

ADOLESCENTS, MONEY AND FAMILY PLANNING: THE STORY

FROM BUNGOMA, KENYA

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INTRODUCTION

An economic dividend of US\$500 billion has been predicted every year for the next 30 years if Sub-Saharan Africa invests in adolescents.



Decisions about what adolescents need cannot be left with older generations of bureaucrats alone. Evidence for Action (E4A)-MamaYe believes adolescent health needs to be led by young people.

In Bungoma, Kenya, E4A-MamaYe supports youth-led civil society to get involved in discussions about their health needs, including family planning, and what resources are needed to ensure delivery on commitments.

FINDINGS

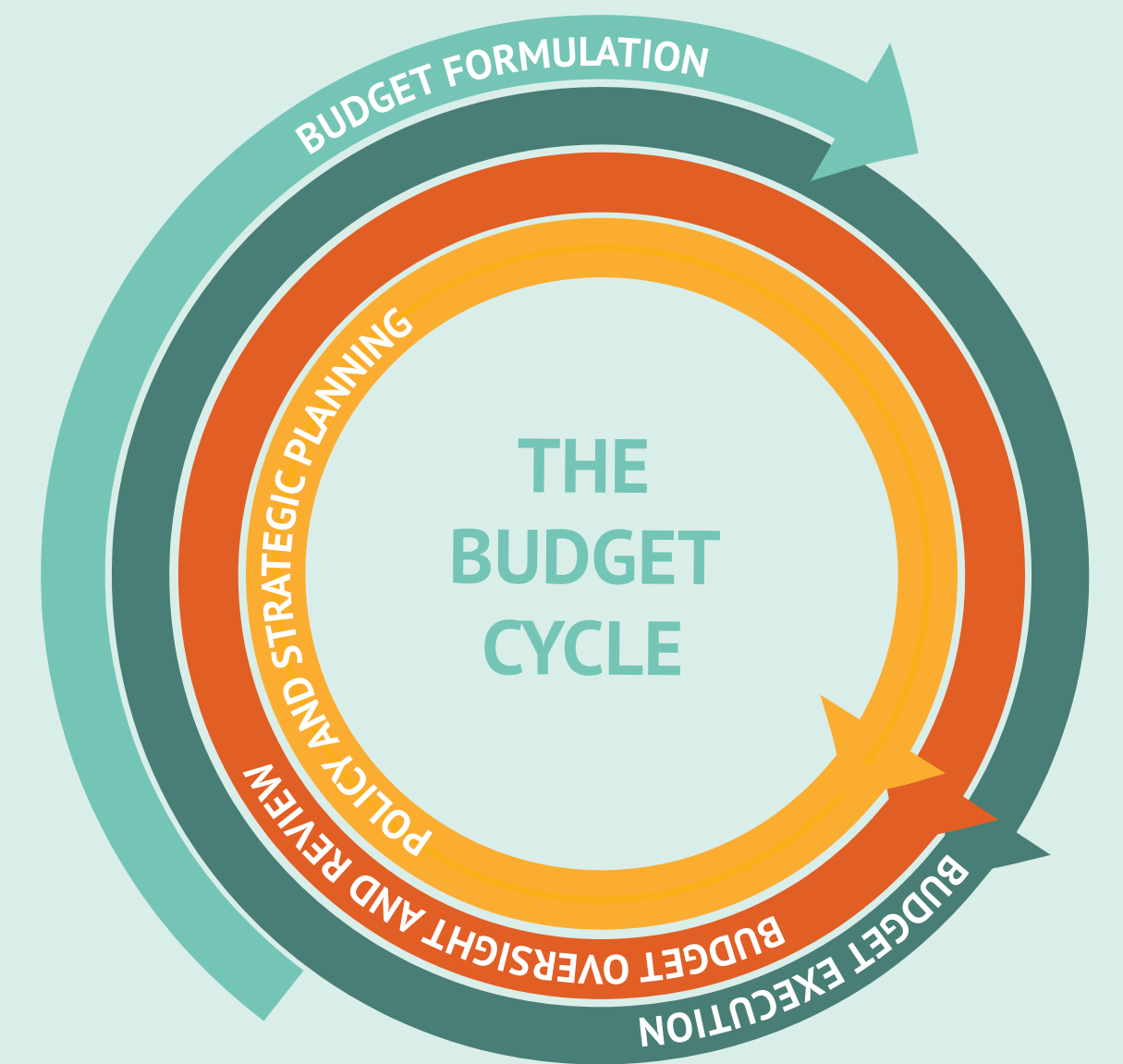
1 Young people reported becoming increasingly active in demanding access to information since the training. They cite examples of when they have gone to the County Assembly to request key documents and then shared with partners. Access to these documents means young people can review gaps and identify points for clarification and action from decision-makers.

2 County government officials have also remarked on improved working relationships with youth and civil society: *“by working together with youths from CSOs, through programme based budgeting and Health Sector Working Group, we have come to appreciate their value in championing for more resource allocation and guarding the resource envelope.”* -Bungoma County Director, Health

3 Evidence of increased recognition and inclusion of young people’s voices into key strategies is the development of the Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan for Bungoma. Young people’s involvement in this process enabled them to advocate strongly for youth friendly services in clinics, which has been incorporated as a key provision of the Plan.



“..the knowledge and skill gained during Health Budget Advocacy Training has assisted me in understanding the budget cycle and establishing critical points within the cycle where my voice can have optimal impact.”
- Rahma Issa, Bungoma Youth Council



CONCLUSIONS

- Involvement of young people in setting priorities for problems affecting them plays an important role in removing critical barriers that limit people’s access to contraceptives.
- Building young people’s capacity in health budget advocacy assists them to meaningfully engage with relevant state organs to help improve family planning outcomes.
- We need to provide more opportunities for youth in discussions around family planning to ensure that their position as advocates is cemented, their voices heard and family planning given priority.

METHODS

In Bungoma Kenya, E4A is supporting youth-led civil society to get involved in discussions about their health needs, including family planning, and the money and resources needed to ensure that government promises are translated into reality. We do this by:

- Providing long-term opportunities and training for **adolescents to engage in discussions** around health needs and finances with County Health Management Teams (CHMTs).
- Developing **programme-based budgets** with CHMTs in which adolescent needs around family planning are allocated appropriate funding.
- Using **scorecards** to demonstrate how the health system is delivering against local health priorities to understand and determine whether dutybearers are fulfilling their commitments to improving young people’s health.

