

## BACKGROUND

Sub-Saharan Africa has had a crisis in uptake of health services for several decades.

This has been attributed to under funding, understaffing, unavailability and inaccessibility of services by majority of the population. Despite many interventions by government and development agencies in Turkana, uptake of SRHR services has been low.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study sought to find out whether or not Ng'imurok have influence on access to and utilization of SRHR services.

The Ng'imurok are the Turkana traditional leaders, and they have influence over issues such as migration, pasture, water and other Socio-economic aspects.

## METHODOLOGY

- A cross sectional study was conducted in Turkana west and North sub counties
- Qualitative exploratory research design was used
- Respondents were purposively sampled
- Data was collected using focused group discussions (6), key informant interviews (10) and in-depth interviews (5) with the Ng'imurok using semi structured discussion guides.
- Data was later transcribed and translated from Ng'aturkana into English
- Data was analyzed using manual thematic categorization and content analysis

## RESULTS

- Ng'imurok are revered by community and they appreciate superiority of modern health care system.

- Ng'imurok consider themselves as health practitioners and are not opposed to services delivery through modern health care system.
- They acknowledge that family size should be commensurate with wealth. They prefer the natural child spacing methods.
- Ng'imurok accept early, teenage and planned marriages as a cultural practice but recognize that there are attendant complications that result from these marriages

## CONCLUSION

- The authority of the Ng'imurok among the Turkana people is unquestioned.
- They wield power and influence over the community on various socio-economic aspects
- They appreciate superiority and complementarity of modern health care system.

## RECOMMENDATION

The influence of the Ngimurok's can be tapped to increase access and utilization of SRHR services in rural Turkana. Their sphere of influence is an untapped potential in catalyzing health system strengthening processes that development partners have always ignored.

It will be beneficial for all health development projects working in the area to recognize that these leaders are influential and involve them in community dialogue days on health issues.

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Indepth interview with an Emuron in Turkana West sub county.



Indepth interview with a Ngamuron in Turkana West sub county.



Researchers being cleansed after interviewing the Emurons.

“One Emuron from Kalobeyi in Turkana west asserted that, “To tell the Turkana people to adopt modern family planning is like demeaning them. It is the man who decides when to have children and with which wife!” The only form of family planning acceptable among traditional turkana people is the natural family planning. One emuron asserted that, “Turkana men normally leave their women for a period of time after delivery but not for long. They soon become pregnant when the previous child is still too young.....”