

PRESS RELEASE



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Division of National AIDS and STI Control Program (NASCOP)

26th September 2019, Nairobi, Kenya.

National and County Health leaders commit to improve the health and wellness of Women, Adolescents and Children by 2021

On Thursday 26th September 2019, key stakeholders responsible for the health and wellbeing of children, adolescents and women and their partners in Kenya reviewed, accepted and committed to change the current worrying trends in HIV transmissions from mothers to child and maternal and infant mortality. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the two day national stock take meeting the Kenya school of government, in Kiambu County, The head, Division of National AIDS and STI Control Program (NASCOP) Dr. Catherine Ngugi called on all key stakeholders to work together and ensure that the tide is reversed, “Currently, 22 new HIV infections occur daily through mother to child transmissions and 1 in every 3 pregnant women attending Antenatal Care is an adolescent. This is unacceptable” said Dr. Ngugi.

This was the first time ever that three divisions of the Ministry of Health; National AIDS and STI Control program, Reproductive and Maternal Health and Neonatal and Child Health jointly convened stakeholders in Reproductive Maternal Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis (eMTCT) from all the 47 Counties. They included; County Executive Committee members for Health, Civil Society Organizations, Academia and professional bodies, young people, development and implementing partners.

In support of and to accelerate the achievement of His Excellency, Uhuru Kenyatta, The President of the Republic of Kenya’s big 4 agenda on Universal Health Coverage, the integrated national stock taking meeting, whose theme was “*Every Woman, Every Child, and Every Adolescent life counts! – Tulinde Kizazi!*” critically reviewed data to inform deliberations and definition of resolutions moving forward.

In line with the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health Ms. Susan **Mochache's** call to; **1. Sustain** what is working well; **2. Undo** what hasn’t worked well and **3; Scale up** innovations and best practices, the stakeholders were unanimously passed the following resolutions to;

- Improve the national Mother-to-Child-Transmission rate from 12.4% to less than 5% by 2021
- Reduce the facility maternal deaths from 3000 annually to less than 1500 by 2021
- Reduce the rates of the triple epidemic of teenage pregnancy, new HIV infections and sexual exploitation and abuse from 1 in 3 to at less than 1 in 10 by 2021
- Improve skilled birth attendance from 65% to 80% by 2021

- Reduce fresh still births from 11,000 annually to less than 5000
- Improve data quality and reporting rates from 85% to 100% by 2021
- Hold themselves accountable through biannual national forums to review progress

The immediate next step is for counties and national health leadership to convene a high level meeting to translate this commitments to county specific targets and plans.

We are happy to facilitate one on one interviews with Head, Division of NASCOP, Head, Division of Reproductive Maternal Health, Head, Division of Neonatal and Child Health and case studies through Violet Otindo, Communications NASCOP on **votindo@gmail.com**

Photos and B-Roll /videos from the event are available on request.

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