1. Key development issues and rationale for Bank involvement
With a per capita income of US$ 250 and a life expectancy of 48.9 years, Uganda is among the poorest countries of the world. Improving health is one of the main targets of Uganda’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and a component of the human development pillar of the current Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP 2004/05 – 2007/08). The maternal mortality rate (MMR) and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are of particular concern in Uganda.

2. Proposed objectives
The objective of the proposed project is to improve mother and child health and to effectively treat STDs. To fight maternal mortality, the project would provide 170,000 safe motherhood voucher and 100,000 vouchers for the diagnosis and treatment of STDs.

3. Preliminary description
The project aims at improving reproductive health services by selling vouchers for treatment of STDs and for safe delivery to poor target groups at a nominal price. In the case of STDs the voucher holder is entitled to diagnosis and treatment of any STD eligible under the project according to the national treatment algorithms. This project component is building on a current KfW pilot, which is to be integrated in the project. Holders of safe delivery vouchers are entitled to a series of ante and post natal medical visits as well as delivery attended by a trained medical professional. Safe delivery vouchers include the treatment of complicated deliveries, including cesarean sections, where this is medically indicated. The project will work with a number of certified medical facilities including private service providers and NGOs.

4. Safeguard Policies that might apply
Due to the nature of the project, including the handling of hazardous medical waste, Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01) will be triggered. The project will include a medical waste management plan, following the guidelines for small health care facilities with less than 50 beds.

5. Tentative financing
Global Partnership on Output-based Aid (GPOBA) US$ 6m
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) US$ 2m

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