

# Women and Children First

Improving maternal, perinatal and newborn health and reducing mortality in Oyam District, Uganda



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 it 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

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

## Partner

Doctors with Africa CUAMM

## Funder

Comic Relief, Big Lottery Fund, Vitol Foundation

## Dates

2017 - 2020

## Project population

108,317

Oyam District, Uganda

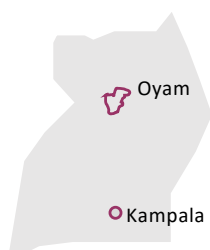
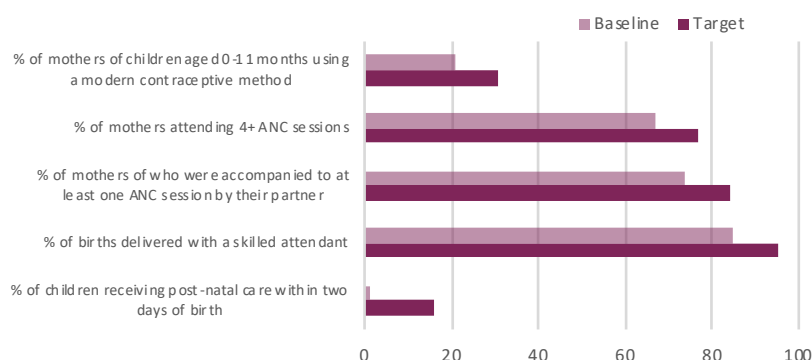


Figure 1: Selected project targets



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."*