



**KATHMANDU**

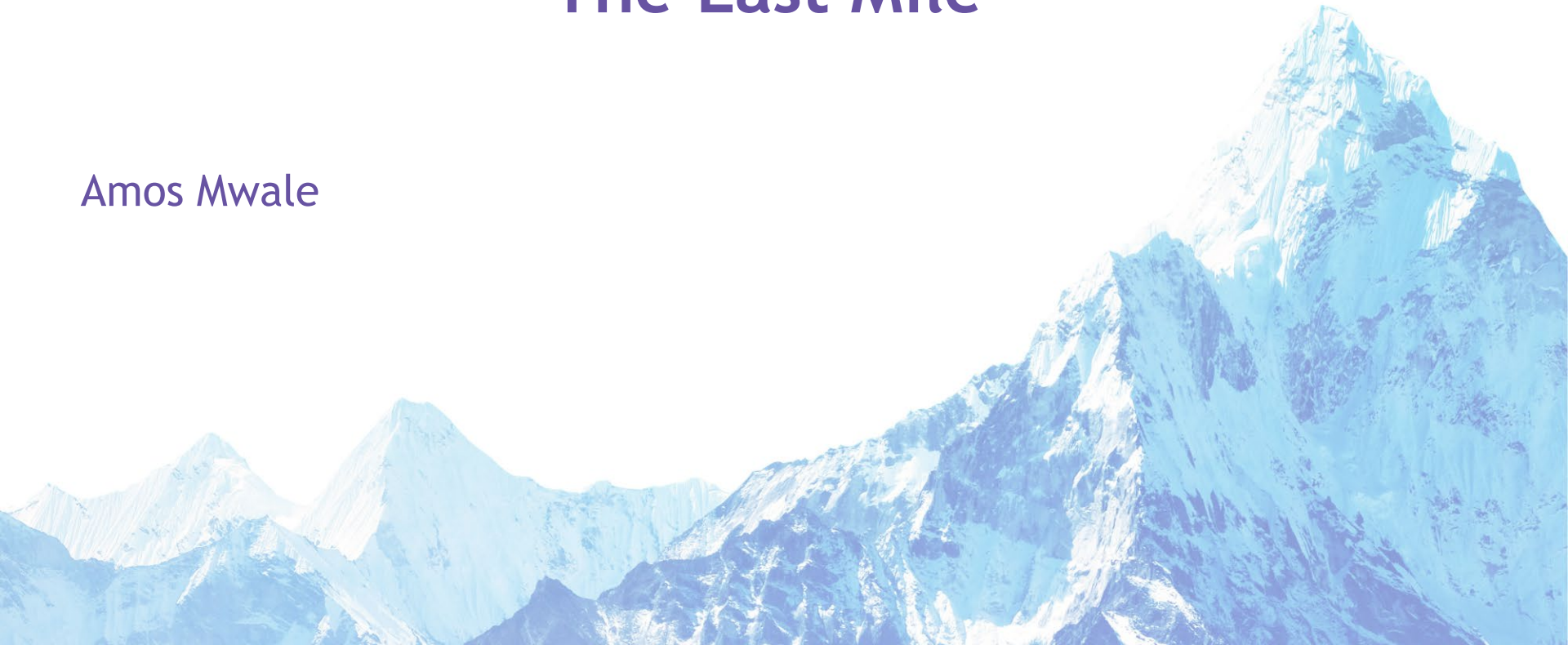
25-28 MARCH 2019 / KATHMANDU, NEPAL

**19<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES COALITION**



# The Last Mile

Amos Mwale





## What is “Last Mile”?

The ‘Last Mile’ is a term used in supply chain management and transportation planning to describe how products make their way to the point of distribution. The last mile might stretch three miles, or last 10 kilometers, or even more. In healthcare, the Last Mile is about getting lifesaving products from a warehouse to a community-based health outlet. Or from that outlet into the hands of the woman who has walked half a day to get her medication

## Last Mile Focus Areas

- support all major stakeholders to clearly understand and support any new and effective delivery system on last mile at country level.
- Shares best practices and success story that increases; equity, access and choice of commodities at the “Last Mile”
- Build advocacy constituencies (community CSOs) towards enhancing social accountability and sustaining the last mile effort.
- Advocate for a clear accountability mechanism in especially each supply management system.
- Generate action to strengthen and enforce regulations that demand all suppliers (manufacturers or wholesalers) to supply good quality and affordable products.

## What has been done/Outcomes:

(1) Case studies related to last mile advocacy:

Tuungane project in Tanzania by K4Health and Pathfinder (finalized)

Informed Push Model in Senegal by Merck for Mothers (in process)

(2) The AFP Opportunity Fund awarded two grants to projects in Tanzania & Uganda looking into community-led social accountability and last mile linkages.

Uganda - community-led Oversight Strategy for transportation and the monitoring of RH supplies in the Kapchorwa district

Tanzania - Functional oversight mechanism to track funding for RH commodities and power mapping the supply chain

(3) Increased networking and collaboration at Country Level

(4) Last mile advocacy working groups are being formed in a few countries with A&AWG members to track RH commodities (e.g., Nigeria, Zambia, DRC, Tanzania).

(5) Two webinars organized: ‘Advocacy for generics’ and ‘RH supplies in humanitarian setting’

(6) Emergence of a workstream on “RH supplies in humanitarian settings workstream”

(7) Informed Push Model in Senegal by Merck for Mothers addresses last mile issues.

(8) “Last Mile” Work Stream will present its work plan end of March 2019 after getting inputs from physical meetings at the RHSC AGM 2019

## Lessons learned for the future

- Increased collaboration between the System Strengthening Working Group (SSWG) towards especially the Supply Chain visibility and access to reliable data
- There is need for RHSC to support development of tools and advocacy strategies specifically to address last mile issues
- Intentions to work with other IMs are there but it is often difficult to set up sustainable collaboration
- There is need for increased national level studies and collaborations on commodities distribution at the “Last Mile”
- Formal participation by AAWG members in global entities (e.g. GFF Investors Group) provide the insight and intelligence for high-impact advocacy. Use the RHSC network to get more RH supplies experts in formal advocacy positions.
- An additional in-person meeting (next to the RHSC GMM) would help to focus the work (especially for new workstreams and collaboration with other IMs)



## Challenges

- Funding for “Last Mile” program is limited
- Documentation of “Last Mile” interventions is scarce
- Impact of climate change to resilience and access of RH supplies is under reported
- No support from INGOs at country level
- Limited Data on method Mix



## Opportunities

- Advances in digital technology, “big data”, geo-spatial monitoring and “data science” will significantly enhance commodity access at “Last Mile”
- Use of social media for “Last Mile” Advocacy example the potential of U-report as a tool for community-led social accountability.
- Reaching the FP 2020 goals in all the counties



Thank you all!