

ADVANCING PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS PORTFOLIO

Over the last several years, there has been a growing trend for countries to develop national policies and strategies specifically for community health. To help ensure inclusion of family planning (FP) within these frameworks, the Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) project has filled information and programming gaps related to harmonizing and scaling up community health programs, and provided technical assistance in community health policy design and implementation. APC's community health systems portfolio comprises the following resources and approaches:



Photo credit: Robin Hammond, WEI

I. Community Health Systems (CHS) Catalog

[The CHS Catalog](#), one of APC's flagship resources, provides information on community health policies and programs in 25 countries. Updated in 2017, it provides policymakers, NGOs, researchers, and donors with policy data to advance community health research, programming, and advocacy efforts. The Catalog includes country profiles, infographics, and an in-depth, visual summary of cross-country policy and program trends. See also this [report with community health policy and program trends data](#) from the Catalog.

II. Engaging Communities to Shape Policy through Human-Centered Design

[Human-centered design](#) is a process that fosters innovation and puts people and communities at the center of problem-solving. To support optimal implementation of community health policies and programs, APC piloted an HCD approach to inform national policy development in Tanzania and Sierra Leone, ensuring that community voices were included in the process.

III. Video: Policy Matters in Community-based Family Planning

This [educational video](#) tells the story of fictional characters Winnie and Mary, and how a fragmented health system affects their ability to access FP services, underscoring policy's role in improving the health system and advancing FP goals.

IV. Community-based Health System Model Brief Series

These briefs identify and discuss critical health system inputs and processes that have contributed to the implementation and expansion of community-based service delivery in [Malawi](#), [Nepal](#), and Senegal (forthcoming). They can help inform policy, program design, and implementation in other countries.

V. Community Health Systems Framework

This framework maps out a community service delivery system for FP within a supportive political, socio-cultural environment. It highlights inputs, stakeholders, and other elements to consider when developing and strengthening community-based FP programs.

VI. Expanding Family Planning Access through Pharmacy and Drug Shop Channels

APC supports evidence-based advocacy and policy to expand FP options through [pharmacies and drug shops](#) at global and country levels. APC's resources provide market analysis and lessons about the roles of informal and formal private providers in improving FP access and quality, as part of a total market approach.