PROJECT TITLE: ***Promoting Mother/newborn and Child Health care, EPI, Capacity building and improving preventive and curative health services delivery and referral in St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC in Agangrial, Cueibet County – Lake State, South Sudan.***

Hope for the Sick and Poor

SlovakAid

VYSOKÁ ŠKOLA ZDRAVOTNÍCTVA A SOCIÁLNEJ PRÁCE sv. ALŽBETY + FONS PIETÁTIS ÚRÁ PRO NOBIS

AAA ARKANGELO ALI ASSOCIATION

Donor: SLOVAK AID & ST. ELIZABETH UNIVERSITY SLOVAKIA
Location: Agangrial, Ngap payam Cueibet County Lake State South Sudan
Health Facility: ST. Josephine Bakhita PHCC
Reporting Date: 01/10/2020 - 31/05/2022
NGO Reporting Hope for the sick and poor
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BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

Ngap payam is in Cueibet County, Lake State and in the western part of Rumbek, one of the most remote and prone to insecurity region of the Republic South Sudan. St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC is Hope for the sick and poor operation station in partnership with Arkangelo Ali Association, with a catchment area of 10856 people in Agangrial, Ngap payam.
The payams within Cueibet County are Abairu payam with population of 27206, Citcok payam with population of 16594, Duony payam with population of 9086, Malou Pec payam with population of 41388 and Pagor payam with population of 10310 and Ngap with the population of 21713.
St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC in Agangrial is within Ngap payam serves 10,856 population, 630 pregnant women, and 1578 of non pregnant women

County	Payam	Estimated population	<1 Year (4%)	1-4 Years (21%)	Pregnant women (4%)
Cueibet	Ngap	21713	1119	4979	1259

Tab 2: Served population in Gok State

Served population (total population)	Boma	<1 Year (4%)	1-4 Years (21%)	Pregnant women (4%)
10856	Agangrial	560	2489	630

In comparison with the rest of the Republic of south Sudan, this area has been severely affected by long-term conflict and internal displacement. The health status of the population is poor, weakened by insecurity and limited health services. The access to the curative and preventive health services remains still low, especially for the rural population. As result a heavy burden of preventable diseases continue to plague the area and nutrition status of the area is poor.
Hope for the sick and poor in partnership with AAA has established as a major component of Primary Health Care (PHC) service in the areas in which they operate as part of a comprehensive integrated activities Mother/newborn Child Health care and nutrition services. In 2019, Hope for the sick and poor propose to further strengthen the child health and nutrition program with the aim of improving the health status of the community by reducing the morbidity and mortality rates among girls / women and children in the targeted communities.
Project Goal
Promoting maternal/newborn child health care, and emergency obstetrics care, improving preventive, curative health services delivery and referral at St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC in Agangrial, Cueibet County Lake State, South Sudan.

Improved access to St. Josephine Bakhita primary health care - health and nutrition services with main focus on basic health services of under 5s and immunization prophylaxis of women
Improved MCH health in Agangrial in Malou youl Buma
Improved community involvement in health education and disease prevention
Hope for the sick and poor places more emphasis on social mobilisation, advocacy, awareness rising through individual and group health education, and regular vaccinations activities (fixed posts) to reduce dropout rates for multi-dose antigens such as Pentavalent and Tetanus toxoid for women
Objectives
Hope for the sick and poor trainings have been carried out for health workers, Nurses, EPI, community health educators, traditional birth attendants and thus strengthening mother child health and nutrition services in the areas we are operating. Hope for the sick and poor provide under 5s curative, mother and child health activities as static services and community health education to intensify in the operation areas to assure an efficient safe motherhood, EPI, Curative and preventive services. We continued capacity building of the beneficiaries to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to handle maternal/newborn child health care and consultation of under 5s.

RESULTS ACHIEVED AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Maternal Health at Health Facility level

Maternal Health services at St. Josephine Bakhita primary health centre and community health education in the community focussed on the following interventions:

1. Health education focused on:

- Breast feeding
- Counselling on nutrition and self-care
- Counselling on preventive measures during pregnancy
- Information about labour and danger signs
- Information about routine and follow up visits
- Counselling on birth preparedness and need to deliver at the health facility assisted by skilled birth attendant
- Health education on communicable diseases

2. Antenatal care

- Laboratory investigations (RPR,Urinalysis, (antenatal profile for ANC) solely at health facility MCH units referred for the service unavailable investigation to Cueibet County hospital for further management.
- Preventive measures such as: iron folate prophylaxis, Vitamin A supplements, mobendazole, for deworming, ant malarial preventive treatment (IPT) and TT vaccination
- Safe motherhood practices in maternity
- Bed nets distributions are all foreseen to boost MCH/EPI activities in St. Josephine Bakhita primary health centre, at Agangrial in Cueibet County – Lake State

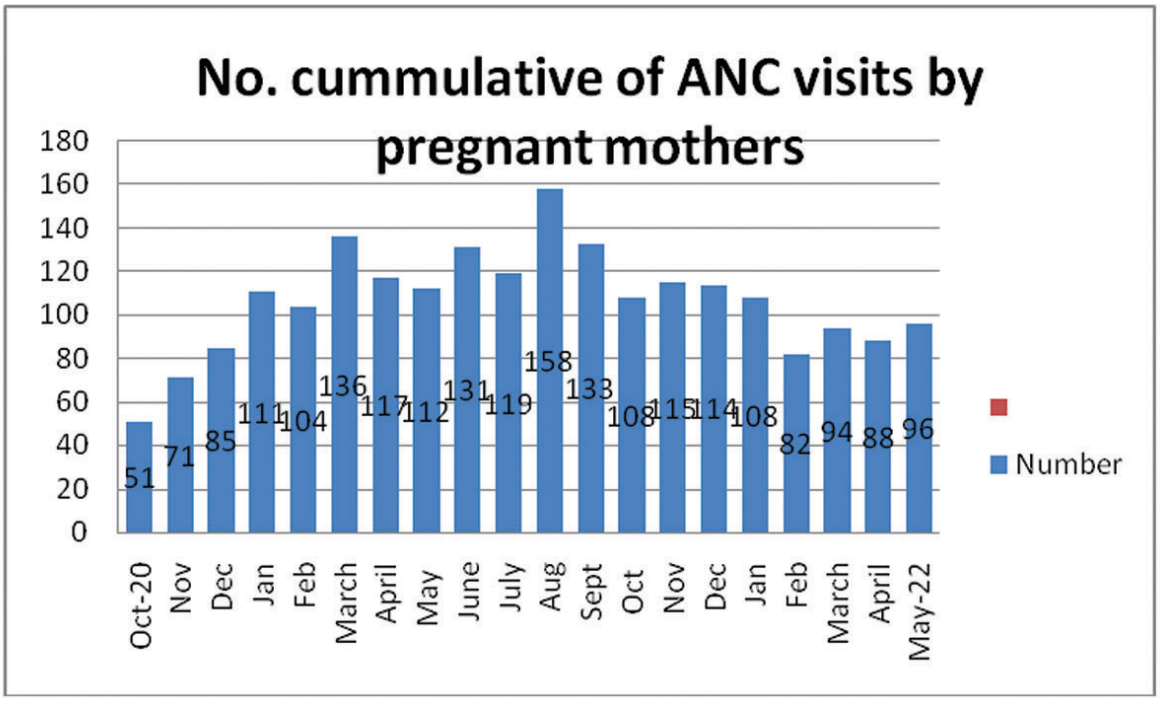
Safe motherhood and reproductive health

Focused Antenatal care

Registered certified midwife, Enrolled certified midwife and Maternal Child Health Workers (MCHW) offered Focused Antenatal services in St Josephine Bakhita Primary health Care Centre (PHCC)s, in provision of safe motherhood and reproductive health care in the health facility. The mentioned staffs provided registration and keep records for ANC, deliveries and post natal care to date. The Maternal child health worker is trained on-job on antenatal care, clean and safe delivery, essential obstetric care and provision of family planning services: the mothers to plan number of children interval between births by using birth control to ensure child spacing with intervals of a minimum of two years, to increase her performance and practice in safe mother hood in St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC, Agangrial. The mothers were encouraged to come for ANC/deliveries/PNC services and also to ensure that children are brought for immunizations early. Health education was carried out in the health facility on the importance of ANC/PNC, hospital delivery and mothers to return to the Health Facility for follow up visits. All this activities is giving good results in increasing the coverage of reproductive health services at facility level: 1244 mothers attended ANC1, 481 attended ANC4+, and 451 mothers received IPT2 respectively. Informed use of LLITNs was done to mothers who attended Antenatal clinic

