SUCCESS STORY · HOMA BAY COUNTY

Transforming Healthcare in Rachuonyo East

Completion of the Rachuonyo East Sub-County OPD and Maternity Block

> The successful completion of the Outpatient Department (OPD) and Maternity Block at Rachuonyo East Sub-County Hospital marks a significant milestone in improving healthcare services for the local community. Initiated to bridge critical gaps in healthcare access, the facility has become a beacon of hope for thousands of residents in Rachuonyo East Sub-County, Homa Bay County — a significant step towards affordable, available, and high-quality healthcare for citizens.

The newly opened facility not only brings vital healthcare services closer to residents but also carries economic benefits for the region. By expanding the capacity and quality of healthcare services, the facility attracts investment and stimulates economic growth in Homa Bay County. A well-equipped facility with a theatre and a 60-bed capacity ward serves as a magnet for healthcare professionals — creating jobs and contributing to a skilled local workforce.





Left: the facility mid-construction. Right: the completed OPD and Maternity Block, now fully operational.

Addressing a Critical Need

Before the completion of this facility, the hospital faced numerous challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate maternity services, and a lack of essential medical infrastructure. Expectant mothers had to travel long distances to access proper maternity care, while outpatient services were overstretched, leading to delays in treatment.

Project Implementation and Completion

With support from the County Government, construction of the OPD and Maternity Block commenced, focused on ensuring modern, well-equipped medical facilities capable of delivering comprehensive healthcare services. The facility now boasts:

Maternity Unit
A fully equipped unit with delivery rooms, postnatal care, and neonatal services.

Expanded OPD Services
Consultation rooms, a diagnostic lab, and a pharmacy.

Medical Equipment
Modern equipment to enhance service delivery and efficiency.

Trained Staff
Adequate staff trained to handle emergency and routine maternal and outpatient care.

Impact on the Community

Since its opening, the new OPD and Maternity Block have significantly improved healthcare delivery in Rachuonyo East:

+ **Reducing maternal and infant mortality rates** — by providing timely and quality maternal care.

+ **Reducing patient congestion** — in existing health facilities.

+ **Boosting community confidence** — in local healthcare services, reducing referrals to distant hospitals.

As the data below shows, uptake of antenatal care (ANC) services at Rachuonyo East Sub-County Hospital has climbed steadily. In 2022, no caesarean sections were conducted at the facility, and expectant women were forced to travel 23km to Oyugis to access the service at Rachuonyo County Hospital. As at November 2023, monthly deliveries had risen to as high as 65, up from as low as 30, with 8 caesarean sections now performed per month.

Maternal Service Uptake at Rachuonyo East Sub-County Hospital (Source: KHIS)

Year	Caesarean Sections	New ANC Clients	Normal Deliveries	Re-visit ANC Clients
2022	0	456	324	785
2023	27	527	492	1,045
2024	34	435	524	1,113

0 → 34
Caesarean sections performed per year, from zero in 2022 to 34 in 2024
65/month
Peak monthly deliveries by November 2023, up from as low as 30
1,113
Re-visit ANC clients in 2024, up from 785 in 2022

Voices from the Community

Residents, healthcare providers, and community leaders have lauded the project's completion, noting its transformative impact:

> *"Previously, we had to travel to other Rachuonyo South Sub County or Kisii Referral for maternity care, but now, we have quality services right here. This has changed our lives.*
>
> **Miriam Achieng**
> Local Resident

> *"This facility has greatly improved our ability to provide timely and effective medical care. We now have better equipment and space to attend to patients.*
>
> **Dr. Ocholla**
> Medical Superintendent



The newly constructed and functional Maternity Block.

Looking Ahead

NEXT STEPS

With the OPD and Maternity Block now fully operational, the County Government and health stakeholders continue to explore ways to enhance service delivery. Plans are underway to introduce **specialised maternal health programmes, additional staffing, and improved community health outreach initiatives.**

The completion of this facility is a testament to the power of collaborative development and a commitment to quality healthcare for all — a model of progress ensuring residents of Rachuonyo East receive the best possible medical care close to home.

Pictorials





Left: Stakeholders alongside IDF, Denmark in Kenya, and Uraia Trust representatives during a site visit to Rachuonyo East Sub-County Hospital following the facility's completion. Right: County Health representatives, the IDF team, Uraia Trust, and Ministry of Denmark in Kenya representatives during the facility visit.