

# 407 BIRTHS AT PAPOLI HEALTH CENTRE



*A newly born baby at Papoli health centre*

A memorandum of understanding (M.o.U) was signed towards the middle of last year between Papoli Health Centre and Marie Stopes International Uganda. This understanding was about how to eliminate maternal and infant mortality rates in Tororo district through provision of maternal services to expectant mothers at Papoli health centre under a voucher arrangement. The vouchers are purchased by expectant mothers from Community Based Distributors (CBDs) at a fee of UGX: 4,000U...\$1.02 and the voucher which is presented at each visit caters for both antenatal and postnatal care. This fee is a very subsidized amount since these services cost twenty times more at any other health facility. To start with this service has impacted greatly on the community because most mothers are now able to afford descent and safe deliveries including antenatal and postnatal services. To the health centre, big numb coming; the statistics of having 407 births,

103 referrals and over 456 antenatal and postnatal visits every quarter attended to by three midwives. A number of challenges have cropped up like; The waiting area of the outpatient clinic is most of the time filled with expectant mothers which denies other patients sitting space making them resort to using the verandah. *Below mothers attending a health talk at the clinic waiting area.*



This limited space has pushed management into the ongoing construction of another waiting area specifically for mothers where they will be given relevant guidance and counselling.



*The waiting area under construction.*

The swell in numbers has not spared the maternity ward with an initial capacity of two beds now having to accommodate six

mothers with some sleeping on the floor, the labor suit is experiencing a big strain which calls for an expansion of the whole maternity to accommodate the ever increasing number of mothers.



*Above, a scene in the maternity ward.*

Papoli health centre is now faced with a large number of referrals but with no befitting means of transportation since it currently uses an old truck to transport patients. We humbly make an appeal to our partners to come to our aid in these areas:

[#Expansion of maternity,](#)  
[#Purchase of Ambulance,](#)  
[# Vaccine fridge and Wards construction;](#) to improve service delivery at Papoli health centre.



*Above, the truck being used as an ambulance.*