



Advocacy and Regional Coordination for PHE Approaches in Lake Victoria Basin

By: Dr. Doreen A.M Othero
PHE Regional Program Coordinator
Lake Victoria Basin Commission

[E-mail: othero@lvbcom.org](mailto:othero@lvbcom.org)



Organization of the talk



- Who is EAC?
- Who is LVBC?
- Why are we here since 3rd February 2014
- Overview of Lake Victoria and the basin
- PHE challenges in LVB
- Why LVBC fronts advocacy for PHE
- PHE advocacy levels
- What LVBC has done
- What LVBC is doing now and future outlook
- Does PHE make sense?- The HOPE-LVB case study
- Challenges and lessons learnt



Who is the EAC?



- A regional Economic Community (REC) established through the **EAC Treaty of 1999**
- Currently bringing together 5 countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda)
- **Vision-** “Widen and deepen **integration** for the economic and sustainable development of the region”
- **5 Pillars for integration** (Common Market, Customs Union, Political Federation, Monetary Union)
- **Structure:**
 - 5 Organs- Policy arms (Summit, EACJ, EALA, Council of Ministers, EAC Secretariat)
 - 5 Institutions- Technical arms (**LVBC**, LVFO, IUCEA, CASSOA, EADB)



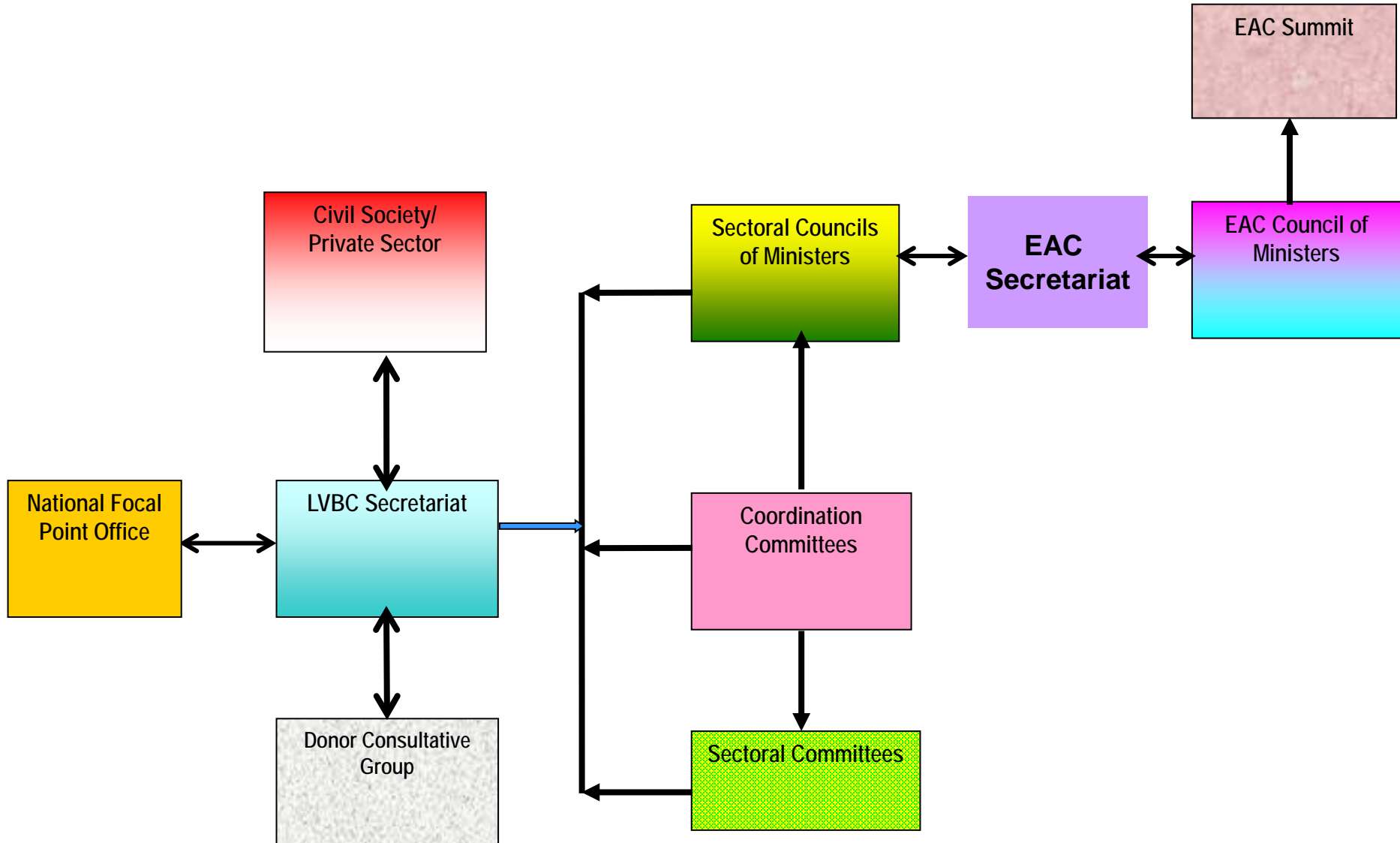
Who is the LVBC?



