

## A story from Catherine

Greetings to all the supporters of maternal and child health in the world, the founders of the Dutch foundation, the team of midwives from the Netherlands and other countries and most especially Steffie Mooren.

I would like to congratulate everybody who is ..... in the initiative of saving and improving the lives of babies and mothers in Africa and Uganda in particular

I am a 31 year old Ugandan female midwife, a mother of three children, working in Kumi Hospital for a period of 4 years now and **has had** experience and exposure to clients, mothers and babies of different conditions and challenges. I am also impressed to inform the world that in Kumi Hospital we offer obstetrical care services that include antenatal, deliveries, postnatal, gynaecological, family planning, immunisation and treatment of medical conditions faced by mothers and babies during antenatal, labour and puerperium. We also extend the same services to the mothers in the community through outreaches since not all mothers can easily reach the facility. Practicing midwifery is a very educative and enjoyable field.

As Catherine I want to thank God for the opportunity to work in Kumi Hospital because this has helped me build my career as a midwife and has also given me another opportunity of furthering my studies in training as a registered midwife from Ngora Hospital school of Nursing and Midwifery where I am now in my last semester to finish the course. The training has helped me to get more knowledge and skills on how to manage and diagnose simple and complicated conditions in mothers and babies, how to support couples and families emotionally by guiding and counseling. Being suggestive to them with great ideas that can benefit their health physically, mentally, spiritually and socially.

The training of more midwives can be of great help to the institution and clients as well, because having more midwives with more knowledge and skills contribute to provision of better services hence high quality care and health.

Kumi Hospital also has a neonatal care unit where neonates delivered within the facility and others who are referred from other lower facilities for management of conditions like birth asphyxia, prematurity, neonatal tetanus, aspirational pneumonia, sepsis, **soundice** and meningitis are raised from but it's a little challenging because not all the midwives have enough knowledge and skill to manage the neonatal ISO. There is need for training on neonatal care as this can help minimise referring of neonates to the Regional Referral Hospitals and reduction of death rate of neonates since they can be managed well and timely.

In conclusion I am very glad and proud of being a midwife. I pledge to always devote my life to serve the people, continuously learn and acquire knowledge and skills on how to better the health of mothers and neonates for the betterment of their lives.

To love and serve, from Catherine Acom, Midwife "Kumi Hospital".