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GPOBA

The Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

In Kampala:

Steven Shalita, tel. (+256-41) 430 2236 sshalita@worldbank.org

In Washington:

Cathy Russell, tel. (+1-202) 458 8124 crussell@worldbank.org

Reproductive health improvement program launched in Western Uganda

Up to 136,000 people stand to benefit

MBARARA, September 18, 2008 – The Ministry of Health in conjunction with Marie Stopes International-Uganda (MSI) today launched a project to treat sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and reduce maternal and infant mortality among poor people in western and southern Uganda.

The launch event, which took place at the Lake View Resort Hotel in Mbarara District, was also attended by representatives of KfW Entwicklungsbank, a German government-owned development bank, and the World Bank-administered Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA), both of which are providing grant funding for the project.

The Reproductive Health Vouchers in Western Uganda project will benefit up to 136,000 people – 35,000 patients suffering from STDs, as well as 50,500 mothers and their children. The voucher scheme will be introduced in five districts – Mbarara, Kiruhura, Isingiro, Ibanda and Bushenyi – and will eventually cover up to 22 districts in western and southern Uganda.

“This Output-Based Aid project is aimed at giving patients opportunity to seek care from service providers of their choice. Funds will therefore follow the patient. Through this change in the flow of finances, it is expected that the service providers will improve quality of their services to be able to attract and retain patients. This is a fundamental change from the present financing mode which funds service providers’ inputs,” explained **Dr. Peter Okwero, the World Bank Task Team Leader** for the Project, during the launch.

The project builds on KfW’s successful voucher program, introduced in Uganda in 2006, which allows patients with STDs to choose among participating service providers. The

US\$4.3 million grant from GPOBA, signed in October 2007, will allow this program to be extended by a further four years. More STD patients will be treated and safe child delivery packages will be provided, comprising four ante-natal visits, delivery attended by a trained medical professional, and one post-natal visit.

The Output-Based Aid (OBA) grant will be managed as a performance-based subsidy, designed to create incentives for efficiency and the long-term success of projects. The medical service providers will only be reimbursed after the services (the “outputs”) have been provided. In return, the project will provide them with a secure income stream if they are able to provide quality services and attract patients. The GPOBA grant complements German cooperation funds of US\$2.4 million that will develop local systems and capacity for providing affordable health care services for the poor, including local doctors and midwives.

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About GPOBA

The Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA) is a global partnership administered by the World Bank. GPOBA was established in 2003, initially as a multi-donor trust fund, to develop output-based aid (OBA) approaches across a variety of sectors including infrastructure, health, and education. GPOBA’s current donors are the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is a member of the World Bank Group, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

For more information about GPOBA, visit: www.gpoba.org.

Other useful links:

KfW Entwicklungsbank: http://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/EN_Home/index.jsp

Marie Stopes International-Uganda:

http://mariestopes.org/Countries_we_work_in/Countries/Uganda.aspx

World Bank in Uganda: <http://www.worldbank.org/uganda>