

71% of births in Tendo's parishes now happen with a **skilled attendant present** – up from 38% when we started in 2021.

The problem was never willingness. It was distance.

Almost every mother in Namutumba and Kibuku wants to deliver at a health facility. Getting there is the hard part. A woman who goes into labour at night faces an hour on the back of a boda over rutted roads, no money set aside for fuel, and a health centre she may never have visited. So she waits, and hopes.

In 2021, fewer than four in ten births in these parishes happened with a trained health worker present. The rest happened at home, alone or with a relative, with no plan if something went wrong.

What Tendo does

We train women from these same villages as birth companions. Each one follows about twenty-five pregnancies at a time — close enough to notice when something changes, trusted enough that families listen.

Visit

Home check-ins through pregnancy, and a sit-in at every antenatal appointment.

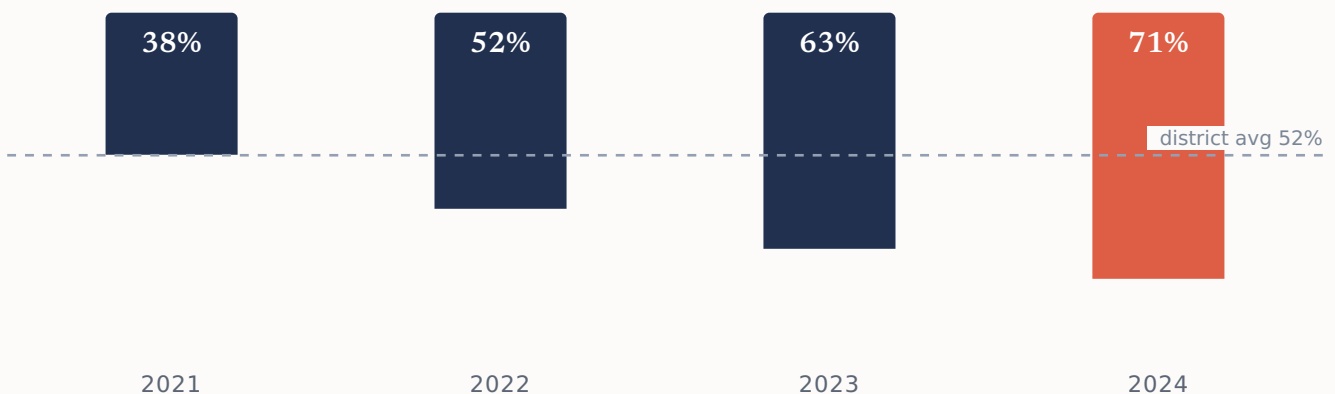
Watch

Trained to spot the danger signs — bleeding, swelling, a labour that stalls.

Move

One call puts a vetted rider and pre-paid fuel at the door, usually within the hour.

BIRTHS WITH A SKILLED ATTENDANT — TENDO PARISHES



Dashed line marks the surrounding district average (52%). Source: birth-companion registers cross-checked against facility records (HMIS 105), 2021-2024.

Three numbers moved together

When women are seen through pregnancy and can actually reach care, the gains show up across the whole pathway — not just on the day of birth.

Skilled attendant at birth



Four or more antenatal visits



Newborn check within 48 hours



■ 2021 baseline ■ 2024

84

birth companions active

6,200

pregnancies enrolled this year

1,180

emergency transport calls answered

31

parishes, two districts

About \$210 buys one more birth with a skilled attendant.

Tendo runs on roughly \$150,000 a year. Set against the ~700 additional facility births a year in its parishes, that is close to \$210 each — before counting the antenatal visits, newborn checks and referrals that come with them.

“She was swollen and confused — the signs I’d been taught to fear. I made the call. The rider had her at the centre in forty minutes. Without it, we would have waited for morning, and morning would have been too late.”

— Sarah Nabirye, birth companion, Bukondo parish

What \$240,000 over two years does

- Extends the model into a third district, reaching an estimated 9,000 more women.
- Trains and equips 60 new birth companions, drawn from the villages they serve.
- Keeps the emergency transport fund solvent across the 31 parishes already covered.

About this brief. Figures cover March 2021–December 2024 unless noted. Coverage rates come from birth-companion registers cross-checked against facility HMIS 105 records; district averages are drawn from DHIS2. “Additional” births compare current coverage with the 2021 baseline in the same parishes — they are associations over time, not a controlled estimate of impact. Tendo Health is a hypothetical organisation; figures are illustrative.