- An institution of the EAC
- Established by:
 - The EAC Treaty of 1999, Chapter 19, Article 114, 2(b), iv
 - The Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin Under Article 33 & 34
- Vision: : **“A prosperous population living in a healthy and sustainably managed environment providing equitable opportunities and benefits”**.
- Mandated to: **Coordinate, Promote and Facilitate**
...interventions of **state** and **non-state** actors towards the sustainable development of the LVB



LVBC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





But why are we here from 3rd Feb.



- At the invitation of PAI because we:
 - have become partners
 - are both members of the PSDA
 - want to share experiences
 - want to propagate the PHE agenda
 - seem to be like-minded
- **WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL!**



Lake Victoria and the Basin



Boundaries and locations are approximate and should not be considered authoritative.



Lake Victoria and the Basin



- **Lake Victoria** with a surface area of 68,800 sq km is Africa's largest lake.
- The largest tropical lake in the world, and the planet's second largest freshwater lake. Only North America's Lake Superior is larger.
- Produces about 81,460 tons of fish annually valued at US\$318million
- Lake Victoria and its basin covers an area of 193,000km²
- Average population is over 40 million
- The lake and the basin have abundant resources- fish, forests, minerals, wildlife, etc.
- However, there are also numerous challenges that cause the populations to overexploit the resources



Description of Lake Victoria and the Basin



Country	Lake Surface Area		Catchment Area		Lake Shoreline	
	Km ²	%	Km ²	%	Km ²	%
Tanzania	33,756	49	79,570	44	1150	33
Uganda	31,001	45	28,857	15.9	1750	50
Kenya	4,113	6	38,913	21.5	550	17
Rwanda	-		20,550	11.4	-	
Burundi	-		13,060	7.2	-	
Total area	68,870		180,950		3,450	
Pop.					40 million	



