EVOLUTION OF RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE IN KENYA

Timothy Abuya, Charity Ndewiga and Charlotte Warren
Global Symposium on Health Systems Research 8-12th Oct, 2018
The Genesis

• Mistreatment during childbirth was widely known, but not well framed

• Human rights organizations documented instances of mistreatment during provision of maternity care in Kenya

• Little public health evidence existed beyond project reports and a few peer-reviewed articles

• USAID commissioned a review of global evidence to assess the extent of mistreatment

• We tested the effect of implementing composite interventions on the prevalence of mistreatment during facility based childbirth
From evidence to policy action in Kenya

**Intervention design**
- Consultation and introduction of concept
- Formative assessment & consultative engagement with stakeholders
- Development of potential intervention for testing
- Advocacy for implementation

**Implementation process**
- County level advocacy activities
- Implementation of package & refining elements
- Monitoring intervention process & documentation

**Policy adoption and scale up**
- Global & national advocacy
- National adoption integrated into Quality of maternal care

Five years of deliberate advocacy & engagement with various players throughout the process
Use of evidence & facilitators for action

- Sustained advocacy using variety of research results & Outputs
- Use of media to highlight relevant issues & sustain advocacy
- Use of professional bodies and carefully selected champions of change
- Developing relationship with key players
- Utilizing various platforms for engagement

Facilitators for successful RMC policy uptake

- Health system with strong commitment, responsive, accountable to women’s rights, & inclusive of relevant stakeholders
- Strong facility & community linkages that seeks redress for mistreatment
Generating evidence for global audience (2013-2018)

i. Study protocol for promoting respectful maternity care initiative to assess, measure and design interventions to reduce disrespect and abuse during childbirth in Kenya https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2393-13-21


iii. Manifestations and drivers of mistreatment of women during childbirth in Kenya: implications for measurement and developing intervention https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-017-1288-6


ix. Sowing the seeds of transformative practice to actualize women’s rights to respectful maternity care: reflections from Kenya using the consolidated framework for implementation research https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-017-0425-8

Development of resource package for implementation
THANK YOU.