EPF Study Tour to Tanzania 2018

European and African Parliamentarians visits and meetings on RMNCAH and FP
DAR ES SALAAM – ZANZIBAR CITY, 16-20 July 2018

EPF’s most recent study tour took several MPs from Spain, Belgium, Norway, Ireland, Switzerland and the European Parliament to Tanzania, with the goal of bringing new knowledge and insights about Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent Health and Family Planning in Tanzania to their respective governments and parliaments. The study tour opened with a visit to the Magomeni Health Clinic in the former capital Dar es Salaam, where MPs learnt about what issues facilities like this one are facing due to lack of proper financing. A visit to the UNFPA Tanzania office followed, for a collaborative discussion about how sexual and reproductive healthcare needs to be improved in the country. Day 2 began with a courtesy call on the Deputy Speaker of the House at the National Assembly before another field visit, this time to the Marie Stopes clinic and Umati Youth-Friendly Service Center in the Temeke area of Dar es Salaam. Day 3 saw the MPs en route to Zanzibar to visit the House of Representatives and to meet the Minister of Health (acting). The MPs then met with UNFPA and SRHR Implementing Partners in Zanzibar.

Day 4 opened with a visit to a Maternal Health Clinic where MPs learnt more about family planning and Women’s healthcare resources in the region. On the 5th and final day, the MPs visited the National Aids Control Program to better understand what can be done to aid the eradication of this devastating disease. The study tour then closed with some final discussions with TPAPD - the Tanzania Parliamentary Association on Population and Development - and a press conference.

Activity Outcomes:
The week-long tour will raised awareness amongst Members of Parliaments from European Donor countries about the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) needs, including Family Planning (FP), in Tanzania. In addition, the study tour was a unique experience to gain first hand-experience on how to deal with and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. Upon return from the study visit, participants are equipped to carry out relevant follow up actions on the topics mentioned in their respective Parliaments, such as: 1. Debrief to Members of Parliaments and APPGs Secretariats; 2. Generation of receptive environment for RMNCAH through the press, websites, blogs and social media; 3. Raise Parliamentary questions about RMNCAH / FP development aid in Tanzania and in general.
On the right: MP Lorraine Clifford from Ireland tells young people in Dar es Salaam about her own experience using an IUD as contraceptive method
MPs on the #Tanzania #studytour still have a lot on the agenda this morning was a visit to a Maternal Health Clinic in #DarEsSalaam where they learnt more about #FamilyPlanning and #WomensHealthcare resources in the region.

It’s the MPs last day in #Tanzania where they have already explored so many areas of #SexualHealth and #ReproductiveRights (#SRHR) in the country. This morning, they visited a #HIV clinic to better understand what can be done to aid the eradication of this devastating disease.

"When women are empowered they are also capable of supporting the government’s vision of becoming a middle income economy through giving birth to the right number of children,” @allafrica covers EPF’s recent studytour to #Tanzania bit.ly/2mXKUb
MPs urge reinforcements in curbing maternal deaths, teenage pregnancies

By Akin Foteamoun

MPs have called upon the government to increase efforts in accelerating the provision of services for reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, and adolescent health (RMANCH) in the country to save mothers and children.

A joint statement issued yesterday by members of the Tanzania Parliamentary Association (TAPAD) and delegation of MPs who are members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on Population and Development, branding the call for action the “Chairman of WFP, Ronaldo Clifford” MP said they specifically demanded for expansion of friendly reproductive health information counseling and services to adolescents and young people.

“This is more so in order to reduce teenage pregnancies as well as prioritizing family planning services after delivery,” the statement added.

The statement further said that the promotion of spacing and broadening it would greatly contribute to reducing unwanted pregnancies, lower fertility rates and experience the decrease of unwanted pregnancies, while maternal mortality increased from 151 in 1990 to 556 for every 100,000 live births among 2000 and 2015, and teenage pregnancies increased 27 per cent from 18 per cent during the same period.

UNFPA reports indicate that annual mortality had been reduced but affected by results reported in relation to reduced child mortality, as maternal deaths in Tanzania, with a ratio of 679 per 100,000 in 1995 to 2000 represent 75 per cent of all deaths of women aged 15-49.

Family planning is still high at 52 (38 per cent) in the reproductive age, while maternal mortality increased from 151 in 1990 to 556 for every 100,000 live births between 2000 and 2015, and teenage pregnancies increased 27 per cent from 18 per cent during the same period.

The statement commended the fifth phase government for President John Magufuli for its continued efforts to reduce maternal deaths.

“Tanzania is currently facing significant challenges in reducing maternal and new-born mortality, with a lack of skilled health providers and insufficient support. The government needs to be more active in training and equipping health facilities with the necessary resources and training journalists in areas where they are not health facilities and where the number of skilled health service providers is low,” they said.

If these actions are taken now, the nation will be in better position to make its own decision and we are committed to make it happen,” they said.