



Primary Health Care links

Working Together in the Development of
Community Health Care in Mbale, Uganda



- ✓ Have helped **reduce malaria** in children sleeping under treated bed nets donated by PONT supporters
- ✓ Have increased attendances with qualified midwives in government health centres for **safer childbirth**
- ✓ Help people to seek HIV testing, access treatment when needed and **prevent transmission**.
- ✓ Have helped significantly **improve immunisation** uptake.

Community Health Workers

- ✓ Share knowledge – nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, safe motherhood, childhood immunisation, prevention and access to treatment of malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB
- ✓ Inform, encourage and help people to access health care, education and Income Generating Activities
- ✓ Empower communities to help themselves



The training of hundreds more volunteers has now begun...

Recent outbreaks of cholera in Mbale region have heightened awareness of community leaders to health and sanitation needs, resulting in awareness training about the project being hugely oversubscribed. Consequently, PONT, having agreed to fund 200 Community Health Promoters this year, must now support the 600 people who turned up for training! Poor villagers donated food so funds could be stretched further and none were turned away.

Most of PONT's Relief of Poverty funding this year is supporting this work, with a fantastic £16,500 committed so far. **Thank you!!** Additional funds given specifically for mosquito nets will be disbursed very soon. A further £13,000 is needed to complete the training originally planned, and up to £24,000 more to equip all these extra volunteers with a health manual, waterproof clothing and gumboots to enable them to continue their work in the rainy seasons.

...So we need more people to help and regular supporters to help even more!

Building on shared experience since 2004, PONT supporters and healthcare workers here in Rhondda Cynon Taf are enabling development of a network of Village Health Teams across Mbale region. Community health workers are volunteers chosen by their communities and trained and supervised by Mbale NGO partners. Their work complements that of government clinics and extends healthcare into rural communities in line with the Ugandan Health Services Strategic Plan. Good collaboration in Mbale through a Primary Health Care (PHC) committee with representation from District Directors of Health Services (DDHSs) Mbale, Manafwa and Bududa and our 5 partner NGOs, FDNC, UWCM, SAO, Salem and Jenga, enables a coordinated approach to rolling out this provision with the aim of reaching every village and community within the Mbale region.

Cath Taylor.