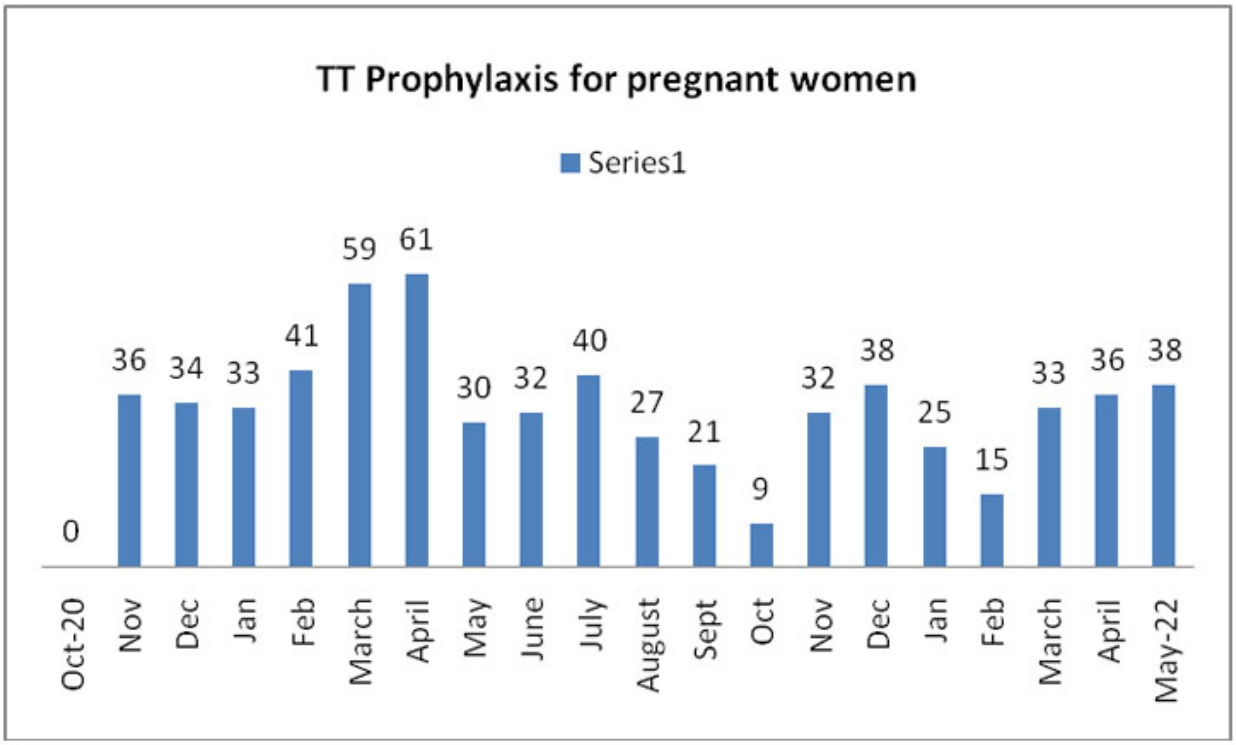
Cumulative maternal health statistics for October 2020 – May 2022 are as presented below.

Month	Number
Oct-20	51
Nov	71
Dec	85
Jan	111
Feb	104
March	136
April	117
May	112
June	131
July	119
Aug	158
Sept	133
Oct	108
Nov	115
Dec	114
Jan	108
Feb	82
March	94
April	88
May-22	96
Total	**2133**



Number of Antenatal care (ANC1 & ANC4) attendee visit by pregnant mothers October 2020 –May 2022

Month	ANC1	ANC4
Oct	52	1
Nov	25	0
Dec	46	1
Jan	60	2
Feb	65	1
March	70	10
April	50	67
May	82	30
June	92	37
Juy	93	26
Aug	117	41
Sept	102	32
Oct	49	42
Nov	59	40
Dec	34	18
Jan	51	57
Feb	54	18
March	47	30
April	44	18
May	52	10
Total	**1244**	**481**



Tetanus Toxoid prophylaxis for pregnant women as shown in the graph above:

St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC has no a cold chain system for Immunization services in the facility and introduction of mother child health and newborn care led to increased utilization of the services by pregnant mothers as shown in Table 2 above.

Various health education sessions were held in the PHCC, community and women groups. **16097** individuals attended the sessions male **5393** and female **10704** and the majority were females.

