

Mapping for Maternal Health in Rural Uganda

****Project Name:****

Mapping for Maternal Health: Using OpenStreetMap to Improve Access to Care in Rural Uganda

****Author:****

Benjamin Makumbi

****Location:****

Uganda

Overview

In rural Uganda, many pregnant women struggle to access timely healthcare due to long distances, poor infrastructure, and a lack of clear information about where to seek services. This project uses open-source mapping through OpenStreetMap (OSM) to improve visibility and accessibility of maternal health facilities. By partnering with communities, we collect local data and upload it to OSM to support emergency planning, outreach, and long-term development efforts.

Goals

- Improve maternal health by mapping clinics, roads, and emergency transport routes
- Provide actionable geospatial data to health workers and local governments
- Involve local youth and volunteers in mapping and data collection
- Build a stronger digital community around open mapping in Uganda

Community Engagement

This initiative worked directly with village health teams, midwives, local leaders, and youth groups. Through training and hands-on data collection using mobile tools like KoboToolbox, they participated in mapping key landmarks. Their knowledge ensured the maps were accurate, relevant, and reflective of community needs.

Tools & Platforms Used

- OpenStreetMap (OSM)

- HOT Tasking Manager
- KoboToolbox for surveys and geodata
- iD Editor and JOSM
- Google MyMaps for basic visualization and planning

Achievements and Impact

- Mapped 50+ maternal health facilities in three sub-counties
- Identified underserved areas and supported emergency route planning
- Data used in planning outreach services for pregnant women
- Empowered 20+ community volunteers with digital mapping skills

OSM Profile / Map Link (if available)

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/user/YourUsernameHere>

Contact

Benjamin Makumbi

Email: benjaminmakumbi612@gmail.com