



Kenya Muslim Youth Development Organization

Perspectives on "Quality Families" and reaching Muslim leaders

APHA Webinar -- May 11, 2017

BACKGROUND

Kenya Muslim Youth Development Organization- is a national youth led Muslim youth organization that engages in health programs to improve the health of Muslims mainly youth, women and families in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Adolescent sexual Reproductive health and rights, Family Planning, TB, Malaria, Maternal, Newborn and child health and Ending Gender based violence through partnerships with the state and non-state actors.



Our Vision

A healthy, empowered and informed Muslim populace

Our Mission

KMYDO exists to build the capacity of the Muslim population (Youth & women) to advocate for a human rights based approach in the provision and access to health services within a supportive religious framework.

Objectives

- ▶ To enhance a rights based approach in addressing key health issues facing Muslim youth and women
- ▶ To build and develop the capacity of the Muslim youth and women to be proactive in accessing appropriate health services
- ▶ To strengthen inter and intra networking for an enhanced capacity and understanding of KMYDO's mandate



Perspectives on "Quality Families" and reaching Muslim leaders

Intro: Islam refers to Quality families as being a family that has ability to provide basic needs, education and health care equitable to all the children.

- ▶ Islam is concerned with quality of life and that's why we as KMYDO are concerned on how to enhance the quality of life because we understand the challenges related to prenatal and antenatal care which are so savior to the baby and also the mother, our interest here is to take care of the wellbeing of the baby and the mother especially through child spacing.
- ▶ Different faith communities appreciate this issues differently some prefer natural methods while others embrace new scientific methods of family planning.
- ▶ But for us our value is to create a healthy conversation on FP with the communities with an aim of finding a way out in terms of our main objective of ensuring the wellbeing of the baby and mother (families)



Perspectives Continued...

It's misperceived by few that the core purpose for Muslim is to fill the world without fear of provision, but those are just misperceptions, and again Islam emphasizes:

- ▶ Breast feeding as being an important aspect in ensuring the wellbeing of the mother and the child and which allows for child spacing hence Quality families (Al baqara 2/233) and also allowing a woman to rest between pregnancies.
- ▶ Equality between children boys and girls is granted
- ▶ Islam actually prefers the quality of the children over the number *the prophet PBUH said- the most grueling trial is to have plenty of children with no adequate means). (Authenticated by Imam Syuthy and Imam Hakim among other medical reasons such as: Preventing the transmission of infectious disease, such as an HIV/Aids, STD etc.

Re-positioning Family Planning

KMYDO seeks to re-position family planning as a health intervention, by introducing the concept of "birth spacing saves lives" based on the principles of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies to reduce maternal, newborn, and child mortality and morbidity by using innovative approaches , such us obtaining religious consensus on accepted FP services and then promoting access of Muslims to Family planning information and services. KMYDO make use of Muslim leadership especially religious scholars on the frontline in promoting the concept of child spacing, use of Muslim structures (mosques, madrassas) in dissemination of information on voluntary FP services for Muslim women and youth in accessing voluntary FP services.



OUR APPROACH

Our programs are rights centered and are implemented through Learning, Interactive and participatory approaches within a supportive religious framework through:

- ▶ Stakeholders forum
- ▶ Family planning trainings-(Imams/maalmats/youth&women)
- ▶ Advocacy training targeted at muslim scholars
- ▶ Community family planning sensitization forums
- ▶ Using Islamic calendar events (e.g. Friday family planning caravans and muslim days (eid, mawlid)-service provision and awareness raising
- ▶ Use of multi media(tv and radio) for information sharing
- ▶ Designing and printing/adoption of muslim fp focused fliers and brochure
- ▶ Development of Costed Implementation Plan.

WAJIR AND NAKURU COUNTY FP CIP



SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES EMPLOYED BY KMYDO IN REACHING OUT ON MUSLIM LEADERS

- ▶ Establishment of Islamic Family Planning advocacy network (IFPAN)
 - ▶ KMYDO identified Muslim religious leaders, Scholars from national and county levels, national and county government leadership and trained them on advocacy on Advance FP.
- ▶ Functions of the IFPAN.
- ▶ To continuously engage scholars on how well to improve the FP toolkit.
- ▶ To engage FP partners and promote inclusion of Muslim targeted strategies in their work.
- ▶ To advocate for allocation of more resources towards Family planning initiative by both government and development partners.
- ▶ To continually monitor uptake of family planning and counter negative forces for sustainable retention of family planning uptake.



Activities

- ▶ Focused group discussion with young Muslims
- ▶ Amina Network health session



Couple discussion of FP from household level



During the National Conference on FP





ASANTENI
(THANK YOU)

MUSTAFA
ASMAN ISMAIL

FP champion
RPC

Kenya Muslim
Youth
Development
Organization