HEALTH EDUCATION SESSIONS AND ATTENDEE OCTOBER 2020 – MAY 2022

Topic	No. Session	Male	Female	Total
Nutrition/IYCF	65	450	978	**1428**
Hygiene/skin-eye infection	53	525	1697	**2222**
Diarrhea/ Dehydration	40	827	1235	**2062**
Health seeking behavior	22	316	671	**987**
EPI	31	549	1504	**2053**
Maternal health/Breast feeding	28	601	932	**1533**
Malaria/Mosquito nets	46	941	1188	**2129**
Malnutrition/Feeding	17	284	805	**1089**
Drug use	30	400	660	**1060**
ANC	46	500	1034	**1534**
Total	**378**	**5393**	**10704**	**16097**

Fig. 3 Table health education sessions and attendees in St. J.Bakhita PHCC, Agangrial

The health education sessions covering maternal health, safe motherhood and infant young feeding (breastfeeding) were aimed at increasing the numbers of pregnant women delivering in the PHCC.

Figure 4.Primary health care deliveries by months, October 2020 –May 2022

Month	Number
October	9
November	5
December	11
January	11
February	5
March	4
April	9
May	11
June	19
July	9
Aug	16
Sept	12
October	13
November	7
December	3
January	8
February	6
March	6
April	15
May	7
Total	**186**

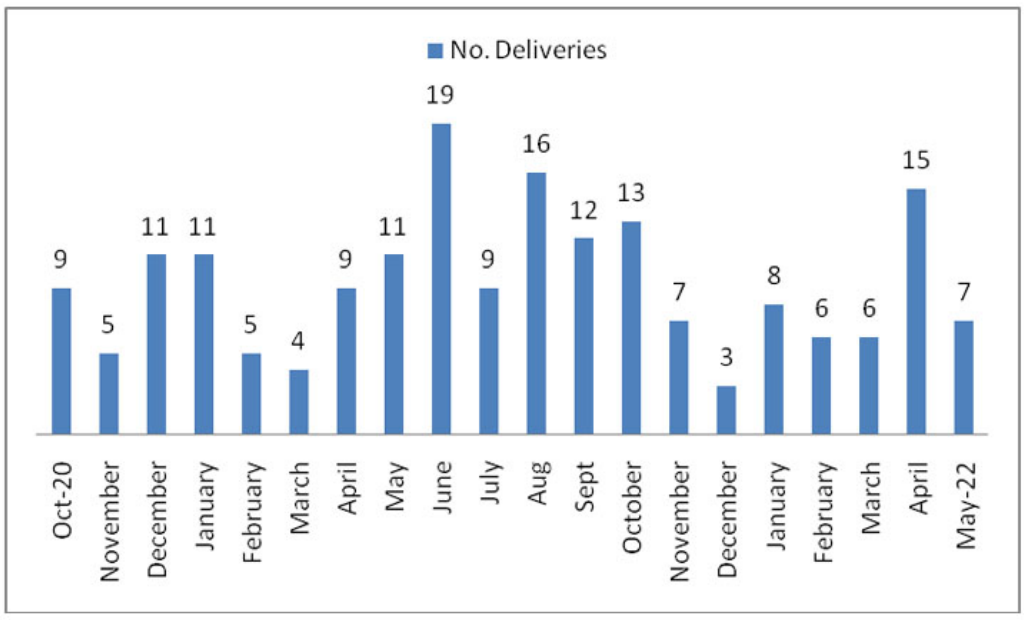


Figure 4. Primary health care deliveries by months

Uncomplicated deliveries were assisted by skilled birth attendant at St Josephine Bakhita PHCC and a total of **186** deliveries were conducted. And **19** referred to Cueibet County hospital for further management. Enrolled certified midwife resigned due to insecurity, positions filled by Registered Midwife, and in charge of Maternity in St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC.

Child health service at Health Facility level

The child health interventions focused on curative care, integrated management of childhood illness, expanded programme on immunization, growth monitoring and Vitamins A supplementation.

