

MamaToto Stakeholder Feedback - Bushenyi District

THEME 1: Improved Maternal and Child Health/Decreased Maternal and Child Mortality

“About three years ago, we lost many children between 0 to 5 years of age. But when this program came, we were trained and we have trained our members on the likely diseases that may attack them, I am telling you that in last one year, I have not got any report about miscarriage or death of a child between 0 and 5 years.” - VHT

“What they [VHTs] have really done, the pregnant women have been trained. There is no woman giving birth and dying from the villages. These days, all women give birth from the hospitals and they go for ANC.” - Local Leader

“Yeah, because when we look at our indicators, at least the data we get from health facilities, we are seeing improvement. So we [are] seeing less mothers dying, less children dying...And our indicators have at least improved especially mortality and morbidity.” - Leadership

“What I want to appreciate those VHTs, earlier you used to find children with swollen stomachs, red hair because of eating badly but now all our children are very healthy. They no longer have those bellies, they look healthy.” - Male Community Member

THEME 2: Improved MNCH Health Practices

“The trainings have helped us in promoting hygiene and encouraging all of use to always cook our drinking water, growing vegetables, taking good care of our children, making sure we visit sick people and encourage them to go for treatment.” - VHT

“The change that has occurred on the side of children, immunization is done all the time. You can never find that children have not been immunized.” - Female Community Member

“Also we have been training mothers on breastfeeding exclusively for 6 months. These days many mothers are doing it. We even tell them that a child should be breastfed for 2 years for proper growth and good immunity building; this has helped the mothers and their children to be healthy.” - VHT

“They [VHTs] have helped to know the responsibilities of both male and female gender roles, so in the homes the conflicts have reduced, the man knows he is the one to do family planning and it's a good thing.” - Local Leader

THEME 3: Improved Care-seeking/Health Access

“Now because they [VHTs] reach the real people in communities, people no longer stay there with a sickness...when she goes to the village and finds a sick person, she sends them to the hospital and they get treatment in time, death[s] reduce...” - Health worker

“...the change in the last two years, the project of Healthy Child Uganda when it came and brought these trainings and when they trained VHTs ... they [VHTs] taught men that if a woman is going for antenatal, go with her...I have seen a change happening, now men are involved in escorting their wives and to put the things they are taught in practice that makes the child in the stomach grow with good health.” - Local Leader

“Now, what they have helped us as VHTs and other people we work with on our villages, earlier people used to fall sick, delay to go to hospital, remain home thinking they will be fine and they become ill, but now since we got exposed, one goes to the hospital ...before the disease increases... you get treatment in time and get healed in time, so we no longer have people who fall sick...” - VHT

“Health workers have been trained more in skills of maternal health like conducting deliveries, resuscitating babies and helping them breathe, those instruments they have given at least they know how to use them.” - Leadership

[Source: Endline Study, 2014]