

Results-based financing in Northern Uganda

The Improving Access to Healthcare for the Poor in Northern Uganda (NU Health) project, funded by DFID, has been awarded to Health Partners International (HPI), the managing agent for the contract, in partnership with Montrose Africa (MA) and Transaid.

DFID is implementing a Post-Conflict Development Programme (PCDP) in Northern Uganda which includes provision to increase access to healthcare for the most vulnerable. Under this programme, NU Health is a four year project that aims to strengthen local and national mechanisms for governance and accountability to improve access to health care, particularly for the most vulnerable populations in the Acholi sub region, through utilisation of results based financing mechanisms. This will be achieved through improving the supply of essential medicines to public and private facilities, and by reducing or eliminating fees at private not-for-profit facilities.

The project has four objectives:

- Improved availability of essential medicines in both Government of Uganda (GoU) and Private Not-for-Profit (PNFP) health facilities through credit lines targeted towards Essential Medical Health Services in full and associated support to the Joint Medical Stores
- Reduction and targeted elimination of user fees across the maternal newborn and child health continuum of care, particularly for pregnant women and children under 5 years at PNFP facilities through a results-based financed grants mechanism
- Strengthen local, independent and Government of Uganda (GoU) capacity and accountability to rigorously monitor and evaluate the quality of PNFP provision and all project components
- Consolidate the recognition of the role PNFPs play in the provision of primary health care and their inclusion into government policy and programming through evidence-based advocacy.

Additionally, a pilot emergency transport system with subsidised ambulance transport for mothers will be integrated with programme outputs.

NU Health will be implemented in 31 PNFP health facilities in the Acholi sub region in Northern Uganda, specifically in the districts Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader, Agogo, Nwoya and Amuru.