

rural
women
in action

Associated Country
Women of the World

Every day, 830
women die from
preventable causes
related to pregnancy
and childbirth around
the world

Women and men have
different health-care
needs, but an equal
right to live healthily

SDG13 demands
that global maternal
mortality ratio must be
reduced to less than
70 per 100,000 live
births by 2030

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



ACWW Rural Women's Health Project Snapshot

Rural women make up over a quarter of the world's population but continue to face disproportionate barriers to quality, affordable, and accessible health care. This includes a lack of access to comprehensive health information and education, affordable health services and medication, and local healthcare services, centres, and hospitals.

The impact of poor maternal and reproductive health, particularly in rural areas with little access to health services, has a profound effect on the lives of women and girls. Without access to accurate and accessible information and education on reproductive processes, women and girls are unable to plan their families and less able to advocate for their choices.

Women have historically suffered a lower standard of medical care, and interventions have often focused predominantly on maternal and reproductive health, thus ignoring the wide range of other health issues that impact women and girls in rural areas.

ACWW is focused on increasing rural women's access to comprehensive, gender sensitive, and effective healthcare. This includes advice and services to promote nutrition, mental health support and education, sexual and reproductive health and rights including maternal health and HIV/AIDS prevention, and increasing access to healthcare and provision for women as they age.

A Case Study from ACWW Project 1066 in Uganda

ACWW project 1066, **Installing Lighting Facilities to improve Maternal and Infant Healthcare** takes place in the Iganga District of Uganda, and is delivered with local partner Kiwanyi Health Centre.

In rural communities where health services are infrequent and funding is low, expectant mothers often have to travel long distances to health centres to receive medical care. Even after this long journey women are more likely to be seen by a community health worker than a midwife. Where health centres are available, there are not always the resources available to provide quality care for expectant mothers.

Kiwanyi health centre is the sole clinic for health care services in the Kiwanyi community, in Iganga District, Uganda. The centre had recently constructed a new maternity ward, however the new ward lacked electrical facilities to provide light for patients that need to be kept

overnight, for mothers giving birth at night, and electricity needed to power equipment. This rendered the mothers in labour and midwives on duty vulnerable to risks.

Results from an independent survey indicated that 90% of the life threatening risks occurred during night, due in part to the lack of sufficient light in the labour room, and electricity to sterilise delivery kits and run resuscitation machines.

In these difficult conditions, the midwives were forced to refer the mother to a government hospital some 40km from the health centre.

The project has installed 20 lights powered by 4 solar panel arrays which will help ensure that the schedule of patient treatment is able to continue throughout the night.

With power now available at the health centre through the solar panels, the health centre is now able to use a

fridge to store vaccines and has sufficient light inside the maternity ward for night-time procedures and deliveries. It also provides for security lighting at the perimeter.

This small but crucial addition to the health centre will have a huge and lasting impact on the community and the health and wellbeing of expectant mothers.



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for change!*



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

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Women of the World

ACWW | The Foundry
17-19 Oval Way | London SE11 5RR
Registered Charity CIO NO:1174798

www.acww.org.uk
office@acww.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7799 3875