



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Kasese chokes on access to maternity services, early pregnancies

Kasese District is choking on access to maternity services and early pregnancies, area health facilities' officials have said.

According to them, some expectant mothers have to trek as far as 20km in a bid to get the services, while others camp at relatives' homes or hospitals in 1-2 weeks towards delivery.

Collins Muhindi, the in-charge of Isule Health Centre III in Maliba sub-county said: "8/10 of all mothers who delivery from our facility either camp there two-three weeks to giving birth or stay at neighbors place nearby. Those who haven't done it in previous cases have had issues of delivering on the way which comes with associated challenges."

According to him 30-49 women deliver from Isule Health Centre III on monthly basis but the facility has only three midwives who are at times strained by the work.

Muhindi asked the Government to have more midwives posted to the facility to handle the overwhelming numbers of women during delivery time.

Moreen Masika, one of the facility's midwives said: "The facility has only one stretcher used while taking pregnant women for delivery. She says Gov't should at least buy them more stretchers or even get them an ambulance."

Some women delivering on the way

Masika noted that due to limited means of transport, some women deliver on the way which comes with its associated effects.

"They face challenges of travelling long distances, where this is the only facility we have here. As a result, they deliver on the way to the health center," she said.



Collins Muhindi speaking to CSBAG on 22nd November, 2019 during documentation of access to maternal services in Kasese District. @CSBAG

Teenage pregnancies

According to Muhindi, teenage pregnancy rates in Maliba sub-county are alarming. He said from April to June 2019, the facility registered 41 teenage pregnancies, an increase from the 36 recorded in previous months.

"On the issue of teenage pregnancies, we have seen scenarios where girls aged 13, 14 and 16 years deliver at our facility. I think teenage pregnancies is caused by rampant poverty in rural communities," he stated.

Masika said sections of people in communities look at girls as source of wealth so when a girl gets pregnant, they connive with male's family to give them money.

Nason Nzou, the Rwesande Health Centre IV administrator called for multisectoral approach in fighting teenage pregnancies.

However, he said parents have a bigger role in ensuring that their girl children stay in school so that they aren't targeted by sections of idle youth in communities.

Ministry of health responds

When contacted the Ministry of Health Senior Public Relations Officer Emmanuel Ainebyona acknowledged that rural women are experiencing challenges in accessing maternal health services.

However, he said the ministry is implementing a programme that will see every sub-county have a health facility.

" By 2021, we hope that every sub-county countrywide will have a health facility. As I speak, 120 facilities are under construction," he said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: Release of Quarter II funds

WHEN: 25th November 2019

WHERE: Ministry of Finance Offices

PARTICIPANTS: Finance Ministry officials, Civil Society and members of media fraternity

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



CSO representatives attending Training of Trainers of Community Based Facilitators in Budget and service delivery at Arch Hotel on November 20th, 2019 @CSBAG



Training of Participatory Budget Clubs in Lwanda Sub-county, Rakai District on November 22, 2019. @CSBAG