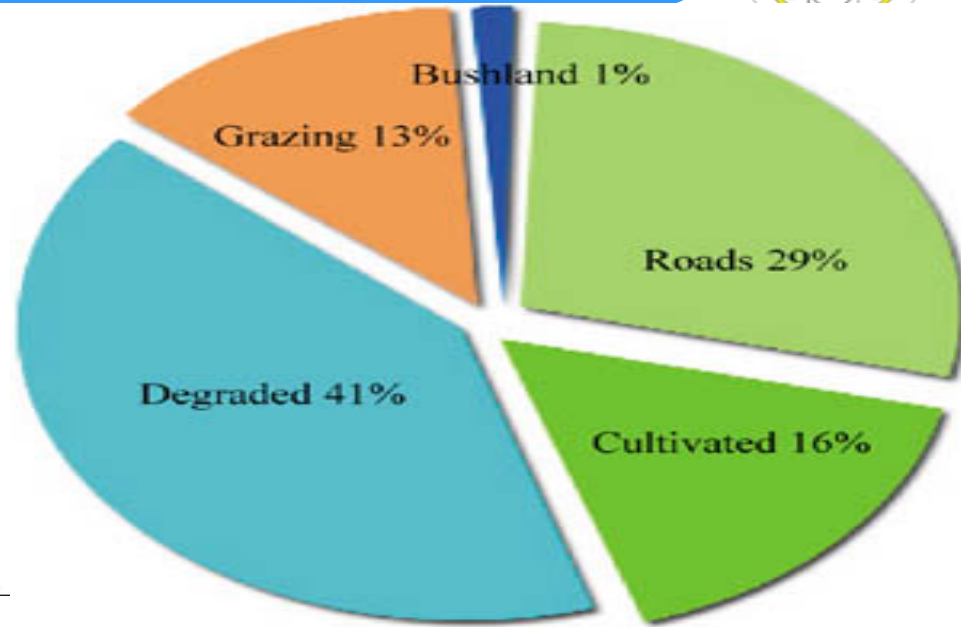
PHE CHALLENGES IN LVB



1. Environmental challenges
2. Water and sanitation challenges
3. Population dynamics
4. Health and SRH challenges



Degradation and pollution in LVB





Poor water quality and scarcity



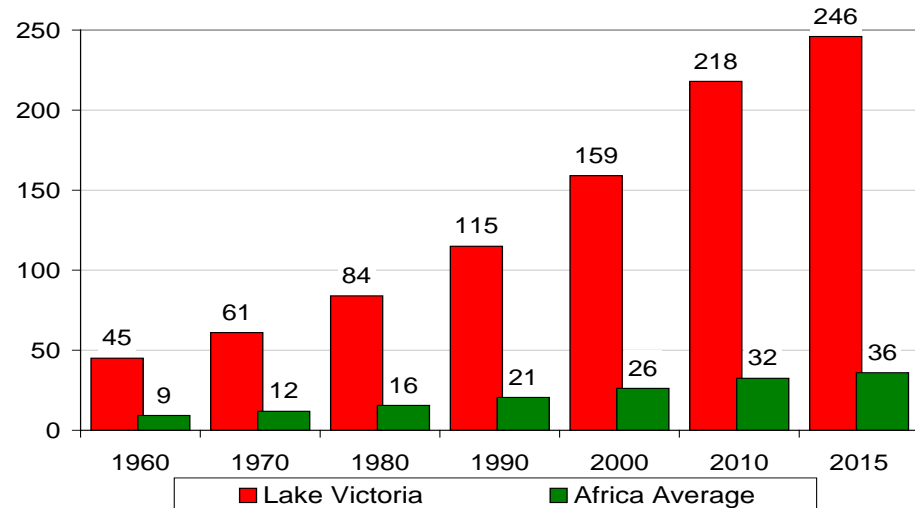
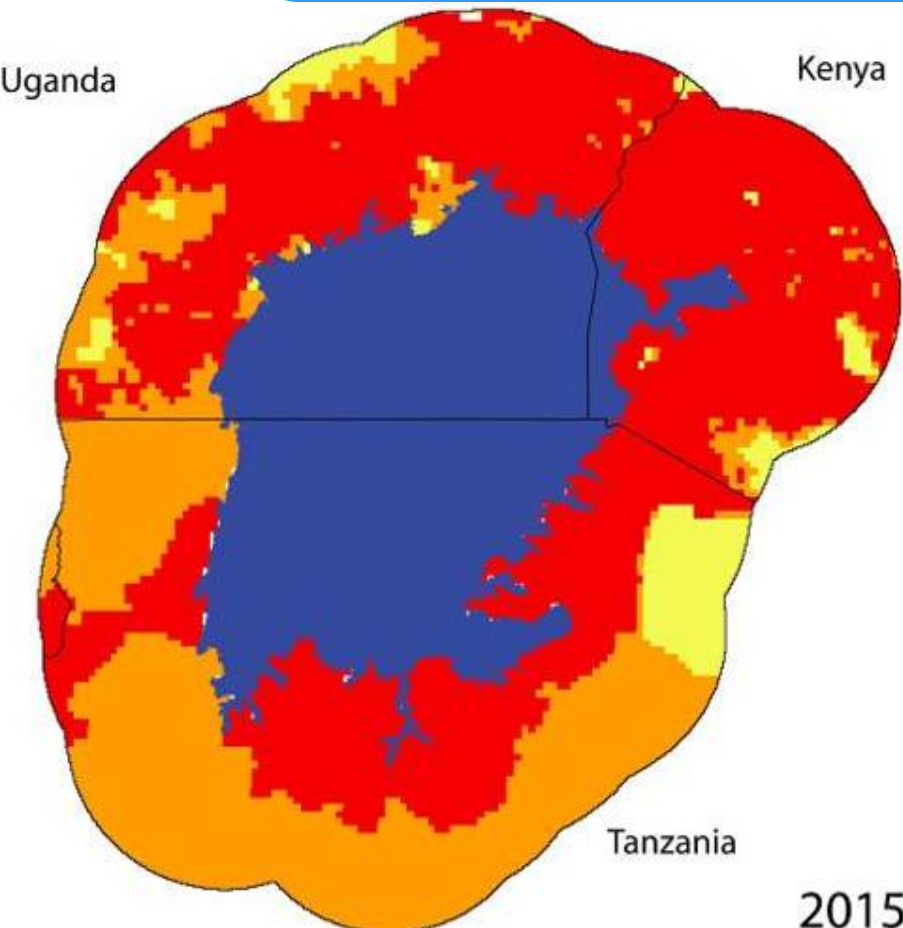
The burden of thirst. National Geographic 2010





