

FOUNTAIN OF PEACE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION.

MOTHERS MATTER IN CHILDBIRTH PROJECT.

MMC.



Boda-boda riders who received new reflector jackets pose for a photo at the sub county headquarters

QUARTER TWO REPORT (APRIL-JUNE) 2025.

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Introduction

As we wrap up the second quarter, we are thankful to the lord for Mothers Matter in Childbirth (MMC) program that continues progress steadily towards reducing maternal mortality in Kanyegaramire Sub County. By addressing the three critical delays, that is, in seeking care, reaching health centers, and receiving adequate treatment. The initiative has brought meaningful improvements to lives and transformed community perspectives.

Since the inception of the project, over 800 expectant mothers have received transportation assistance and essential delivery supplies, including mama kits, baby blankets, and infant clothing, ensuring they give birth under the care of skilled health workers. This progress reflects a notable change in community perceptions, with increasing trust in giving birth at the health facility. This is evidenced by the growing number of women opting to deliver at Bufunjo Health Center III.

The Project underwent a preliminary review to analyze its achievements over the first 12 months of its operation, identify ongoing gaps, and document critical takeaways from its implementation (Clinical data). This evaluation process serves as a crucial milestone in refining upcoming strategies. A more comprehensive evaluation of the project will also be undertaken by an independent M&E team supervised by FOP Uganda and the results from that report will guide the long term operations of MMC.

We extend our gratitude to the funders for their foresight in supporting expanded ANC access for mother's right in their communities. During quarter one, the project launched Antenatal and Immunization Outreaches, reaching all 26 villages of Kanyegaramire to encourage at least six ANC visits per pregnancy. By delivering these services locally, the initiative has helped mothers stay on track with vital prenatal care, ensuring safer deliveries through timely medical oversight.

Sustaining strong institutional partnerships remains central to the project's strategy. Our longstanding engagement with the district health office through the Principal Nursing Officer (Project Focal person) has been instrumental. With the new District Health Officer now in place, we anticipate further strengthening this alliance to advance shared maternal and child health objectives with even greater effectiveness.

As we review this quarter, gratitude goes to the mothers whose courage fuels our work, our team's unwavering commitment, and the alliances that amplify the MMC project's reach. Together, we're systematically dismantling barriers to timely care, ensuring no mother or child is lost to delays we can overcome. Explore the sections ahead for a closer look at this progress.

The current statistics of MMC since inception in October 2023.

MONTH	NUMBER OF MOTHERS THAT GAVE BIRTH IN BUFUNJO HCIII	NUMBER OF MOTHERS REFERRED TO KYENJOJO BY AMBULANCE	NUMBER OF MOTHERS REFERRED TO KYENJOJO HOSP BY MOTORBIKE	MOTHERS	BABIES
Oct-23	8	2	0	10	10
Nov-23	25	2	3	30	31
Dec-23	31	2	1	34	34
Jan-24	31	1	6	38	38
Feb-24	36	0	12	48	49
Mar-24	40	0	6	46	46
Apr-24	40	0	8	48	48
May-24	38	0	7	45	45
Jun-24	36	0	5	41	41
Jul-24	30	0	10	40	40
Aug-24	37	0	7	44	44
Sep-24	40	0	9	49	49
Oct-24	47	0	6	53	53
Nov-24	40	0	7	47	47
Dec-24	32	0	6	38	38
Jan-25	33	0	6	39	39
Feb-25	32	0	12	44	45
Mar-25	34	0	7	41	41
Apr-25	39	1	5	45	45
May-25	37		7	44	45
Jun-25	41		7	48	48
TOTAL	727	8	137	872	876

The above numbers speak volumes: 830 mothers transported, 833 newborns delivered safely—all since October 2023. For these women, reaching Bufunjo Health Center III or Kyenjojo Hospital would have been nearly impossible without MMC's intervention. Each statistic represents a life-changing outcome: a mother and child spared the dangers of unattended birth.

VHT & BODA-BODA REVIEW MEETING

To ensure alignment with our Village Health Teams (VHTs) and enhance the project's effectiveness, we convened a progress review meeting with all 52 VHT members representing 26 villages in Kanyegaramire Sub County. The session provided a platform to evaluate achievements, address challenges, and identify opportunities for improving maternal health outcomes across the community.

Recognizing the pivotal role of frontline health workers, we also engaged the four Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) overseeing Kanyegaramire's four parishes. Their involvement is critical, as they directly supervise VHTs and serve as a vital link between health facilities and villages. By integrating them into the project, we aim to strengthen referral systems, improve service delivery, and foster seamless coordination. All essential steps in reducing preventable maternal deaths. This collaborative approach ensures that our interventions remain community-driven, data-informed, and sustainable in the long term.

Recognizing the vital role of boda-boda riders in our lifesaving referral network, we held a strategic review meeting with these frontline transporters. As the primary responders for emergency maternal transfers, often during critical nighttime hours, their commitment ensures timely access to health facilities for mothers in labor and safe returns post-delivery.

Key discussion points included:

- Reinforcement of safe transport protocols, with emphasis on handling vulnerable mothers with care, especially during emergency nighttime referrals.
- Addressing challenges: Riders highlighted cases where mothers initially sought Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and only called for transport after complications arose, making motorcycle transfers riskier.
- Unified call to action: The attending health worker stressed the importance of:
 1. Continued community education to encourage facility-based deliveries from the onset.
 2. Non-judgmental service by riders, urging them to prioritize every mother's safety regardless of prior TBA engagement.

This dialogue underscores our shared commitment to eliminating delays in emergency obstetric care.