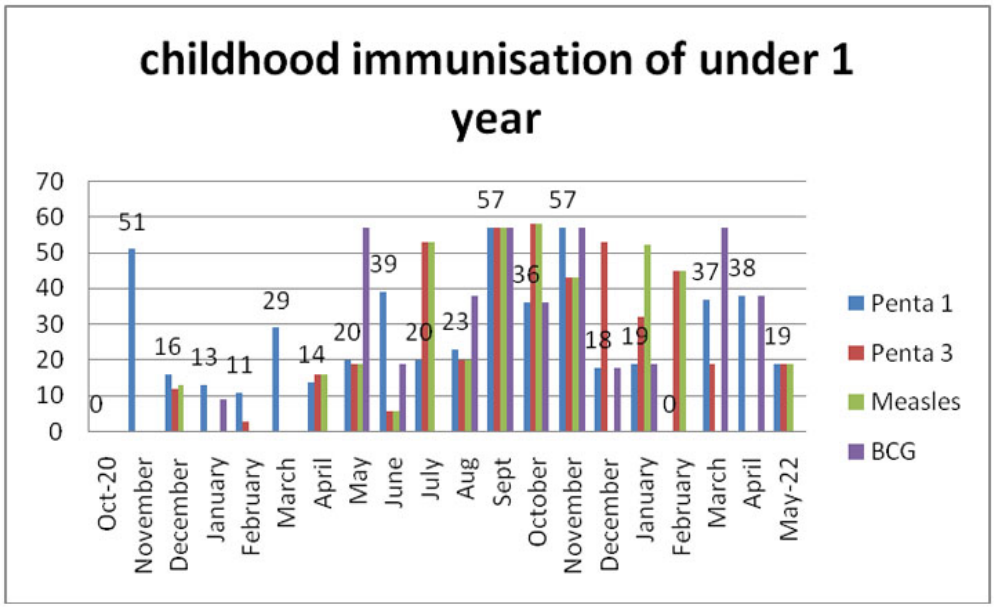
Main activities in health facility supportive supervision of local staffs and on job training, immunization, health education, antenatal care and growth monitoring

The Expanded programme on immunization statistics during the reporting period was as follows:

Table 5. Childhood immunizations of under 1 year, October, 2020 – May, 2022

Vaccines	Oct	Nove	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Penta 1	0	51	16	13	11	29	14	20	39	20
Penta 3	0	0	12	0	3	0	16	19	6	53
Measles	0	0	13	0	0	0	16	19	6	53
BCG	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	57	19	0

Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	FEB	March	April	May	Total
23	57	36	57	18	19	0	37	38	19	**517**
20	57	58	43	53	32	45	19	0	19	**455**
20	57	58	43	0	32	45	0	0	19	**401**
38	57	36	57	18	19	0	57	38	0	**405**



Childhood immunization of under 1 year

IMMUNIZATION/EPI SERVICES

The county cold chain is 20km away from Agangrial and occasionally collected vaccines from the county cold chain in Cueibet. Static EPI services are provided to all communities of Agangrial in Cueibet County. During the project reporting period **455** children were vaccinated with Pentavalent 3 against a set target of 650. **401** children received measles vaccination against measles. **405** children received BCG vaccines for prevention of tuberculosis. The SMOH supplied child health cards and the mothers were encouraged to keep the card with them for monitoring their children growth and also for easy follow up clinic dates. The increase in immunization is due the government put security measures to take of the communities in Agangrial and the county at large, thus allowed the mothers to take their children for immunization, as it was secure.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS

St Josephine Bakhita PHCC offered routine consultation for all children under five using IMCI guidelines. Total of **7857** children were treated against the target of **7500** in the reporting period. **6632** were diagnosed as having malaria, **1465** had diarrhea all treated with ORS, **54** had presumed pneumonia and **3651** upper respiratory tract infections. The relative low rate of children U5 with diarrhea and treated with ORS is due to continuous medical training and on job training and adherence to IMCI treatment protocols in the facilities. No LLITNS were distributed to children under five years as they are not available in the county.

Consultation for under 5s Oct 2020 – May 2022

Month	Male	Female	Total
Oct	179	150	**329**
Nov	180	171	**351**
Dec	155	114	**269**
Jan	115	110	**225**
Feb	133	112	**245**
March	180	162	**342**
April	175	165	**340**
May	282	240	**522**
June	247	159	**406**
July	198	266	**464**
Aug	354	450	**804**
Sept	342	360	**702**
Oct	294	289	**583**
Nov	276	229	**505**
Dec	171	186	**357**
Jan	161	178	**339**
Feb	115	115	**230**
March	124	130	**254**
April	115	111	**226**
May	180	184	**364**
Total	**3976**	**3881**	**7857**

