

# Kahama District high death rate during delivery causing concerns

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AT least 60 women died during delivery in the past two years in Kahama District Hospital and authorities are blaming it on reluctance to use reproductive and child health services.

Speaking to visiting journalists, Shinyanga Regional Medical Officer Dr Ntuli Kapologwe said Kahama District Hospital recorded higher maternity delivery rate than all other health facilities in Shinyanga Region.

“Over 40 percent of pregnant women in the region deliver at home,” he explained admitting that this

is part due to the limited access to health facilities which are far and transportation unreliable.

“Some of them however simply prefer to use traditional birth attendants out of their own volition and fuels the maternal deaths,” he said.

Commenting, Kahama District Reproductive and Child Health Officer Dr Ayamery Mlay said at least 19 mothers deliver at the Kahama District Hospital every day.

Dr. Mlay explained that because of the poor transport infrastructure, many expectant women reach the hospital when it is too late to act on critical maternal complications.

He also revealed that 36 expectant mothers died in

2012 but the number significantly dropped the following year where only 24 cases were reported.

The Kahama District Hospital serves a total population of 900,000 from Msalala, Ushetu, Kahama and neighbouring districts.

In another development Acting Kahama Town Medical Officer, Dr John Fabian commended development partners for supporting government initiatives in the health sector.

Fabian cited aid from development partners including financial support, medical equipment and capacity building through staff training in prevention of mother to child AIDS transmission and family planning among other things.