



WEHUBIT

Project name

**Mama Rescue**

Country

**Uganda**



Implemented by



Brick by Brick

Budget

**350,000 €**

Duration

**12/2019 – 11/2022**

Contribution to SDGs

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Implemented by



Financed by



**Belgium**

partner in development

## CHALLENGES

In Uganda, 7,000 women and 45,000 newborns die annually due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth. 90% of these deaths are due to 3 delays:

- Delay in decision to seek care
- Delay in reaching care due
- Delay in receiving adequate health care

In certain communities, women often travel long distances to reach a health center. They are forced to deliver in villages without a skilled attendant due to lack of funds for transport or the poor quality of the roads. Therefore, Mama Rescue intends to address the second delay, reducing the time to access quality care.

## DIGITAL SOCIAL INNOVATION



The Mama Rescue Project is a simple automated mobile-phone platform that provides vouchers enabling women to be transported by local motorcycle and taxi drivers to deliver in health centers.

They partner with local drivers who live close by the laboring mothers, creating a rapid response system between village and health centers, as well as between the health center and referral hospital when needed. The system relies on easy to use mobile phone technology that improves communication between drivers, midwives and doctors.



### INITIAL TRAININGS

With financial support from Wehubit, initial trainings of 155 District Officials, 30 Religious leaders and 97 Ambassadors were carried out.

### PRE-TESTED THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

With financial support from Wehubit, the project could pilot the digital solution for both components and pre-tested the tools.

### BASELINE SURVEY

A baseline survey was completed: 74% of the respondents who reported to have complications before or during labor experienced a delay in reaching care due.

## RESULTS SO FAR

Since the beginning of the project, more than 7,000 women have been transported to deliver in health centres using the Mama Rescue system. As a result, the percentage of births that take place in health facilities increased from 79.7% to 89% of all births. The time from home to health centre reduced from 1 hour 30 minutes reported at baseline to 15 minutes 15 seconds.

123 midwives were trained as system users for the Mama Rescue emergency transport component and 666 women have been referred from health centre to district hospital.

125 MOTORCYCLE DRIVERS  
AND 15 AUTOMOBILE  
DRIVERS RECRUITED

155 DISTRICT OFFICIALS, 30  
RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND 97  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS  
TRAINED

## LESSONS LEARNED

1)The process of building partnerships requires to be persistent while focusing on the ultimate goal of the project. Building partnerships with MTN, the leader telecom company in Uganda enabled Brick by Brick to pay for the Uganda Communications Annual Fees.

2)The project experienced delays arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Thanks to a strong partnership with the district, the project obtained permission on movements to conduct the piloting and pre-testing phase of the transport system and tools.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?



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