

# Save the Children boosts Kasese maternity services

## KASESE

By John Thawite

Maternity services at Kitwamba Health Centre III, Busongora North constituency, Kasese district, have improved to about 60%, following interventions by various agencies, including Save the Children and Baylor Uganda.

The head of the health facility, Evelyne Baseme, made the revelation in a report at a function where Save the Children donated assorted maternity equipment to the health centre recently.

The items, donated under the organisation's Maternal and Neo-natal Child Health (MNCH) project, included four hospital beds to be used in monitoring mothers for at least 24 hours after delivery, and an autoclave for sterilising delivery equipment.

The agency also donated three resuscitation ambu bags, a weighing scale and two blood pressure stethoscopes.

"Between January to March, the number of deliveries at the facility increased from 21 and to 55 or nearly 60% in the respective quarters," Baseme said.

She added that the facility registered only one asphyxia birth in the second quarter.

According to the MNCH project officer, Annette Kabasinguzi, Kitwamba serves 30,000 people, including 6,600 women of reproductive age and an estimated 1,500 pregnant women annually.

Save the Children Country Director Brechtje van Lith handed over the items to the assistant



Mugisa and Ruth Kabugho receiving an autoclave donated to Kitwamba Health Centre III in Kasese district by Save the Children as Brechtje van Lith (right) looks on. Photo by John Thawite

chief administrative officer, Moses Mugisa and the district secretary for social services, Ruth Kabugho.

"The equipment provided will help to improve the quality of maternity services provided by the health workers, thus reducing maternal and new-born deaths," Brechtje, said.

She challenged the health facility management and the community to look after the equipment, in order to deliver healthy babies.

Stella Kumanda, one of the pregnant women, thanked Save the Children for saving them from travelling long distances in order to

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

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give birth.

Yolesi Ithungu, who has delivered one baby at the health centre, said she had incurred less

delivery charges than other places and that the health workers were friendly, following the customer care training by Save the Children.

Recently, the agency constructed a maternity ward and conducted capacity building training for health workers, especially midwives to improve services at the facility.

Mugisa, hailed the organisation for having earlier donated a sh185m ambulance to Rwensande Health Centre IV.

Save the Children team leader Samuel Mukirania urged health workers to use the items properly and protect the district's health