

Mayuge mothers deliver from home - report

BY YAZID YOI KISIRIA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MAYUGE. A report released by the district health authorities has revealed that more than 80 per cent of pregnant mothers in the sub-counties of Bukaboli and Mpugwe deliver from home with the help of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). The report observes this is due to poor health services offered at the sub-county health centres.

The report presented during a stakeholder's meeting last Friday by Dr Ibrahim Gwakula, the officer in charge of Kigandalo Health Centre IV, was compiled from October last year to date as one of the strategies to identify gaps and improve on the appalling health services in Bunya East Constituency.

The meeting was chaired by Bunya East Member of Parliament, Waira Kyewalabye Majegere.

It is also reported that 16 women die every day due to maternal related complications. According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016, maternal mortality ratio dropped from 438 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 to 336 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016.

Though the government banned traditional birth attendants from giving services to expecting mothers, many women still go to them because of the inconsistencies and gaps in the main health-care system, Dr Gwakula said in Mpugwe Sub-county, a paltry 7 per cent of the mothers deliver from designated health facilities, while in Bukaboli Sub-county, it was at 12 per cent.

He added that last week, a woman in Bukaboli Village died due to excessive bleeding she suffered as she delivered from home.

"Last week, we buried a woman and today there is another one admitted at Kigandalo Health Centre after losing a baby as she delivered from home," Dr Gwakula divulged.

The report also showed that the number of pregnant women who go for antenatal care in the first trimester was considerably low in all the four Sub-counties of Bunya East namely Bukaboli (5 per cent), Kigandalo (11 per cent), Mpungwe (11 per cent) and Buwaya (3 per cent).

Ms Annette Namuwaya, 19, one of the mothers who delivered from her home in Bugumya Village, Bukaboli Sub-county, was found lying at Kigandalo Health Centre IV where she was rushed after losing her baby due to post-natal complications. "When labour pains started, I was at home and thought the delivery was going to be successful. I was helped by my mother but the baby died in the course of delivery," she narrated.

Ms Sarah Achieng, the district councilor for Bukaboli Sub-county, said mothers were delivering from home due to lack of adequate health facilities, noting that with a population of about 48,000 people, the sub-county only have two health facilities at the level of health centre II which some mothers find hard to access.