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THE NETWORK
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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN IN ACCESSING AND UTILIZING MNCH SERVICES IN WESTERN UGANDA: AN INTERSECTIONALITY APPROACH
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Systems and Community Based Responses for COVID 19</i>
Presenting Author	Clementia Neema
Co-Authors	Kimberly Manalili , Florence Beinempaka , Eleanor Turyakira , Primrose Nakazibwe
Country	Uganda
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Content	Vulnerability of women at individual, family, and community level affects access and utilization of health services. Existing frameworks have identified demographics, including; ethnicity, gender, economic class, level of education, and geographical location. An intersectionality approach was used to review the profile of vulnerable women among beneficiaries of Mama Toto interventions. Purposive sampling was employed targeting vulnerable women in the study sites. The participants were selected using WHO and MamaToto perspective of vulnerability. Basing on saturation principle, the study used a sample of 6 respondents. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and analyzed using NVIVO. It is insufficient to identify all vulnerable women in the context of Maternal Newborn and Child Health access basing on levels of incomes. Participants identified women with alcohol consuming habits or with alcohol consuming husbands, women with a history of home births, women that have produced girls only, those living on fishing sites, and families that are considered witches, as vulnerable. The study is significant in the era of covid-19 pandemic restrictions with no public transport, seeking permission from district officials for transport, with the anxiety and stigma and less attention to other existing health conditions, as well as extra costs of face masks and sanitizers that are mandatory in Uganda, that have further exacerbated health seeking behavior of mothers. Recognizing the diversity of vulnerability of women in different contexts is a useful approach in designing, implementing and monitoring services of Maternal Newborn and Child Health for Mamatoto program.