

Leveraging Citizen Empowerment in Advocating for Health Commodity Security: The Advocacy for Better Health Story in Uganda

Authors:

Asinguza Allan Peter¹, Jude Thaddeus Bigirwenkya², Agaba Deogratias³, Moses Dombó⁴, Hasifa Naluyiga⁵, Kidega William⁶

PROJECT SUMMARY

- USAID Advocacy for Better Health is a five-year project which aims to enhance the capacity of citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to carry out effective advocacy for increased investment and accountability by decision-makers so as to improve the quality and availability of essential health and social services in 35 target districts in Uganda.
- The project has three (3) result areas:
 - Citizens demand improved quality services
 - CSOs effectively advocate for issues of citizen concern in the health and social sectors
 - Institutional capacity of CSOs strengthened

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES AND PLATFORMS

- Continuous health facility assessments on stock status
- Citizen participation
- Gather data through participatory rural appraisal
- Conduct advocacy forums, follow up meetings with duty-bearers and participate in relevant community and facility planning processes
- Leverage social media to increase citizen-duty bearer engagement and elevate attention to commodity stock-outs

Citizen-led advocacy forum in Kisoro district, South Western Uganda



Educative information materials

MOVING TOWARDS THE 90-90-90 TREATMENT TARGETS
By the Year 2020:

90% of all people living with HIV will know their status

Don't be left behind.

90% of all people diagnosed with HIV will have sustained antiretroviral therapy

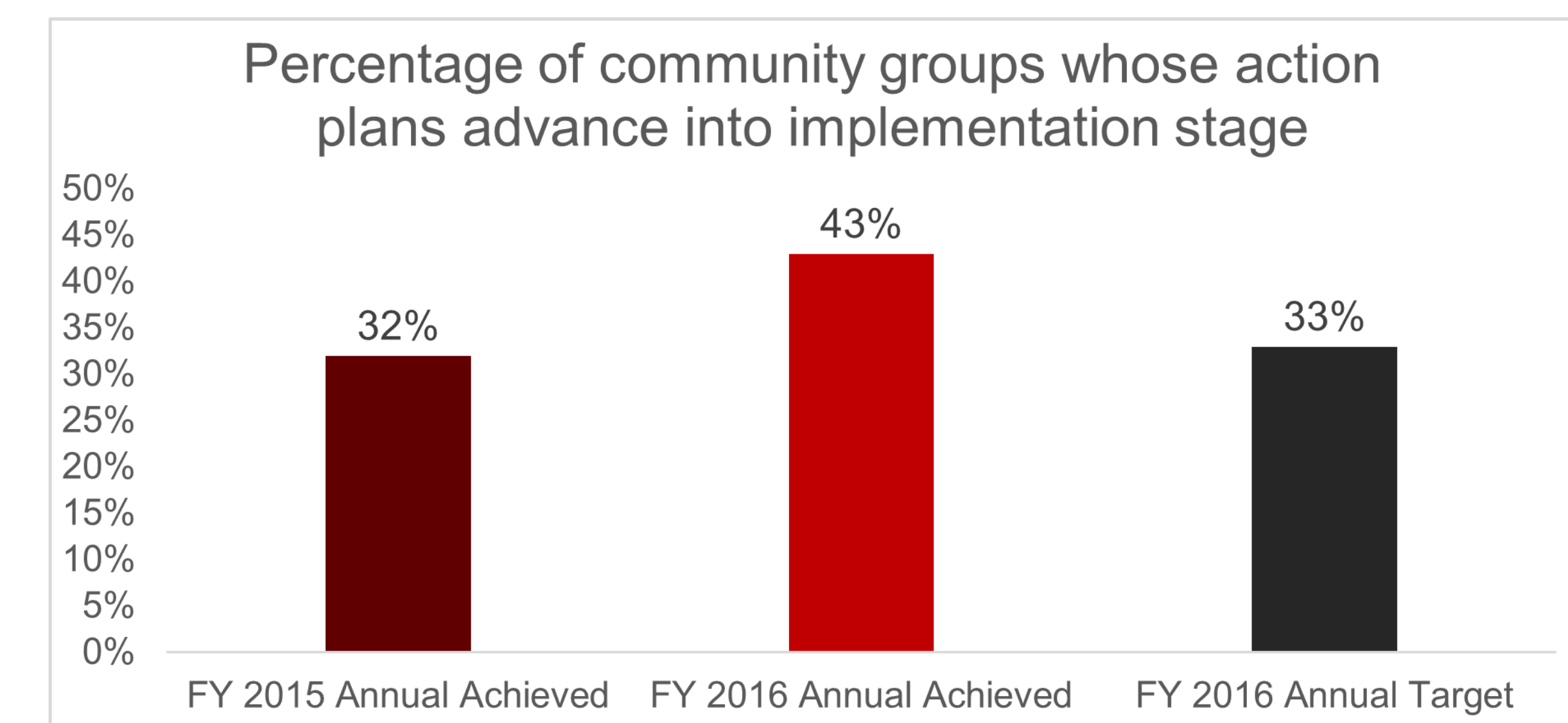
Be part of the effort.

90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression

Be counted.

PATH and dch logos are visible at the bottom.

RESULTS



- Ministry of Finance fast-tracked parliamentary approval of a loan of \$200 million which would partly be used to address funding gaps in the Ministry of Health to overcome drug stock-outs
- Ministry of Health emphasized drug re-distribution as a short term stop gap measure
- National Medical Stores agreed to host and facilitate quarterly dialogue meetings with CSO partners to discuss such issues and enhance sharing of vital information.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Attribution:** It is important to focus the analysis on identifying likely influences and assessing how much influence the project appeared to achieve.
- Campaign logic:** The objectives and focus of advocacy projects frequently change over time, which can make it difficult to measure progress against initial objectives.

PROJECT FOCUS

Advocacy Issue	Related Advocacy Asks
Inadequate stock of HIV/AIDS and TB drugs and commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health (MoH) ensures sustained availability of essential ART and TB drugs and related supplies in the country
Frequent Stock outs of 13 UN recommended lifesaving RMNCH commodities in health facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Districts and sub-counties monitor to help reduce stock outs of the 13 lifesaving commodities (LSCs) in health facilities
Repeated stock out of malaria drugs and commodities like test kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of Uganda (GOU) to implement Global Fund OIG recommendations to eliminate underspending of malaria resources

"I am very happy with the project for having organized this forum. Such forums that bring citizens and health workers together provide us with the opportunity to cement our relationships with the community" Dr. Chebet, In-charge, Budadiri HC IV, Sironko district.

¹M&E Specialist ²Advocacy officer
³Communication and Empowerment Officer
⁴Chief of Party ⁵National Advocacy officer
⁶Deputy Chief of Party

For more information, contact:

Name, Asinguza Allan Peter
 E-mail: aasinguza@path.org

