Safaricom Foundation’s 3-Year Maternal Health Project in Lamu Benefits Over 33,000 Women

The program was started on 2018 and has seen 4 health facilities constructed and upgraded to improve access to maternal health

Nairobi, 1st July 2022…. Over 33,000 women have benefited from maternal, newborn and child health interventions by Safaricom Foundation, the County Government of Lamu and PharmAccess.

The maternal, neo-natal and child health program reduced the delay in access to care by linking up over 11,900 women in hard to reach areas representing 60% reduction in distances covered. There has also been an improvement with over 2,400 successful referrals and over 12,000 skilled deliveries reducing the risk of maternal and infant mortality.

Close to 500 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were trained and equipped with smartphones to monitor households. Additionally, 161 health workers were employed improving service delivery in the county.

The findings were revealed during a dissemination forum held by Safaricom Foundation, PharmAccess and Lamu county.

“Here in Lamu, we have invested over KES 42 million in equipping and upgrading health facilities. We got into the programme with the objective to reduce maternal and infant mortality, provide access to maternal health, improve the state of referrals and equip community health workers with skills. Through our partners, we have managed to bridge major gaps that were limiting access to maternal healthcare,” said, Joe Ogutu, Chairman, Safaricom Foundation.
As part of the program, over 20,000 households have been enrolled into NHIF which has enabled them access health services in a timely and effective fashion. In addition, there was a 4% increase in child immunizations reducing infant mortality. As part of the program, Mpeketoni Sub-County Hospital, Witu Referral Hospital, King Fahad Referral Hospital, Faza Sub-County Hospital and a boat ambulance serving over 150,000 people were part of the KES 42 million infrastructure set up to address challenges of access to healthcare.

**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.