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery, we conducted a targeted capacity-building initiative for frontline health workers at Bufunjo Health Center III. In close collaboration with the facility in charge and the project focal person, we trained six skilled birth attendants in critical lifesaving techniques, with a focus on:

- Newborn resuscitation protocols to address birth asphyxia emergencies
- Updated best practices in maternal and neonatal care

This hands-on training equipped providers with the latest clinical skills to manage complications effectively, directly contributing to our goal of reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths. The session also reinforced inter-facility collaboration, ensuring alignment between our project objectives and the health center's service delivery priorities.

Support from Local Government and Strengthening of Bufunjo Health Center III

The 'Mother Matter in Childbirth' (MMC) project has significantly increased the number of mothers accessing skilled delivery services at Bufunjo Health Center III. This positive impact, however, also led to a heavier workload for the existing four midwives at the facility. In response to this challenge and as a show of commitment to supporting MMC project activities, the local government of Kyenjojo has appointed an additional midwife, bringing the total number of midwives at the facility to five.

This timely intervention greatly contributes to reducing the third delay in receiving adequate care once at the health facility, by ensuring mothers are attended to more promptly. We extend our sincere gratitude to the local government of Kyenjojo for responding to our plea.

Moreover, the local government has pledged to elevate Bufunjo Health Center III to a Health Center IV status. This upgrade will include the appointment of more technical staff and the establishment of an admission ward, key developments that will enhance maternal and newborn care in the region and further reduce preventable maternal deaths.

Challenges

While we celebrate the project's achievements, several critical challenges continue to hinder our progress toward eliminating preventable maternal deaths:

1. Persistent Reliance on Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)

Despite intensive community sensitization, one in ten mothers still elects to deliver with TBAs, exposing themselves and their newborns to

Increased risk of obstetric complications and infections.

Delayed emergency care when referrals become necessary.

Undermined facility delivery statistics that inform resource allocation.

2. Systemic Implementation Barriers

Transportation Gaps. The poor road networks during rainy seasons delay critical referrals while increasing the risk.

3. Cultural and Educational Factors

Deep-rooted traditional beliefs about childbirth practices, coupled with Low health literacy levels, affect care-seeking decisions.

Way forward

To effectively overcome challenges faced in the project, we are considering the following;

Community Sensitization and Engagement. Promote early ANC enrolment: Intensify community education campaigns to emphasize the importance of regular ANC checkups, aiming to reduce reliance on unskilled traditional birth attendants.

Monitor and evaluate outreach effectiveness: Continuously track attendance patterns and feedback from the community to adjust outreach locations and timing based on real-world challenges and needs.

Intensify Community Engagement through Local Leaders & Male Involvement Programs. Engage Village Elders, Religious Leaders, and Local Councils as maternal health advocates to shift cultural perceptions on facility-based deliveries.

Testimonial Campaigns: Mothers who survived complications due to facility births share their stories in community dialogues.

By implementing these strategies, the project can not only address the immediate challenges of uneven service distribution but also build a more resilient framework that ensures equitable and reliable access to vital maternal health services for all mothers in Kanyegaramire.

Focus for Quarter three 2025.

As the Mother Matter in Childbirth (MMC) initiative moves into its next phase, we remain focused on our mission to reduce preventable deaths among mothers and newborns. The following key priorities will guide our implementation during this period:

1. Strengthening Community-Based Care Systems

We will enhance our antenatal care (ANC) outreach program to ensure universal access across all villages. These mobile clinics will not only provide essential services but also incorporate systematic assessments to identify and resolve barriers to care.

2. Optimizing Emergency Referral Networks

Our life-saving transportation program will continue offering free, round-trip transfer services for expectant and postpartum mothers, guaranteeing uninterrupted access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care when needed.

3. Deepening Stakeholder Collaboration

Targeted engagement sessions with Village Health Teams (VHTs) and boda-boda operators will assess operational challenges, refine referral protocols, and improve response efficiency for maternal emergencies.

4. Enhancing Clinical Competencies

Capacity development for Bufunjo Health Center III staff remains central to our strategy. Through ongoing skills training, we will ensure healthcare providers maintain proficiency in contemporary maternal and neonatal care practices.

5. Evidence-Based Program Refinement

A new focus on robust data collection will analyze persistent TBA utilization patterns, including:

- Demographic profiling of mothers choosing home deliveries
- Comparative outcomes between facility and TBA-assisted births
- Root-cause analysis of care-seeking decisions

This multifaceted approach combines service delivery, system strengthening, and data-driven adaptation to maximize our impact. By maintaining these priorities, we move closer to our vision where every birth is safe, and no mother dies from preventable causes.

Closure.

We wish to express our profound appreciation to all partners and collaborators whose steadfast support has made the Mother Matter in Childbirth initiative a transformative force in our community.

First and foremost, we recognize the extraordinary generosity of FOP UK and FOP NZ, whose funding and belief in our mission have been the cornerstone of our progress in improving maternal and child health outcomes.

To the Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation leadership, our directors, we extend our deepest gratitude for your visionary guidance, strategic oversight, and unwavering commitment to ensuring the project's impact reaches the most vulnerable mothers and children.

We salute the boda-boda riders and Village Health Teams (VHTs), whose tireless dedication bridges the gap between communities and healthcare facilities, often under challenging circumstances. Your role as frontline responders is nothing short of heroic.

Our sincere thanks also go to the Kyenjojo District Health Office, local government leaders, and community stakeholders for their invaluable partnership in creating an enabling environment for our interventions.

Finally, we honor the healthcare teams at Bufunjo Health Center III and Kyenjojo Hospital for their lifesaving expertise, compassion, and round-the-clock service. Each safe delivery stands as a testament to your skill and dedication.

Together, these collective efforts have not only saved lives but also ignited a movement toward sustainable maternal health in Kanyegaramire Sub County and beyond. We move forward with renewed hope, inspired by what we've achieved and what remains possible through continued collaboration.