

Alumni updates

Martha Atai Mbabazi, 2010

Coordinated the World Contraceptive Day celebrations in Mukono, central Uganda. The event held on 26 Sept 2018 was dubbed 'Pulani Ki Community Activation'.



As the Prevention Program Coordinator, Uganda Cares, Martha coordinates prevention services for her organisation and other partners thus her involvement in the World Contraceptive Day, an event that was supported by Uganda Cares.

Juliet Were, 2011

is a member of the Board of Trustees for Samia Bugwe Maternal Health Marathon that started in 2016. Proceeds from these annual marathons go to renovations of health centres in Busia and Namayingo districts eastern Uganda targeting maternity wards. Priorities for Juliet and her team are lighting, water and delivery beds in the wards. Progress: Six health facilities renovated.



The 2018 run was conducted on 27 Oct, in Busia municipality. Proceeds will go to fixing lighting, water and delivery beds in six facilities.

Harriet Nakanyike, 2008

International Friendship Day was an important event organised by Harriet Nakanyike to promote safe motherhood in her community, Bunga, Kampala. The event gathered more than 150 people.

Medi Mukalu, 2012

represented STM alumni at the friendship day and exhibited his work with Safe Mothers, Safe Babies. He showcased motorcycle ambulance, tippy tape, saving boxes, solar lights and reusable pads. Medi says: "These are simple solutions but affordable and sustainable in our communities."



Moses Kyangwa, 2013

Executive Director of Uganda Development & Health Association (UDHA), has been admitted to Brown School of Public Health to pursue a PhD. program in public health.

Great job all you game changers. Thank you for sharing your stories.



Prof Florence Mirembe: Woman of substance

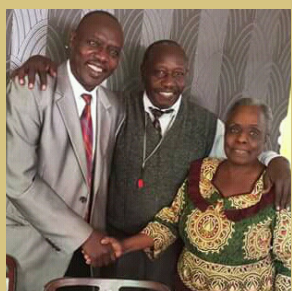
Prof Florence Mirembe has professionally and faithfully led the Save the Mothers (STM) board as the chairperson since 2005. Recently Prof Florence handed over STM board leadership to Prof Pius Okong. Prof Florence Mirembe is also one of the founding members of Save the Mothers and member of the faculty.



STM is, because of your great leadership and service beyond self. Thank you Prof Florence Mirembe.

Welcome new STM Board Chairperson

Prof Pius Okong has been serving STM since its inception as a board member and on faculty. Prof Pius is also the chairperson of Health Service Commission -Uganda. Welcome Prof Okong.



Right top: Prof Mirembe hands over power to Prof Okong at a ceremony in Kampala recently. Dr M Mutabazi - Left (Director STM East Africa Director) D Mugawe (STM board member and Uganda Christian University Deputy Vice Chancellor, External Relations were also at the ceremony. Right-bottom: Prof G Kasozi (centre), Board member.

International class 2018 cohort is here: Welcome to Save the Mothers

Photo moment: International class joined by STM faculty and STM Canada staff.



L-R: STM East Africa Director, Dr M Mutabazi (2nd front row); Executive Director STM Canada, D Mensah (3rd front row); R Collett (4th front row) STM Canada Communications Director; Dr E Nakabembe (5th front row) Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Director.

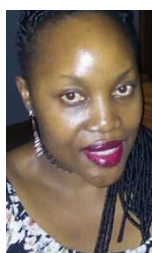
2nd row-extreme left: Dr J Barageine, Academics Director.

Back row-extreme left J Kawuba Program Administrator.

Back row -extreme right T. Agutu, Networking Director

**Dear Brenda,
Rest in Peace**

Brenda Kabasomi, Class 2010 a beloved member of the Save the Mothers (STM) family, went to be with the Lord. Brenda is remembered fondly by STM fraternity for her commitment to public health. She graduated in 2016. Big loss to STM.



Jjagwe Charles class 2011: "She was a jolly and freindly lady."

Thank you STM family for all the support rendered in different forms during Brenda's passing on.
Rest in Peace dear Brenda.

STM in Mbale & Kapchorwa

In Sept 2018, Save the Mothers East Africa hosted STM Canada Executive Director, Deborah Mensah and Communications Director Rebecca Collett. Director STM East Africa Dr Mutabazi, led the team.



Rebecca



Justus



Dr Miriam

Deborah



Allen

The team travelled to Mbale and Kapchorwa. A follow up on Mbale Hospital Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative was conducted where STM has supported set up of a High Dependence Unit. STM also held meetings with five alumni and visited their change projects:

Allen Namutosi, 2013

Works with Compassion International in Sironko where she has served under child ministry since 2003.

"Shortly after my graduation in 2017, I was appointed to head a new program, home-based and survival program. It supports pregnant women until the post natal period." Allen ably heads this program using skills and knowledge gained during her Master in Public Health Leadership (MPHL)

Moses Mukholi, 2011:

Implementing a 'Back to school and skills program for young mothers.' The program addressees findings of his MPHL thesis (*Knowledge attitudes & practices towards birth preparedness among young mothers below 24 years. A case of Bufumbo Health Centre 4, Mbale.*)

The program was piloted at St Paul Kolonyi Church of Uganda in 2016. Due to good results after two years of implementation, the program is now being replicated in another site; St. Peters, Bushekori, Mbale.