LVBC

Population Dynamics in LVB



Africa's Lakes Atlas of Our Changing Environment



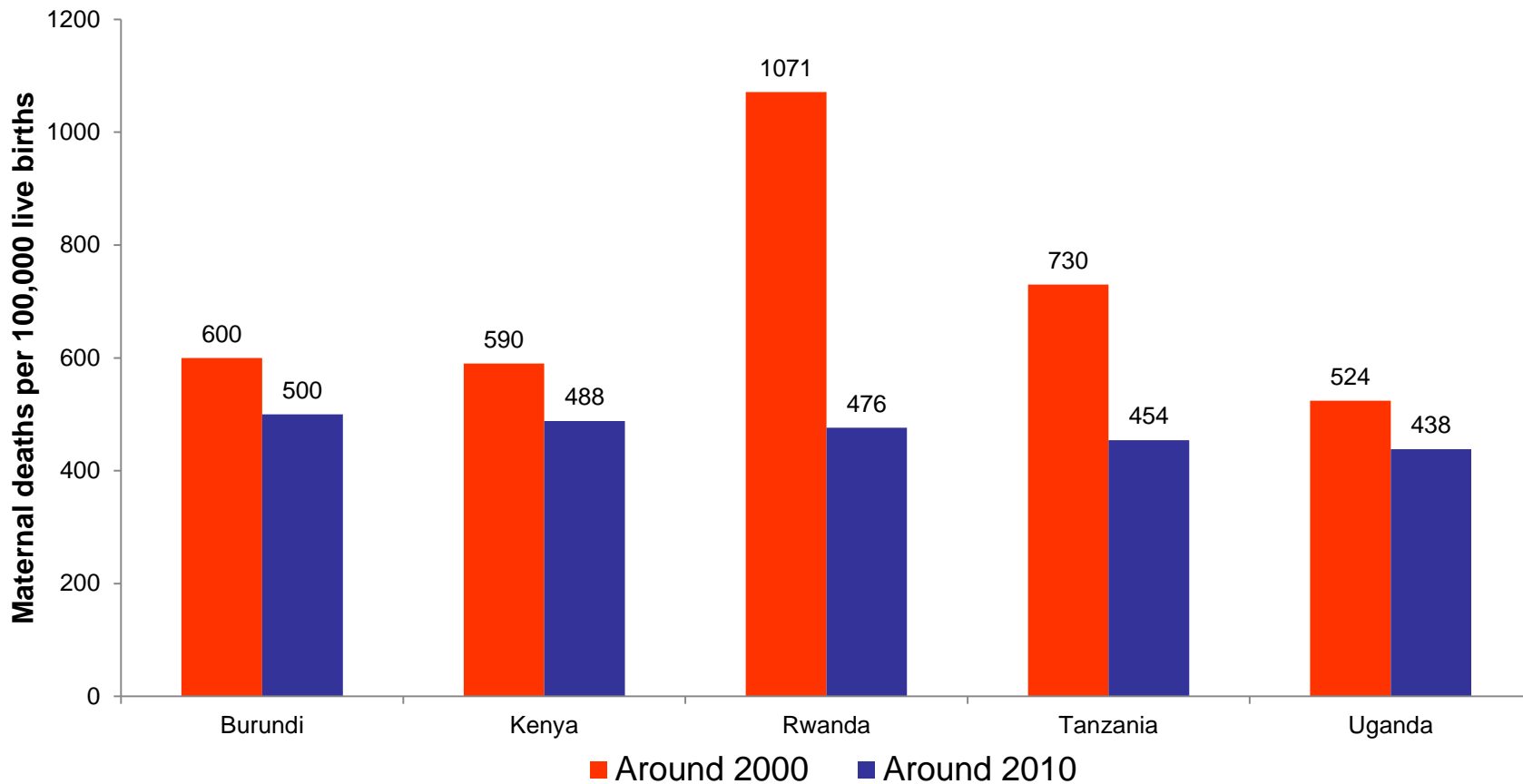
Health and SRH challenges



- Total fertility rate- (4.6-8.6)
- MMR- (530-1000/100,000)
- U5 mortality – (74-206/1000)
- HIV prevalence – (3.1-26%)
- FP unmet need (25.6-60%)