OPD Consultation of under 5s Oct 2020 – May 2022

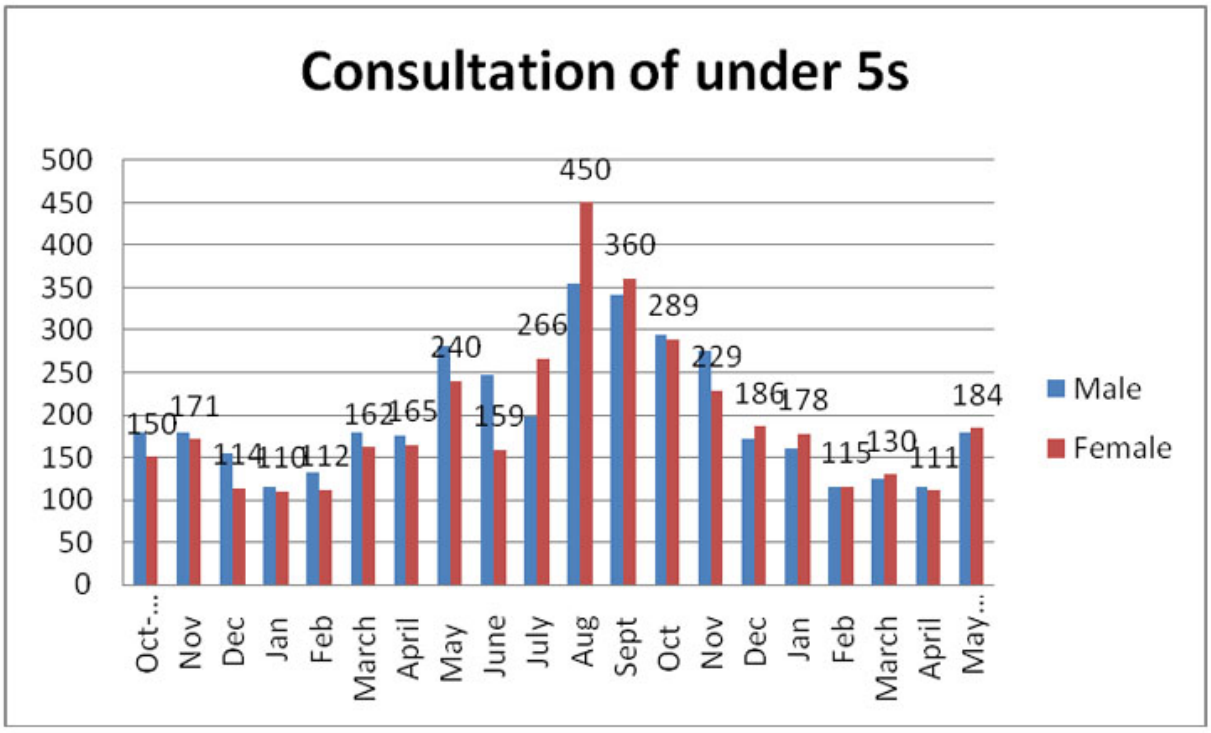
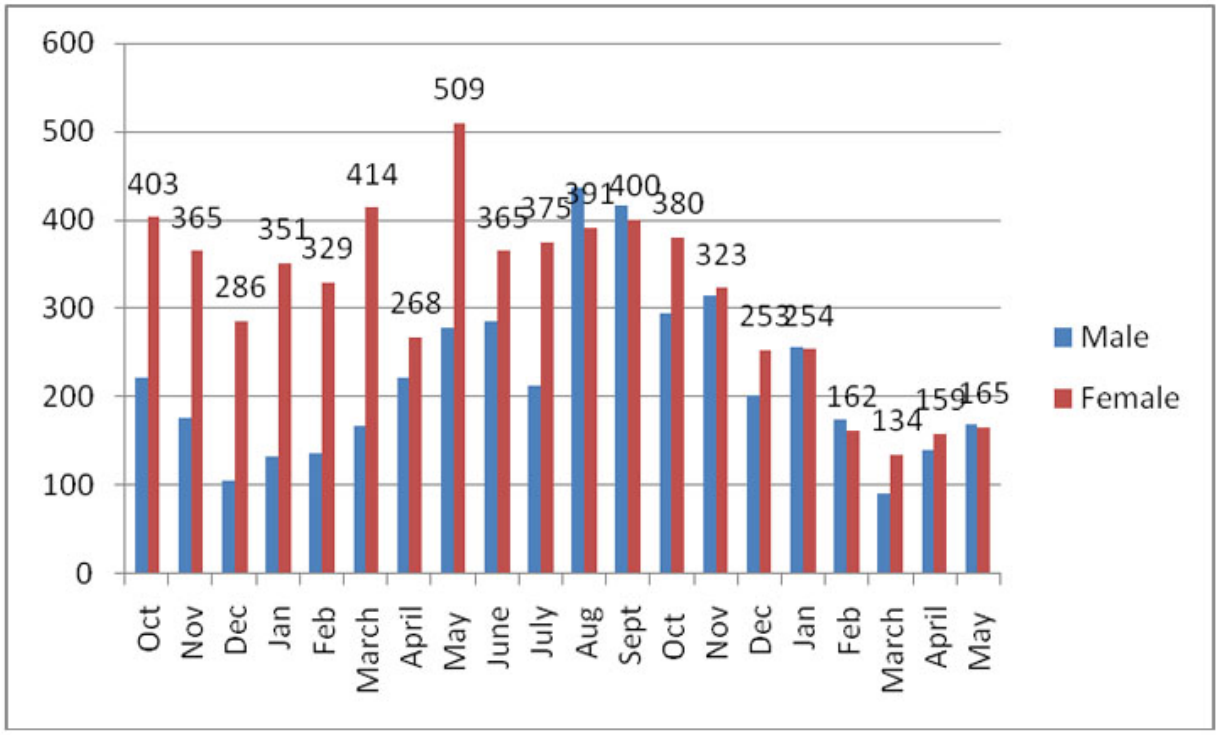


