Kagote Health Centre Canopy

Background
Kagote Health Centre is located in West Division Fort Portal Municipality which was started as a government initiative to bring health care closer to the people. It is a Health Centre III facility - in Uganda this means it should cater for all normal births. When Liverpool Mulago Partnership (LMP) started work in summer 2014 no babies had been born in Kagote for 16 years. Since the re-opening after the first project, the Centre with the help of OBAAT is now sustaining about 20 births a month. This has set Kagote out as the leading health centre III facility in Kabarole District. The facility provides services such as HIV testing, ART clinic, family planning, among others. Thus reduce on home deliveries and transmission of mother to child of HIV and will therefore reduce on the maternal deaths.

The initiative for this project came from when Prof Louise Ackers visited Fort Portal June 2015. Kagote Health Centre decided to swap the administration building with the OPD (Out Patient Department), so all the medical buildings OPD, Maternity could be all together in the same side of the road and the administration building to keep at the other side where there is police station. The relocation for the OPD needed hand washing basin, new partitions and a covered waiting area.

The Work
The project was sponsored by Ethical Elective Placement Scheme which invests in those facilities hosting Salford University students http://www.knowledge4change.org.uk/. It is very rare in Uganda to have patients triaged effectively (sorted on the basis of their needs) with few facilities undertaking basic observation to assess patient well-being. This shelter will be used not only for waiting but also for triaging patients - basic observations will be taken in the shelter before patients are called for treatment in the new out patients department. Around 30 patients are seen every day in out patients.
Delivery of the Work
This project was intended to help the health centre to move all its activities to the same site relocating out-patients department nearer to the maternity facility (it was across the road in small poor quality facilities). Series of work were done during the project these include;

Canopy:
- Floor excavation, blinding and casting concrete
- Construction of short walls around Canopy
- Plastering walls outside and inside short walls for Canopy
- Construction of roof including hoisting and fixing
- Painting roof structure with wood preservative

At clinics:
- Fixing tiles on the wall over hand washing basins
- Installation of 2 hand washing basins included plumbing system and soak pit

Work Structure
The project was being overseen by the Programme Manager Marcelo Navarro who did a great work in successfully constructing the canopy as proposed. The canopy was constructed with short walls. Finally, Knowledge for Change showed a lot of gratitude to OBAAT for this work. Prof. Louise Arckers was quoted “We are delighted to see our partnership growing from strength to strength and responding to the real needs of the local community”. The work will be reviewed in 6 months to assess if there are any issues arising in order to plan for light maintenance.

One Brick at a Time would like to thank and congratulate Richard Alihumuza, Augustine Basaija, Marcelo Navarro and all partners upon the success of this initiative and invites you to visit the project at your earliest convenience.