



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON NEONATAL DEATHS IN MITYANA DISTRICT

Hon. Sarah Opendi
State Minister for Health in charge of General Duties
September 06 2019

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Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament
Honourable Members of Parliament

On Wednesday 4th September 2019, Hon. Henry Makumbi Kamyá, MP Mityana County South, raised concern over neonatal deaths in Bukooba village Sekanyonyi Sub County in Mityana District.

I would like to inform this august house that a surveillance team under the leadership of the Director Clinical Services, Dr. Olaro Charles and comprising of the District Health Officer and the District Surveillance focal person had earlier on been constituted to conduct a preliminary investigation on 3rd September 2019.

The Objectives of this investigation were;

- To establish the cause of the death occurrence in the community
- To determine the magnitude and the geographical distribution of the problem
- To identify some of the predisposing factors to the problem

Methodology

Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament and Members, interviews were conducted (with deceased parents), relevant documents like Antenatal Care Cards and discharge forms and direct observation of the environmental risk factors.

Findings

The babies were delivered in different health facilities namely, Namutumba HC III, Mityana Hospital, and Nsambya Hospital. The team verified 6 out of 8 deaths. The deaths occurred between 0 & 2 days from the time of delivery. The neonates presented with the following signs and symptoms: high fever, yellowing of the skin and difficulty in breathing before death.

Our preliminary investigations established the main causes of these neonatal deaths as neonatal infection and fetal distress due to delayed labor. Four out of six deaths were due to fetal distress due to delayed labor while the other two were as a result of neonatal infections.



Rt. Hon. Speaker and Members of Parliament, the risk factors identified were Poor community attitude towards use of insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs) where some communities claimed that they experienced too much heat. Some community leaders interviewed revealed that some mothers use herbal medicines in addition to the medicines given at the health facilities.

The District Health officials have been advised to continue sensitizing mothers on the need to report to the health facilities from the onset of labour and also health workers urged to attend to the pregnant mothers in labour in time. The health workers at the facility have also been urged to ensure hygiene is maintained at the facility level and also ensure the mothers do not introduce herbal medicines to be applied on the baby's umbilical cords to avoid infections.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Members of Parliament, our teams remain in investigation mode and I will report back if there are any other new findings.

I beg to submit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Opendi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon. Sarah Opendi

State Minister for Health in charge of General Duties

September 06 2019

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY