

ISER Photo Essay

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Monitoring the Right to Health: Community Health Advocates find Limited Funding Affects Health Service Delivery in Mukono, Kayunga and Buikwe Districts



ISER
Facilitating Social Justice

INITIATIVE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS



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The Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) works with ten (10) Community Health Advocates from the districts of Mukono, Buikwe and Kayunga to monitor and document violations of the right to health in their community with the aim of improving accountability and citizen participation in health service delivery.

This photo essay is a result of the monitoring and documentation by the CHAs from February to August 2016 in the above-mentioned districts. The photo essay highlights right to health challenges experienced by the different health facilities; mainly related to shortages in financing for primary health care, which has greatly affected service delivery.

For instance, poor sanitation and hygiene is attributed to the inadequate budget to maintain support staff and contractors. Kayunga General Hospital is for example experiencing serious sanitation issues because the previous contractors were not interested in renewing their contract after the financial year ended in June 2016. The hospital has so far failed to attract a new contractor due to meager resources allocated for this function. Ambulances often lack fuel which deprives the poor who cannot afford the fuel of emergency services.

The limited budgets to carry out routine monitoring and supervision for the health facilities has led to abuse of the system by some health workers who lock up health facilities to engage in private activities. Some health facilities are completely not accessible over the weekend while others open very late and close early. ISER staff and CHA visited Seeta Namuganga HCIV located in Mukono District and it was closed at 5pm.

Still related to funding, some health facilities have laboratories, and theatres but accessing these services is a challenge especially for the rural poor because they have to pay for the services. The laboratories are not equipped with the necessary reagents to do the required tests. Theaters are not well equipped to carry out deliveries by caesarian section. They also lack blood banks. Examples of health facilities experiencing these challenges include Kayunga General Hospital, Bbaale HC IV in Kayunga District, Seeta Namuganga HC IV in Mukono District and Ntenjeru Kojja HC IV in Mukono District. However, Mukono HCIV in Mukono District is much better in terms of facilities and availability of health workers compared to other health facilities at the same level of care visited.

This photo essay highlights the challenges being faced by the health sector and will be used as a basis for advocacy for improving resource allocation to the sector and accountability at the local government level and national level. It will also serve as a learning tool for other community members to engage in health accountability.

With Support from





Photos showing the state of sanitation and hygiene at Kayunga General Hospital.



Seeta Namuganga Health Centre 1V in Mukono District was closed when the Community Health Advocates visited on 17th August 2016 at 5:00pm. This facility seems to be abandoned as only one health worker was accessed from the staff quarters. This discourages the community to seek health services from this health center.



A motor cycle parked in a ward at Ntenjeru Kojja HC IV in Mukono District. It is met to do routine outreach services like immunization but this depends on the availability of funds. The ward also seems to have taken a while without admissions.



Patients are disappointed with the late coming of health workers at Ntejeru Kojja Health Centre IV in Mukono District. Community Health Advocates visited at 12 Noon and health workers were just starting to attend to mothers in need of antenatal services and immunization for their babies.



