

Pathways Policy Institute Commitment



Narrative:

In Kenya, Pathways Policy Institute, Pathways Policy Institute (PPI), a community-based policy and accountability think tank; Meaningfully Engaging Communities (MEC) on Population, Health, and Environment (PHEs) aims to realize local solutions to Universal Health Coverage through Primary Health Care (PHC) Lens.

PPI, while working to make the commitments, worked with advocates and communities to meaningfully identify areas that can influence Primary health, sexual reproductive health, and environmental policies through research, training, and capacity strengthening.

PPI also has in the last 3 years undertaken Budget analysis and advocacy for Family planning and reproductive health. We have managed to produce 3 budget analyses and 3 Out of Pocket expenditure analyses in which we managed to show that women of reproductive age are spending approximately 3 dollars in Medical Expenses for Family planning. Where commodities are not available in the government facility, women are forced to put in an additional 2 dollars for the commodities. This covers mainly short-term methods that only last at most three months, thus concluding that women do spend approximately 2 dollars per month on contraceptives.

The costs for non-medical access to Family planning vary with regions with women in the analysis indicating that they do spend close to 10 dollars per facility visit (transport, meals etc.).

On youth and adolescent; PPI has in the last three years run a strategy of youth engagement through two programmes: Youth Champions capacity strengthening and the #Betterboys school outreach. In the Youth champions programme, PPI undertakes a week of intense in person capacity building of youth on advocacy where the young women and men receive skills on advocacy, participatory methodology, system thinking and strategic social accountability.

In the Better Boys, a programme that runs concurrently with our partners girls only MHM programmes; we involve the boys to understand MHM and SRH, as well as become champions for MHM SRH in school and their communities. The vision of the programme is having active young men in society appreciating MHM/SRH and have a future generation that can advocate and help put in place mechanism for gender equity and rights.

Thus, in line with the FP2030 Plan to ensure women and girls everywhere have the freedom and ability to lead healthy lives, make their own informed decisions about using contraception and having children, and participate as equals in society, Pathways Policy Institute PPI, through community consultations and meaningful engagements have come up with the following commitment:

- In The 6 counties, the county government charges for consultation and cards for women accessing Hospitals (Level 3 and above), thus making women spend 3-5 dollars per month on medical costs for contraceptives. By 2026, in line with the Kenya FP2030 commitments and the UHC policy, with partners, we expect to advocate for the enactment of the Facility Improvement Fund Act and ensure facilities use the funds generated to cover costs of essential services, including Family planning.

- PPI, in the last 3 years has worked with Young boys for increased boys/male involvement in reproductive health and Menstrual Hygiene through its school programs in 10 schools. PPI, hopes by 2026 to expand the school outreach programme to 50 schools in Laikipia county, and open up the programme to 5 pilot schools in each of our 6 counties of operation Laikipia, Nyeri, Nakuru, Kajiado, Narok, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit.
- Modern technology has paved the way for multi-functional devices, and young people all over the world have embraced it and are using digital platforms to acquire information. Pathways has in the last year used online spaces (WhatsApp status, Spaces and Youtube) to engage the youth and conducts linkages with SRH providers in counties. Pathways commits to continue bridging the misinformation gap by utilizing and continued set up of more digital platforms to reach adolescent and youths with accurate contraceptive information by 2025.
- A good advocacy communication strategy assists in efficiently planning and managing work that targets the people who have the power to effect the changes desired and engage those affected. Pathways Policy Institute commits to continuously transforming social and gender norms to improve male engagement in family planning and eliminate social-cultural barriers to FP service utilization through effective communication in the advocacy of these matters and the involvement of men in FP through integrated campaigns that include, print, multimedia and interactive content shared through consumer-friendly channels.

Outcomes:

1. Number of women with unmet need for FP will reduce by 10% in Laikipia
2. Budget allocation for FP within facilities will increase by 10% in Laikipia, Nyeri, Samburu and Kajiado.
3. Number of #Betterboyz graduating from the PPI #Betterboyz school programme increased to 2,000.