Strengthening School Health Programming in Nairobi City County

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Out of every 1000 girls between the ages of 15-19 years, 96 have ever had a child.
### Early pregnancy among girls 15-19 years in Kenya

<table>
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<th>Ever pregnant (%)</th>
<th>% out of school among ever pregnant</th>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>98</td>
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Source: Demographic and Health Survey

Pregnancy clearly means the end of education for almost all adolescent girls.
What can be done?

- The National School Health Policy and associated guidelines outline ways in which schools can ensure that young people have access to health enhancing information and services.

- But, only 15% of Nairobi schools have a comprehensive school health program.

- The NCC with support from STEP UP has developed a plan of action to increase the implementation of the National School Health Policy in the county with a goal of having 50% having a comprehensive school health program by 2025.
About the Plan of Action

- Outlines key objectives and activities to strengthen the implementation of school health programs in Nairobi County, particularly with respect to sexual and reproductive health

- Overall goals
  - All schools in Nairobi City County implement the National School Health Policy by 2025

- Specific goal:
  - Reduction in number of early and unintended pregnancy among primary and secondary school learners in Nairobi County from 14% to 5% by 2025
Approach adopted to develop the Plan of Action

- Engages “the experts” to understand the challenges and opportunities around implementing the school health policy

- Collaboratively address the challenges by developing an action plan with an emphasis on the “how”
Lessons Learnt

- **Challenges**
  - Lengthy, but productive process of building trust and commitment
  - Competing activities at County level

- **Success**
  - Better understanding of the SHP
  - Full set of Actions finalized
  - Support from County
  - Interest from other Counties
“….policy implementation is not merely an administrative choice which once legislated and the institutions mandated with administrative authority identified will just happen, but rather a process that encourages action by public and private individuals or groups towards achieving the objectives of the policy.”

J. Wasonga et al., 2014
The **STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium** is coordinated by the Population Council in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center; icddr,b; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Marie Stopes International; and Partners in Population on Development. **STEP UP** is funded by UK aid from the UK Government.