

Ready. The five-year project kicks off next week with the training of district officials and health workers.

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KAMPALA. Ministry of Health has secured a lump sum \$140m (about Shs513b) loan for maternal health to stop the high death of women during pregnancy and child birth.

Maternal and child mortality rates account for more than 60 per cent of the lives lost in Uganda.

The latest figures in the 2016 Uganda Health Demographic and Health Survey indicate that the numbers of mothers who die in labour is still high despite a slight reduction from 438 in 2011 to 368 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Infant mortality rate dropped from 54 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in the same period

Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, the Health Minister, said \$30m (about Shs110b) is a grant from the Global Financing Facility (GFF) and will be dispatched to more than 74 districts to hire human resource, re-equip maternity wards and theatres among others.

"The primary project beneficiaries are women of child-bearing age, adolescents and children under five (including newborn and infants) from selected districts in the country with a high diseases burden.

The beneficiaries will gain from a package of high impact quality and cost effective RMNCAH [Reproductive maternal, newborn, child and infant health]," Dr Aceng said.

Aceng was speaking at the Results Based Financing Programme national stakeholders' orientation meeting in Kampala yesterday.

Warning

She passed a warning to service providers to put the funds to proper use and not to misappropriate the money as has been the case with previous projects.

The five-year project kicks off next week with the training of district officials and health workers. The minimum funds expected to be received by a health facility is Shs10m.

Shs500b earmarked for maternal health



Hopeful. Some of the mothers breastfeed their babies as they await immunisation at a health centre in Arua District recently.

PHOTO BY CLEMENT ALUMA

“The primary project beneficiaries are women of child-bearing age, adolescents and children under five (including new born and infants) from selected districts in the country with a high diseases burden,” DR JANE RUTH ACENG, THE HEALTH MINISTER

Butaleja, Lira, Oyam, Pallisa, Butebo, Apac, Manafwa, Namisindwa, Sironko, Amuria, Kole, Agago, Am

The districts are selected after ranking them and prioritising those with the poorest indices, high fertility rate, adolescent pregnancy and newborn deaths.

Rewards

Dr Jesca Nsungwa, head of the community health department at the ministry of Health under which the project falls explained that in order to motivate both health workers and health facility in-charges, the result based financing project will increase funding and other rewards

“According to the project structure, if they (community health workers) mobilise mothers and bring them to the health facility, they should be able to benefit but also with the results we are setting, we want them to be set by the communities,” Dr Nsungwa explained.

She added that communities will be actively engaged in setting results.

The local communities will be involved through setting up management committees of the facilities with community representation

Kadaga asks govt to explain Kirumira arrest

BY SOLOMON ARINAIT
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KAMPALA. Speaker Rebecca Kadaga yesterday directed government through the minister of Internal Affairs to explain why police used force to break the doors into the home of former Buyende District Police Commander, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Muhammad Kirumira to effect his arrest.

Mitooma Woman MP Josephine Kamateeka, who chairs the Commission on Human Rights, brought Kirumira's plight to the attention of the House, saying police detoured their colleague "and left his family traumatized".

Ms Kamateeka questioned the police could not wait and arrest Kirumira from court [police tribunal] was due to appear that day.

"This is a man whose character was his tongue but to enter the door of his house to extract a rat was not necessary. [The rat] was supposed to come tomorrow and they could have done that. The whole exercise was a disregard of the other family who were left traumatized," Kamateeka said.

Kadaga directs

Speaker Kadaga directed the Minister for Internal Affairs to explain why Kirumira was arrested in such a manner. The Minister had no response and pleaded to table an appeal next week.

Operatives of the Special Forces Unit (FSU) last week entered the home of Kirumira in Wakiso District to take him to detention.