Teenager mothers get tailoring, computer, baking, backyard gardening and hair dressing skills among others. They also get counselling services and support to go through pregnancy and delivery safely.



Moses



Boaz

Boaz Aruho, Class 2010:

A medical doctor who got deeply concerned about maternal and child health issues. *"The MPHL awakened in me the fact that I can be a leader to cause change in my community."*

He owns a maternity home in Mbale. *"Before doing the MPHL, I would refer women to Mbale hospital and not follow up. But after the MPHL, I take extra care when attending to women. When I refer a woman to Mbale hospital, I follow her up with keen interest."* Boaz is now constructing a bigger maternity home.

He has also started a community saving scheme for birth and emergency preparedness to empower communities to access maternal health services.

To start this initiative Boaz used the Mbale Diocese Mother's Union structures as an entry point into the communities.

This initiative responds to finding from Boaz's MPHL thesis: *The role of the community in increasing facility based deliveries in Budenge Sub-County, Sironko district in eastern Uganda.*

Justus Chelangat, 2009: Soon after the MPHL Justus set up Sebei Safe Motherhood and Research Training Medical Centre (SESMART) in Kapchorwa in 2013. The Foundation advocates for the availability, acces-



STM meets one of the community groups that Justus works with.

sibility and quality Maternal and Child Health services. SESMART promotes safe motherhood through partnership with existing structures in the district and at the grassroots.

Jeremiah Mbulamani: He has sold the safe motherhood dream to his wife Katy. She has embraced it.



Jeremiah & Katy

Together the couple has started a community school in Mbale, Mutoto sub-county. It is located in an area where the terrain has isolated the community from access to

services such as education.

Jeremiah's MPHL thesis was done in this community. The study revealed high illiteracy levels. When Jeremiah presented the findings to the community, they challenged him to join them and start an initiative to alleviate the problem. This is the genesis of Jeremiah's school project. To start this project, Jeremiah and his wife left their jobs. The couple and their two children relocated from Mbale town.

They have now set up a home in this community where they live and serve the community.

A 67 year old woman said: *"Since I was born I have been living in this community. But I have never seen anyone come to us willing to uplift our well being. Our children now have access to education."*

To page 3



Deborah meets(right) Dr Canon Anne Gidudu, Patron, Mothers Union Mbale Diocese.

STM visits Mbale & Kapchorwa

From page 2

What keeps these alumni going? Passion for safe motherhood; Networking thus support each other; Work with community members & community structures; Partnerships with people and organisations of like minds.

Dear alumni, students & faculty,
Share your stories and enrich the STM network.

Finalising MPHL research? Keep moving



Presentations during the defence prep writing week. Students share their works with STM faculty research team Dr Edward Mukooza, Dr Justus Baragine & Rev Evatt.

STM is committed to supporting students complete the MPHL.

In October 2018 STM conducted pre-defence writing weeks to support students write the thesis in preparations for graduation. Congratulations on reaching this far.

Defence: 30th November 2018. Graduation: March 2019.



Deborah (left in white) engages the STM team in the strategic planning discussion.

STM Strategic Planning

During her recent visit to Save the Mothers East Africa, Deborah Mensah the Executive Director, Save the Mothers Canada led the STM East Africa team through the initial strategic planning meeting. Save the Mothers is currently reviewing the present Strategic Plan and to develop a new plan for the next five years.



Gumisiriza Evans

Born in Rukungiri district, western Uganda, Gumisiriza Evans grew

up a hardworking, self-taught young man, enthusiast, and a people person.

From an engineering goal seeker as a young boy, to a maternal and child health advocate as years went by, he learnt that perfection is attainable but not without a try. Gumisiriza draws his strength from not always being right but from picking himself up whenever he falls.

Gumisiriza holds a Bachelors degree in Population studies from Makerere University, where he has accumulated knowledge on maternal and child health care, reproductive health, epidemiology and sexuality.

Evans has work history in Hoima district local government as an intern and Reach a Hand Uganda (RAHU) as a peer educator.

He is passionate about changing the world for the better, where no woman or child should die from preventable causes. Together we can make a difference!

Onoria Daniel Samuel

Onoria Daniel Samuel is a born again Christian young man. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration (Accounting) at Uganda Christian University. He has also done a course in East African Customs Clearing and Forwarding Practicing.

Daniel's professional background is a perfect example of the role of multidisciplinary professionals in maternal and

child health.

Daniel who has also done a course in Servant Leadership offered by Compassion International Uganda (Leadership Development Program) was inspired to join Save the Mothers because of his desire to create a positive change and better the current health service delivery in Uganda especially in maternal health.

He says: *"It is an amazing opportunity for me to be part of STM. I believe am in position to leverage my skills and experiences to contribute to achieving safe motherhood."*



2018-2019 STM interns are here

Evans and Daniel welcome to the STM network.