



The Landscape Analysis of STI Prevention in Kenya

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Background

Global STI Rates:

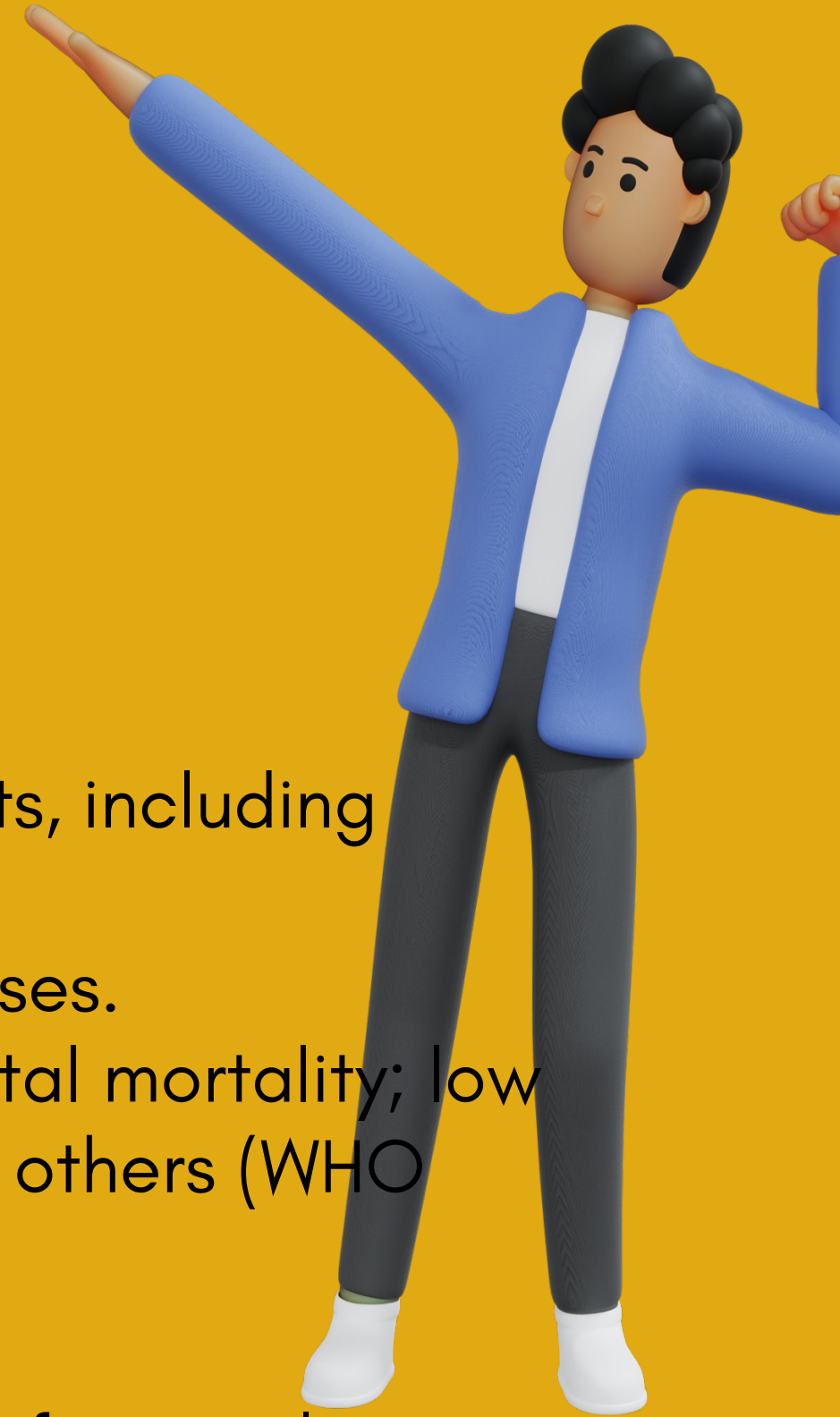
- Over 1M STIs are transmitted daily with majority being asymptomatic
- STI's are caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungal infections.
- Despite global efforts, STI rates remain high.

Global STI Impact:

- Rising impact on health and economies, especially in LMIC.
- STIs are transmitted through sexual contact and can have severe effects, including increasing HIV risk and adverse reproductive outcomes.
- In 2016, four common treatable STIs caused an estimated 376M new cases.
- Risks of STIs include increased risk of contracting HIV; still births; neonatal mortality; low birth weight; preterm birth; sepsis and congenital abnormalities among others (WHO 2023)

STI Burden in Kenya:

- Kenya faces a higher STI infection rates among young women and specific populations.
- Common STIs in Kenya include Chlamydia, HPV, bacterial vaginosis, gonorrhoea and HIV.
- Despite progress in STI prevention efforts, challenges remain in reaching key populations and young people and delivering youth-friendly health services.



