



# **Barriers to Access to Essential Medicines**

## ***current HAI Africa strategies and campaigns***

**Patrick Mubangizi**

**Christa Cepuch**

**Redempta Atieno**

***Health Action International Africa***

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**Health Action International (HAI) is an independent, global network, working to increase access to essential medicines and improve their rational use through research excellence and evidence-based advocacy.**



# Outline

- Access to medicines: the barriers
- Rights-based advocacy
- Evidence-based advocacy
- Stop the stock-outs campaign
- Patent Pool campaign



# Barriers to AEM

- Health system capacity
- Health budgets
- Lack of research and development
- Price
- Patents
- Quality of diagnosis
- Accurate prescribing
- Selection, distribution, dispensing of medicines
- Medicine quality



# Human Rights-based advocacy

- WHO Constitution (1946): first expression of the right to health
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): Art 25.1
- European Social Charter (1961)
- International Covenant on Economics, Social and Cultural Rights (1966): Art 12.2
- Alma Ata Declaration (1978): “health for all”
- African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (1981)
- American Convention on HRs in the Areas of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1988): additional protocol
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2000): General Comment 14: Art 12.2d and “violations”



# Human Rights-based advocacy

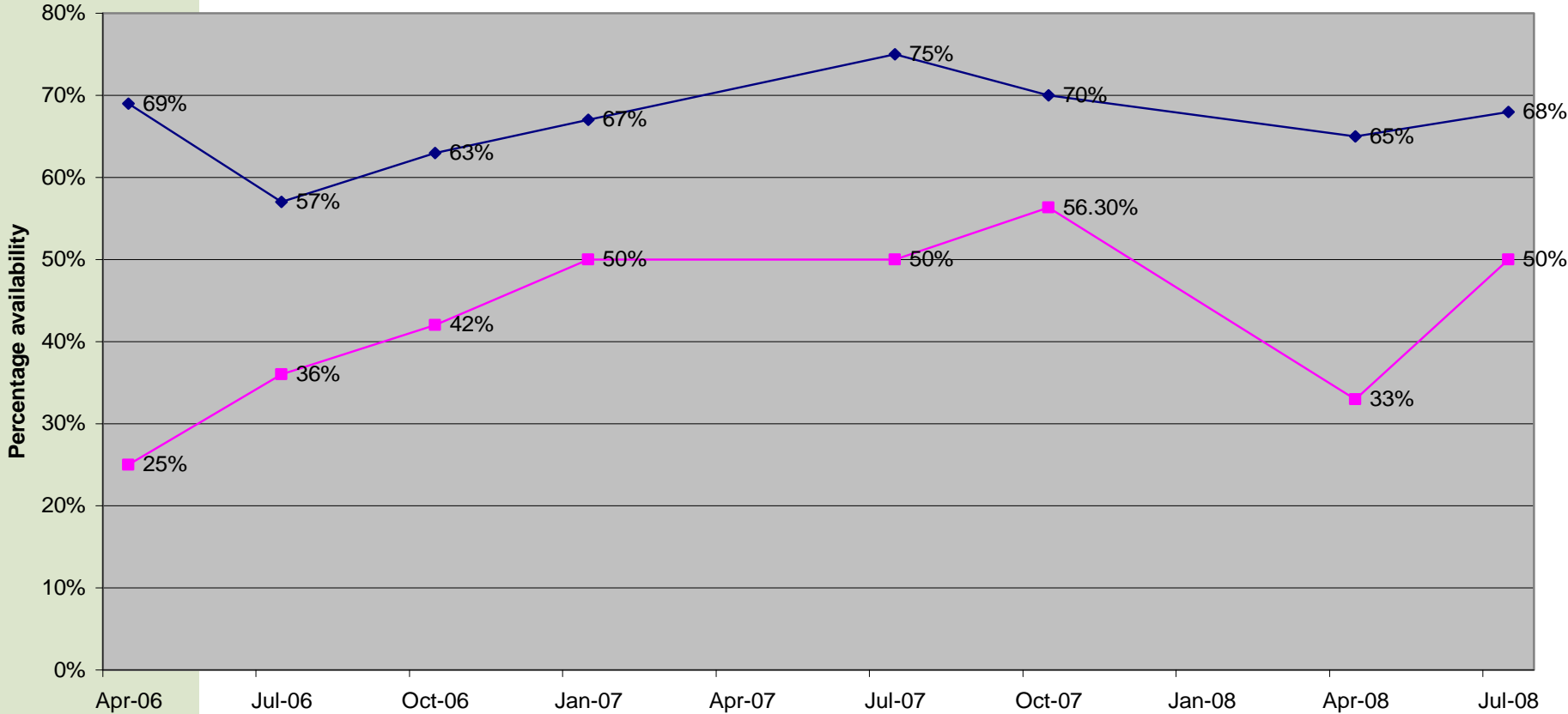
- Work with partners in different countries to engage the public on their Right to access essential medicines
  - KETAM, CIN, EPN, KEHPCA, HEPS, ZLP+, TLAC, MHEN, others
- At public fora, HAI educates communities about their Rights to access medicines and empowers them to demand for their Rights to be realized
- Work with the media



# Evidence-based advocacy:

MMePA (monitoring of medicine prices and availability)

**Fig 1. Trends in percentage availability of medicines in the hospitals and health centres in the public sector April 2006-July 2008**



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◆ Hospitals    ■ Health centres



# Evidence-based advocacy: Stop the stock-outs campaign

- Campaign Statement
- Fact Sheets
- Public Forums: Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu
- Stock-outs video and website [www.stopstockouts.org](http://www.stopstockouts.org)
- Media: launch (Feb 09), press conferences
- Pill Check week
- Upcoming events:
  - Photography project: exhibition in April 2010
  - Short code SMS project in three countries
  - Continental campaign with Oxfam





Use the zoom scroller on the left side of the map to have a closer look and move the map around by clicking and dragging. Clicking on a red "hotspot" will show you more detail. Larger circles represent a greater number of stock-outs.

#### 4 CATEGORY FILTER

- All Categories
- First-line antimalarials (AMs)
- Zinc 20mg tablet
- Benzathine penicillin
- First line ARVs
- Metronidazole 200mg tablet
- Ciprofloxacin 250 or 500mg tablet
- Amoxicillin
- Ceftriaxone 250mg or 1g vial
- Cotrimoxazole suspension
- ORS - Diarrhea



# Evidence-based advocacy: SSO continental campaign

- With Oxfam: taking SSO issues to the regional and sub-regional levels (WHO, AU, RECs, etc)
- Focus on getting broad continental support for the Patent Pool ( <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vj0dbFgloh4> )
    - Ministers of Health: a declaration?
    - Civil Society: advocacy and a declaration
  - Activities to counter problematic anti-counterfeit legislation

