

# Health financing at Options

## What we do

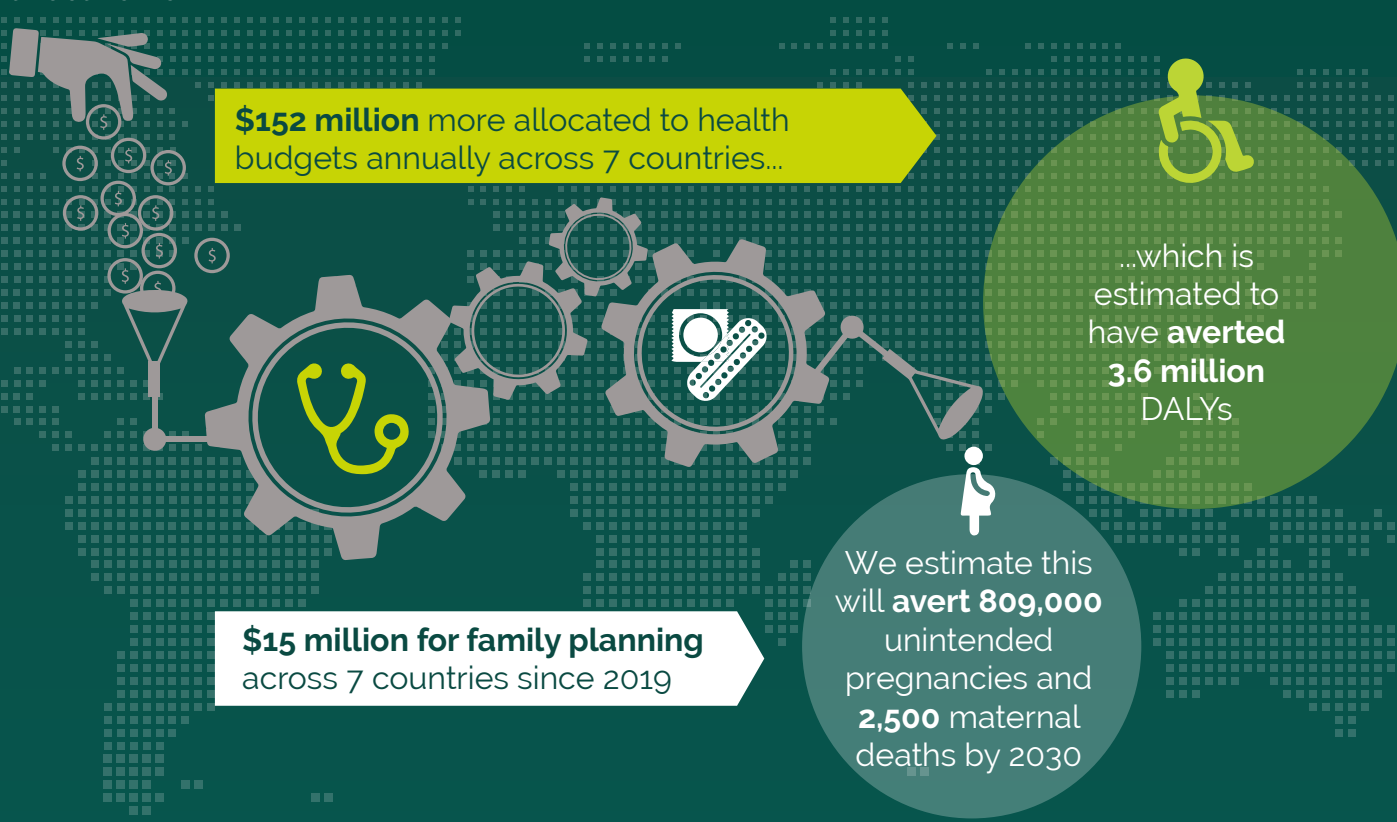
Options designs and delivers tailored health financing solutions to increase access to quality services, particularly among the underserved. Over the last decade this work has centred on:

