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Pillar People @STMEA 2023 Conference



Conference delegates

Save the Mothers East Africa (ST-MEA) conference held on 5 May 2023 at Uganda Christian University and online was an excellent platform for Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) alumni to show-case their innovative solutions to improve maternal and child health.

The conference under the theme 'Re-imagining safe motherhood' was well attended by stakeholders in the safe motherhood sector. The speakers included Dr. Jean Chamberlain, founding director of STM; Dr Jessica Nsungwa, Commissioner Maternal and Child Health Ministry of Health Uganda; Dr. Edward Mukooza, STM Executive Director; Dr Miriam Mu-

tabazi, Dean Faculty of Public Health Nursing & Midwifery; and Robie Kakonge -Uganda's Ambassador to Washington DC. The presenters were MPHL alumni and faculty members.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Jean Chamberlain, called on safe motherhood stakeholders to be "pillar people" in the quest to improve maternal health in Uganda. She emphasized the importance of investing in innovative solutions to improve the quality of health care and the need for stakeholders to support the STM's initiative and keep it alive.

The STMEA Executive Director, Dr. Mukooza, highlighted the work done

Continuing MPHL students concluded the Module 2 and 3. The modules conducted online run from February to April 2023 and were concluded with online exams. Congratulations to all students and faculty staff for completing the module successfully.

To our dear lecturers and UCU administrators, thank you for supporting us attain new knowledge and giving us enabling environment to learn. May the dear God bless you. And to my colleagues, thank you for the efforts you have made to conclude module 2. We pray for good health and God's grace and mercy as we walk out journey.

Fatuma MPHL student

Viva: Conducted on 19 April 2023
MPHL May Intake: Module one starting soon.

Presenters

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Peter Olet

E Naluwende

Rebecca Birungi

Andrew Koolya

E Namwanga

Dr Nakabembe

Speakers



Dr Mukooza

Dr Mutabazi

Dr Chamberlain

Dr Nsungwa



Cross-section of delegates

In Loving Memory

Anne Asimwe Kankirho

MPHL 2013

Died on 6 May 2023



RiP Anne dear

MPHL 2023 INTAKE Save the Mothers is now receiving applications for a Masters Degree in Public Health Leadership (MPHL) at Uganda Christian University, Main Campus

SHARE THE NEWS

STM Canada visit

In March 2023, Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) hosted Save the Mothers Canada leadership team. The team that arrived on 19 March comprised of Heather Sinclair – Vice Chairperson STM Canada board and Janet Sampson, Managing Director STM Canada.

During their visit they met the STMEA staff, board, UCU leadership and visited STMEA outreach projects in Bulambuli, Manafwa, Mbale City in eastern Uganda, & Amolatar and Lira in northern Uganda.

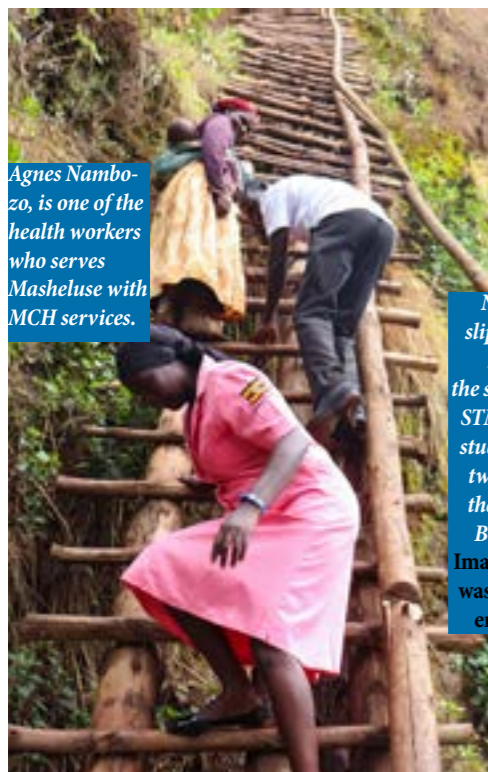
T Agutu - STMEA, shares details of the STM Canada 5 days visit in the articles here on page 2 & 3

Second delay realities

STM visited Bulambuli district in the Elgon region, eastern Uganda. Up the hills lie the beautiful Mt Elgon slopes. But the winding hilly roads cause the second delay making it hard for families to access maternal and child health services.

STM joined by the Bulambuli district team visited Buluganya sub-county in Nataba village on the slopes of Mt Elgon, Bulambuli district. Above Nataba village lies Masheluse village which is one of the very hard to reach communities that STM serves under the post natal care for you project. To access health services at Buluganya Health Centre, people in Masheluse village neighbouring Nataba village, have to climb a very steep ladder made by community members. Health workers also climb these ladders from Nataba village to take services such as post-natal care to the communities in Masheluse.

Imagine pregnant women going down the ladder from Masheluse village to Buluganya Health Centre for Antenatal Care or health facility delivery. In these communities home deliveries are common. Health facility delivery is usually considered in case of an emergency.



Agnes Nambozo, is one of the health workers who serves Masheluse with MCH services.



Heather goes down the hill.



Narrow & slippery roads heighten the second delay. STM team was stuck for about two hours on the way from Buluganya. Imagine if there was a maternal emergency.

Editor: STM thanks MPHL alum Stephen Waniale for supporting the project implementation & leading STM team to the communities in Bulambuli. STM is also grateful to Bulambuli District Health Office.

At UCU



STM – UCU Meet

The STMEA Executive Director Dr Edward Mukooza led the guests to meet Associate Prof Aaron Mushengezi, Vice Chancellor UCU.



