Advocating for effective Integration of Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention Technologies among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kenya

NEPHAK, KENYA

JOYCE OUMA, AVAC FELLOW 2020/21
Work plan objectives

Originally set out to . . .


Advocacy for funding to strengthen HIV/SRH integration

Mobilize and engage policy makers to accelerate HIV/SRH integration and to consider pathways for future HIV prevention integration
Objective 1

- Conducted a national survey to establish the understanding of HIV/SRH integration and received 161 responses from 14 counties across the country.
- Built a cadre of young women HIV/SRH integration champions who supported the HIV/SRH integration agenda through all platforms of influence.
- Conducted dialogues with young women on their perceptions, attitudes and willingness to accept the dapivirine vaginal ring and new HIV prevention technologies.
Objective 2

- Conducted an extensive review of the GOK funding landscape for HIV/SRH in Kenya at the national and county level, a detailed report was developed to guide advocacy efforts for HIV/SRH integration.
- Mobilized youth leaders in Machakos county to actively engage in the county budget making process and push the HIV/SRH agenda.
- Mentored and supported 5 AGYW representatives to the PEPFAR COP21 process to advocate for inclusion of the dapivirine vaginal ring and HIV/SRH integration of AGYW in the COP21.
- Advocated for the inclusion of HIV/SRH integration under the HIV prevention module for the Global Fund grant 2021-2024.
Objective 3

- Joined and actively represented AGYW at the national HIV/SRH TWG instituted by NASCOP. The WG spearheaded the piloting of HIV/SRH integration in 5 counties in Kenya.
- Co-convened a DVR CSO task force to steer the dapivirine advocacy in Kenya.
- Mapped and reviewed existing policies and guidelines in Kenya on HIV and SRH, developed, launched and disseminated the policy brief titled, The preferences of AGYW on HIV/SRH integration in Kenya.
CHALLENGES

• COVID-19 regulations impeded the project implementation
• The delayed approval and EMA opinion on the dapivirine vaginal ring.
• Minimal resources to do country wide activities

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

• Adopted social media advocacy and engagements.
• Used the social media platforms to reach participants from across the country.
• Introduced conversations around new product introduction.
• Partnered with other seasoned organizations to conduct country wide activities.
• The Policy brief titled; Preferences of AGYW on HIV/SRH integration
• Survey analysis report conducted at the beginning of the fellowship.
• Funding review paper, the Kenyan funding landscape on HIV and SRH
• Project midterm evaluation report
• Project end term evaluation report.
• Blogs and opinion pieces.
Moving forward: advocacy and myself

- 2022 fellow will most likely take up the mantle for DVR and other HIV prevention technologies.

- The structures put in place during the fellowship will continue i.e the DVR task force, HIV/SRH integration champions.

- Started off conversations that will get donor funding easy.

Myself

- The DVR advocacy is ongoing and I support partners in engaging young women.

- Scaling up my advocacy, to focus on issues of AYP in country and globally including DVR,U=U
Funders to introduce flexible funding modalities for youth networks should be introduced. Youthwise, a new project by AIDSFONDS. Decriminalize YKP and give them access to essential health services as is their fundamental right. Ethically engage adolescents and young people in all our diversity in all capacities including leadership and management. The engagement must be natured and resourced. Facilities to embrace and prioritize peer to peer service delivery models.
There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all of time, this expression is unique.

― Martha Graham
The end!