PROGRESS REPORT ON MALAWI COMMITMENTS, SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

BY

HON. DR. JESSIE KABWILA (PHD)

Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda
September 30 - October 1, 2014
2014 COMMITMENTS FROM THE WOMEN MEETING

During the 2013 WOMEN MEETING, Malawi committed to achieve three advocacy objectives:

1. To have Department of Reproductive Health to spend 100% of the K26 Million on Family Planning commodities by July, 2014.

2. To have Ministry of Health increase funding to Family Planning from K26 Million to K36 Million by July, 2014.

3. To have Ministry of Finance to increase the general Health Budget to the Abuja target of 15% by July, 2014.
ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED TO IMPLEMENT 2013 COMMITMENTS

- Shared the commitments with fellow Members of Parliament to have more Family Planning Champions

- Conducted meetings with all Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons to lobby for a strong Voice

- Conducted meetings with Department of Reproductive Health Officials to follow up spending of the MK26 Million allocated to FP Commodities.

- Attending Family planning Technical Working Group Meetings

- Round Table Meetings with Ministry of Finance and Health Officials.

- Meetings with a number of different Stakeholders
one of the meetings Parliamentarians did with Ministry of Finance and Ministry to allocate resources to family planning allocation
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE MALAWI PARLIAMENTARIANS ADVOCACY

During the round table meeting March 2014, Ministry for Health and Ministry of Finance assured the Members of Parliament and Secretariat that;

- Department of Reproductive would procure contraceptives using the allocated MK26 Million.

- MK60 Million would be allocated to Family Planning Commodities

- The Health Budget would be increased upwards, from the 10.3%

- Members of Parliament went to polls satisfied of a battle well fought.
ADVOCACY RESULTS ON THE THREE MALAWI COMMITMENTS

• Members of Parliament managed to see to it that the MK26 Million was indeed spent on Family Planning Commodities

• **Note:** Procurement using government money only started when MPs inquired.
  
  ❖ *Without mps, malawi wouldn’t have spent on procuring family planning contraceptives*

• Family Planning allocation has been increased from MK26 Million ($80,000) to K60 Million ($150,000).
  
  ❖ The draft budget to Parliament had the same K26 MILLION. The NEW Health Committee advocated the increase and K60 Million was allocated.

• The overall Health Budget was reduced from 10.3 last year to 9.4% this year. The draft budget to Parliament had only 8.8 allocated to health. With advocacy the budget was increased to 9.4%
MAJOR LESSONS LEARNT

• Monitoring the drafts budget should not stop. It should be continuous since Parliament is responsible for oversight to government.

• Ministry of Finance requires close follow up

• The Elections shifted everyone concentration

• Funding should be available for implementing the activities committed by the Champions
CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Committee did not have funding to invite Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health to a Round Table Meeting together. It relied on the donor (HPP) to finance the meetings.

2. It was an Election year. Parliament was dissolved in March. This is a critical time for budget estimates. Final lobbying activities are supposed to take place during this period. Sadly, Parliament had no MPs.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION