

# Improving maternity services

Francis Chilufya is Clinical Officer General at Chanyanya Clinic in rural Zambia. With the support of the **CHANYANYA IRRIGATION PROJECT**, the clinic is expanding its maternity facilities.

Francis has worked to diagnose and treat patients at Chanyanya Clinic for almost two years. He says: “My work here is challenging. People come to the clinic from a radius of around 20km. There are over 12,000 people living in this area and they come to us with a variety of needs. We provide in-patient and out-patient care and maternity services – ante natal, deliveries and post-natal care. In fact, I have a maternity case today and so may need to rush away.”

With the support of PIDG’s Technical Assistance (PIDG TA), InfraCo Africa is enhancing the clinic’s COVID preparedness by supplying personal protective equipment and other necessities, including four bikes to enable Francis and his colleagues to travel around the area efficiently.

Speaking in 2019, Francis expressed his concerns about the clinic’s maternity facilities: “**We deliver around 52 babies per month, often two per day. Some of these deliveries take place in the community as the facilities we have at this clinic are not good. We only have one bed**

**available for deliveries and post-natal care which is insufficient. It is not an environment where women can feel comfortable coming to give birth.”**

Working together, InfraCo Africa, PIDG TA and the Zambian government are improving maternity provision in Chanyanya. The Chanyanya Irrigation project is overseeing construction of a new maternity unit adjacent to the existing clinic which will be staffed and equipped by the Zambian government. Construction work is underway and is expected to be completed in June 2020. The new unit will provide seven additional beds, with an annexe being provided by the Ministry of Health to add a further six. Together, the initiatives will provide a total of 13 new maternity beds for the women of Chanyanya.

