**Communities to be supported**

200

**Expected lives to be saved**

81

**Expected number of women, children and adolescents to benefit**

55,767

**Problem**

Uganda has a maternal mortality rate of 360 / 100,000 live births and newborn mortality rate of 19 / 1000 live births. This places is in the top 10 countries in the world with the highest maternal mortality rates and means that approximately 81 babies under 1 month die in the country every day. Teenage pregnancy rates are high at 24%. Poor women and babies in rural areas are particularly affected.

**Approach**

*WCF Life-course tool*

- 110 groups established to date with 4,817 members
- Starting in Year 2, build capacity of 400 teenagers to become sexual and reproductive health (SRH) champions – sharing knowledge with their friends and encouraging them to take care of their health

*Social accountability*

- Groups holding meetings with health workers to discuss how they can together improve local health services

*Health Promotion*

- Training volunteer Village Health Teams to effectively conduct health promotion activities

**Advocacy**

- Sharing learning to inform decision-making
- Community groups actively presenting their concerns to decision-makers and advocating for improvements

**Vision**

The project started recently but aims to improve reproductive and maternal child health through changes including:

- Increased use of modern contraceptives
- Improved attendance of antenatal care appointments
- Increased number of deliveries with a skilled birth attendant
- Improved care of newborns
- Improved quality and accessibility of services
- Improved decision-making

**Partners**

Doctors with Africa CUAMM

**Funders**

Comic Relief, Big Lottery Fund, Vitol Foundation

**Dates**

2017 - 2020

**Project population**

108,317

**Oyam District, Uganda**

**Figure 1: Selected project targets**

*Baseline*  |  *Target*
---|---
% of mothers of children aged 0 – 1 months using a modern contraceptive method | | |
% of mothers attending ≥ 4 ANC sessions | | |
% of mothers of who were accompanied to at least one ANC session by their partner | | |
% of births delivered with a skilled attendant | | |
% of children receiving post-natal care within two days of birth | | |

**Pregnant group member**

“I felt sick. I did not know what was wrong, but thought it could be malaria. I knew the signs [...] through the health information I received from the group. I went to the health facility and they diagnosed me with malaria. I was given treatment and I recovered. The advice I received from the women’s group was very useful. I was given treatment that saved my life and that of my baby.”