

Conference: 9th African Population Conference

Theme: “Road to 2030: Leveraging Africa’s human capital to achieve transformation in a world uncertainty”

Topic of Focus: Fertility/Sexual and Reproductive Health

Affiliate Organization: The Palladium Group.

Title

Increasing family planning and maternal health services uptake through focused community health interventions in Narok County, Kenya.

Background

Narok County hosts the culturally rich indigenous Maasai community. It has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Kenya at 28%, well above the national average of 15% (KDHS 2022). It has among the worst maternal and child health outcomes in Kenya including a high Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) of 434/100,000 live births against a national average of 362/100,000 live births. Maternal health service coverage is poor: 50% of the population has access to services; 46% attend ANC; 40.3% of pregnant women have skilled assistance at delivery (KDHS 2014). Early marriages are also prevalent. Despite this, conversations on SRH are culturally abhorred hence limiting uptake of FP and MH services.

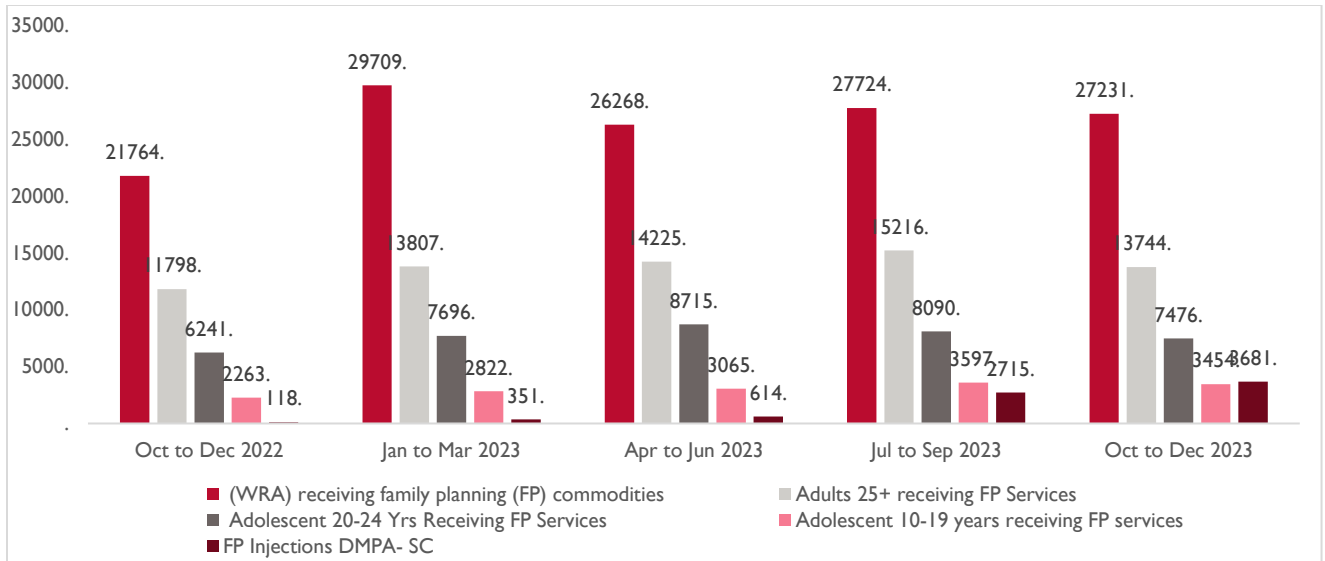
The Palladium Group through the NPI EXPAND project is implementing a 5-year project to increase awareness, demand and acceptance of MH and FP services by addressing socio-cultural barriers with interventions around community health and creating demand for FP/MH services at the community and facility levels.

Methodology/Approaches

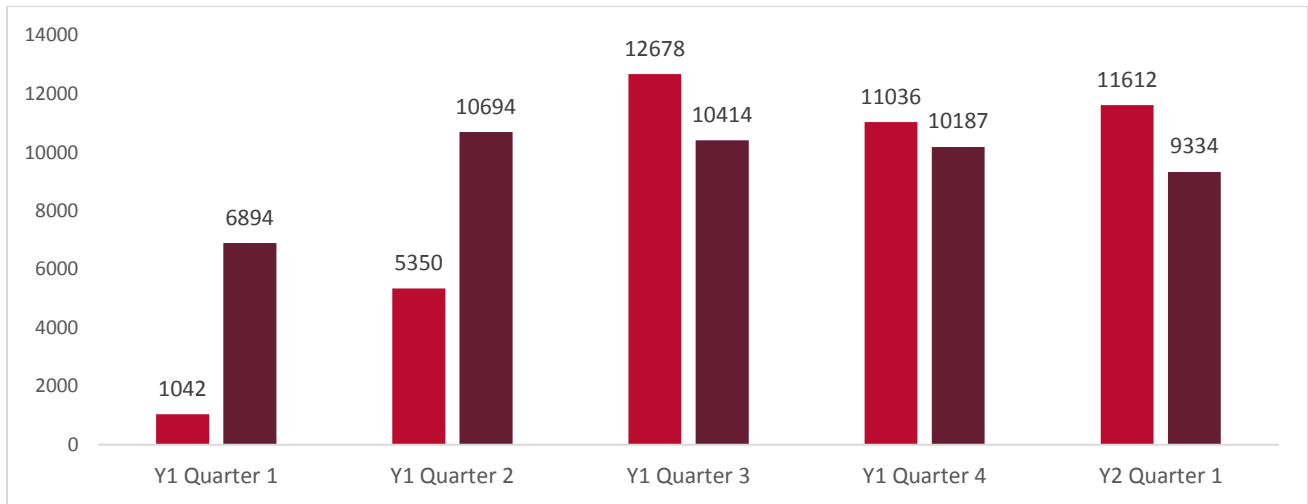
1. Training Community health volunteers and community health assistants on family planning and maternal health including training community-based FP distributors.
2. Quarterly and monthly review meetings with CHAs, CHV and CBDs
3. Integrated joint outreaches involving health, gender and the environment through CHVs, CBDs and CHAs.
4. Male engagement forums, women engagement forums and youths’ forums where issues of FP and MH are discussed by specific age sets cohorts.
5. Goat eating sessions where elderly men and young men commit to promote uptake of FP and MH through cultural activities.
6. Engaging traditional birth attendants as mother companions for younger women to guarantee confidence and safe delivery in facilities.

Results

Increased uptake of women receiving family planning services and maternal health services from facility level - Kenya Health Information System (KHIS Jan 2024)



Increased number of households reached with messages on FP/MH which resulted in an increase in the uptake of services at facility levels.



Conclusion

Targeted community health interventions on various groups of people in the community have better outcomes on RH Indicators.