

POLICY BRIEF

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Availability, Affordability and Stock outs of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Commodities and devices for Newborn, Child, Maternal, Contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) treatment

KAKAMEGA COUNTY

Introduction

The constitution of Kenya, under Article 43 (1) (a), provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes the right to healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare. Although there has been progress in the realization of the right to health, significant gaps still exist.

For this reason, in 2019, we collected data in Kakamega County to generate reliable information on the price, availability and affordability of select SRH commodities (SRHC) in Kenya's public, private and mission sectors. A total of 22 facilities were surveyed across the three sectors: 8 in the public, 8 in the mission and 6 in the private sector. The facilities visited were in Mumias East, Mumias Center, Butere, Ikolomani, Matungu, Khwisero and Shinyalu sub-counties.

The basket of commodities assessed was developed by combining the World Health Organization's (WHO) Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health, the Interagency List of Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health, the Interagency List of Medical Devices for Essential Interventions for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and the United Nations Commission on Life Saving Commodities.

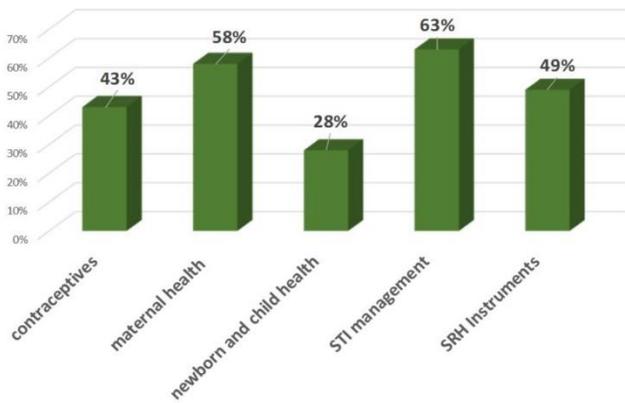
Methodology

The methodology used a cross-sectional design with quantitative methods and a semi structured questionnaire adapted from standardized HAI-WHO methodology: measuring medicines prices, availability and affordability and prices components. It allows for data collection on availability and out-of-pocket patient prices of SRHC in the public, private and mission sectors. It also assesses health provider perspectives on access to SRHC beyond the medicines supply chain. Stock-outs were measured for a period of six months and recorded as seen in the stock cards whereas affordability was measured using prices of the SRH commodities, treatment regimens and daily salary of the lowest paid government worker, which was 448.7 at the time of the study.

Key findings

- The overall availability of contraceptives in Kakamega county was at 43%. The contraceptive with the highest availability was Depo-Provera (80%) while levonorgestrel 30 mcg had the least availability (25%).
- Kakamega county had the highest overall availability of maternal health commodities in all counties surveyed with 58%.

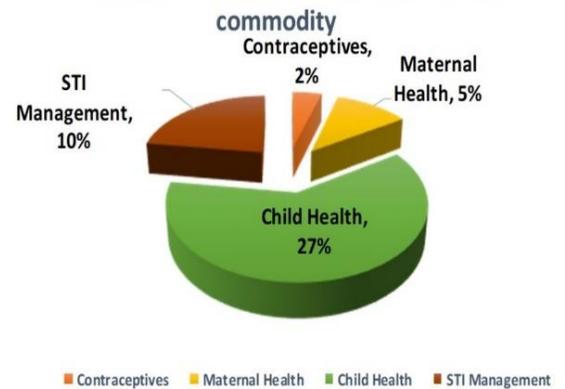
Availability of SRH Commodities in Kakamega County



- The highest availability of maternal health commodities was found for folic acid tablets (100%) and Calcium gluconate (100%). Ferrous Sulphate:150mg folic acid+500mg iron) tablet had the least availability with 18%.
- The overall availability of commodities for treatment of STIs was 63%. Clotrimazole pessary had the highest availability at 96% while Amoxicillin tablet 125mg had the least availability at 14%.
- For the New born and Child Health commodities, the overall availability was at 28%. Dexamethasone had the highest availability (67%) while Chlorhexidine (4%) had the least availability at 5%.
- The overall availability of SRH devices and instruments was 49%. Speculums had the highest availability at 88% while infant size training mannequins had the least availability at 24%.
- Affordability of the SRH commodities was measured based on the lowest paid government worker's (LPGW) salary which was KSH 448.7 at the time of study. The public sector had the highest affordability rates, with 36 commodities costing less than a day's wage for a LPGW, and one costing more than a day's wage.
- Contraceptives faced the least stock outs overall while child health commodities had the

highest percentage of facilities having stock-outs.

Percentage of facilities facing stockouts per commodity



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Comprehensive SRH services and commodities should be part of the Essential Package List as part of what is offered within the County Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programs.
- Prioritizing training on both stock management and quantification to ensure seamless supply and availability of SRH commodities.
- Providing support supervision and continuous training of the health workforce to includes elements of customer care.
- Sensitization of communities on sexual and reproductive health commodities and services so as to increase demand and raise awareness.
- Involving male partners in access to, provision of and education on the use of contraceptives and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Reduction or subsidization of costs in the private sector especially in the hard to reach and marginalized areas, where populations live below poverty line.