

STM in Oyam

Peter visits one of the households contributing chicken to improve services at TCMC.



On 4 Sept 2023 Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) conducted a field visit to Oyam district, northern Uganda to follow-up its alumnus Peter Olet who is implementing a game change project – a chicken per household for local health financing for Timagi Community Medical Centre (TCMC). Peter who is one of TCMC founders and the facility's administrator brought this change project to the limelight during the STMEA 2023 Conference in May.

In an interview with STM, Peter revealed that: "Through the MPH program I discovered that I could champion change. I thought of ideas on to do things differently to save more babies and mothers; having had some nasty experiences of mothers dying at the facility.

I recall one of the case of maternal mortality that was due to post-partum hemorrhage after a home delivery. She delivered from home. They rushed here and the mother was bleeding a lot. We referred but on arrival at the next facility, she passed on.

The district health office initiated a maternal death audit at TCMC. This was a bad experience but with many lessons. Thereafter I started engaging different stakeholders to think through ways of saving more lives. This resulted into the proposal to construct a new building to house an operating theatre and a maternity ward. People picked interest. But how was unanswered. We started writing proposals to various development partners but failed to secure funding.

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MPHL 2024 INTAKE Save the Mothers is now receiving applications for a Masters Degree in Public Health Leadership at Uganda Christian University
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Academic updates

By Josephine Namyalo

MPHL Advent Semester: Welcome back MPHL students class 2022 and 2023. The semester that started in Sept is online and will end in Dec 2023.

Writing week: On 25 -29 Sept STM's academics office conducted a dissertation writing week for MPHL students to aid them finish their research and submit for final examination. Over 13 students attended the writing week and these were supported by a faculty team of five lecturers led by Dr Edward Mukooza, STMEA interim Executive Director.

All 2018 -2019 students who have not yet submitted their dissertations, are encouraged to submit and defend before end of 2023. Students of 2020-2021 intake, wrap up your research.

For more information contact: Josephine, MPH Academic Coordinator -256-777730228

Gabriel Kareeng, congratulations on your graduation. Gabriel graduated on 28 July 2023 on the MPH program, Uganda Christian University 23 graduation ceremony.



Search for STMEA substantive Executive Director

The search for the STMEA Executive Director is ongoing following recruitment adverts in Aug 2023. We had more than 30 applicants. Five of these were MPH alumni. The selection process is ongoing and will be finalised by end of Nov 2023.

Lets pray for this process



Kajumba Theodora (L) speaks to stakeholders at the event



The RDC addresses safe motherhood stakeholders



Andrew initiated the midwives celebrations in Kagadi

Tapping into his wide networks, Andrew Koolya, MPHL alumnus recently mobilised Kagadi district stakeholders in safe motherhood to celebrate midwives day. Andrew who lives and works and in Kagadi district as a principal town clerk speaks about the event.

"This was the first of its kind in the district. The event that gathered stakeholders from Uganda, UK and Canada had over 95 midwives and other stakeholders in attendance.

The district was represented by Deputy Resident District Commissioner who was the guest of honour.

The District Health Office under the leadership of Theodora Kajumba, MPHL alumna agreed to embrace the celebrations every year with the aim of recognizing midwives contribution to safe motherhood.

Kagadi was well represented by the Medical superintendent and Principal Nursing Officer, plus the midwives.

After the celebrations Kagadi hospital NICU was equipped. The Permanent Secretary Min of Health saw the news and directed for immediate equipping of the unit. With support from Hoima Hospital, the NICU oxygen concentrators in Kagadi hospital were reported; Andrew revealed.

Networking for safe motherhood

The event also attracted the media that provided media coverage to ensure awareness creation at national and local level.

Midwives shared experiences and gaps that need urgent attention. These included among others the need to give the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) special attention and save lives of babies.

I am happy, in response to this call; Kagadi Hospital Board and district committed to give priority to NICU in the next financial year.

The best midwives received gifts donated by Kagadi Peoples' Secondary Old Boys (OBs) and Old Girls (OGs). I am an old boy of Kagadi People's secondary school so I mobilised my OBs and OGs to get involved in safe

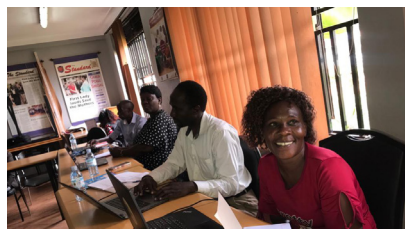
motherhood and thus the donation to the midwives.

Further, the mentorship training for Kagadi health workers, midwives in particular, was organized and achieved through networking with Hampshire Hospital midwives consultants as a follow-up on the midwives day celebration.

In June 2023, 8 consultants in midwifery conducted refresher training for midwives in Kagadi district on obstetric emergencies handling and safe birth.

Kagadi Hospital, Bajungu medical services Health centre, St. Ambrose Tutors and Midwives, Muhorro Doctors Clinic and Kyakasene Health Centre attended the mentorship training at Kagadi Hospital.

