

Relief for Gulu mothers as mama kits ease childbirth burden

By Jackson Kitara

For many expectant mothers at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, the donated mama kits were more than just packages of supplies. They represented relief from the daily struggle of preparing for childbirth with little or no money.

Sunday Aketowanga, an expectant mother from Kabedo-Opong in Gulu city, said she had been worried because her due date was fast approaching and she had no money to buy the items needed for delivery.

"This is my first time to receive something like this. I thank God because it feels like a miracle," Aketowanga said.

Since beginning her antenatal visits, she has never received such support, yet many mothers arrive at the hospital with nothing. Aketowanga said the assistance has renewed hope and encouraged her to

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The total number of donated items by Access Financial Services PLC to Gulu Regional Referral Hospital included bedsheets (40), hospital beds (30) and mama kits (40).

complete her antenatal visits and deliver from a health facility.

Jenifer Adiyoo, an expectant mother from Akonyibedo cell in Pakwelo ward, Laroo-Pece division, said the mama kit removed a heavy burden from her shoulders.

"If not for this support, I would only have bought a

PHOTO BY JACKSON KITARA



Kiyingi (left) handing over mama kits to Uryek-wun and other Gulu Regional Referral Hospital staff on Tuesday, intended to improve comfort for mothers at the hospital

black polythene for delivery because I cannot afford a mama kit," Adiyoo said.

Joanita Okot, a resident of Ariaga, said the cotton wool would help her during delivery, while the detergent and soap would be used to wash baby clothes and maintain hygiene

after childbirth.

The expectant and postpartum mothers were speaking on Tuesday at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, following a donation of mama kits by Access Financial Services PLC.

The donated items included

40 bedsheets for postpartum mothers, 30 hospital beds for maternity wards and 40 mama kits containing sanitary packs, detergent, basins, bars of soap, jik, toothpaste, sanitary towels, baby jelly and mosquito nets for expectant mothers.

Vincent Kiyingi, the Access

Financial Services PLC chief executive officer, said the donation was intended to equip the hospital and improve comfort for both expectant and postpartum mothers.

"We decided to support Gulu Regional Referral Hospital because it covers a wide area in the northern region in providing health services. There is inequality in terms of distribution of health services which leaves a lot of room for private partnership much as the Government has done well in primary health care services," he said.

Walter Uryek-wun, the principal assistant secretary of Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, expressed gratitude for the donated assorted items.

Uryek-wun said they would strengthen the maternity ward with new beds, since they have always been overwhelmed by the number of mothers seeking care.