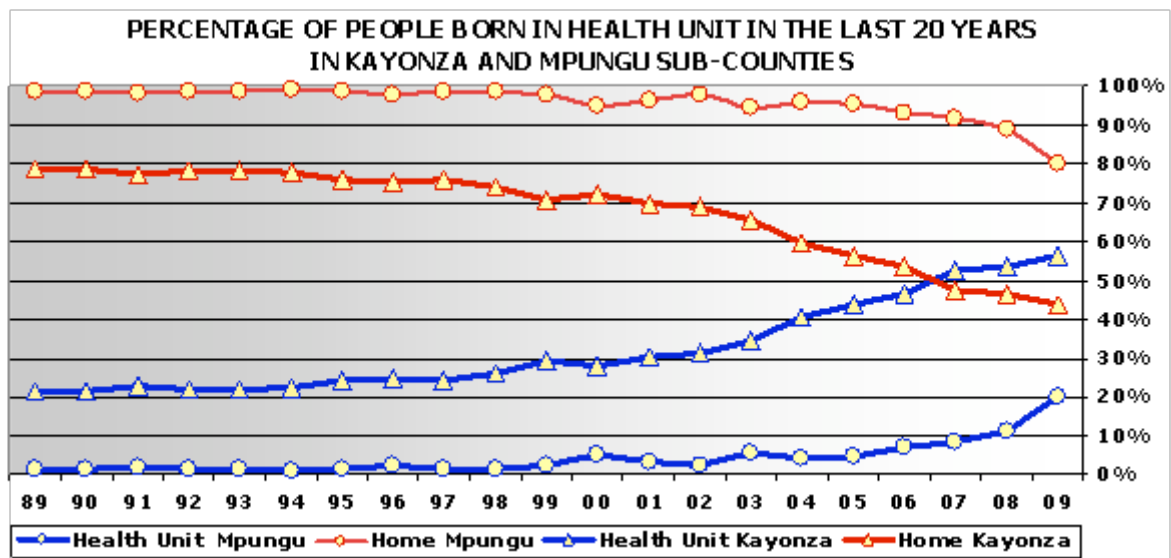


Dear supporter of Bwindi Community Hospital,

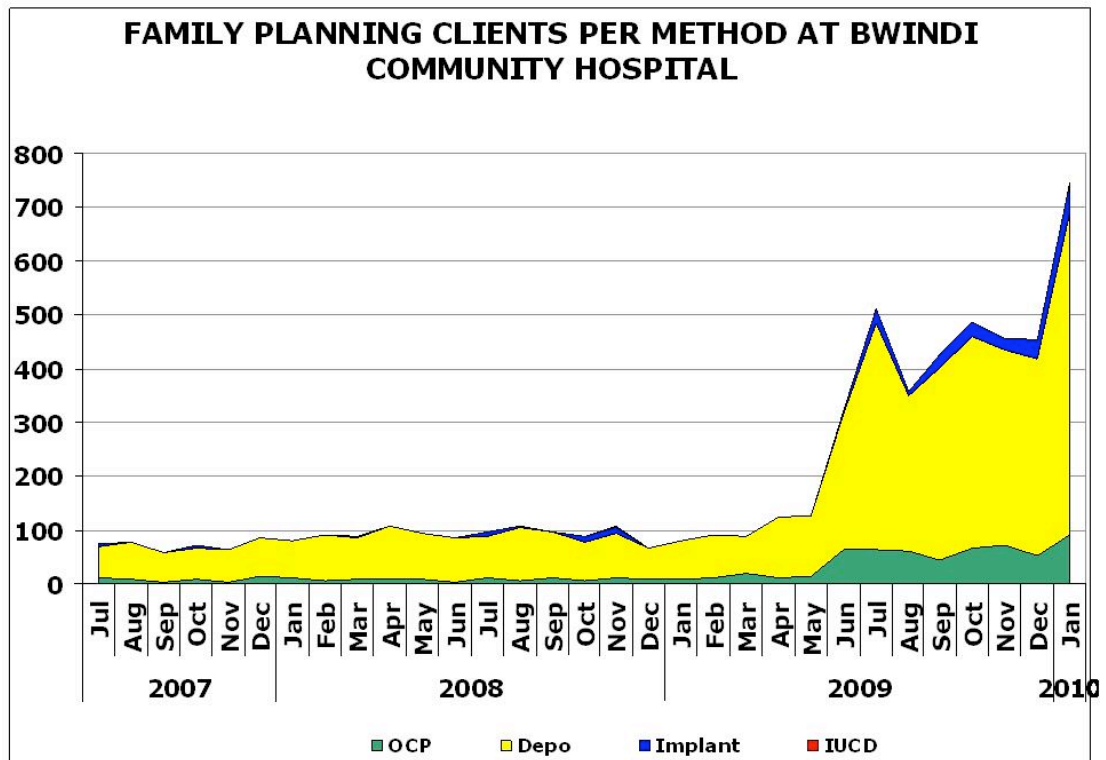
Attached is our **latest newsletter** (which you can also find on the 'latest news' section of the website if you can't open it). But before you look at this I'd like to mention International Women's Day which falls on Monday 8th March and is a public holiday in Uganda. International Women's Day give us the chance to revisit the Millennium Development Goals and to review the progress that we have made in Bwindi.

Millennium Development Goal 5 is to **improve maternal health** through reducing the rate of women who die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, and to provide universal access to reproductive health care. I would like to share with you two graphs that show the progress that we are making in Bwindi.

The first is taken from our 2009 Household Survey of more than 40,000 local people in 10,000 homes (newly featured on the reports section of our website) and shows the rate of Home v Hospital delivery over the last twenty years. As you can see, we are leading a trend towards more Hospital delivery (the blue line) both in Kayonza, which is closest to the Hospital, and Mpungu which is further away. Hospital deliveries are much safer, in this environment, than home deliveries. Our strategies include a Waiting Mother's Hostel, excellent antenatal care from midwives, Caesarean sections available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and providing a caring environment for women who come here. There is still a long way to go before we reach our goal of 80% of deliveries taking place in the Hospital by 2012, but we are on the right track. Last month **126 women had their babies in Bwindi**, compared with only 60 a year ago. We are now looking for help to **extend the maternity ward** and to share some of the costs involved in employing the staff that we need to provide safe deliveries for so many women.



The second chart shows just how much activity is taking place from the family planning (birth control) team. A year ago we gave less than 100 contraceptive injections or pills. In February 2010 we gave 5-year implants to 81 women and through **trained village health workers** were able to give injections which last for three months to more than 600 women. Uganda still has a birth rate of **6.4 children per woman**. But Bwindi is working hard to enable women who want to have smaller families to access birth control. In the Household Survey we found **29% of couples in Kayonza and 21% in Mpungu were using contraception**. Our target, through education and improving access to services, is to increase this to 40% by 2012.



Please enjoy reading the newsletter, and please remember that if you want to help **we can turn a donation into action**. Our Women's Health Services including pregnancy clinics for 400 people, a 16 bed delivery ward, outreach clinics, family planning camps and more than 120 deliveries costs **\$7,800 (£5,200)** a month to run. Marie Stopes International funds some of this through their Healthy Baby Voucher Scheme, but we have a shortfall of \$4,500 (£3000) a month that we need to raise from supporters to keep these essential services running. Thank you so much for all of your support.

Paul

Dr Paul Williams
 Medical Superintendent
 Bwindi Community Hospital