

Press Release

Attention: News Editors

For immediate release

BARINGO COUNTY PARTNERS WITH SAFARICOM FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO MATERNAL HEALTH

The Foundation officially opens a new maternal high dependency unit and a newborn unit at Baringo County hospital

Baringo, 18th February 2021.... Baringo County hospital has a new maternal high dependency unit and a newborn unit built by Safaricom Foundation at a combined cost of KES.11 million. The initiative is part of the foundation's programme to increase access to quality maternal and child health services.

The investment will see the hospital increase its bed capacity at the Maternal high dependency unit from the current 8 beds to 36. It has also been equipped with patient monitors and a heating system.

"I would like to thank our partners, the County Government of Baringo, for their support in this maternal health programme. We commit to work together to deliver the objectives that we have set out to achieve to improve the lives of mothers and children in this county", said Rita Okuthe, Safaricom Foundation Trustee.

Last year the Safaricom Foundation also supported the county's Barwessa health centre and Chemolingot sub-county hospitals by upgrading their newborn and maternity units respectively at a cost of Kes 21 million.

In January last year, Safaricom Foundation launched an KES 82 million Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programme in Baringo County with an aim of averting the high mother and child deaths that occur in the county.



Safaricom Foundation's maternal health programme was launched in 2019 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.

The Kenya Demographic Health Survey shows that the county loses 375 mothers for every 100,000 births and 31 infants for every 1,000 born.

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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.