PROJECT TITLE

A CHANGE PROJECT ON STRATEGIES GEARED TOWARDS ENHANCING UPTAKE OF SKILLED HOSPITAL DELIVERIES IN NAROK WEST SUB COUNTY, NAROK COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

Activity background

Narok West Sub-County is one among the eight Sub Counties in Narok County. It is vast and covers an area of approximately 755 square kilometers with a population of over 80,000 people. The Sub County is known for its vast Maasai Mara Game Reserve and sits largely in the Maasai Mara ecosystem. The wildlife pose a great threat to the communities that live within the conservancies and game reserve; this contributes largely to low accessibility to health services in the entire region.

Skilled birth attendance plays a great role in reduction of birth-related complications, morbidities and mortalities because of the knowledge, skills and competencies possessed by health care workers gained through training and mentorship hence guaranteed safe delivery with minimal complications.

Problem Identified

Under-utilization of health facilities by women during labour and delivery in Narok West Sub County has led to poor health outcomes for both the mother and the neonate. Majority of women who deliver at home develop complications during labour and delivery and are mostly brought to the health facilities following such complications and this has often resulted to maternal and perinatal mortalities and morbidities.

Aim of the project

BROAD OBJECTIVE

1. To increase skilled birth attendance from 37% in June, 2024 to 48% by 30th September, 2024 in Narok West Sub County though introduction of a raft of measures

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance skilled hospital deliveries through on-boarding of Community Health Promoters and traditional birth attendants in Narok West Sub County

2. To conduct Supportive supervision to the lowest performing health facilities in Narok West Sub County

3. To enhance cost effective community-led initiatives towards utilization of health facilities by women in Narok West Sub County during labour and delivery

THEORY OF CHANGE

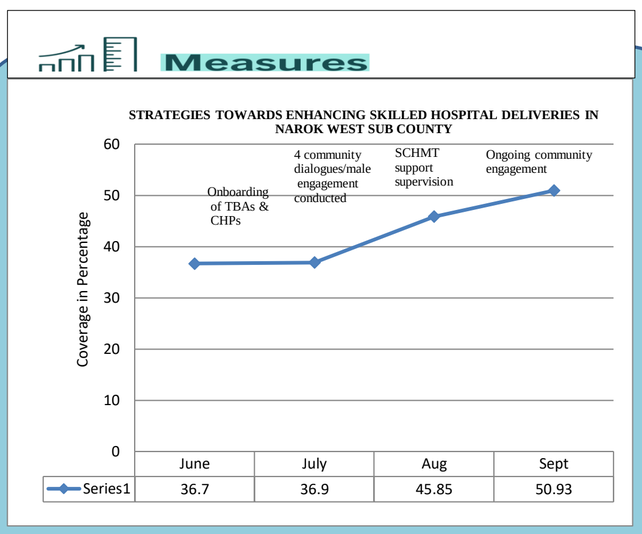
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT	RESULTS/OUTCOME	ACHIEVEMENT/IMPACT
Meeting CHPS and TBAs	CHPs and TBAs onboarded after a meeting	Improved utilization of health facilities by women during labour and delivery	Increase in skilled hospital deliveries from 37% to 50.93 in a period of three months from JUNE, 2024 TO September, 2024
Community engagement through dialogues and men forums	4 Community dialogues and men forums conducted		
SCHMT Supportive supervision	3 Supportive supervisions conducted		

Changes made

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

1. Male involvement/engagement
2. Onboarding of Traditional Birth Attendants
3. Community sensitization through dialogues
4. Frequent supportive supervision to Narok West health facilities
5. Leveraging on Community Health Promoters services at the community level

Measures



Key Insights

1. Close engagement of communities on matters that affect them directly is key in enhancing acceptance of the services being offered

2. Nothing for the community without the community

3. My leadership as a Sub County Reproductive health Coordinator through spearheading supportive supervision to health facilities and community engagement initiatives yielded good results in terms of performance and that where there is a will, there is a way

"Before you brought us on board, we had relaxed a lot and were not very aggressive but now that you have given us mentorship on how to go about our duties, we promise to make prompt referrals for all clients and especially those requiring skilled hospital deliveries"

Sentiments of a Community Health Promoter

"We have seen an upward trajectory of skilled deliveries in the recent past and majority of women who come to deliver in our facility are in the company of traditional birth attendants".

A nurse from Talek health centre

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 10 Traditional Birth Attendats were succesfully onboarded and linked with various health facilities
- 60 Community Health Promoters were capacity built through health forums on how toenhance their effectiveness on referral of clients to the health facilities for services
- 10 male forums were conducted
- 4 community dialogues were conducted to sensitize the community on importance of hospital delivery
- 3 supportive supervision to health facilities conducted together with other members of the Sub County Health Management team
- Improved performance of skilled birth attendance from 37% to 50.9%

"We no longer assist women to deliver at home, as you can see we have been escorting them to come and deliver in the health facility".

Positive remarks from a Traditional birth attendant attached to Mararianta Health Centre

"I must say that your visits to our health facility as the Sub CountyHealth Management team has reallybeen insightful in terms of how to handle our community. This has made us feel valued by you and as such, your visits have been able to improve our performance especially in terms of skilled deliveries".

Sentiments of a health facility's hospital administrator and facility in charge

CONCLUSION

Knowing the root cause of the problem is key in finding out solutions and again, bringing on board key stakeholders towards looking for possible solutions to problems is very important.

Involving communities on matters that pertain them largely wins their cooperation and acceptance to the changes being introduced. On the contrary, excluding communities who are the key stakeholders in health system will eventually bring about resistance to the proposed changes and services regardless of how important such changes would be hence need to onboard them at the inception as well as keep them updated on any new developments.

Narok West Sub County is largely inhabited by the Maasai community and men are the decision makers (in terms of granting permission and resources) in everything including health seeking behaviour of their spouses and as such, it is prudent to engage men closely on all matters health in order to enhance utilization of the said services

NEXT STEPS:

Phase two of this project will look at how other services such as Family planning and Antenatal care coverage can be enhanced through the same strategies that have been employed in this project since their coverage is equally low

Contact Details

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