

**Press Release**

**Attention: News Editors**

**For immediate release**

## **Safaricom Foundation Constructs Maternity Wing at Chemolingot Sub-County Hospital In Baringo**

*The maternity wing is part of an KES 82 million maternal healthcare investment in Baringo County.*

**Baringo, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.**... Chemolingot Sub-County Hospital in Baringo County has benefitted from a KES 12.5 million maternity wing, constructed through support from the Safaricom Foundation.

The one stop maternity wing consists of a delivery room, a theatre, post and antenatal wards, a newborn unit, a high dependency unit, 3 consultation rooms and a reception. The County Government of Baringo has equipped the maternity wing at a cost of KES 8 million through funding from the World Bank.

“Chemolingot is in one of the most vulnerable areas in Baringo county when it comes to maternal health. Through this infrastructural support, we are seeking to reduce and eventually stop the number of referrals to far away facilities,” said Joe Ogutu, Chairman, Safaricom Foundation.

Early this year, Safaricom Foundation in partnership with the County Government of Baringo launched an KES 82 million maternal health programme aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal deaths in the county which stands at 375 maternal deaths per every 100, 000 live births and 31 deaths for every 1,000 live births respectively.

Safaricom Foundation’s maternal health programme was launched two years ago and so far, Counties in the Coast and Rift Valley regions have benefited from it.



Under the programme the foundation set aside KES 132 million to promote maternal, newborn and child health services around the country.

In Lamu, a maternal shelter in Witu and a newborn unit in Faza Island were constructed and equipped and are currently serving over 2,000 people. In Mombasa County, the newborn and maternity unit at the Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital has been renovated and equipped.

Meanwhile in Uasin Gishu, the newborn unit at Moi Teaching and Referral hospital and the maternity wing at Moiben Sub-County hospital received new equipment from the Foundation to improve service delivery.

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**About Safaricom Foundation:**

Building Communities, Transforming Lives.

Safaricom Foundation partners with Kenyan communities, organizations and institutions to improve and transform lives.

With a footprint in all of Kenya's 47 counties, and a strong history of partnerships dating back to our inception in 2003, the Safaricom Foundation has worked with Speed, Simplicity and Trust to implement over 1,000 community projects, impacting over 3 million people, through our thematic areas of Health, Education, Environmental Conservation, Economic Empowerment, Water, Disaster Relief, and Arts & Culture.

Our current strategy builds on our strong history of results and partnerships, and will contribute towards Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We will leverage the power of innovation and technology to drive our projects forward; and will also offer a blend of grants, equity and ultra-low cost loans to our partners.

The participation of Safaricom staff in our projects will extend our personalized approach towards partnerships; and our project monitoring and our dissemination forms will provide platforms for technical assistance, learning and capacity building.

Become a mentor in the Global Give Back Circle through the Mastercard Foundation scholars