

# 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

### 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 [www.womenandchildrenfirst.org.uk](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.org.uk)

### Partner

Amref Uganda

### Funder

Big Lottery Fund £1,078,866

### Dates

2014 – 2017

### Project population

129,300

Gulu and Amuru Districts, Uganda

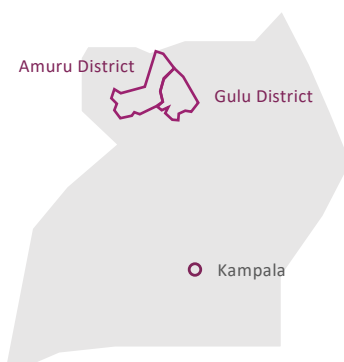


Figure 1: MNH group attendance

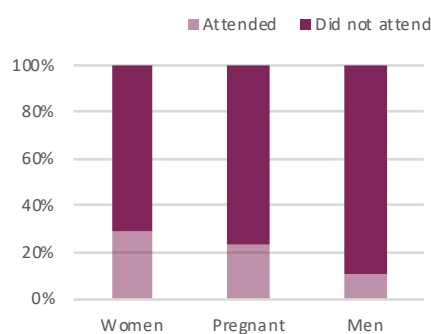


Figure 3: Women's capacities

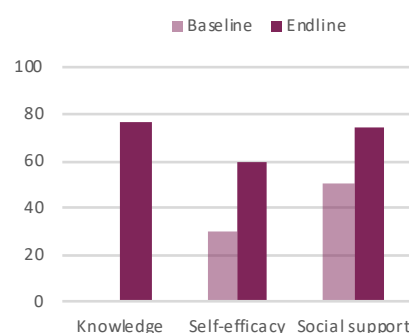
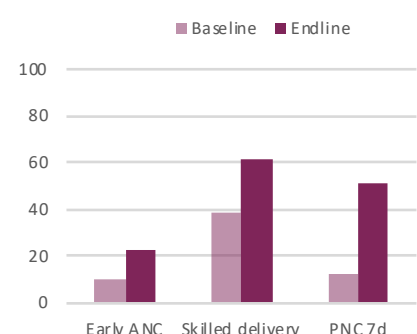


Figure 2: Care-seeking practices



MNH group member

*"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"*