



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization Promoting South-South Cooperation

The 9th Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) Coordination Meeting

Recap of day ONE Proceedings.

24 June 2019

Achilles Kiwanuka, PPD ARO

Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi - Kenya.

Why EARHN

- The Eastern Africa countries share similar social, political, demographic and geographic environments and south-south cooperation has untapped potential for approaching new opportunities and sharing good practices in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- Eastern Africa countries have extensive experiences in SRHR on which to build a new, collaborative effort to initiate change in-country and regionally, in order to improve the health and rights of all people
- There is great need to network and build formation of strategic partnerships.



Vision and Mission of EARHN

Vision

“An Eastern Africa Region with fully met RH needs and expectations of all its people.”

Mission

“To promote an enabling environment for RH policies and programmes across borders through strategic partnerships, research, effective coordination and sharing of best practices.”



Core Values

- **Accountability:** encompassing confidentiality, integrity, transparency, and professionalism
- **Gender equity and equality** which entails fairness and mutual respect
- **Human rights:** belief that access to RH services is a fundamental human right
- **Nondiscrimination,** regardless of religious belief, colour or gender



Goal

“To contribute to the improvement of the RH situation for all people in Eastern Africa.”



Strategic Focus II

Coordination of South-South Learning to foster sharing of evidence-based best practices and improving Network effectiveness.

- *Major reason for establishment of EARHN;*
- Countries are at various stages on policy commitment and programmatic experience;
- Cost effective and more meaningful exchange of ideas, experiences and technologies









Objectives of this Meeting

1. Share **progress** made, **challenges**, **lessons learned** and **opportunities** with regard to implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan 2017-2021
2. Share **innovative programmatic experiences** and **good practices** that enhance the implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan 2017–2021
3. Share good practices for enhancing the **Demographic Dividend** for socio economic transformation in Eastern Africa
4. Develop country action plans for further implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan 2017-2022 over the subsequent 12 months.



Challenges

- The region's population is largely young;
- Adolescents bear a considerable burden of unmet need - barriers to FP access and use.
- High discontinuation rates due to side effects and dissatisfaction.
- Wide use of short term contraceptive methods - limited protection.
- Unsafe abortions linked to maternal mortality and maternal near-misses (13000 MM).



Challenges

- Increasing unmet need in the face of a rising CPR.
- Significant gaps between demand and supply of FP services.
- The religious factor is a stumbling block in where churches own majority of health facilities and schools - Rwanda and Burundi



Challenges

- The Tanzanian case of negative political messages is negative force in the region.
- High population growth rate (3.0%), teenage pregnancies (25%) and a high TFR (5.4) -Uganda



Progress, Opportunities, Innovative experiences & Lessons learned

- Evidence of relationship between FP and Economic Development.
- The more the data the better.
- Promotion of LARCs methods yields considerable results.
- Promote CSE, safe spaces and adolescent-friendly services.



- Performance based financing motivates public & private facilities to operate like businesses- improves service provision
- Need for up-to-date quality data – disaggregated – **Members to share the RH data whenever called upon**
- Engage with EALA on the SRH Bill
- High-level monitoring of the performance indicators at the lower levels
- Continuous sensitization about the DD



- Utilising hitech to engage the youth
- What next, after having the DD roadmap in place?-Implementation : Monitoring and accountability e.g the DD Compliancy tool for sectors and local governments in Uganda



Progress, Opportunities, Innovative experiences & Lessons learned

- Mainstream FP in national and subnational sector plans.
- Pay attention to aging and elderly policy implementation.
- Focus on FP as a right and tread carefully on the inclination to believe that “Education and Development are the triggers of harnessing the DD.



Progress, Opportunities & Lessons learned

- Strengthen high level advocacy for FP, especially towards our nations' legislative arms, including International level capacity building.
- Promote collaboration between: policy makers, technical staff and CSO
- Consensus building
- Evidence based arguments



Progress, Opportunities & Lessons learned

- In order to harness the DD; invest in human capital, empower women and girls, quality education and job creation.
- Focus on Universal and inclusive Primary and Secondary Education.
- Improve commodity supply chains (KEMSA)
- Subnational and devolved advocacy for FP.



Strategic Objectives

1. To increase awareness and support for RH among key policy and decision makers in the region.

- Develop and implement EARHN RH/FP Advocacy Strategy
- Build members' capacity for advocacy
- Regularly track and publicize RH resource allocations and expenditure at national and regional level

2. To strengthen strategic linkages with like-minded partners for RH advocacy and resource mobilization in the Region.

- Develop and implement an EARHN Partnership Policy
- Engage additional countries to become members of the Network (Djibouti, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC))



Strategic Objectives

1. To promote integration of RH in all member country policy frameworks and development strategies.

- Document and disseminate good RH/FP policies and practices across the region
- Facilitate South-South learning opportunities for EARHN member countries
- Facilitate the replication of successful interventions
- Support the implementation of integrated RH guidelines in member countries
- Reinforce collaboration and coordination among EARHN member and collaborating countries
- Undertake regular M&E and reporting of EARHN and member country RH Work Plans.

2. To offer a bench-marking platform aimed at improving the RH/FP commodity supply chain as well as strengthening the system.

- Facilitate information sharing among member countries on RH supplies (provision, procurement, and distribution).



Mwebale Nnyo
Asante Sana
Thank You!
Merci Beaucoup !
Murakoze Cyane !