STMEA staff get a moment with STM Canada team at Mirembe Hall. L-R: Carol Namono (STMEA accountant), Janet Sampson (STM Canada Managing Director STM Canada, Heather Sinclair-Vice Chair STM Canada Board, Dr. Edward Mukooza- Executive Director STMEA & Sarah Namee- STMEA Programs Officer

Seed fund in Manafwa



In Manafwa district in Bukhadala sub-county the team met members of women's group who are beneficiaries of STM's Seed Fund. The seed fund is used to handle maternal and child health emergencies. Beatrice Halayi, a member of Makhakhala women's group, got 20,000/- (5 US dollars) from the seed fund that enabled her access skilled attendance during delivery.



Gift exchange: STM Canada donated baby clothes to the women, and sports equipment to Bukhadala primary school. The women donated chicken and bananas to STM.

In northern Uganda

In Amolatar district, STM visited Amai Community Hospital, located at the shores of Lake Kwania. It is the only hospital in the district. STM is in the final stages of starting a partnership with the Hospital, to implement a Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI)

This partnership was initiated by Rev Susan Olwa (MPHL alum), and her husband Rev Dr. Alfred Olwa, Bishop of Lango diocese. Susan serves as the chairperson of Amai Hospital management committee and Bishop Alfred is Co-Chairperson on this committee.



Hilda Akello (2nd right) and Barbara Apili, (left) who are health workers at the hospital, received the STM team.

Dr Mukooza tests the handwashing facility in the maternity unit. Water and sanitation is one of the challenges the hospital faces. There is no running water in the hospital. In the operating theatre, a water container with a capacity of 100 litres was placed there. Water is fetched daily from a tap in the hospital compound to fill the water container in the theatre.



STM supports High Dependency Unit

In Mbale City, STM visited Mbale Regional Hospital where it runs MBFHI program and set up High Dependency Unit (HDU) in the maternity unit, with funding from Jeff's family.

The unit that has six-bed capacity supports mothers in critical conditions to allow close monitoring in order to save lives of these mothers.

Sr Harriet Namutosi, in charge of the HDU explained that the unit handles about 50 mothers per month and most these present with severe complications resulting from eclampsia, haemorrhage and obstructed labour among others.

Harriet explained: "Before STM set up these HDUs, there was nothing in place to support close monitoring of critically ill mothers. Even the critically ill mothers were managed on the main maternity ward. In most cases, mothers would just die without the health workers knowing what happened. The maternity unit handles about 700 to 800 mothers monthly."



Thank you MPHL alumni Allen Namutosi and Boaz Aruho for hosting the STM team in Mbale City.



At Boroboro Health Centre III in Lira STM was received with heartwarming traditional dances presented by students of St Katherine Secondary School.

Thereafter the team toured Boroboro Health Centre where STM is implementing an Emergency Medical Care Fund for vulnerable mothers and babies to support access to quality Antenatal Care and health facility delivery with support from Leila C Reader. STM work at Boroboro Health Centre started through a partnership with its alum Rev Susan Olwa.

Isaac Ringe the facility in-charge thanked STM for supporting Boroboro Health Centre: Our charges for MCH services have reduced due to support from Save the Mothers to the facility which is a Private and Not for Profit. "Antenatal Care (ANC) is now free. The facility conducts about 60 deliveries monthly.



Rev Susan (5th left) & Bishop Olwa (6th left) hosted STM.

Lango diocese, Church of Uganda - Bishop's residence

In Lira, STM met Rev Susan Olwa -MPHL 2005, who is a wife to Rev Canon Dr Alfred Olwa- Bishop of Lango diocese. The couple welcomed STM to their residence in Lira and hosted them to dinner.

In her remarks, Heather thanked Bishop Olwa and Rev Susan for the warm welcome to their home. "The effort and passion you have to saving the lives of mothers is amazing. Thank you for welcoming us to your home."

Bishop Olwa's message to Save the Mothers: "The work you do is the work of God... saving lives. There is no reason why we should be losing mothers to preventable deaths."

STM Conference

From page 1

by STM over the years in promoting maternal and child health in Uganda.

The Guest of honour Dr. Nsungwa Jessica called to alumni working in the field of maternal and child health to continue their efforts to reduce the maternal mortality rate in Uganda. Dr. Miriam invited STM to form an association to bring together students and alumni.

Ambassador Robie Kakonge who closed the conference shared greetings from the Ugandan embassy in Washington DC and echoed Dr. Miriam's call to form an STM association. She encouraged stakeholders to commit to ensuring that mothers have access to quality maternal healthcare services.

The conference featured presentations by Master of Public Health Leadership alumni. The presenters included Peter Olet, who showcased a project on community financing to improve health through one chicken per household and link a friend to health fundraisers. These coupled with provision of labour by the community has raised about 70 million Ugx (18,918 dollars) for construction of an operating theatre and maternity wing at Timagi Health facility in Oyam, northern Uganda.

Alumni Edith Naluwende also presented on renovation of old buildings to provide accommodation for health workers to serve the area of Bugiri. Other presenters included alumni Andrew Koolya, Edwige Namwanga, Rebecca Birungi and Gladness Munuo.

The conference speakers and presenters emphasized the importance of investing in innovative solutions to improve the quality of maternal and child health services.

By Samuel Othieno - STM well-wisher



L-R- Dr Mukooza (ED-STM), J Waako (STMEA -Baord), Hon S Ssinaluyila (STMEA Board Chair, Dr Jean (Founder STM), M Kieamuka (STM Board) Dr E nakabembe STM Board & Dr M Mutabazi (Outgoing STM- ED)



Presentations



Fireside chat



Networking



Awards



Dinning

