

county headquarters because "I have told them to take place, there is need to conduct such inputs," Kadaga said.

Namayumba health centre overwhelmed with expectant mothers

WAKISO

By Violet Nabatanzi

Namayumba Health Centre IV in Wakiso district is overwhelmed with the number of expectant mothers. Over 100 mothers deliver from the facility every month, yet it is meant for only 20 mothers.

Harriet Nakabugo, the officer in charge of the maternity ward at the health centre, said the current structure was too small to accommodate mothers and other patients.

"At the moment, we have merged the maternity ward and antenatal services. The postnatal ward has only four beds and is not big enough to accommodate mothers who deliver by caesarean section. We have also squeezed three beds into the labour ward, yet the space is meant for only one bed," Nakabugo said.

She said the medical supplies they get are limited and are delivered late, which forces them to advise mothers to buy their own mama kits at the time of delivery.

"For the few medical supplies we get, we consider mothers who can't afford the cost. For those who are well-off, we



Nakabugo carrying a baby. Left is the baby's aunt. Photo by Violet Nabatanzi

tell them to buy their own," she said.

It is against this background that Protection for Families Organisation donated medical equipment and supplies to the health facility.

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) key indicators report for the

sixth Demographic and Health Survey 2016, said Uganda has made great strides in maternal health.

The results show that infant mortality rate declined from 54 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.

WHAT OTHERS SAY



Angela Muwonge, resident of Goboero

It is a common practice for pregnant women to buy their own medical supplies.

The health workers usually advise us to buy the kits since there are many mothers compared to few supplies.

Immaculate Ampereza, a mother

Ever since I started delivering at this facility, I have been buying my own kits. At the time of delivery, I always make sure I have every requirement.



from 438 deaths per 100,000 live births registered in the 2011, UBOS report to the current 336 deaths per 100,000 live births.

There was also a marked improvement in pregnant women making four or more antenatal clinic visits from 48% in 2011 to 60% in 2016, while the number of births at health facilities increased from 57% in 2011 to 73% in 2016.

Matia Lwanga Bwanika, the Wakiso district LC5 chairperson, urged the Government to prioritise health issues, saying health budgets should be increased.

"The country is doing badly in addressing health challenges. The health budget should be increased and health issues prioritised, because there is nothing that can be done without a health community," Bwanika said.

Dr Mathias Seviiri, the district health officer, said some health workers in the health facilities at the districts were doing their job without uniforms. He said much as the National Medical Stores took health workers' measurements for uniforms in 2015 they had not received them.

"We have been told that the uniforms will be delivered in the next financial year," Seviiri said.