

Welcome Dr Nsubuga

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) is happy to introduce Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, the new Executive Director STMEA. "I am excited to be part of STM. I believe it is a calling to work in this area." Dr Mushin



Newest Game Changers

Save the Mothers was honoured to receive the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) class 2024, January intake for orientation at Uganda Christian University. The orientation was conducted on 29 Jan to 2 Feb. During the orientation week the students also attended lectures on site.

Thank you Dr Mukooza

Save the Mothers (STM) is grateful to Dr. Edward Mukooza who stepped in as interim Executive Director while the search for a substantive Executive Director was conducted in 2023. Dr. Mukooza has been a champion for STM during this past year. Thank you for your contributions to STM.

See handover details on page 3

Celebrate International Women's Day #inspireinclusion #countherin



Shamim



Catherine

Thank you to all MPHL students and alumni promoting women's empowerment. Edith G Naluwende MPHL 2012 uses the skills gained on the MPHL program to influence change for women in Buwuni-Bugiri district eastern Uganda. Shamim & Catherine are beneficiaries of Edith's work.

<https://youtu.be/smqb3xcCMh0>

Celebrate the Change - Cultivate the future @ STMEA Dialogue

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) game changers gathered to celebrate the change and cultivate the future at the STMEA dialogue held on 28 November 2023 at Uganda Christian University, Mukono and online. The dialogue that attracted over 50 students, alumni and faculty members had Dr Jean Chamberlain (Founding Director STM), Dr Edward Mukooza (Interim Executive Director) and Martha Ajilong (MPHL alum) as the speakers. Josephine Waako represented the STMEA Board.

Welcoming guests to the dialogue, Dr. Mukooza thanked the students, alumni and faculty for accepting the call to attend the event. He stated that with the rise of online learning, the distance between teachers and students had increased and that he and other faculty members miss interactions with the students. Dr Mukooza thanked Dr Jean for initiating the dialogue and her enormous contribution to STM and her in promoting safe motherhood in the region. He thanked Dr. Jean for

giving him a chance to work with STM as he recalled fondly the time they spent working on the MPHL program first curriculum.

Reflecting on the vision of Save the Mothers – *No Mother or Child Should Die due to preventable pregnancy or child birth complications*, Dr Mukooza recalled a maternal death in his family about five years ago. He lost his niece, a bright young lady, who died during child birth at only 25 years old. It is such preventable deaths that reaffirmed his dedication to the vision of Save The Mothers. He also noted that the reduction in the maternal mortality ratio signalled that Save the Mothers' efforts were being rewarded thus the theme of the dialogue- '**celebrate the change and cultivate the future.**'

Martha shared her work at the Uganda Blood Bank Transfusion services that earned her an award at the National Safe Motherhood Conference.

In her message, Dr Jean Chamberlain thanked everyone who had showed up to the dialogue and the people who had worked tirelessly to make it possible. She expressed her gratitude to her early collaborators during the infancy of Save The Mothers. Dr Jean presented on the positive change in maternal and child health indicators. **To page 2**



Academic updates

MPHL 2024 Class -Orientation Week at Mirembe Hall



Josephine



Welcome MPHL-2024 Class. It is a pleasure to have you at STM on the Master of Public Health program at Uganda Christian University (UCU). Josephine Waako MPHL 2011 and Rev Dr Richard Mulindwa (MPHL 2012) thank you for sharing your MPHL experiences with the students.



Rev Dr Mulindwa



Students take listen to Josephine Waako and Rev Dr Richard Mulindwa.

Easter semester is on-going with online lectures.
Exams will be in April 2024.
Vivas: 4 March 2024.
Writing week: 11-15 Mar 2024 for students working on their research.

For details contact: Josephine -0777730228

Camera's eye @STM Dialogue

From page one



Dr Jean



Students and alumni listen to the presentations

She noted that the maternal mortality ratio in Uganda had dropped from 336 maternal deaths/100,000 live births to 189/100,000 which is a significant step towards the goal of 70/100,000.

This falls short, further still, of the eventual target of 0 deaths per 100,000 live births. She hoped that Uganda's maternal mortality number is brought to about the same as Canada's (which has roughly the same population as Uganda) and called for all present to be a part of that change. She urged all to follow three steps: First, to reflect on the past and what was done right. Then, to consider the present and what challenges the mission faces at the moment and finally, to renew the commitment to work towards change. She called on the attendees to share their thoughts in group discussions.

