

ject which is aimed at increasing access to skilled care among poor women living in rural

The component was implemented through a voucher scheme administered by a Voucher Man-

functions and building national capacity to mainstream and scale up implementation of the safe delivery voucher scheme in the health sec-

tor.

The package also includes services for elimination of mother-to-

mother transmission of HIV from December 29, 2017 to December 15, 2019. This means the project's targets will also be revised.

Institution making education support a priority

BY JOSEPH BAHINGWIRE
jbahingwire@ug.nationmedia.com

The \$100 million Uganda School and Teacher Effectiveness Project (UTSEP) funded by the World Bank through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) became effective in March 2015.

The project's development objective is to support the government in improving teacher and school effectiveness in the public

primary education system. The project has three components: effective teachers, effective schools and implementation support and capacity building.

According to Ms Judith Grace Auma, the project communication specialist, the effective teachers component aims at improving teacher quality and performance with specific reference to instructional practices for early grade reading, use of instructional materials in teaching and teacher pres-

ence in school.

Ms Auma says to date, 10,171 teachers have been trained in early grade reading methodology for primary grades 1-3. Through this, UTSEP is improving reading abilities of children in early grades, specifically in English and 10 local languages in 27 districts. About 636,735 P1 and P2 pupils in 27 districts are benefiting from the trained teachers. Reading materials were also printed in the 10 selected languages that also include Eng-

lish. There has also been provision of equipment and instructional materials, with 1,894,428 primers and teacher guides procured for 2,656 schools.

The Early Childhood Development Community Childcare Programme has also been rolled out where 87 care givers have been trained, with another 3,265 to complete training by May 2018.

The Ministry of Education and Sports and the UNICEF country programme has since 2011 imple-

mented the Community Child Care Programme in targeted 24 districts. Under the UTSEP project, the programme is being rolled out, targeting 4,000 in-service caregivers selected from 50 districts.

An integrated school inspection system has been designed, targeting 2,000 schools. Digitalised inspection tools as well as data collected by associate assessors have been uploaded on tablets and delivered to respective staff in districts.