

**PARLIAMENTARIANS USE OF EVIDENCE IN
FAMILY PLANNING FINANCING: THE CASE
STUDY OF MALAWI**

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Presentation outline

- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion

Background

- Malawi family planning commodities solely relied on donor funding until 2013.
- In 2012, Malawi committed to create a budget line for contraceptives in its national budget.
- Evidence showed that Malawi needed to start using local resources to finance contraceptives in case the donors stop funding.
- Malawi created the first government budget line for contraceptives in 2013 when the commodities were highly financed by donors.

Background continued!

- Spending the allocated government resources was a challenge due to competing priorities.
- Members of Malawi Parliament needed evidence to support Ministry of Health spend 100% of the allocated \$80,000 for contraceptives in 2014.
- Members of Malawi Parliament also needed evidence to lobby for increased budget line to contraceptives despite donor funds.

METHODS

- Every year from 2013, Members of Parliament belonging to the Health Committee made commitments to increase local funding for contraceptives following the FP2020 Malawi Commitments.
- They engaged department of Reproductive Health and Civil Society Organizations for evidence on the need to have increased funding to contraceptives.
- Factsheets, case studies and posters to increase funding to contraceptives were given to Members of Parliament.

METHODS Continued!

- With evidence, Members of Parliament conducted a number of round- table meetings involving Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance.
- Both meetings aimed at monitoring 100% spending of contraceptive budget line and the need to increase resources contraceptive budget line.

Members of Parliament advocates lobbying for the creation of FP budget at different meetings

MPs used evidence to convince Minister of Finance to increase allocation



RESULTS

- A number of spending challenges were identified in the initial round table meetings.
 - The contraceptives commodities already procured were still available
 - Local resources were small compared to donor funds
 - Competing priorities prevented spending
- Evidence still showed that Malawi needed to start financing family planning.

RESULTS CONTINUED!

- Members of Parliament lobbied with MoF to increase the allocation to Family Planning.
- Collaboration with evidence among MoH, MoF and Parliament managed to have the 100% resources allocated to family planning spent on FP commodities in
2013/2014; 2014/2015; 2015/2016
- There has also been an increase in the allocation to family planning in the same period e.g \$80,000 in 2013/2014, \$136,000 in 2014/2015, and \$146,000 in 2015/2016
- Resources allocated to family planning for commodities are ring fenced.

CONCLUSION

- Use of evidence helped Members of Parliament to monitor spending for Family planning.
- Without evidence, it would be challenging for Members of Parliament to monitor 100% spending of local resources on contraceptives which are financed by donors. .
- Use of evidence also assisted Ministry of Finance to increase the financial allocation to contraceptives despite reducing allocations to other budget lines.
- Evidence helped Members of Parliament to ring-fence contraceptive budget.

Thank you for your attention!