EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH POLICY IN KENYA AND IDENTIFYING IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY CHANGE

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INTEREST AND INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY HEALTH.
CLOSE-TO-COMMUNITY PROVIDERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE.
CLOSE-TO-COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO LINK THE COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEM.
HIGH ATTRITION RATES AMONG COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND FUNDING CHALLENGES HAVE LED TO REVISION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH STRATEGY IN KENYA.
POLITICAL DEVOLUTION IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ONGOING CHALLENGES.

CURRENT STRATEGY
2 Community Health Extension Workers
PAID GOVERNMENT STAFF
SUPERVISORY ROLE
50 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MEMBERS
CARRY OUT HEALTH TASKS

REVISED STRATEGY
5 Community Health Extension Workers
PAID GOVERNMENT STAFF
CARRY OUT HEALTH CHECKS
10 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MEMBERS
COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

what did we do?
QUALITATIVE METHODS
DEEPEST INTERVIEWS
FINDINGS
Widespread community appreciation.
Uneven coverage creates challenges providing equitable services for all.
High Community Health Worker attrition, lack of funds for salaries, high Community Health Extension Worker workload.
Unclear supervisory link to Community Health Extension Workers.
Limited community knowledge of strategy revision.
Unclear future for community engagement following revision.
Demand for integrated community services, including home-based HIV testing and counselling.

recommendations
1. ADVOCATE WITH COUNTY DECISION MAKERS TO BUDGET FOR TASKS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE REVISED STRATEGY
2. DEVELOP SUPERVISION CURRICULUM AND TOOLS
3. IDENTIFY EQUITY INDICATORS AND TRACK COVERAGE FOR MARGINALISED GROUPS
4. INTEGRATE HIV SERVICES WITHIN COMMUNITY HEALTH STRATEGY
5. RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH STRATEGY REVISION

“They (Community Health Workers) do a good job.” (KITUI_CLIENT2)
“I think that it is very important that the lessons and the challenges should inform the decision to revise the Community Strategy... so that we can come up with something that can work well for us and we can remove what we feel did not work well for us.” (POLICY MAKER)