

Involving policy makers in Advocacy, A way of ensuring allocation towards Family planning

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Background:

Since devolution, the county government has been tasked with budget allocation especially for health, which is to be allocated at least **15%** according to the Abuja declaration. A quick analysis of most county budgets reveal that most have not allocated significant resources into youth and adolescent health, reproductive health, family planning among other essential services

Objectives:

To advocate for the issues of adolescent and sexual reproductive health with regard to budgetary allocation to health especially allocation towards family planning, provide oversight to ensure effective and efficient utilization of public resources.

Methodologies:

Identification of some few members of the county assembly together with the clerks who were passionate about health. Strategic advocacy meetings were conducted per county to discuss terms of engagement with the policy makers. The policy makers were continuously capacity built on advocacy for sexual reproductive health issues and budget advocacy to be able to effectively champion for SRHR issues at the county level.

Lessons learnt:

Having effective partnerships with the public sectors and involving them in issues concerning sexual reproductive health and rights of young people can lead to improvement and increased health financing especially regarding SRHR.

Collaborations and joint activities with stakeholders and County enhances advocacy in the counties and achieves greater results like increased budget allocation to health

Successes:

Increased budgetary allocation for health from **15% to 33%** for financial year **2018/2019**, family planning was allocated **Ksh 46,167,393** in the same financial year. Increase in allocation for Family planning, maternal and child health: **FY 2017/18- KES 13.5 Million; FY 2018/19- KES 46.1 million.**

Conclusion:

Continue sensitizing, training and strengthening capacity and involvement of policy makers within the various countries on health so as to become champions for health within the various countries and Deliberate and strengthened public private partnership can lead to allocation towards SRHR, especially family planning