

STM celebrates March 2019 graduates

"You can see I am all smiles", Jude Okeria said at the 1 March 2019 graduation where 13 Save the Mothers-Masters in Public Health Leadership students graduated.

It was indeed a happy day for Save The Mothers (STM). After the graduation ceremony at Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Dr Miriam Mutabazi STM East Africa Director hosted MPHIL graduates and their families to a luncheon. Also present was Deborah Mensah, Executive Director, STM International.

At the luncheon, graduates made remarks appreciating STM faculty.

Monica Bazibu, Kampala: *"Thank you for seeing us through. My research and leadership skills are now more sharpened."*

Lillian Katusiime, Ntungamo, western Uganda: *"We thank our lecturers who have been encouraging us."*

Some graduates also shared how they are using MPHIL skills and information:

Buma Reta: *"I started a project back home in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for teenage mothers. Now we have 50 teenagers on the project."*

Regina Narus: *"I shall make use of the skills for the benefit of the grassroot communities I serve in Napak district." Napak is in Karamoja region.*

Juliet Oinomugisha, Kampala: *"STM team thank you for the powerful back up you gave us. I am a near miss mother. So with this information and skills I can talk about women's health."*

Rev Moses Ssemugooma. *"My research was on family planning in the church. I have started advocating for safe*



Dr Miriam and graduates.



Rev Moses, from Mityana



Regina & her mum travelled from Napak.



Reta from DRC



Cake cutting.



Dr Justus interacts with Deborah.

motherhood in Mityana. We have developed a family planning strategic plan for Mityana district. And this is the first of this kind in Uganda." Rev Moses is the Health Coordinator, Mityana Diocese Church of Uganda.

Betty Akullo, Lira northern Uganda is a midwife. *"I used to think that if I deliver many women I would end maternal deaths. I joined this program to learn what role I could play to end this. My*

research was on teenage pregnancies in Abako Sub-county, Lira. I held dissemination meetings at the sub-county to share my findings. In Feb 2019 Plan International started a Stop teenage pregnancy and early marriage program in response to my research."

Susan Nangami, Jinja: *I am a midwife. I didn't know why mothers were dying and that I could do something about it. Now I know."*

Safe motherhood journey is a marathon by you the multi-disciplinary professionals. Congratulations!

March 2019 graduation in photos



Susan



Lillian Katusiime (right) was joined by her husband, Rt. Rev. Nathan Ahimbisibwe, Bishop of South Ankole Diocese, Uganda.



Jude



Caroline



BRAVO: Dr Miriam Mutabazi (left) and Deborah Mensah at the luncheon.



WINNERS' SMILES: Monica (left), Dr Olowo (centre) and Akullo (right).



Juliet

SUPPORT NETWORKS: Graduates marathon to the finish line with support from STM faculty & staff, classmates, friends and family who were well represented at the graduation ceremony and luncheon.



Sharing a meal

Thankful to family & friends who joined the ceremony



BEYOND THE MPH

Ripple effects of MPH spread in Lango diocese

Rev Susan Olwa is an alumnus of the Master in Public Health Leaders (MPHL) program, class 2005. She has consistently shared the importance of safe motherhood to her husband Rev Canon Dr Alfred Olwa, Bishop of Lango Diocese, northern Uganda. Bishop Olwa has embraced the message.

The Bishop has now made it his business to spread the safe motherhood message to members of his flock.

Rev Susan said: "Bishop says that I have been telling him that pregnancy must be a community concern." The Rev adds that Bishop Olwa is making the best of his position and has now put safe motherhood on the church



Above: The Bishop speaks to pregnant women about safe motherhood and also prays with them.



Rev Susan & Bishop Olwa

agenda to save mothers.

After taking safe motherhood lessons from his wife, Bishop Olwa is now a strong advocate of safe motherhood. He uses every moment to encourage spouses, families and communities to make safe motherhood a reality.

THE POWER OF CONVERSATION. Conversation stirs critical thinking, decision making and action. Keep the conversation on safe motherhood going with family, friends, workmates, church members and other networks.

STM in Mityana & Kasese

Save the Mothers leaders Deborah Mensah and Dr Miriam Mutabazi visited Kasese and Mityana district to follow up on the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) sites Kagando and Mityana hospitals respectively. These are two of the 10 STM-MBFHI sites.

During the visit the two held talks with Rev Benson Baguma, Executive Director of Kagando hospital to discuss MBFHI implementation.



Dr Miriam and Deborah during a meeting with Rev Benson (right) of Kagando hospital.

A focus on fourth delay at Panyimur Health Centre

Jimmy Oryem, STM alumnus graduated on 2 March 2018. Oryem is a senior clinical officer and the in-charge of Panyimur Health Centre 3, Pakwach, west Nile, Uganda.

Since taking on this leadership role in 2017, Oryem has made great strides in improving service delivery in maternal health to address the fourth delay. Milestones Oryem celebrates include installation of solar lights in the maternity ward thus saving midwives from using mobile phone light during night deliveries.

He has also advocated for more midwives from one in 2017 to now five health workers who can handle deliveries.



"We have four delivery beds. The facility had one bed for so long."

Oryem says: "I have managed to achieve these milestones through lobbying, advocacy, mobilisation, networking and leadership skills that I acquired during the STM-MPHL program."

Congratulations Joy

Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) continues to celebrate women who have defied the odds and pushed through the thick skin of structural and societal imbalances.

We celebrate economic

freedom in all sectors, justice in health and the victory of our very own Joy Asasira as the Best Female Human Rights Lawyer at the 5 Annual women in Law Awards.

Joy is an STM alumnus



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A walk with midwives

Midwifery, leadership & communication skills

In March 2019 Save the Mothers conducted the second Midwifery Mentorship and Coaching (MMC). It gathered 23 midwives from 10 big hospitals in Uganda: Kagando, Nakaseke, Mubende, Mityana, Kawolo, Nagaalama, Jinja, Tororo, Mbale hospitals and Mukono Health Centre 4.

These hospitals are under Save the Mothers outreach arm of Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI).

The five days mentorship took place in March 2019, at Crested Crane Hotel, Jinja eastern Uganda. It focused on midwifery, leadership and communication skills that were shared through presentations and field visit to Jinja Regional Referral hospital.

Dr Eve Nakabembe, Director MBFHI was the lead facilitator and organiser of the training. Co-facilitators were Dr J Barageine, Dr E Mukooza, Sr A Lubega and T Agutu. C Namono and E Gumisiriza provided support.

The event was closed by Dr Miriam Mutabazi, Director Save the Mothers East Africa and Deborah Mensah, Executive Director, STM International presented certificates to participants.



Sr. Agirie Lubega steps out to receive MMC team

Midwives arrive at Jinja Regional Referral Hospital.



Dr Eve



Dr Justus



Facilitators engage midwives during sessions.

Dr Edward stirs leadership session



Sister Agirie Lubega (STM alumnus) led the participants during the field visit to Jinja hospital, where she works. Agirie is an Assistant Commissioner Nursing, Ministry of Health, Uganda.

Dr Eve

Sr. Agirie

Dr Justus

Dr Edward

Discover the Nile River: MMC team take a befitting break at the Source of the Nile, Jinja.



Dr Miriam

Deborah

STM has trained 50 midwives under MMC. The first MMC was in April 2018 in Mityana for 27 midwives.

Save the Mothers is grateful to our funder Stronger Together.