Table 6. Curative care data for Under-fives as above graph

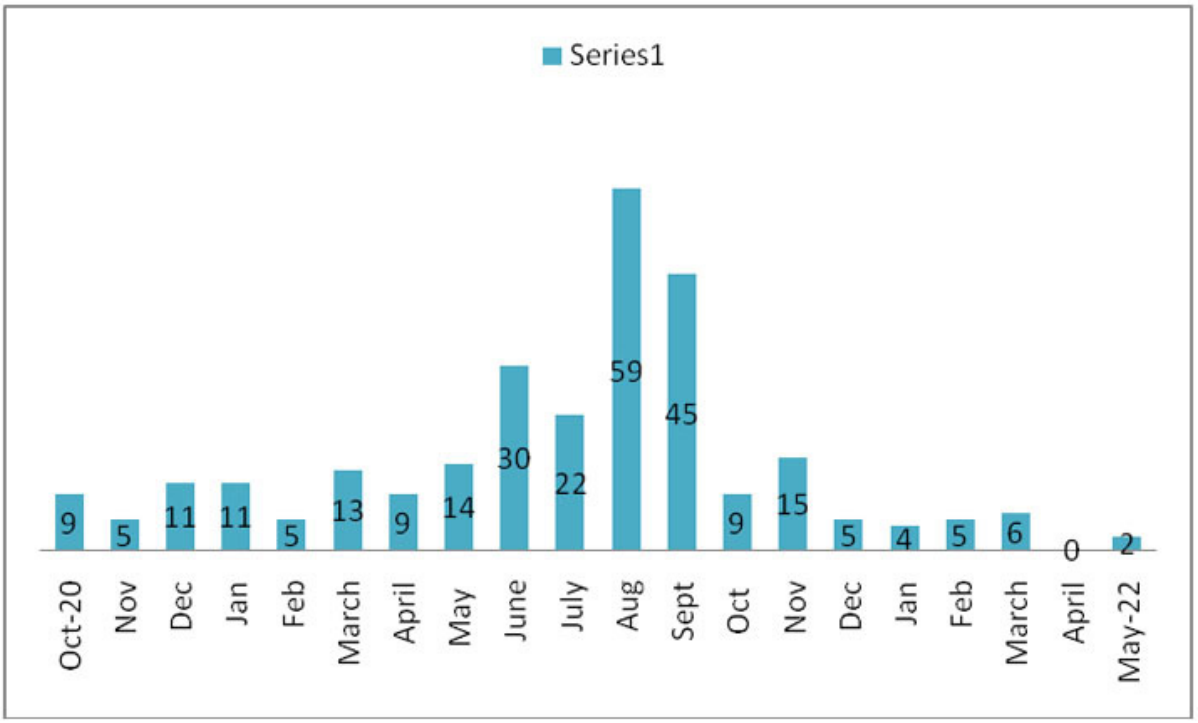
Month	Male	Female	Total
Oct	221	403	624
Nov	176	365	541
Dec	106	286	392
Jan	133	351	484
Feb	136	329	465
March	167	414	581
April	221	268	489
May	278	509	787
June	285	365	650
July	213	375	588
Aug	437	391	828
Sept	416	400	816
Oct	295	380	675
Nov	315	323	638
Dec	201	253	454
Jan	256	254	510
Feb	174	162	336
March	91	134	225
April	140	159	299
May	169	165	334
Total	**4430**	**6286**	**10716**



Curative care data for above – 5s, shown above: Oct 2020 – May 2022

Inpatient Admissions of under 5s Oct, 2020 – May, 2022

Month	Number
Oct	9
Nov	5
Dec	11
Jan	11
Feb	5
March	13
April	9
May	14
June	30
July	22
Aug	59
Sept	45
Oct	9
Nov	15
Dec	5
Jan	4
Feb	5
March	6
April	0
May	2
Total	**279**



No. of admision for under 5s, Oct 2020 – May 2022 as above graph.

