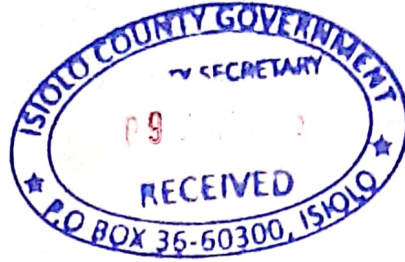


ISIOLO COUNTY YOUTH CHAMPIONS

TO:

THE COUNTY SECRETARY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO



23rd December 2024

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES REGARDING HEALTH ISSUES AND INEQUALITIES AFFECTING ISIOLO COUNTY

We the undersigned are the youths of Isiolo County. We face significant health challenges that are exacerbated by socio-economic inequalities. This memorandum outlines Key health issues, their impact on the community and recommendations to address these disparities.

Key health issues Identified

1. Access to Health Care services

The youth of Isiolo county have identified the following gaps in health care services. The problems are;

- a) lack of a functional mortuary at the Isiolo teaching and referral hospital.
- b) Need for a rehabilitation centre due to the high number of cases of drug and substance abuse
- c) Many residents of isiolo county face barriers when accessing health care services due to geographic isolation (Cherab and Chari) and have to use their own money to access these facilities.
- d) Many of the pastoralist communities living on the northern part (Merti subcounty) lack access to permanent health care facilities because of their nomadic cultures.
- e) Ambulance services are offered to patients at a fee which many residents in the county may not afford.

2. Maternal and child health

The maternal and child health indicators in isiolo remain concerning. The maternal mortality ratio is 451/100000 live births in 2019. High rates of maternal mortality and child mortality are prevalent, due to limited access to antenatal and post-natal care as well as lack of skilled birth attendants.

3. Mental Health Services

The mental health wing for the Isiolo teaching and referral hospital needs to be expanded due to an increase of cases of mental health issues among the youths of isiolo

4. Water, Sanitation and hygiene

There is inadequate access to clean water and sanitation in the facility. One of the youths complained about the situation in the isiolo teaching and referral hospital where sanitation area is not user friendly for the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). In most rural areas there is shortage of water and in most places have no access to water supply.

Health inequalities identified

5. Geographic disparities

In Merti subcounty they face significant barriers to accessing health care services compared to Garbatula and central subcounty.

6. Cultural barriers

Traditional beliefs such as FGM, early child marriages and communities being against Family Planning hinder the acceptance of modern healthcare services. These barriers are brought about by illiteracy and poverty.

Proposed Recommendations

1. Strengthen maternal and child health services

- Increase the number of skilled birth attendants and enhance antenatal care
- Implement nutrition programs targeting pregnant women and young children

2. Mental health initiatives

- Develop community-based mental health programs

3. Improve WASH facilities

- Invest in infrastructure to ensure access to clean water and proper sanitation

4. Address socioeconomic barriers

- Collaborate with local organizations to provide education and resources aimed at improving economic conditions.

5. Improve healthcare infrastructure

- Invest in building and equipping health facilities in underserved areas to ensure all residents have access to healthcare services

Conclusion

Addressing the health issues and inequalities in Isiolo County requires a multifaceted approach that involves collaboration between government entities, healthcare providers and the community. By prioritizing these recommendations, we can work towards achieving better health outcomes for all residents of Isiolo county.

CC

**THE CHIEF OFFICER,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ISIOLO COUNTY**

**THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES
ISIOLO COUNTY**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PROGRAMME _____

DATE _____

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Recorded by: Lucky Namungik Sign: Date: 23/12/2024

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