

Parents tipped on preventing fistula

By Agnes Nantambi
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Dr Jackson Amone, the commissioner for curative services at the health ministry, has advised parents to keep their girls in schools as a means of preventing fistula.

“We need to prevent obstetric fistula by sensitising young girls to stay in schools, avoid early marriages and produce children at the right age,” said Amone.

He was speaking during a charity walk, organised by the Women at Work International, spearheaded by local artiste Halima Namakula.

The annual walk which marked the beginning of the obstetric fistula week ahead of the international commemoration slated for May 23 in Kibuku district, was held at Kitante Primary School in Kampala.

It was aimed at creating awareness of an ailment that is depriving women and young girls of the right to live harmoniously in society.

Amone said obstetric fistula could also be prevented by encouraging mothers to attend antenatal care services. Highlighting this year’s theme “*End fistula now, reach everyone*”, Dr Edson Muhweza,

the assistant representative at United Nations Population Fund, advised couples to utilise reproductive health services and mothers to deliver in health facilities with the help of skilled birth attendants.

Muhwezi applauded the fistula surgeons, midwives, nurses and all stakeholders, who were working to ensure that they restore the dignity of women and girls, giving them hope for a better life that they deserve.

He, however, observed the need to do more to clear the current backlog of 75,000 cases and also prevent more cases from arising.