- Increasing public investment in health by building political support and holding decision-makers accountable for their commitments.
- Optimising the use of domestic resources by strengthening countries' core public financial management systems and processes.
- Removing barriers to accessing essential services, such as maternal and newborn health and family planning services, by designing and scaling demand-side financing schemes and expanding health insurance coverage.
- Improving quality and geographic coverage of quality service delivery through contracting, such as performance-based financing and service level agreements

## What we've achieved

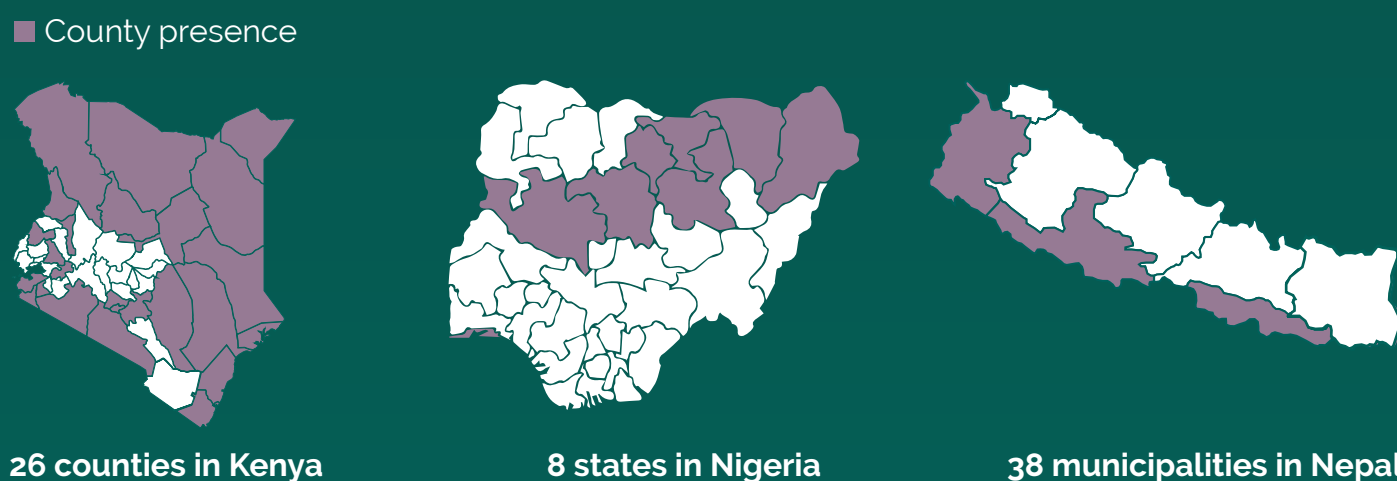
### Strengthening public investment

Options' work to strengthen public investment in health has led to an increased annual budget allocation of:



### Improving domestic resource mobilisation

Since 2020, Options has improved prioritisation and effective use of domestic resources by strengthening sub-national planning and budgeting processes across 9 countries, including in:

