

# CHANNELS OF HOPE



Channels of Hope (CoH), World Vision’s methodology for working with faith communities, seeks to empower faith leaders by addressing their misconceptions about sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS and family planning. The goal is to transform their thinking and, in turn, change the thinking of their communities and congregations. This leads to concrete actions by faith leaders that meet the needs—including health needs—of the most vulnerable.

World Vision’s CoH methodology has successfully moved faith leaders’ attitudes from judgment and condemnation to compassion and mercy and motivated them to take action within their communities to change attitudes, values, and perceptions.

CoH does not seek to proselytize or change doctrine, but rather to equip faith leaders to better understand and apply their sacred texts to key social issues, while encouraging peer faith leaders to do the same. In Kenya, the Mobilizing for Maternal and Neonatal Health through Birth Spacing and Advocacy (MOMENT) project trained 136 faith leaders in Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy (HTSP). They, in turn, formed 64 church groups called Congregational Hope Action Teams, or CHATs, with an average membership of eight people, to assist with messaging on HTSP.

Faith leaders in Siaya County, Kenya, helped save lives by increasing knowledge and influencing attitudes and changes in behavior within the community on Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy and family planning (HTSP/FP) practices. By project end, 6,086 women referred by a faith leader went to a facility for MNCH/FP services, and 3,847 voluntarily chose a method of family planning.

Contraceptive uptake by women referred by faith leaders

Method		Alego-Usonga sub-county			Total
		Urang	Boro	Karemo	
Number of women referred		1643	1869	2574	6068
Number of women referred and who chose a FP method	Injectable	359	455	330	1144
	Pills	248	120	194	562
	Implant	338	417	732	1487
	Condoms	159	213	127	499
	IUCD	20	77	35	132
	BTL	3	10	10	23
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1127</b>	<b>1292</b>	<b>1428</b>	<b>3847</b>



“... the CoH training has changed me and one of the ways that I am using it to change my community is ... I slot in time to speak about healthy timing and spacing ...”

—Faith leader

“What really changed my thinking were the many workshops, the regular discussion/trainings. I met other pastors who had had the same problems as I. CoH had changed their thinking, and their sharing about the benefits of HTSP through use of family planning methods helped me a lot ...”

—Faith leader

“I have a great responsibility. As a servant of God, I have to talk about use of family planning to time and space pregnancies. Even in church, midweek meetings ... I have to speak about it. You see, I have a big network, the chiefs are my friends ... any time they call me, I have to speak. Any time I am in a national convention meeting having 78 churches present, I have to speak about MOMENT and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy ... it is my responsibility.”

—Faith leader



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