

HEALTH PROMOTION TANZANIA (HDT)



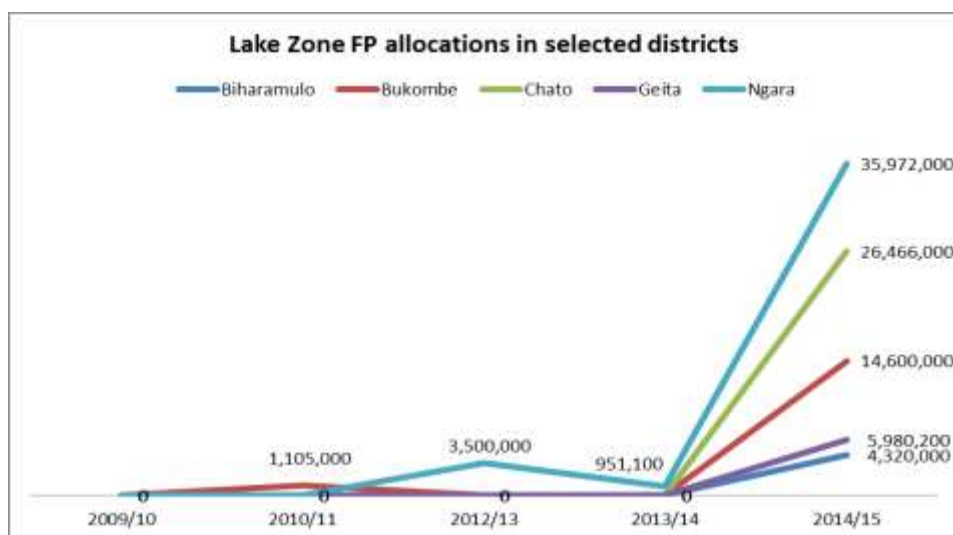
Family Planning Resource Allocation: *Lake Zone District Councils support President's commitments on FP*



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In summer 2012 during London Summit for Family Planning, President Kikwete made a commitment that Tanzania will increase its financial resources and efforts to double contraceptive use by 2015. In 2013, Health Promotion Tanzania undertook the role of promoting leadership in Family Planning at Council level under the support of Advance Family Planning (AFP) project and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The advocacy was conducted for improved policy and increased allocations



for family planning services in five Lake Zone Districts (Ngara, Biharamulo, Chato, Geita, and Bukombe). *Figure 1:* indicates budget allocation trend for family planning services before and after the advocacy interventions.

The process began with landscape assessments of the situation in the districts and identification of entry points. HDT also identified local Civil Society Organizations from each District which would join the

efforts in advocating for increased FP budget allocations: 16 CSOs were engaged from all 5 Districts and two representatives from each CSO were trained on Advocacy Planning, Local Government Budget Processes, Tanzania's Budget Cycle, and developing viable advocacy strategies. This was followed by One-on-One meetings with both District technocrats (CHMT Members) and decision makers (Councilors) who were persuaded to allocate funds for family planning services in the 2014/15 financial year.

With the successes note, there were however, some challenges encountered during the advocacy. These include limited understanding of the links between family planning and socio-economic development. For that reason, leaders at lower levels (Wards and Villages) who are closest to beneficiaries and where planning and budgeting processes begin did not see family planning as priority.

On the other hand, HDT learned some important lessons that inspire the efforts to continue with its advocacy efforts. First, district family planning allocations are 'low hanging fruits': with advocacy they can easily be picked. Second, districts need and call for specific guidance from the central government on specific areas for which to make allocations. Third, close follow-up is key in sustaining commitments made. And finally, the advocacy model HDT uses is uniquely effective in attaining quick wins. Therefore, HDT calls upon other partners to utilize these lessons for sustained advocacy.