Preps for viva at the writing week #graduationherewecome



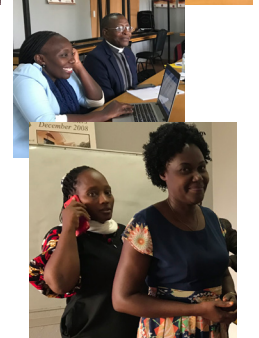
MPHL students, it was a pleasure seeing you at Mirembe Hall during the writing week. All the best as you prepare for the viva.

STM is committed to walking with you this MPHL journey to completion.

No Mother Or Child should die due to preventable pregnancy or childbirth complications



Dr Edward Mukooza



STM donates lifesaving equipment to hospitals

By Sarah Namee

STMEA's Programs Officer

Save the Mothers is committed to its vision of 'No Mother or Child Should Die due to preventable pregnancy or childbirth complications'. One of the ways STM works towards its vision is through partnerships with MPHL alumni and other safe motherhood stakeholders.

Save the Mothers under its Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) with support from Leila C Reader Fund donated two caesarean section kits to Nebbi General Hospital. This was on 19 July 2023.

Dr. Robert Paco, an MPHL alumnus received the donation on behalf of the hospital. He expressed his gratitude to STM for the donation.

Dr. Paco had expressed a need for C-section kits at Nebbi



Dr. Mukooza (L) and one of the midwives show off the garment

Having hospitals equipped with such lifesaving equipment reduce the third delay and thus contribute to reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity.

STM appreciates the support from Leila C Reader Fund and Jeffs Family.

General Hospital, explaining that the hospital had only three C section kits which were not enough.

In other news: STM, through the Jeffs Family Foundation donated 25 Non-pneumatic Anti Shock Garments (NASGs) and 25 BP machines to six health facilities in central Uganda. These facilities included St Francis Naggalama Hospital, St Francis Nyenga Hospital, Kawolo General Hospital, Mukono General Hospital and Mukono Church of Uganda Hospital. The donations were conducted in the first week of Sept 2023.

Buvuma Health Centre IV which is located on an island also received two NASGs and two Blood Pressure machines.

NASG is a low cost first aid device that limits persistent Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH).

It is used to stabilise women who are suffering from obstetric hemorrhage and shock. The life wrap NASG is a light-weight, washable and reusable first aid compression device. Life wrap NASG applies enough circumferential counter pressure to decrease blood loss and reverse shock by increasing blood pressure to the heart, brain and lungs.

On 19th Sept 2023, Save the Mothers trained 11 midwives in the use of the NASG, at Save the Mothers East, Mirembe Hall, Uganda Christian University. The midwives were from the six health facilities that received the donations of NASG.

Dr Edward Mukooza, STMEA Interim Executive Director closed the training ceremony.



Dr Edward Mukooza (L), takes a photo moment with the midwives who attended the training. 2nd left is the trainer.



NASG use demonstration



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SAVE the MOTHERS.org

One hen per household for health financing

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"I said, 'Now, what do we do?' The team engaged in more meetings and agreed to start fund-raising locally.

Work started in 2022 by using the available materials to make bricks on the site and dig sand. The question was how we would bring the sand to the site. I started thinking about what we have in this community, locally that can generate money to facilitate the transportation of sand to the building site, labour costs and buy other construction materials like cement. Almost every household has at least a hen"

Against this background Peter hatched the idea of one chicken per household. Stakeholders agreed on this idea.

But people asked, "A chicken?" "Yes, a chicken. It sounds crazy but it is working."



Peter shared with stakeholders a simple calculation: "If in Acaba sub-county where we have 8500 households and each household gives a chicken and we rate this at 10,000 UGX (2.67 USD), we can get 85 million UGX (22,667 USD)." The stakeholders bought the idea. With permission and clearance from the district authorities, TCMC started the local fund-raising drive. To date over 70 million UGX (18,667 USD) has been raised through the one hen per household drive. To complete this hospital block, TCMC needs over 100 million UGX (26,667 USD).

TCMC leadership team has a vision of having a fully-fledged hospital that is well equipped to save lives.

Over 70 million UGX has been raised through the one hen per household drive contributing to the construction of this hospital block. To complete this work, TCMC needs over 100 million UGX (26,667 USD).



Maternal & Child Health services at TCMC

Antenatal Care (ANC): 100 women per month. With support of free services under the voucher plus project, this number shot up to 250 women. Deliveries: 25 women per month. With support of the voucher project this number goes to an average 58 deliveries. TCMC benefited from the voucher project to support maternal and child health services including ambulance costs for referral and all related referral costs.

Nelson and his wife Bicky are some of the beneficiaries of Maternal and Child Health service at TCMC. The couple has six children. The youngest are new born twins, Ocen and Opio who were six weeks old during STM visit in Sept.

During ANC health workers used a scan to confirm that Bicky was carrying twins. Regarding Bicky's delivery Peter said that it was presentation of hand prolapse with twins which is already an emergency since she was carrying twins. "We acted very quickly, and referred her to Abere Health Centre IV."

STM Enhancement fund

Peter used the enhancement fund from the STMEA 2023 conference to top up on the resources TCMC had to procure a mini ultra-sound scan. The hospital now has an ultra-sound scan that is useful during antenatal care services and also make life saving decisions at delivery, as in the case of Bicky.



Nelson & Bicky are TCMC beneficiaries