Trends in Maternal Mortality Ratios

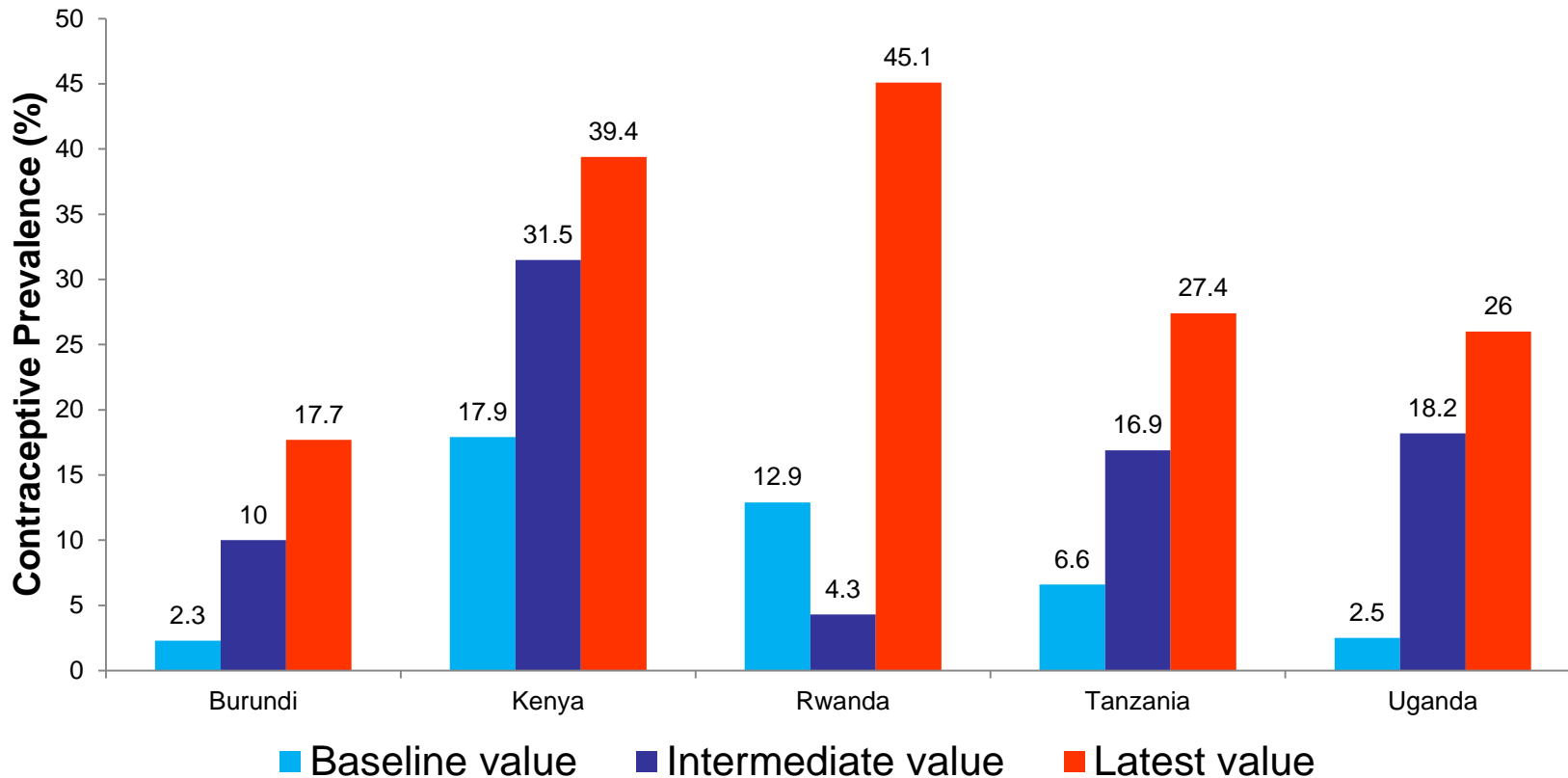


Data source: DHS



LVBC

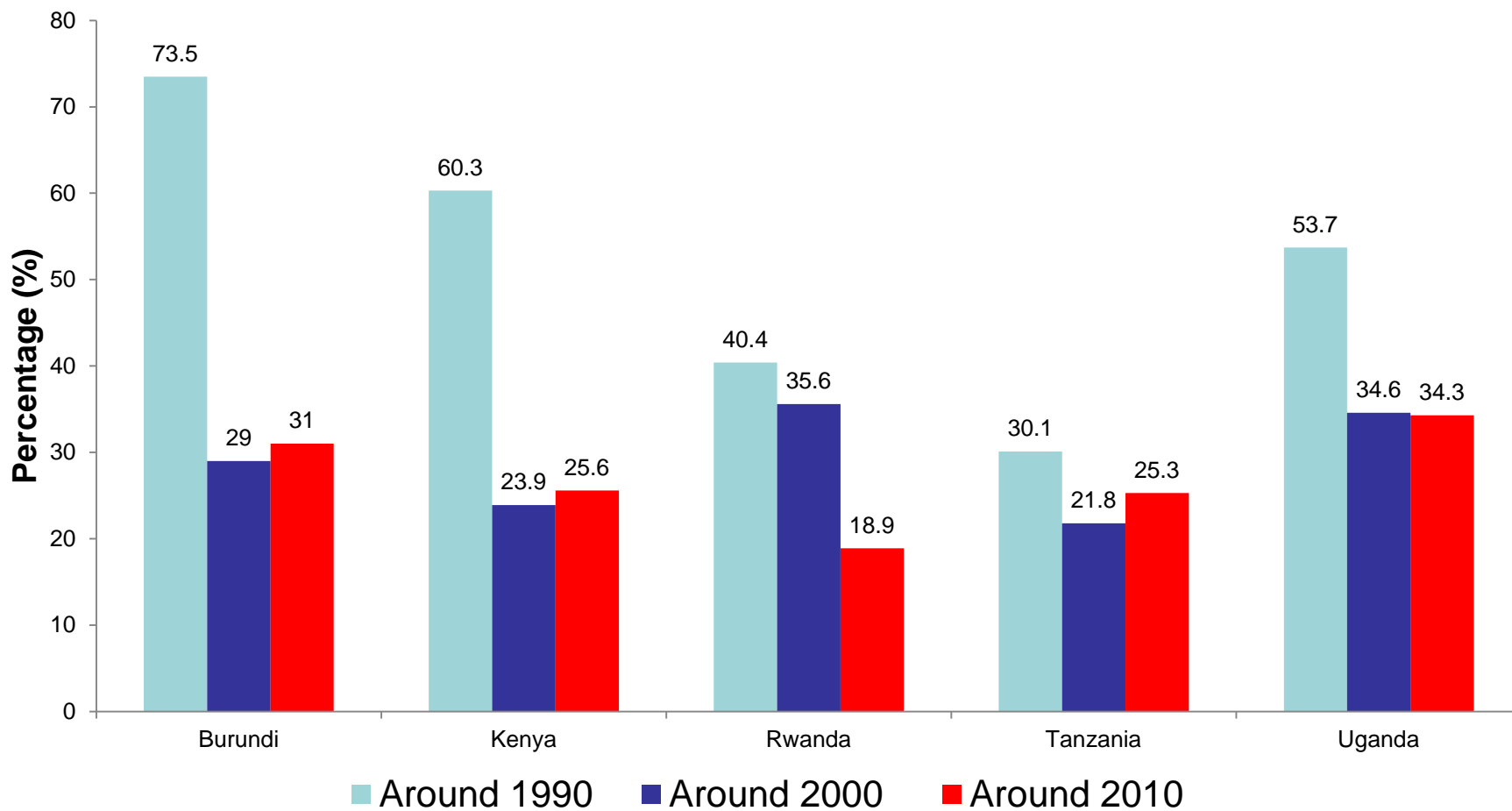
Family Planning Prevalence Rate



Source: DHS except from MICS (Burundi 2000)



Family Planning Unmet Need



Data sources: DHS except Burundi 2000 (MICS)



What is not going right in LVB?



- A lot of donor funding
- Several VERTICALLY implemented projects
- **Uncoordinated actors**
- But minimum impact on the lives of the people
- Why? Because the projects have by design or by default excluded issues of POPULATION
- **An integrated approach could be the way out!**



**Against the foregoing background
the PHE Program was designed in
LVBC and institution of the EAC**



Our understanding of PHE



- PHE is an approach to **Sustainable Development** that integrates health and environmental conservation initiatives in order to seek synergistic successes
- **However,**
 - What is the value of sectoral integration?
 - Does integration of sectors work?
 - Can sectoral integration be comprehended by stakeholders?

Yes it is valuable! But requires robust advocacy and meticulous coordination



What role does LVBC play?



- Advocacy
- Partnerships and collaborations- the case of HOPE LVB
- Establishing/strengthening PHE networks in Partner States
- Mainstreaming PHE into new and existing project
- Capacity building at different levels
- Coordinating PHE state and non-state actors
- PHE research
- Review and harmonization of policies



Why LVBC fronts advocacy for PHE



- Harnessing understanding
- Political buy-in
- Patronage
- Policy and decision making
- Resource mobilization
- Acceptance by beneficiaries





LVBC

PHE Advocacy Levels



1) Legislation for PHE

- Heads of State
- Ministers
- Members of Parliament- national and regional

