

Integration at work...

Rwenzori Region

JSI/UPHOLD is USAID/Uganda's integrated social sector services program that aims to identify and promote synergies between health, primary education and HIV/AIDS services that help people live longer and more productive lives.

Alice Mundaka, the Regional Director for Rwenzori Region, recently demonstrated the benefits of integration through her own work. On May 24 2005, Alice visited Butukuru Primary School in Bundibugyo District. She found Eva, an enthusiastic learner of 14 years, on break from class playing with her young son, Gabriel.

Alice helped Eva return to primary school after having her baby, now 1 year old. As usual, Alice greeted Eva warmly and chatted with her teachers. She asked to hold Gabriel, Eva's young son. Alice noticed that the baby boy, Gabriel, felt hot to the touch. She asked Eva how long he had been warm and whether she had already treated him for malaria. Eva responded that the fever started the previous evening, but that she had not treated him; she was just watching him.

Alice explained that it is very important to treat fevers in young children immediately, at least within the first 24 hours after onset. Eva only vaguely had heard of the village drug distributor and did not seem prepared to take Gabriel. However, Eva's mother whom Alice found knew the drug distributor and promised to follow Eva and the Gabriel to her house without delay.

Alice's support to Eva to return to primary school after giving birth will help Eva grow up with more options for her future, healthier, and better protected from HIV. Her knowledge of Home-based Management of Fever (HBMF) enabled Alice to ensure that Gabriel stays healthy as well.

