

# RH BudgetWatch

MONITORING SPENDING ON CONTRACEPTIVES

Population Action

INTERNATIONAL

HEALTHY FAMILIES HEALTHY PLANET

For more than two decades, Population Action International (PAI) has been a leader in monitoring trends and advocating for funding of international reproductive health (RH), including contraceptives. In recent years, advocacy with national governments to ensure long-term availability of contraceptives, has become increasingly important. One success has been securing line items in national budgets for contraceptives. However, there is little evidence across countries on what happens once the budget line is in place. Without monitoring and documenting whether and how funds are actually spent, advocacy for increased national government resources for RH supplies will only be partially successful.

In January 2012 PAI launched **RH BudgetWatch**, a two-year project to promote access to contraceptives by fostering greater oversight over budget expenditures as well as allocations. The project objectives are to:

- 1 Build evidence on the proportion of national budget lines for contraceptives that are spent, and identify the essential factors that facilitate complete expenditure and programming of funds.** This approach seeks to fill the gap in evidence on what exactly the funding bought (e.g. types of methods), how funding and commodities are distributed to end users, and what factors, such as strong political leadership, facilitate full spending.
- 2 Enhance the capacity of PAI and its partners to analyze and influence budgets for RH supplies.** This component aims to strengthen the ability of all project partners to carry out effective budget advocacy, through targeted trainings and technical assistance.
- 3 Promote robust and effective funding for reproductive health supplies in the long term,** by ensuring that evidence gathered in this project informs global and national-level advocacy.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

This work is undertaken in collaboration with national partners in Kenya and Tanzania. These countries were selected because they have a budget line item for contraceptives in place, and relative ease of access to budget information. In each country, the project works with the following civil society partners:



### Health Rights Advocacy Forum (HERAF), Kenya:

HERAF was established in 2006 as a national non-governmental organization to bring together health professionals, faith-based-organizations, organizations for people living with HIV/AIDS, and other civil society groups, to advocate for health as a fundamental human right in Kenya. Under RH BudgetWatch, HERAF will advocate for increased budget allocation and effective use of funds for family planning programs in Kenya. HERAF staff will assess and analyze the amount of government funding given and spent on family planning, and determine the factors that influence budgeting and spending for family planning programs. HERAF will also advocate for increased funding for family planning in Kenya's future budgets, in order to address frequent stock-outs and improve access to family planning services in Kenya.



a global leader in reproductive health

### Pathfinder International, Tanzania Country Office:

Pathfinder International was established in 1957 to ensure people everywhere have the right and opportunity to live a healthy sexual and reproductive life by working with host country governments and local organizations to address the full spectrum of reproductive health challenges. In Tanzania, Pathfinder is dedicated to creating access to and improving the quality of reproductive health and family planning, and HIV/AIDS care and services. Under RH BudgetWatch, Pathfinder Tanzania will ensure district-level budget analysis on contraceptive services and supplies is used to inform national government spending, and government commitments to increase funding for contraceptives are honored.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact Suzanna Dennis, Senior Research Associate, +1 202 557-3434, [sdennis@popact.org](mailto:sdennis@popact.org).

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