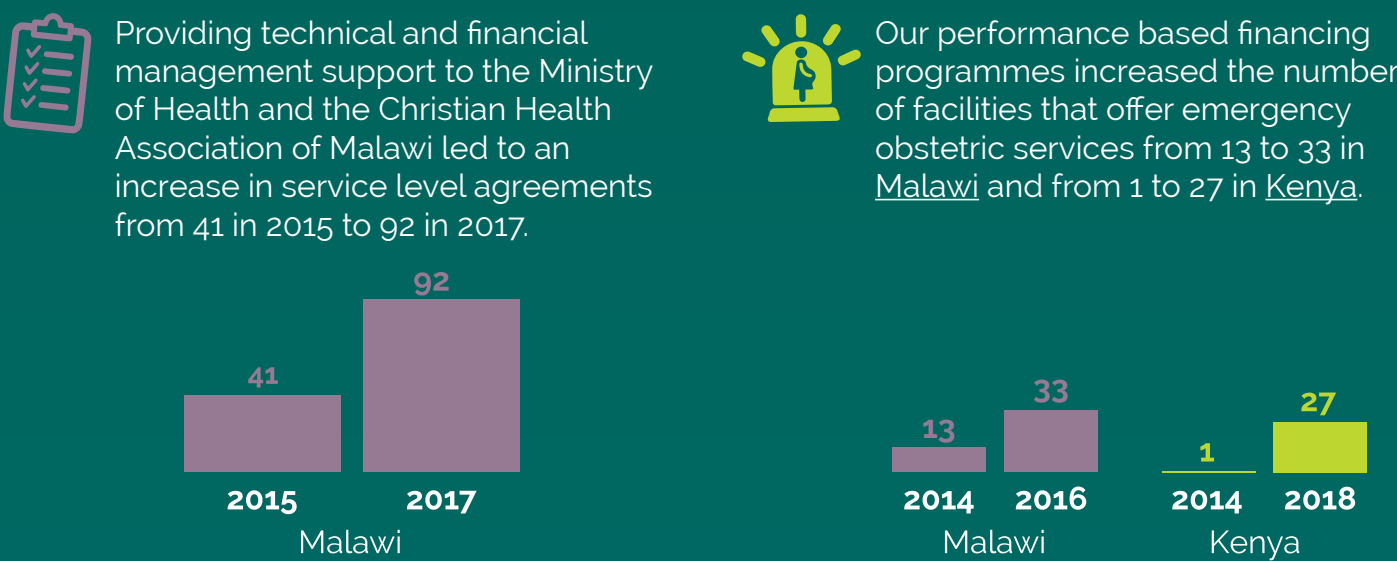


Since 2013, we've provided **3 million women** with a voucher or transport allowance to enable safe delivery at a facility.

This has contributed to a statistically significant reduction in maternal mortality in Malawi and to a reduction in the gap between rich and poor women's use of institutional delivery, in Nepal.

### Improving health service quality and system performance

Our work to strengthen contracting arrangements improved service quality and health system performance.



## Options' health financing achievements since 2013

- from 2013 to 2016**  
120,000 safe motherhood vouchers provided to women in conflict affected areas - Yemen
- from 2014 to 2017**  
7 fewer deaths per 100,000 live births every month in RBF districts when compared with non-RBF districts - Malawi
- from 2015 to 2018**  
Increased the proportion of facility-based deliveries by 41% in supported PBF facilities, compared to a 0.3% reduction in comparison sites - Kenya
- 2020**  
Supported the design and launch of the Jigawa Health Insurance Scheme which included comprehensive family planning services in the benefit package - Nigeria
- From financial year (FY) 2019/20 to FY 2020/21**  
Successfully advocated for a matched funding arrangement between government and donors, resulting in a 375% increased budget allocation for family planning from US\$2m to US\$7.5m - Kenya
- since 2019**  
Supported civil society in 24 African countries to engage in the Global Financing Facility process in their respective countries since 2018 - **24 African countries**
- since 2019**  
USD\$9 million increase in budget allocation for family planning through evidence informed advocacy and technical assistance since 2019 - Nigeria, DRC, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and Madagascar
- FY 2021/22**  
Strengthened evidence informed planning and budgeting, leading to a 25% increase in budget allocation to health across in 15 counties - Kenya
- 2022...**

## What we've learned

- 1 Health financing approaches are most effective and sustainable when designed and implemented through a systems thinking lens and in collaboration with and convening actors at different levels of the health system.
- 2 Health financing solutions are inherently political. Without taking the time to develop a deep understanding of the political economy dynamics at play, the most technically sound solutions will have limited traction.
- 3 Health financing solutions work best when they are context specific, locally rooted and developed through close engagement with local leaders and civil societies.
- 4 Evidence alone won't convince decision-makers to increase health funding. Advocacy messages and strategies need to be tailored to address the specific interests and concerns of different stakeholders.