

# Bringing Us Closer to Services: *Home-Based Management of Fever*

**R**ukungiri District is located in South Western Uganda. The district has two counties of Rujumbura and Rubabo, 11 Sub-Counties including the Town Council, 77 parishes and 825 villages. Of the 308,696 people living in Rukungiri District, 94.5% live in rural areas.

Malaria is a major cause of illness, malnutrition, diminished productivity and death. To deliver malaria treatment in communities, the District partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded program, Uganda Programme for Human and Holistic Development (UPHOLD).

Together with UPHOLD, the district trained 1,634 Homapak Distributors, two per village. The majority of Homapak Distributors are women selected for their ability, respectability, literacy skills and model hygiene practices in their own homes. They are trained to diagnose and treat malaria and refer other illnesses and severe cases.

Thanks to the Homapak Distributors, 97% of fevers are now treated with Homapak and recover at home; 3% are referred to health facilities. Moving management of fever to communities increases access to urgent services, greatly improves use of services and is appreciated by communities and health workers.

*"Women approach us even in the middle of the night seeking treatment for their children and we serve them and they say thank you. We really feel happy"* Clemensia of Byara - Homapak Distributor

*LC officials and parents of children whom we treat talk highly of us and we feel recognised"* Evelyn Mbabazi of Nyamayenje - Homapak

USAID, through UPHOLD, contributed to malaria treatment and prevention throughout 20 partner districts:

- Refresher training of 30 facility based health workers on management of severe and complicated malaria
- Training over 14,000 drug distributors in 14 districts
- Purchase of over 6,000 registers for drug distributors in 8 districts
- Purchase and distribution of over 1.6 million doses of Homapak
- Over 25,900 Long Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets purchased & distributed to pregnant women and young children in IDP camps
- Retreatment of over 140,000 mosquito nets in 6 districts
- Training of 140 health workers on Intermittent Presumptive Treatment (IPT) resulting in 5,375 IPT doses given
- Promotion of healthful practices through radio and drama in Gulu and Kitgum



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