2) Peer support

- EAC Organs and Institutions

3) Policy Guidance

- Permanent Secretaries

4) Technical Guidance

- Experts in Government and non-governmental organizations



What LVBC has done



With support from USAID EA, LVBC:

- Introduced the PHE approach to the Sectoral Council of Ministers for LVB
- Inducted the entire LVBC team on PHE
- Established and operationalized:
 - an integrated Technical Working Group (TWG) for PHE
 - Regional Policy Steering Committee (RPSC)- Permanent Secretaries responsible for Health, Environment, Water, Planning, EAC Affairs and Local Government
 - Integrated Parliamentary Dialogue Forum for PHE



What LVBC is doing now



- PHE research
- Development of:
 - a regional PHE Strategic Plan
 - A regional PHE Advocacy and Communication Framework
 - Basic package for PHE interventions
- Establishing/strengthening PHE networks in the EAC Partner States
- PHE capacity building
- Mainstreaming of P and H services into environmental conservation projects
- Facilitation of PHE advocacy dialogue platforms



LVBC's PHE future outlook



- i. Develop PHE curricula for implementation at all levels of education
- ii. Facilitate review and harmonization of national health and environmental conservation policies and strategies through the PHE lens
- iii. Document and share PHE best practices and success stories
- iv. Mainstream PHE into LVBC hotspots- through existing and future projects
- v. Enhance resource mobilization



PHE hotspots in LVB





But does PHE really make sense? YES!



The Health of People and the Environment (HOPE) LVB project

HOPE-LVB - Project Goal

To reduce **threats** to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem degradation in the LVB while simultaneously **increasing access to FP/RH** to improve maternal and child health.





Achievements of the HOPE- LVB project



Men engage in family planning and reproductive health

Women engage in sustainable **livelihoods** and natural resource management

Youth engage in **income generating** activities to improve their future



Model Households



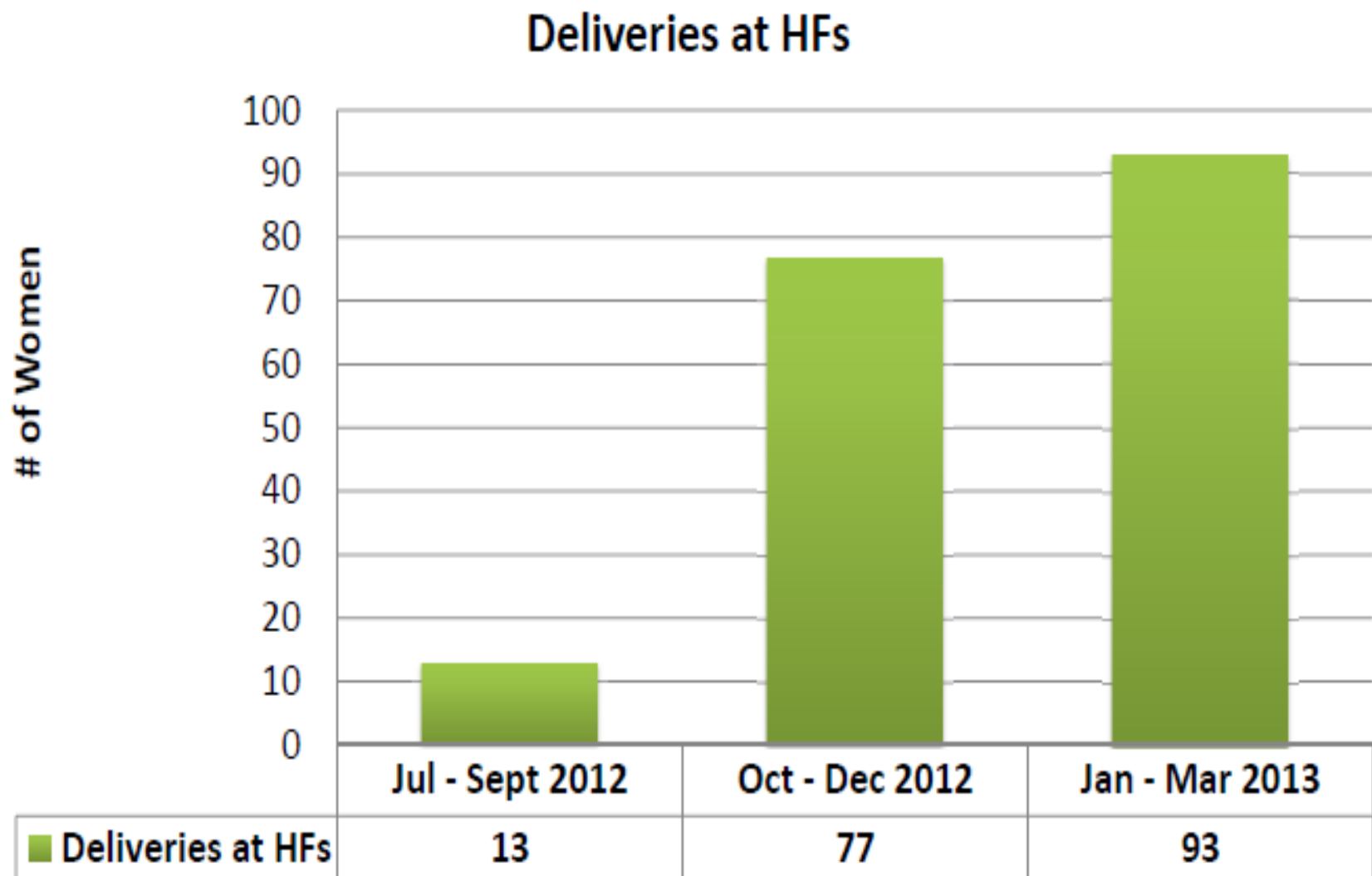
Practice sustainable agriculture and resource planning