MOST COMMON DISEASES AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK

Preventive and curative services were provided to community members in the facility during the project reporting period reporting. Continuous medical education/on job training to the health workers at St Josephine Bakhita PHCC in Agangrial and Agangrial PHCU, on malaria management and emphasis was on: i) providing IPT to pregnant mothers, ii) confirming malaria using RDTs, and iii) weighing of patients for proper prescription of ACTs and when to prescribe Quinine for a patient. A total of 18673 consultations of under 5s years and above five years were seen by clinicians in outpatient following the SMOH treatment guidelines. 6632 were malaria cases in under 5s and 6601 malaria cases in above 5s. 261 above 5s suspected cases of TB were identified and referred to St Bakhita PHCC, AAA TB program for confirmation. 191 cases of STI were screened and treated following the SMOH guidelines. Health workers emphasized giving Health Education on prevention/spread of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, STI, HIV/ AIDS, TB and eye.

Non-communicable diseases

On job training on early identification of these diseases is ongoing in the facility, the emphasis is on taking blood pressure for patients to recognise hypertension pregnant mothers/other adult patient routinely and ensure early referral. The health workers have been trained on how to test and monitor blood glucose using the glucometer. No client was identified in the reporting period.

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Products

Drug/equipment procurement procedure was done and Hope for the sick and poor delivered in March 2021, only essentials procured. During the project period there were challenges anti malarial, RDT, ferrous/folic, paracetamol, Amoxil and Ampicillin injections, and other essential drugs due high demand in outpatient clinics. The paediatrics drugs procured were out of stock in October 2021 and adult drugs December 2021.

This was a challenge there by using little resources to purchase drugs as while as lobbying from the county health department.

Refurbishment

- MCH constructed to allow work space for services delivery
- The solar panel installed in the MCH and volunteer compound for power provision
- The fridge is installed and drugs in need of refrigeration for example oxytocin drugs are kept to maintain its potency not suit for immunization vaccines.
- The installation has been done in volunteer compound and all the rooms have power.
- The renovation of volunteer compound, hospital office, placenta pit and toilet in the volunteer compound completed.
- We continue collection of vaccines from the nearest PHCU for daily vaccination of under 5s and pregnant mothers. The solar fridge for vaccines is the state and waiting for the company to deliver to St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC – Agangrial for installation.
- Mother Child health was temporally constructed to allow enough working space areas and keep distancing to prevent airborne diseases from spreading to others, following Covid 19 measures.
- Hand washing equipment in place for patients use to minimize diseases spread by un-hygiene practices. Face mask are in place for use to reduce the rate of spreading Covid 19 to others.

Training

- 91 health workers in Agangrial, Cueibet County were trained on maternal and child health interventions and other related topics to reduce the number of high-risk and unwanted pregnancies through family planning, reduction of numbers and severity of obstetric complications through pre-pregnancy and antenatal care to prevent problems and detect complications early, clean/safe delivery and post-partum care and reduction of case fatality rate in women with complications through access to essential obstetric care
- The health worker continued on job training on expanded programme on immunization (EPI) during the project period.
- Maternal and Child health workers underwent training on ANC/PNC/STI to improve their consultation capacity focused antenatal care, post natal care, general reproductive health care (17/03/2021-25/03/2021)
- 18 participants for continuous medical education on mother child health care and paediatrics started on 13/04/2021 and 24/6/2021, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to improve health workers practice in the health facilities St. Bakhita PHCC and Agangrial PHCU and other health workers in Cueibet County.
- Continues medical education on drug management continued for 4 drug dispenser in Agangrial
- 26 women were capacitated on water, hygiene and sanitation in September 2021, as health education continued to improve hygiene practices of the communities in Agangrial.

- Health workers were trained on Emergency Obstetric and neonatal care in October 2021 to improve emergencies and referral system

- Continuous medical education on newborn care and paediatric conditions through integrated management of childhood and neonatal illness to improve quality services rendered by the health workers.

Challenges and solutions

- Most of the pregnant mothers visit antenatal clinic late and come when term, therefore intensifying health education improved mothers' visits to the clinic. The insecurity improved made pregnant mothers to seek medical attention in St. Josephine Bakhita PHCC..

- High prices in the market has made life difficult for beneficiaries' to afford food to maintain their live hood

- Rain/floods hampered accessibility for beneficiaries in peripheral to reach health facility for services

- Transport and bad roads interferes with movements

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