The STI Advocacy Challenge

- ✓ **High Costs of Diagnostic Tools:** High costs act as a barrier to timely and affordable testing for STIs.
- ✓ **Antimicrobial Resistance:** Resistance to antibiotics can lead to treatment failures and more severe health outcomes.
- ✓ **Asymptomatic Cases:** Many individuals unknowingly transmit the infection to others and remain undiagnosed and untreated.
- ✓ **Challenges in Accessibility:** Accessing STI prevention and care services can be difficult for some populations, particularly in rural areas or informal settlements.
- ✓ **Scalability of Interventions:** Making interventions available, accessible, and expandable to reach a broader population can be a complex task.

Goal

Primary Goal

The primary goal of this project was to conduct a landscape analysis for STI vaccines and diagnostics and identify opportunities for advocacy.

Specific Objectives

- ✓ Assess existing advocacy efforts for STI vaccines and diagnostics.
- ✓ Identify gaps, challenges, and barriers in STI advocacy.
- ✓ Map key stakeholders in STI prevention advocacy.
- ✓ Evaluate current advocacy strategies in STI prevention.

Methodology



The Approach:

- Utilized a multi-faceted mixed method research approach
- Included Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and document review

Sampling Methods and Criteria:

- Purposive sampling
- Sampling criteria included expertise in STI prevention and advocacy, unique perspectives, critical roles in STI prevention, and demographic and geographic diversity.

Stratification by Region:

- Stratified Kenya into three regions for diverse representation. Allocated 15 interviews proportionally
 1. Coast – 3 KIIs, 1 FGD with AGYW
 2. Nairobi – 7 KIIs, 1 FGD with Sex Workers
 3. Western – 5 KII, 1 FGD with MSM.

Data Collection Methods



Key Informant Interviews

- In-depth one-on-one interviews
- Gathered insights from experts and stakeholders



Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

- Group discussions with MSM, AGYW & SW
- Captured community-level insights and challenges



Key Informant Interviews

- Comprehensive review of existing literature and documents
- Provided background information and addressed research questions

Scope of the Project

- The project engaged a wide spectrum of stakeholders, from policymakers, healthcare providers, and community representatives to international organizations and experts in sexual and reproductive health



Results

The results of the STI Landscape Analysis Project were organized into seven themes, providing a comprehensive insight into the landscape of STI prevention advocacy in Kenya

- 1** Perception of STI Prevention Advocacy Landscape
- 2** Existing STI Vaccines and Diagnostics
- 3** Perceptions of Advocacy Landscape
- 4** Successes and Opportunities for Advocacy
- 5** Gaps and Challenges in Advocacy
- 6** Community/Stakeholder Engagement
- 7** Innovations and Solutions



Results



- ✓ A significant portion of the population, especially in rural and informal settlement areas, lacks comprehensive knowledge about various sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and available prevention methods, including vaccines and diagnostics.
- ✓ Access to STI vaccines, diagnostics, and prevention services is hindered by factors such as geographical distance, financial barriers, and a scarcity of user-friendly diagnostic tools.
- ✓ While there is some awareness of STI prevention initiatives, perceptions of their effectiveness vary.
- ✓ Calls for stronger government coordination, data-driven advocacy, and integration of STI prevention advocacy with broader sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) efforts.



Results



- ✓ Resource constraints, including financial, human, and infrastructural resources, pose significant challenges for comprehensive STI prevention advocacy.
- ✓ Stigma and discrimination, especially among key populations, hinder the uptake of STI testing and treatment services.
- ✓ Limited political prioritization and cultural norms contribute to the spread of STIs.
- ✓ Government health departments, NGOs, and healthcare providers play pivotal roles in STI prevention, advocacy, and service delivery.
- ✓ Collaboration and community engagement, cultural sensitivity, and youth involvement are essential for the success of STI prevention efforts.
- ✓ Leveraging technology, community health workers, and peer educators can enhance STI prevention and advocacy.
- ✓ Recommendations include promoting self-testing kits, integrating STI prevention with broader SRHR initiatives, and fostering inclusive, context-specific campaigns.



Key takeaways

✓ There are significant opportunities to improve STI prevention, ensure equitable access to vaccines and diagnostics, and advocate for sexual health rights in Kenya through policy changes, community mobilization, public-private partnerships, and comprehensive educational campaigns

✓ Significant challenges, such as limited public awareness, disparities in information access, and stigma and discrimination still exist emphasizing the need for focused advocacy efforts, policy changes, and interventions to bridge disparities, reduce stigma, and improve access to STI care.

✓ Key priorities for future STI prevention and advocacy efforts in Kenya include educational campaigns, supportive government policies prioritizing STI prevention and equitable healthcare access, and capacity-building programs for healthcare providers to deliver inclusive services.

✓ By addressing project limitations and leveraging its strengths, stakeholders are poised to work collaboratively, supported by government policies, to drive meaningful change in STI prevention and care.





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**Thank
You!**

