

An Assessment on Contribution of Community Strategy Approach to Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) Elements In Kenya. By J.Buong, C.Gwoswar and D. Kaseje.

Introduction: Community strategy approach to health care is the term used in Kenya by the Health Sector as an equivalent to the universal trend of revitalization of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. Primary Health Care Concept was adapted for implementation by Kenya from the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 and the implementation of the elements started mainly in 1980. There were some improvements realized based on the PHC elements such as improved community participation and intersectoral collaboration up to the late 1980s. The achievements were however not sustained. The model is based on the concept of CPHC and focuses specifically on the principle of Intersectoral collaboration (partnership), community participation, empowerment and access to health care. Currently there is scale up of community strategy by the MoH and other partners. However, since 2007 it was not known what issues could be going on in the process of this roll out and the outputs and outcomes beyond the pilot site. The study objectives were: (i) Identify and assess the components of the *Community Strategy Approach* model that have been implemented and sustained by the MoH and other partners (ii) Compare the uptake of the Community Strategy Approach components (iii) Document the experiences of the MoH and other partners

Methodology: This was comparative case study which used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. These included Desk reviews, household survey in seven districts, Health facility assessments, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). The comparisons were done within districts, across districts by regions and implementers in different socio economic contexts.

Major findings: Some of the key findings are that most of the model components were taken up and sustained by MoH and other partners; increased level of community participation as demonstrated in the community health committees, stakeholder forums and CHWs activities; improvement in access to services as shown in ITN use for mothers; ANC attendance 4+ and evidence in use of CBHIS. CBHIS has strongly influenced immunization coverage ($r=0.607$).

Conclusion and Recommendations: Community Strategy plays a key role in the renewal of comprehensive primary health care in Kenya, therefore there is need for an integrated approach to a multidimensional and multi-sectoral health programme that ensure community's increased access to health services. The model has shown that most of the components can be uptaken and sustained however there should a be a continuous supervision and close linkage between District Health management Teams (DHMTs) , the health workers at the facility level, CHEWs, Community Health Committees (CHC) and CHWs at the community level for the sustainability of the community strategy activities.