



OVERVIEW – MUSKOKA PROJECT

Healthy Child Uganda (HCU) is committed to improving the lives of mothers and children. Under the Muskoka Project, HCU has been working to provide support and strengthening capacity at the District, Health Facility and Community levels in southwestern Uganda. The project began when HCU and its partners identified the need to build sustainable efforts at the community level in the fight to save mothers and children. The project utilizes local resources to mobilize the community and to provide invaluable health education.

Muskoka Project and the MamaToto Approach

The Muskoka Project originates from the 2010 G8 Summit held in Muskoka, Canada where the Government of Canada first announced its commitment to improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health globally. As a result, the University of Calgary, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the Canadian Paediatric Society through Healthy Child Uganda implemented the project in Bushenyi district in 2012, and scaled up its work to Rubirizi district in 2013. The Muskoka Project adopted the MamaToto approach, which aims at integrating efforts of the district, health facilities and communities. The approach mainly uses local resources; engaging health centre

staff, Health Unit Management Committees (HUMC), Village Health Teams (VHT) and support staff. These groups work together with communities and district Mentors to achieve Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

Project Highlights:

- **2,727** VHTs trained in nutrition, VHT basic package, MNCH and community facilitation skills in both Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts.
- **116** VHT-initiated projects started in Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts.
- **941** children received Vitamin A supplementation, **16,835** children received deworming tablets, and **3,091** children under five were weighed and plotted for growth monitoring in Bushenyi.
- **54** health facilities were provided with basic MNCH equipment in Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts.
- **682** health workers trained in courses of Helping Babies Breathe (HBB), Emergency Obstetrics Care (EMOC), nutrition and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) in Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts.
- **15** motorcycles were provided to support inter-facility transportation in Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts.

Community Impact

- Over 90% VHT retention.
- Decreased burden of illness and malnutrition.
- More prevalent positive health practices such as bed-net use, safer deliveries, use of hand washing facilities, maternal tetanus vaccination and vitamin A use.
- Increased VHT-initiated income generating projects; 116 projects started in Bushenyi and Rubirizi district.
- Improved relationship between health workers and VHTs.
- Improved coordination of VHT activities from the district to the community level.

This project was undertaken with financial support from the government of Canada provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada



Foreign Affairs, Trade and
Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce
et Développement Canada

