Women and Children First
Improving maternal and child health in Uganda

Communities supported 168
Lives saved 79
Women, children and adolescents benefiting 28,785

Problem
At the time of the project Uganda had a newborn mortality rate of 19 / 1000 live births and a maternal mortality rate of 360 / 100,000 live births.

Approach
WCF MNH tool
• 168 groups established with 19,182 members
• Developed local answers including: vegetable gardening and sharing; village saving and loan groups; road clearing and bridge repair; lobbying for community health workers.

Other community activities
• Training and support for 150 CHWs to identify, advise and refer pregnant women
• Support for 5 youth clubs

Health systems strengthening
• Training and supportive supervision for 30 health workers at 24 facilities providing maternal and newborn health services

Advocacy
• Groups and project staff routinely shared evidence from the project and lobbied with key decision-makers

Other community activities
• Training and support for 150 CHWs to identify, advise and refer pregnant women
• Support for 5 youth clubs

Results
• Improvements in care-seeking: 1st trimester antenatal care attendance (increase of 13%), delivery with a skilled attendant (22%) and seeking postnatal care within 7 days (39%)
• Large reduction in women’s perception of barriers to accessing maternal and child health services (80%)
• Large improvements in women’s capacities: 77% of women have good knowledge of MNH (compared to 0% at baseline), 59% have self-efficacy to make MNH decisions (30%) and 74% feel they have social support around MNH issues (50%)

Lessons learned
• Having a high group to population coverage (approximately 1 group per 500 population) and open membership, allowing new members to join at any time, is essential to ensure success

Figure 1: MNH group attendance
Figure 2: Care-seeking practices
Figure 3: Women’s capacities

“My first daughter is now 21 years old. I want her to join the group because of all the good things I’ve learned. I always keep in touch with the other members, they were there for me throughout all of these things and they are still with me even now”

Partner
Amref Uganda

Funder
Big Lottery Fund £1,078,866

Dates
2014 – 2017

Project population 129,300

Gulu and Amuru Districts, Uganda