



Mother and Child Health Matara Health Centre

“And none of them will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.” Exodus 23: 26

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the Primary Health Centre in Matara, Kuron holds a Maternal and Child health education class. On average, one can see 18 women with their children in attendance. The midwives will talk with the ladies and discuss ways to improve their own health and that of their children. The women enthusiastically spoke of their experiences.



Many of us have lost 2 or 3 babies in our lives. We used to go to the local traditional birth attendant. We were paying one goat and there was no improvement in our children. Now we have heard many times that the children who come to this Centre are cured and they are kept healthy.



We have heard the story of Napir, from Namatun village. She was almost dead and somehow these Matara Health Centre people saved her life and that of the child. This is amazing to us! We couldn't believe it! No witch doctor could ever do that. We are convinced this health Centre gives better treatment than anywhere else. Of course, there are those who refuse to come. We see them as stupid. They don't have a good life in anything.

don't know how to use it but the youth do.

We are traditional women who have no great experience. Only one of us has ever been to Kapoeta. We know nothing of the outside world. That is why we want to get our children in school. There are four of us here with children in the schools around. We tell our men that this is important or we will always be backward thinking. So far we are pushing for girls to attend also.

Everyone here has at least one cell phone in our villages. This is usually the young men or the elders. The phone has become useful for communicating when there is someone sick or if there is business to do with another person. We





Ms. Nakawo had a suggestion: “ Please hire a person who can travel around. A Midwife who knows health of the baby. This person could come and check on us in the village. It is difficult for us to come here every week as we have so much work to do. If someone could come and visit us and tell us what to do, that would help a lot.”

Ms. Lopir Joseph has walked two days to come to the clinic. “ I heard about Napir and how the Health Centre saved her life even though she was dead. We also heard from others in our village who came here and had good results. Even though it is far, I came here with the others because we know the service here is good.

Many women added, “...we know Midwife Patricia saved that woman. She is easy to communicate with.

She helps us a lot. We have learned a lot of woman things from her. Her presence is very important for us.”

(Sources: Interview with Matara Health Staff and mothers in the MCH sessions of 11.Jan. and 24.Jan.2022. edited by Gabe Hurrish)