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Social and Behavioral Science Research (SBSR)

2015

Strengthening school health programming in Nairobi City County

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Recommended Citation

Mumah, Joyce. 2015. "Strengthening school health programming in Nairobi City County," presentation at APHRC Roundtable Discussion: "What Works for Girls' Education," Nairobi, Kenya.

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Strengthening School Health Programming in Nairobi City County

Joyce Mumah, APRHC
APHRC Roundtable Discussion
“What Works for Girls’ Education”
October 9, 2015; Nairobi, Kenya



Rationale

1. Increase implementation of the National School Health Policy in NCC Schools
2. Enhance the environment in school by paying attention to SRH, which is critical to ensuring girls remain in school





■ The sexual and reproductive health of Kenya's adolescents



African Population and Health Research Center



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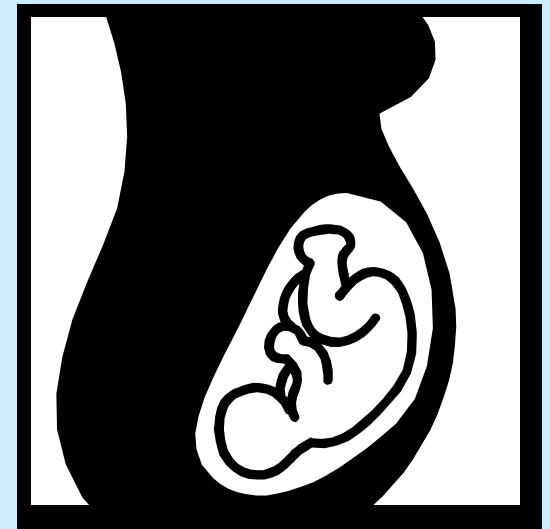
Ideas. Evidence. Impact.

STEP UP

- Adolescents (10-19yrs) make up about **25%** of the population of the population in Kenya (Approx. 9.2 m)
- Although numerous policies and guidelines addressing adolescent health exist, adolescent health indicators, particularly as pertains their **sexual and reproductive health**, are poor



Out of every **1000** girls between the ages of 15-19 years, **96** have ever had a child



Early pregnancy among girls 15-19 years in Kenya

Ever pregnant (%)

18

% out of school
among ever pregnant

98

Source: Demographic and Health Survey

Pregnancy clearly means the end of education for almost all adolescent girls



What can be done?

- The National School Health Policy and associated guidelines outline ways in which schools can ensure that young people have access to health enhancing information and services
- **But, only 15% of Nairobi schools have a comprehensive school health program**
- The NCC with support from STEP UP has developed a plan of action to increase the implementation of the National School Health Policy in the county with a goal of having **50%** having a comprehensive school health program by 2025



About the Plan of Action

- **Outlines key objectives and activities to strengthen the implementation of school health programs in Nairobi County, particularly with respect to sexual and reproductive health**
- Overall goals
 - All schools in Nairobi City County implement the National School Health Policy by 2025
- Specific goal:
 - Reduction in number of early and unintended pregnancy among primary and secondary school learners in Nairobi County from 14% to 5% by 2025



Objectives of Plan of Action

1. Increase the proportion of schools providing age-appropriate CSE in the learning process from 15% to 50% of primary and secondary schools in Nairobi City County by 2020

Expected outcome:

- Increased number of schools implementing age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education



Objectives of Plan of Action

2. Increase the proportion of schools with access to health services from 15% to 50% by 2020

Expected outcomes:

- Increased number of health personnel trained to provide quality youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services to learners
- Increased access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services for learners in Nairobi's primary and secondary schools



Objectives of Plan of Action

3. By 2020, increase the number of pregnant learners remaining in school and returning to school after delivery by 30%

Expected outcomes:

- Increased number of girls allowed to continue school during pregnancy
- Increased number of girls who returned to school after pregnancy



Objectives of Plan of Action

4. Implementation of a rigorous monitoring system to track implementation of school health programs

Expected outcomes:

- Improved Quality Assurance processes to achieve goals



Approach adopted to develop the Plan of Action

- Engages “the experts” to understand the challenges and opportunities around implementing the school health policy
- Collaboratively address the challenges by developing an action plan with an emphasis on the “how”





Principles behind the Plan of Action

We believe that **adolescents form a critical national resource** for today and that **they are the core of our future development efforts.**

We believe **adolescents' health is a worthwhile investment** for future growth and development.

We are some of the gatekeepers with the key to addressing adolescents' health needs, particularly as they pertain to their sexual and reproductive health

We know that **the school is an important avenue to reach young people with essential information** to improve their health and wellbeing



Participants

- County Health and Education, County Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Researchers, Private Sector, Donors, and head teachers and students



Next Steps:

- NCC to convene a validation meeting with key stakeholders
- Official launch and adoption of Plan of Action by NCC

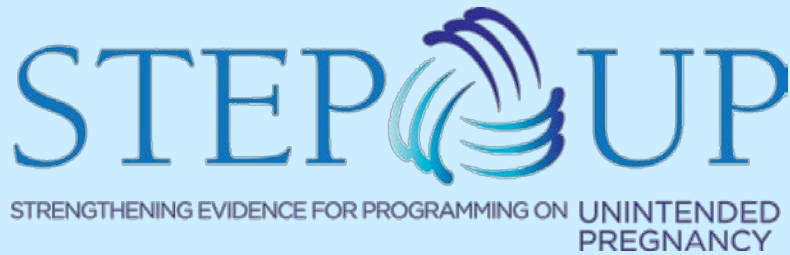


Parting shot

“...*policy implementation is not merely an administrative choice* which once legislated and the institutions mandated with administrative authority identified will just happen, *but rather a process that encourages action by public and private individuals or groups towards achieving the objectives of the policy.*”

J. Wasonga et al., 2014





The **STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium** is coordinated by the Population Council in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center; icddr,b; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Marie Stopes International; and Partners in Population on Development. STEP UP is funded by UK aid from the UK Government.

