



Donor

Center for Diseases Control & Prevention (CDC)



Period

Oct 2020 to June 2022



Targeted Districts

Arua, Terego, Madi Okollo, and Adjumani



Total Budget

\$984,051



Reach

15,090 people

Direct Reach - 2,515
(M 968 • F 1,547)

Indirect Reach - 12,575
(M 4,841 • F 7,734)



Partners

Government of Uganda



CMP

CARE USA



SDG



The Central Problem

As local governments and organizations respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a critical need to maintain other essential health services, including access to comprehensive maternal neonatal and child health (MNCH) care. The pandemic has resulted in the widespread disruption in health services due to both increased demand and shortfalls in supply of

essential health care services including neonatal maternal and child health services. Consequently leading to an increase in maternal and child deaths.

Project Solution

The project works to support district and country readiness to ensure the continuity of integrated MNCH services in order to reduce morbidity and mortality among mothers and newborns during the COVID-19

pandemic. Specifically, the project works to strengthen MNCH services, surveillance, and COVID-19 prevention and control measures in the health facility and community levels in four districts of Arua, Terego, Madi Okollo, and Adjumani. The project also supports COVID-19 water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) mitigation efforts in the settlement areas and health facilities; and integrates WASH interventions with MNCH services



Method of Work

The project focuses on SRH demand creation and supply working both in community through VHTs, and **14 health facilities** through trained health workers. Overall, the focus is on SRH System Strengthening working with the districts and the Ministry of Health as one way of sustaining the services even after the project ends. This contributes to the **SDG 3**, Good health and wellbeing, **SDG 5** gender equality, **SDG 6** Clean Water and Sanitation and **SDG 10** reduced inequalities.

Achievements



Trained **33 staffs** from **14 health facilities** in MPDSR, and this was followed by formation/functionalizing **10 MPDSR** committees at health facilities. These are reviewing maternal and perinatal mortality deaths, implementing recommendations to eliminate the preventable causes of Maternal and perinatal Mortality.



The project has initiated triage centers at **14 health facilities** to screen all pregnant women for COVID 19, diagnose COVID 19 early, for treatment/referral as well as preventing cross infections among pregnant women in ANC, labour and delivery departments



350 1st trimester Pregnant women referred for ANC by VHTs



305 1st Trimester women provided with Hand washing Kits for COVID 19 Mitigation



207 deliveries provided with Dignity Kits



124 VHTs trained to conduct COVID 19 pregnancy surveillance in the community

Project Innovations that are Being Tested for Scale Up

The maternal Perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) committees that were formed/functionalized by the project are now meeting monthly reviewing maternal and perinatal deaths, documenting and implementing recommended actions to eliminate the preventable Maternal and perinatal causes of deaths. This quality assurance measure when scaled up in the country will be effective in curbing the preventable causes of maternal and perinatal deaths that is currently a problem in Uganda.

The COVID 19 triage centers being implemented at ANC, Natal and post-natal areas of supported health facilities is improving the uptake of COVID 19 screening among pregnant women using COVID 19 diagnostic criteria. This has high potential to reach women with COVID 19 services for prevention and treatment, and prevents cross infections among women in a busy antenatal and delivery setting.

The modified pregnancy wheel, is helping VHTs to improve the accuracy in pregnancy identification and referral, provision of accurate information on COVID 19, and supporting the VHTs to implement contact tracing and isolation for COVID 19 in the communities. When linked with district surveillance teams, this will increase the numbers of targeted testing for COVID 19, treatment and prevention

Participant Quote

"The hand washing kit brought in by CARE has increased the numbers of pregnant women coming in in the first trimester for Antenatal at this Facility. We need an additional Midwife to match the Demand-Midwife at Rhino Camp HC IV"

Donors and Partners

The project is funded by Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC). At the community level, CARE works with Village health teams and hygiene promoters to reach people with information of COVID 19, and refer pregnant women early for antenatal. The community actors have been trained to effectively conduct their roles. At health facility level, CARE under CDC support has been working with 14 health facilities to provide services, emergency obstetric and newborn care, and COVID 19 prevention. At district Level CARE works to strengthen planning, support supervision for health facilities. CARE has also strengthened the COVID 19 taskforces through giving different support including fuel and PPEs, training district stakeholders in COVID 19 Vaccinations.

