



SUCCESS STORY.

Pregnant Women in Katoro Health centre smile on delivery services

Katoro, Geita: Just a little over one year ago, if you walked into the Katoro Health Center you would have been welcomed by long lines of expectant mothers waiting for services, sadness, and worry written all over their faces. The facility was staffed with only 19 skilled health care workers inadequately to serve the growing number of about 350 clients visiting for various services per day and mostly at the reproductive and child health section.

This being the case, managing delivery at the facility was a bit challenges and in turn, clients have a long waiting que to access services, and some were referred to the regional referral hospital, 41 kilometers of rough road away to avoid any unforeseen complications to mothers and newborns.

“With the number of staff, we had and the volume of clients we used to receive, majority coming for delivery and Antenatal care services, we were almost overwhelmed. It was a bit challenge because some women experienced indication of complications before delivery and we had to refer them to the regional referral hospital for more attention especially preparation and monitoring before and after Cesarean Section and safe delivery.” said Dr. Sungura, a Medical Officer In-charge, Katoro Health Centre.

It was until January 2021, after a joint workload and staffing review between USAID Afya Endelevu, RMNCAH Service delivery partner, Councils and the health center management that informed allocation of nurse midwives and a clinical officer to address the workload challenge at the facility.

“After these reviews, it was found that the number of staff that we had was not enough to serve clients and pregnant women who visits here for services. With the support from the USAID Afya Endelevu, we were allocated with three health care workers - one Clinical Officer and two nurses. This has been a significant addition to us, as they have helped us to improve care for pregnant women before and after delivery as well as overall daily roster management to support other services.” added Dr. Sungura.

A month later, things started to unfold at Katoro Health Center. With the injection of additional staff into their roster, the management made a deliberate move to strengthen delivery services and minimize referrals.



“Our roster now can be managed smoothly due to available staff and for the first-time trend of delivery has been increasing from 1,758 delivery recorded at the time, they were placed in January to March 2021. Now the record has even increased up to 2,069 clients for this period of January – March 2022. Also, we have Increased number of Cesarean Sections performed from 98 in January to March 2021 to 168 recorded in this period of January – March 2022 because we manage them here and we don't provide unnecessary referrals anymore.” Dr. Sungura added.

Janeth Moshi who is the Registered Nurse in Charge of the Katoro Health Centre says her disgusting challenge was how best to organize a working roster for the few numbers of available health workers. The arrival of the two nurses and one clinical officer to a huge extent has lessened workload and intensified motivation with subsequent improvement in reproductive maternal and childcare services.

According to Nurse Moshi, they used to refer pregnant women to the regional referral hospital because they didn't have adequate staff to conduct thorough clinical assessment including care and support during labor, before and after Cesarean Section.

“As compared to when I was having my first child almost three years ago now the services are much better. I remember coming here at night and they told me with my condition I had to be referred to the regional hospital for operation. But now this is my second child, and when I came here three days ago after assessment, they decided to conduct an operation and am happy that everything is being done here no referrals again and hoping I will be discharged tomorrow.” Saida Meresiana Ngeleja who is one of the delivered mothers at the Katoro Health Centre.

As of March 2022, Afya Endelevu managed a total of 1316 HCW's across 532 health facilities in in 111 LGA's of 21 regions of which 100 are supporting RMNCH services in prioritized health facilities of Lake Zone.