



Community Advocacy Group Members from Mathare Valley

Kenya Medical Association's Reproductive Health Committee: A look at 2016



FOREWORD

Voila!! KMA/RHRA in the year 2016 touched the lives of many women and girls, County and sub county leadership, policy makers, KMA members, medical students and other stake holders in the health sector in different ways.

We worked with partners to empower women and young people in the informal settlements in Nairobi County and assisted them to understand and claim their reproductive health rights. We also trained Nairobi County and sub county health management teams on reproductive health and the law on abortion in Kenya.

Furthermore, we engaged healthcare providers, KMA

division members and medical students on advocating for reproductive health and rights and ensuring accessibility of the services including contraceptives and safe abortion.

This could not have been achieved without concerted efforts and support from KMA National Governing Council, the National Executive Office, and PP Global ARO, KMA's Chief Executive Officer and Project Staff and Community members from Mathare Valley, Mukuru Kwa Njenga and Mukuru Kwa Reuben.

Looking back, I can say great strides have been made towards making abortion rare; safe and accessible to all in need.

In 2017, we plan to continue working with all stakeholders and diversify our work to different counties and continue with our unfinished business of improving sexual reproductive and rights of including access to safe abortion.

Prof. Boaz Otieno-Nyunya
Convenor, KMA Reproductive Health Committee.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

In this issue we discuss:-

- KMA/RHRA activities FY 16 at a glance
- Expanding our scope
- Indicators of success
- Partnership for sustainability and

KMA/RHRA FY 16 AT A GLANCE

TRAININGS

November 2015: KMA organized training for community leaders, community health volunteers and young people of Mukuru in Nairobi County to build their understanding on reproductive health and rights and define their roles as change makers.

January 2016; To ensure project sustainability at community level, KMA in collaboration with Tatua Kenya trained 105 community members on community organizing and advocacy skills that were used to create awareness and empower the community on reproductive health and rights.



Photo 1: Section Community members working developing work plans in Mukuru Kwa Njenga

March 2016: CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION (CMEs)

Conducted continuous medical education (CME) sessions for

KMA members from Nairobi and Thika divisions on sexual and reproductive health and rights including abortion.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

April 2016, KMA/RHRA supported a panel session at the 44th KMA annual scientific conference held in Kisumu acacia premier hotel. Issues of unsafe abortion in the informal settlements and role of healthcare in advancing SRHR were discussed as well as the need to collaborate with law enforcement officers.



Photo 2& 3: Above Prof. Otieno-Nyunya and Chief Inspector Wilson Edung following the proceedings at the KMA Scientific Conference

May 2016: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTREACHES.

Organized reproductive health outreaches in Mathare valley; one

of the major informal settlements in Nairobi county which saw more than 1000 residents of Mathare garner knowledge and information on reproductive health and rights as well as receive free medical and legal aid services.



Photos 4&5: SRHR advocates presenting during a reproductive health outreach in Mathare.

June 2016: Kenya medical association made a presentation at the 8th AMSUN (Association of medical students from the University of Nairobi) conference held at Light Academy Nairobi that was aimed at exploring the role of upcoming medical providers in ensuring universal access to sexual reproductive health and right

Expanding our scope

1)

Working with medical students to strengthen and improve access to sexual reproductive health and rights

Medical Students: In partnership with MSAKE (Medical Students Association of Kenya), KMA trained 38 medical students from 8 universities in Kenya on sexual reproductive health and rights and on their role as future health care providers and need to promote access to reproductive health services including safe abortion. Medical students through the knowledge garnered expressed their support on advancing and ensuring access to quality sexual reproductive health services.



Some of medical students during one of the training sessions.

2) **Sub County Health Management Teams (SCHMT).** The Nairobi sub county health management (N-SCHMT) formed Technical Working Groups (TWGs) within the various subcounties to address unsafe abortion in informal settlements where KMA/RHRA has its community level projects on SRHR. This has helped in increasing knowledge and awareness on reproductive health majorly on unsafe abortion among health facility staff and patients who seek for services at the different health facilities.



Photos: Members of Nairobi - Subcounty health management team and Community Advocacy group members during a feedback meeting session.

3) **Feedback meetings:** Beyond organizing trainings, KMA reproductive health committee regularly carries out feedback meetings with its stakeholders in order to obtain updates and monitor and evaluate project progress. This has helped in understanding the challenges and areas that need to be addressed

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND POSTERITY

Kenya medical Association has partnered and networked with different stakeholders and organization in addressing sexual reproductive health and rights in Nairobi County.

Through partnership with The Federation of Slum Dwellers in Kenya and local administrative leaders KMA/RHRA was able to create awareness on unsafe abortion as well as conduct a reproductive health outreach that was beneficial to over 1000 residents in Mathare and its environs.



Mathare MP Stephen Kariuki graced the occasion.



Local administration (Chief) addressing the gathering

KMA/RHRA has been collaborating with KELIN to educate communities and healthcare providers on reproductive health law.

KELIN lawyers' offering free legal aid clinic during KMA/RHRA Outreach in Mathare.



Former KMA CEO Dr. Elizabeth Wala during an outreach activity



PP Global partners during roundtable discussion at Kenya medical association boardroom



PP ARO Staff, PP Global partners and KMA TWG and staff at a previous meeting.

On 5thDecember, 2016, Planned Parenthood Global Africa Regional Office together with colleagues from Latin America held a roundtable discussion with KMA staff and technical working group members of Kenya Medical Association. The meeting was meant to provide an opportunity for cross regional learning.

INDICATORS FOR OUR SUCCESS

1) **Building SRHR champions:** KMA has identified and trained reproductive health advocates who are now our SRHR champions from the association, the community and the partners we have so far engaged

Pictured below is one of our SRHR champions from Mukuru (Dorice Moseti)



2) **Referrals:** Trained Community Advocacy group members of both Mukuru and Mathare have been creating awareness on reproductive health and rights in the community as well as making referral for services such as contraceptives, post abortion care and safe abortion services to various health facilities. This has helped reduce cases of unintended pregnancies, morbidity and mortality from unsafe abortion in informal settlements.

