Safaricom boosts maternal healthcare in Homa Bay County with KES 38 Million Investments

The investments target over 100,000 people and are supported by Safaricom and M-PESA Foundations.

Homa Bay, 13th December 2022…. Homa Bay County residents are set to benefit from a maternal healthcare boost after Safaricom through its two Foundations unveiled facilities worth KES 38 million.

At the Homa Bay County Referral Hospital, Safaricom Foundation has renovated the Newborn Unit at a cost of KES 1.3 million, targeting an increase in the accommodation numbers from 10 to 35 babies.

Meanwhile Ndhiwa Sub-County Hospital officially opened its new KES 36.9 million maternal, newborn, and child healthcare (MNCH) unit constructed and equipped by M-PESA Foundation under the Uzazi Salama initiative.

Uzazi Salama, which is being implemented in partnership with AMREF Health Africa, aims to strengthen the capacity of the County to provide quality and affordable reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services. The programme which was launched in 2021 will run for two years with a major focus in Ndhiwa and Suba Sub-Counties benefitting close to 90,000 women and children under 5 years.

“The collaboration with the County Government of Homa Bay and AMREF Health Africa will ensure we reach as many residents as possible especially in remote areas. We are committed to improving maternal and child health in this region because we believe that no mother should lose their child or their life while delivering due to avoidable circumstances and that every baby born is a life we should fight to save,” said, Nicholas Ng’ang’a, Chairperson, M-PESA Foundation.
In Homa Bay County, M-PESA Foundation also has a telemedicine programme known as Daktari Smart that is providing specialist care in remote areas. The Foundation is also constructing a 65-bed maternal unit in Migori County in partnership with Kenya Relief.

Based on the most current government statistics from the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, the country records 362 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births made. This is above the global target, which according to the Sustainable Development Goal (3), should be less than 70 deaths for every 100,000 live births.

A Situation Assessment Report done in 2014 by the UNFPA found that 15 out of 47 counties in Kenya accounted for 98.7% of the total maternal deaths in the country with 583 in 100,000 mothers dying every year while giving birth in Homabay alone.

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.

About M-PESA Foundation
The M-PESA Foundation was duly registered as a Charitable Trust in March 2010. The M-PESA Foundation invests in large scale and long-term sustainable projects that have maximum impact on Kenyans in the areas of education, health and environment.

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