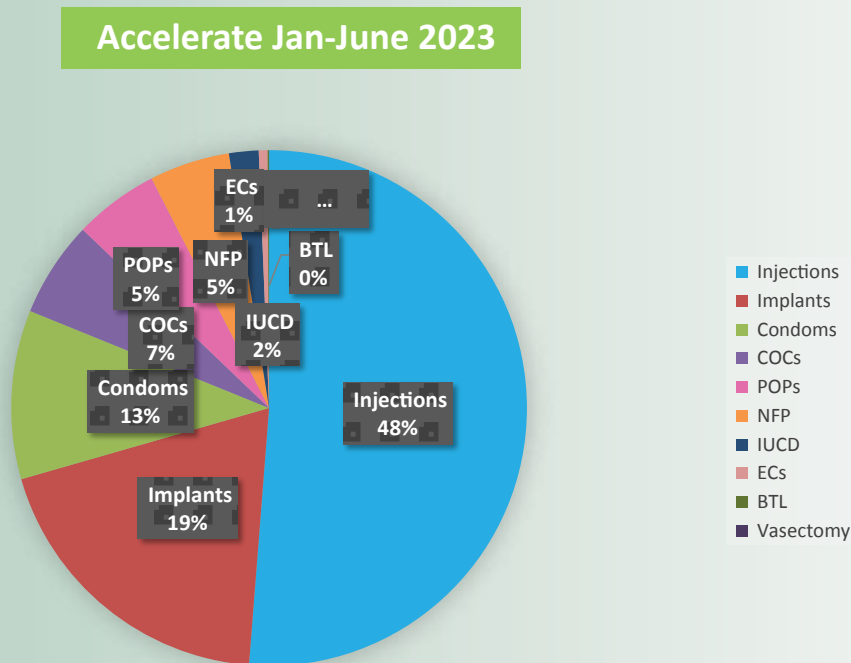
June 2023 CYP Performance



Despite these hurdles, the project has actively collaborated with the County Health Management Team (CHMT) to devise and implement strategic interventions. These measures include mentorship programs and on-the-job training initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and capabilities of local stakeholders. To maximize impact, the project has adopted an integrated approach, aligning its activities with other essential government services. Moreover, the utilization of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) has been integrated into the project framework, ensuring a comprehensive and community-oriented strategy.

Method Mix Pie Chart

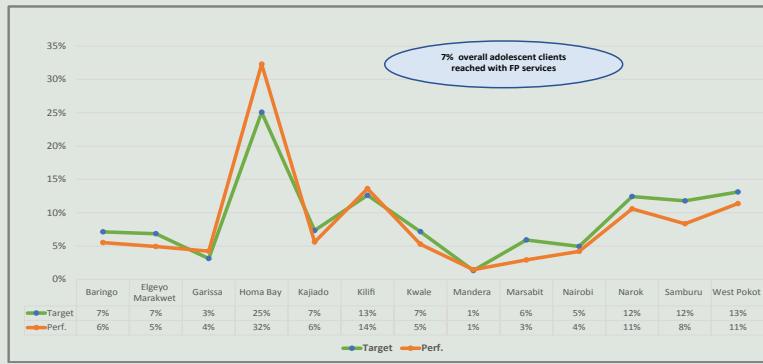
The project supported and participated in commodity security technical working groups at both national and county levels where issues of stockouts, forecasting and quantification were widely discussed to ensure that all methods of family planning were available for the clients at the point of care. As illustrated in the pie chart, majority of clients preferred injections (48%), followed by implants (19%), condoms (13%) and combined oral contraceptives (7%) while the remaining methods ranged from 0% to 5%. The project continued to provide technical assistance on family planning counselling using wall charts which contain all the family planning methods.



FP Method	Injections	Implants	Condoms	COCs	POPs	NFP	IUCD	ECs	BTL	Vasectomy
No. of Clients	80,263	30,837	20,762	1,361	8,836	8,049	3,069	1,503	164	21

Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health (AYSRH) Education

In year three, quarter three, the project continued to support the National Government on the validation of the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) policy, whereas at the facility and community level, the project continued utilising the Adolescent Package of Care to give technical support to the health providers to enable them offer high-quality family planning services to adolescents and young people. On-the-job trainings and mentorships were emphasised following trainings that had been conducted in years one and two. Of the total clients that accessed family planning from the Accelerate supported health facilities during the quarter, 7% were adolescents as illustrated below.



Trainings

HCWs skills have been identified as a major gap in service provision and uptake of FP methods. To address this concern, Accelerate project leveraged on a sister project DESIP to facilitate and support four trainings on Hormonal IUD and DMPA-SC reaching a total of 112 HCWs across the four counties.

Accelerate also supported two HCW trainings on tools to orient staff’s new indicators in the revised tools. The counties of focus were Narok, Samburu, West Pokot and Mombasa. The Accelerate team facilitated a total of 27 TAs in high-volume county and sub-county facilities, with key focus of bringing HCWs on competency of LARC, HIUD, and DMPA-SC, reaching a total of 81 HCWs.