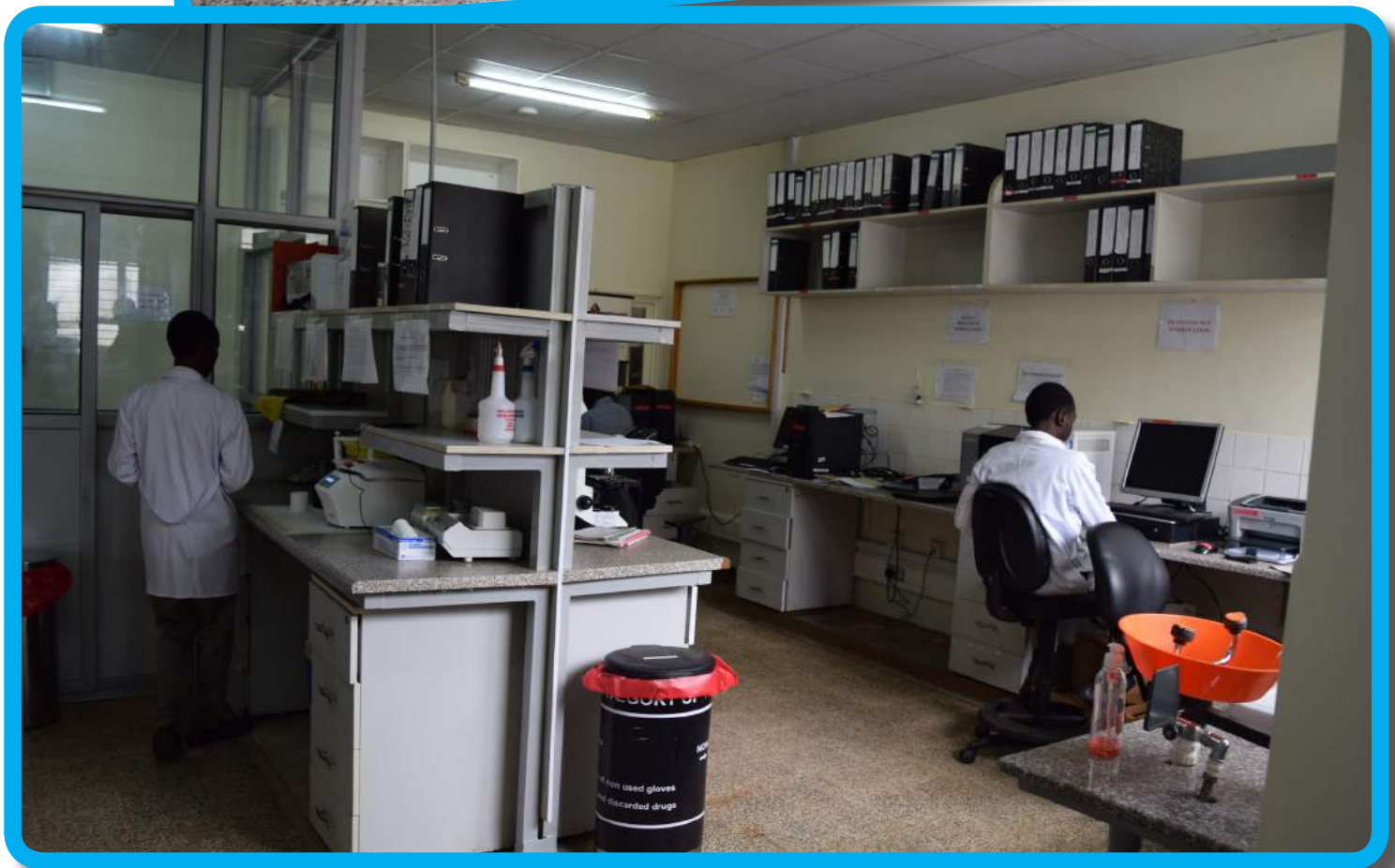
The services at Mukono Health Center IV are better compared to other health facilities providing similar levels of care. The facility is very clean and patients are attended to on time. The numbers are high because patients know that there are health officers available and the service is good as exemplified by midwives laying the patients beds.



The maternity ward at Mukono health centre IV provides adequate health services compared to its peer health facilities.



An incubator at Mukono Health Center IV



This laboratory at Kayunga General Hospital is spacious, well-staffed and well equipped in terms of equipment. However, it is very limited in the services given because of the lack of reagents which limits the tests done. Patients are advised to do tests outside the hospital at a cost.



Kayunga General Hospital has an ambulance but patient pay money for fuel in order to access this ambulance. The hospital administrator informed the Community Health Advocates that they have a limited budget for repair, maintenance and fuel.



A dysfunctional sterilizer at Seeta Namugaga Health Center III in Mukono District. The health workers currently use a stove.



An examination bed at Seeta Namuganga Health Center III; it is not user-friendly for people with physical disabilities which is a reflection of the general findings around the limited accessibility of services for people with disabilities.



Poor medical waste disposal at Ntejeru Kojja Health Centre IV puts the community at a risk of contracting diseases. The facility has no incinerator. The placenta pit is also not in use and is outgrown by bushes. The lack of sanitation is an underlying determinant of the right to health and also a violation of the right to a clean and healthy environment.



A facility without an umbilical cord pit violates the right to a clean and healthy environment and has implications on the right to health.



Poor drug storage affects drug stock monitoring and management at Ntenjeru Kojja Health Centre IV in Mukono District. The second picture reflects the haphazard manner in which records are kept and the lack of electronic records which makes monitoring and accountability a challenge.



Community Health Advocates inspecting the latrine at Ntejeru Kojja Health Centre IV in Mukono District. The latrine is full and very unhygienic. This is very dangerous to the patients and community at large.

About the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)

The Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) is a registered national not-for-profit human rights non – governmental organization (NGO) in Uganda. ISER was founded in February 2012 to ensure full recognition, accountability and realization of social and economic rights primarily in Uganda but also within the East African Region.

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