

# Intra Health improving livelihood

By Stella Naigino

**L**inda Namusobya lives in Wakitaka village, Jinja district found hardship in paying her tuition fees when she joined the Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery.

However, through Intra Health International, a non-government organisation, she was able to get a scholarship and complete her studies.

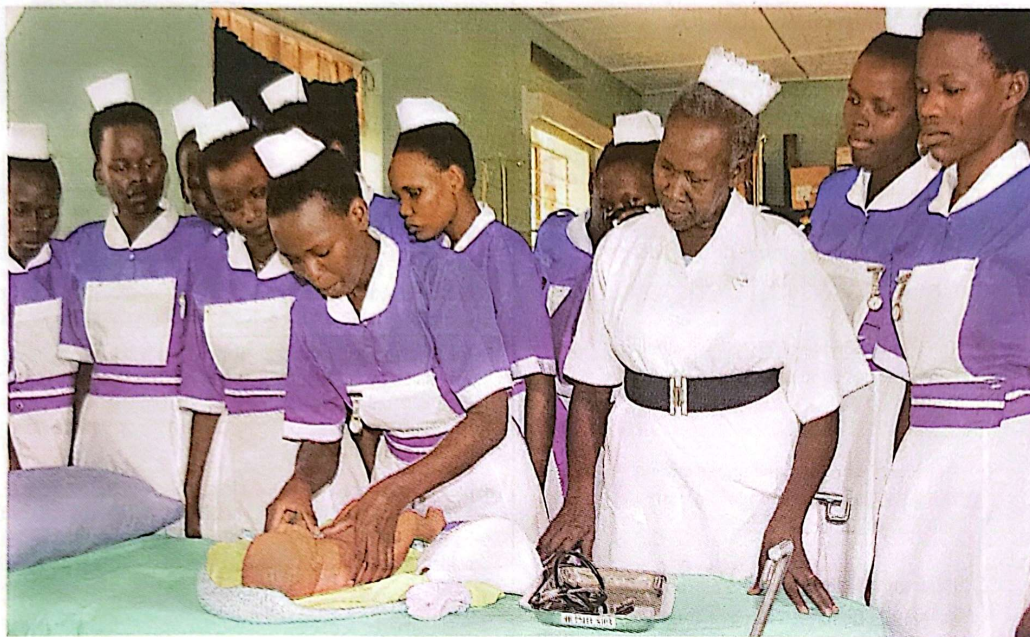
After graduating, Intra Health encouraged her to apply for midwifery job at the district and she succeeded.

Namusobya is one of the students who have benefited from the services of Intra Health International. Besides giving scholarships to students, Intra Health International is also involved in improving the pre-service training, recruitment, deployment, retention and performance of health workers including midwives.

## How this is done

"For the 25 years it has been in operation, Intra Health realised that there were many students who needed to be trained to better their way of service in the health sector, but lacked funds.

Such students have been given scholarships by Intra Health to complete nursing and midwifery training," says Christine Alura, the Intra Health programmes officer. She says over 270 midwifery students from rural areas have been given scholarships.



Some of the student attending a practical training session. Photo by Stella Naigino

Intra Health works with nursing schools to give proper training to midwives" she adds.

Alura says the organisation also provides textbooks and computers to improve training in nursing institutions.

## Retention of health workers

Intra Health ensures that midwives from different regions, especially those from hard-to-reach areas, are trained so that they get employed and retained in health facilities near their homes.

## Recruitment

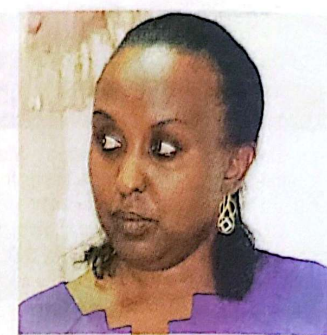
"Intra Health International collaborates with the Government through USAID-funded projects to improve health sector performance. The organisation works with ministries of health, education and public service and also with district local governments," Dr Susan Wandera Kayizi, the deputy chief of party Intra Health, says.

Kayizi explains that after the health human resource has been trained, Intra Health ensures that they get recruited. "We contact district

recruitment officers to identify the gaps in the health facilities at the district. Here they get to know how many midwives they need."

"After that, we help them advertise and also fund the recruitment process. Our trained midwives are encouraged to apply for these positions in the different health facilities," she explains.

Kayizi adds that by doing this, Intra Health intends to increase national health sector staffing levels from 69% to 75% by 2019.



Dr Susan Wandera Kayizi

## Improvement in performance

"Through training, Intra Health has helped instill good leadership and management training of managers at health training institutions so that they efficiently and effectively utilise the limited resources to offer quality services," she says.

Kayizi notes that over 17 tutors from village health institutions have been trained and these have been able to do their work without cases of absenteeism. The number of midwives absent from their places of work went down after Intra Health introduced an attendance tracking systems.

She reveals that in 2014, absenteeism in public health facilities was at 52%, but with the introduction of the monitoring systems, the numbers have reduced from 50% to 13.7%.

Intra Health is working with the education ministry to develop the teachers' guide for certificate of midwifery training.