INCREASED DEMAND FOR INTEGRATED SRHR/MCH AND GBV SERVICES

Digital Campaign

In Q.3, the project rolled out phase two of the Digital campaign with 48 posters dubbed 'Nimesikia! Nimesikika', reaching 785,439 people through facebook, 389,347 through X(formerly Twitter), 573 through Instagram and 979 through LinkedIn. The revamped campaign fighting is scheduled to continue up-to March 2024. The second iteration will include a special focus on engaging parents and protecting children and youths against rising sexual abuse during on-going school holidays, role of cultural leaders in protecting girls against harmful FGM during continuing school holidays, role of the older generation, religious and cultural leaders in facilitating and upholding rights for all, including women and girls at community and household level.

	Digital Platform	Total Reach	
	X	389,347	
	Facebook	785,439	
	Instagram	573	
	LinkedIn	979	
	Total	1,078,15	

Over 70% of the people reached via social media are aged between 18 years and 44 years, with the younger quantile taking the lions share. More men (71.9%) than women (28.1%) interacted with Accelerate Ahadi Yangu social media campaign pages. The most popular post was on 'the role of guardians in protecting minors against sexual abuse by relatives in the household'. The most frequent comment was 'the need to educate, engage and involve boys and men in championing, preventing and facilitating access to women, girls and boys GBV medical legal services. Community Health Promoters, 13 Accelerate-linked CBOs and 42 Inua Grass-root Network CBOs, linked with the Accelerate Ahadi Yangu social media platform to refer their community members for more information, and also to address-regional specific questions and concerns raised on social media.

MARKING WORLD CONTRACEPTION DAY



PS Kenya booth in Nakuru during World Contraception Day

World Contraception day (WCD) was celebrated on 23rd September 2023. WCD 2023 celebrations theme was the Power of Options, as an important reminder that individuals must be properly equipped to have full control over their reproductive health. Accelerate project was involved in planning and execution of the celebration, where it was represented at the National and county level in 13 focus counties.

National Celebrations were held in Nakuru; Langalanga level 4 hospital; where PS Kenya had a display booth and was represented by a team led by the CEO and director. PS Kenya's Accelerate project also participated in a week-long planning meeting held at Naivasha to develop WCD celebration plan. Accelerate project was tasked in developing digital messaging fliers that continuously disseminated WCD related messages for two weeks. At County level, Accelerate project team worked closely with CRHCs and NCPD teams in planning committees, printed banners, posters and T-shirts that were used during celebrations.

MARKING WORLD POPULATION DAY

World Population day was celebrated on 11th July 2023, themed, Unleashing the Power of Gender Equality, to deliberate on emerging issues in global population trends, which include opportunities, challenges and lessons learnt from previous years. Accelerate project worked closely with Regional NCPD staff in the project 13 counties. Planned and supported meetings for NCPD to disseminate FP 2030 commitments to CHMT and county-based GBV and SRH stakeholders for adaption and adoption. The meetings coincided with AWP processes in many counties and expected FP2030 commitments related activities to be captured by county 2023/2024 AWP.



Delegates following proceedings during the World Population Day in Nairobi

COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTED SESSIONS

Accelerate project community model; integrates Community Health Promoters and 13 community-based organizations. Community health promoters complements covering a wider catchment coverage, diversity, situations and clients that request privacy and individualised attention. Community-based organization; in addition to creating awareness, referrals and re-integration, the 'CBO systems' caution individual members against being targeted as individuals when handling GBV and SRHR sensitise cases, especially cases involving court proceedings.

CBOs have also demonstrated to be a powerful tool in engaging equally powerful community-based systems; including faith and religion that support harmful practices. Ideally, each CBO conducts GBV and SRHR-focused 15 sessions per month at a ratio of 5 sessions targeting women, 5 targeting youths and 5 targeting men and cultural leaders; though this may change based on the target catchment, most pressing current GBV and SRHR issues.



Sessions with women and girls at homestead in Laisamis, Marsabit County

MARKING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY



In the latest reporting period, Accelerate actively engaged in and provided support for the commemoration of International Youth Day, collaborating with both Homabay and Kilifi Counties. During these celebrations, representatives from Accelerate were granted the opportunity to address the attendees, offering valuable insights into the project's youth-centered interventions and the various service delivery points accessible within the respective counties.

This collaborative effort not only marked the significance of International Youth Day but also served as a platform to inform and empower young individuals about the project's dedicated initiatives tailored to their needs and to ensure that they are well-informed about the available resources within their counties. This holistic approach underscores Accelerate's commitment to engaging with and serving the youth demographic effectively.

International Youth Day celebrations in Kilifi County

Quarter 3 in Pictures



Danish Parliamentarians, led by the Ambassador of Denmark in Kenya Visit a Health Centre in Kwale County



Ambassador of Denmark in Kenya, visiting Accelerate booth during Devolution Conference in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County



Samburu County World Contraception Day Celebrations led by County 1st lady



Mombasa County World Contraception Day Celebrations led by the health CEC



Teachers drawn from Narok North during the training



NCPD's Director General and other guests during this years WPD



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