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Title of Abstract:

## Harnessing effective partnership for advocacy: A case of Reproductive Health Advocacy in Kisii County.



### Background

Since 2010 the devolved system of health at the county level has a share of success and problems and Kisii County is not an exception. Over the years, the County Government of Kisii has allocated inadequate resources towards for the implementation of Sexual and reproductive health and Rights programmes including

Family planning. In the **fiscal year 2016/17** for example, the county government of Kisii allocated **KES 2.99 billion (31%)** for health; preventive and promotive health was allocated **KES 7,350,000 (0.24%)**. The less focus on budgetary allocation towards SRHR can be attributed to uncoordinated advocacy among stakeholders.

### Program Intervention:

In 2015 Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa (NAYA) through the Closing the Gap (CtG) program formed Kisii County Reproductive Health CSO network, consisting of 12 CSOs. The network has further incorporated members of the County Health Management Team and formed a County Reproductive Health TWG. The network

developed an advocacy operational framework to guide coordination and implementation. The key mandates of the network are; advocate for budgetary allocation for RH/F; advocate for formulation and implementation of RH policies including provision of comprehensive SRHR information.

### Methodologies:

#### Development of advocacy strategy:

NAYA together with the network of CSOs developed County budget advocacy strategy that informs advocacy activities, with a clear power analysis of the audience.

#### Budget analysis and alternative budgets:

NAYA together with the CSOs network analysed the Fiscal Strategy Paper for the fiscal year 2016/2017 and Budget Estimates to identify gaps, generate key ASKs to inform advocacy. The network developed alternative RH budget and budget memorandum.

### Results/Key findings:

#### Coordinated CSO voices:

There exists a stronger network of stakeholders in the RH sector. This has led to the network getting audience from the MCAs, something that was not possible in the past. The initiative also motivated some MCAs as RH Champions spearheading advocacy for health financing in Kisii County.

#### Technical support in development of policies and legislation:

The network provides Technical support (TA) to the CHMT in developing advocacy materials such as policy briefs and fact sheets. The network technically supported the Kisii County assembly in developing Kisii County Finance bill and Kisii County Public Participation bill.

#### Development of alternative health budgets:

Through coordinated efforts, the network in collaboration with CHMT developed alternative Kisii County RH budget that was tabled in the County Assembly for Consideration in the budget for Financial Year 2016/2017.

#### Joint implementation and co-financing of activities:

The network works in a coordinated manner where CSOs in the County pull resources to support relevant activities.

### Program Lessons:

Working in an all-inclusive advocacy network helps to achieve results than working in isolation, a case of Kisii County where joint advocacy efforts led to the county government allocating **KES 14,000,000 Million to FP**. Working in a network of CSOs enhances ease in pulling of resources together and sustainability of advocacy activities in the county, a case of Kisii where all partners co-share funding of its monthly meetings.