Have access to clean water for drinking, cooking, and washing

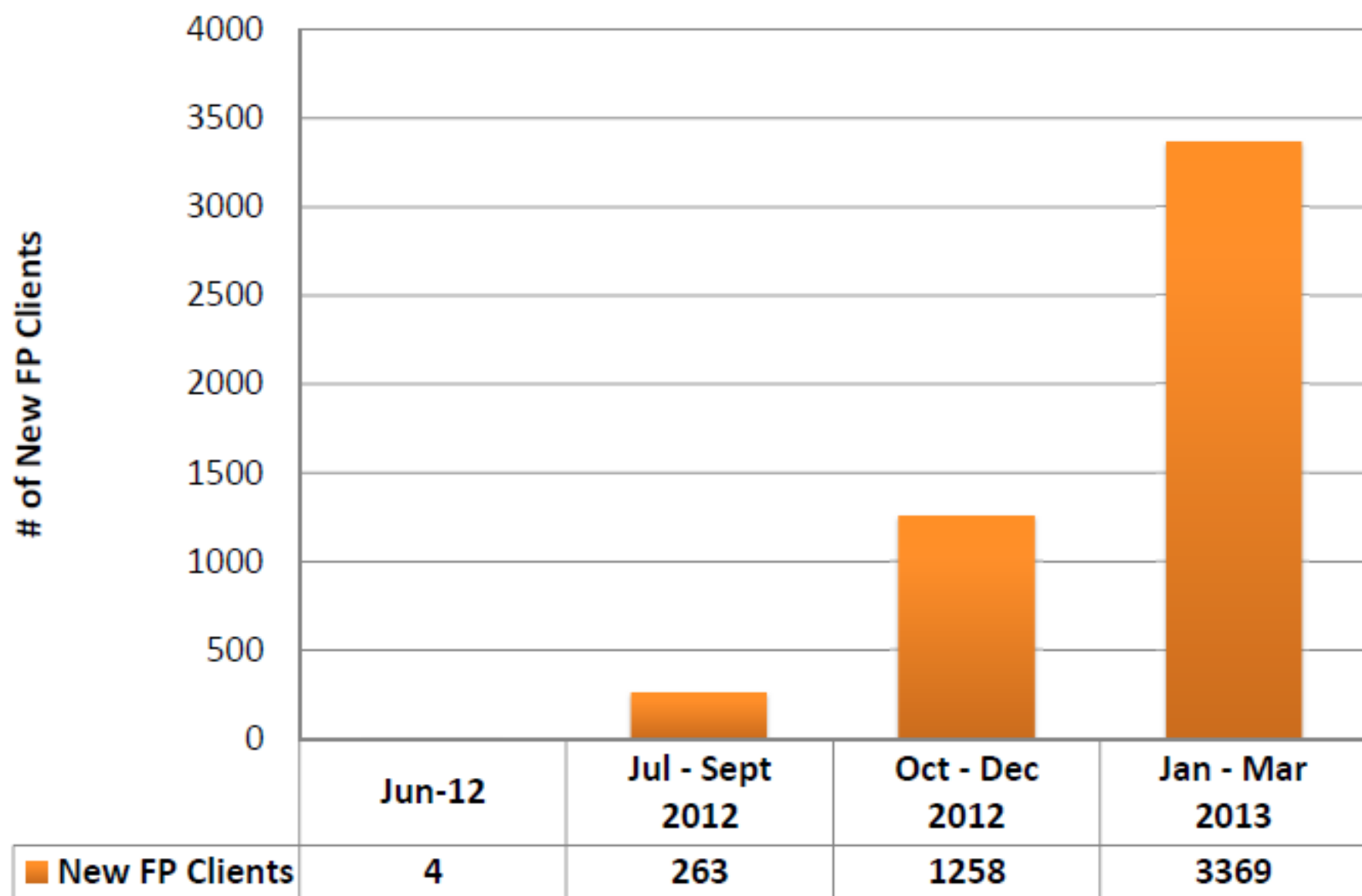
Additional livelihood sources

Have healthy understanding of reproductive health and family planning

Number of deliveries at health facilities in HoPE-LVB Uganda project sites



Number of new FP clients– HOPE LVB Uganda (at the health facility and community level)



KUBA KU NAMBA ENO

0757437676

0772608948

75227008

BUSSI ISLAND
COMMUNITY
AMBULANCE SERVICE
HOPE-LVB PROJ

ZONGSHEN





"I wish we got this FP education earlier we would have made better decisions about our family sizes. We are now faced with all these problems as we do not have enough resources to take care of our big families. Our children should not be like us"
Fisherman - Jaguzi Island



CHALLENGES



- i. Measuring synergies and cost-effectiveness of integration
- ii. Mainstreaming PHE into existing vertical health and environmental conservation projects that are mainly donor supported
- iii. Political buy-in for policy review and integrated approaches



Lessons learnt so far



- i. Advocacy is a powerful tool for propagating adoption of PHE in the EAC region- RECs
- ii. A top-down approach to PHE advocacy is most appropriate but must be backed by evidence
- iii. Propagation of PHE requires strong partnerships
- iv. A clear coordination structure is key to successful implementation of PHE interventions at regional level
- v. Political buy-in is key to the success of PHE programming



Acknowledgements



- HOPE LVB project- funded by MacArthur and Packard Foundations & technically backstopped by PRB
- LVBC environmental conservation projects
- USAID EA





THANK YOU

