



USAID/UGANDA VOUCHER PLUS ACTIVITY

Providing quality obstetric, newborn, and postpartum family planning services to poor women in Northern and Eastern Uganda.

Uganda has made significant improvements in maternal and newborn health, but progress in the north and east of the country has lagged behind. Women in these regions often delay seeking care or do not seek care at all because they lack money, transportation, or do not realize that they need it. Even when women are able to get to a facility, adequate care may not always be available. These challenges pose serious threats to maternal and newborn lives.

The Uganda Ministry of Health is committed to ending preventable maternal and child deaths, and recognizes that Uganda must increase the role of the private sector in expanding quality services for mothers and babies. USAID/Uganda's Voucher Plus Activity addresses this need by contracting private providers to deliver quality maternal and newborn services to poor mothers in 35 districts in Northern and Eastern Uganda.

The voucher service package includes four antenatal care visits; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; delivery with a skilled birth attendant; referral for complications; postnatal care; and post-partum family planning. The project reimburses providers for these services, and provides clinical and administrative mentoring and auditing to strengthen their capacity to deliver high quality care.



Expanding Financial Protection

Village Health Teams offer vouchers at 4,000 UGX to women who qualify. The voucher allows these women to access the full suite of obstetric, newborn, and postpartum services at private facilities at no additional cost. By enabling vulnerable women to access quality health services without incurring financial hardship from high out-of-pocket payments, the voucher financing mechanism expands financial protection to poor, rural households.



Promoting Health Equity

We target districts with high rates of maternal mortality and communities that have limited access to points of care. Through door-to-door poverty grading assessments, Village Health Teams identify eligible vulnerable women. During the assessment, women receive essential information on safe motherhood to generate demand for services. This activity seeks to expand Uganda's health system to serve the poorest, hardest to reach populations.



Public-Private Partnerships

District Health Teams work with project clinical staff to conduct joint supervision and mentorship of contracted private providers, including strengthening their capacity to report into DHIS2. Voucher Plus builds linkages between private and public facilities for health services including immunizations, family planning commodities, referrals and emergency transport, and more. These cross-sector relationships promote cohesion and efficiency within the Ugandan health system.



Sustainable Health Financing

Voucher Plus trains contracted providers in business management skills, and strengthens their capacity to participate in output-based financing and community health insurance schemes. This enables private sector participation in future health financing mechanisms in Uganda.



Evidence to Action

The project implements a robust learning agenda and relies on data to inform program decision-making and adaptation. We document and disseminate lessons learned throughout implementation, contributing evidence to inform the development of health financing mechanisms in Uganda.

Achievements

by March 2019

CONTRACTED

153

FACILITIES across

35

DISTRICTS

SOLD OVER
290,000
VOUCHERS

SUPPORTED
178,585
ANC 1 VISITS & **68,597**
ANC 4

PROVIDED
140,000
DELIVERIES
with skilled providers

CONTRIBUTED
32% of facility-based
DELIVERIES registered across the
35 districts

TRAINED OVER
500
HEALTH
WORKERS on implementing
self-regulatory
quality improvement
systems

143
PRIVATE
PROVIDERS reporting into
the DHIS2

Improved **local**
capacity to implement
sustainable health
financing mechanisms

PROJECT INFORMATION

Our partners



Communication for Development Foundation Uganda, Pricewaterhouse Coopers/Uganda (PwC), BDO Uganda, Ministry of Health

Activity duration



January 2016 – January 2021

Budget



\$24,500,000

Contact



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