Participants worked in three groups to share their views on the past, present and future of Save the Mothers.

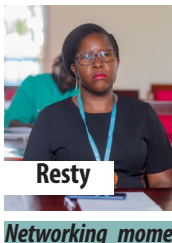
They recognized the need to form an STM network and have regular gathering to share trends and solutions in safe motherhood.



Dr. Mukooza



Martha



Resty



Josephine & Dr Mukooza

Networking moments



Umar & Dr Jean



Andrew, Thembo & Isaac



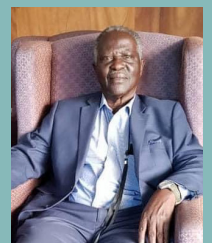
Peter, Enos & Isaac



MPHL 2023 students were well represented at the dialogue

Rest in Peace Dr Sam Biraro

MPHL faculty member, Dr Biraro died on 14 Jan 2024 and was laid to rest on 17 Jan in Sheema, western Uganda. STM greatly appreciates Dr Biraro's contribution on the Master of Public Health Leadership program where he started working in 2005 at its inception. "A God fearing great teacher. Very dedicated as a mentor to his students. His leadership lectures were typical of an African elder conversation, sharing life lessons & leadership expertise with such humour." **Dr. E Nakabembe, STMEA Board**
 "Bugiri district continues to assign me leadership roles because of your lectures." **Edith Grace, MPHL alum**



Dr Mushin Nsubuga's first days at STMEA

On 1 Feb 2024, Save the Mothers East Africa staff, led by Dr Edward Mukooza welcomed Dr Nsubuga as he started work as the new Executive Director for STMEA



Dr Mukooza (2nd right) introduces STMEA staff to Dr. Nsubuga (R) at STMEA offices - Mirembe Hall



A tour around Mirembe Hall



Donald, an MPH student, meets Dr. Nsubuga.

STMEA official leadership handover ceremony on 15 Feb 2024, Mirembe Hall, Uganda Christian University, Mukono

Hon Sylvia Ssinabulya, chairperson of the STMEA board officiated at the leadership handover ceremony from interim Executive Director STMEA, Dr Edward Mukooza to Dr Mushin Nsubuga as the substantive Executive Director.



Josephine: God, thank you for the new ED. You have set him apart for this noble cause.



Dr Mukooza

Dr Mushin

Dr Miriam Mutabazi who represented UCU welcomed Dr Nsubuga. She thanked STM for the partnership it has with UCU. "We cherish the STM program". Revealing that a PhD program in public health is in the offing, Dr Miriam noted that STM is an ideal research and training centre for PhD students.

Hon Sylvia: "One year ago we were in this hall witnessing the hand over to the interim ED. We gave ourselves a task that within one year we will have a full time ED. We are happy today to welcome Dr Mushin to STM." Hon Sylvia thanked Dr Mukooza for the great work.

Dr Edward Mukooza welcomed Prof Florence Mirembe, one of STM founders, who was at the event. He thanked her for being a special mentor, plus contributing to saving mothers in Uganda and serving STM. "I also welcome Dr Mushin. He is already in the office and in-charge." The Lord led us to you. You are assured of our support." Dr Mukooza also thanked the STM boards, alumni and staff.

He said that the high maternal mortality shows STM's relevance. Adding that STM has great potential to continue contributing to the reduction of maternal deaths.

Present at the ceremony were Josephine Waako-board member and

MPHL alum, Dr Miriam Mutabazi-Dean Faculty of Public Health Nursing & Midwifery -Uganda Christian University (UCU), MPHL alumni and STMEA staff.

In his inaugural speech, Dr Nsubuga thanked UCU, STM leadership, founders and the alumni for steering STM. He also thanked Dr Mukooza for his support.

Stressing the need for safe motherhood, Dr Nsubuga said that he has seen many mothers walk happily into hospital to deliver, but carried away later dead. He added that he has also seen many mothers walk happily into hospital to deliver, and later walk away happily. Reflecting on this, Dr Nsubuga said: "Safe Motherhood is a business for everyone." He pledged to focus on training game changers & research that translates into interventions to promote safe motherhood. "I assure you of my commitment and pray that God leads me." Dr Nsubuga concluded his speech by quoting from *Philippians 4:13*.

Prof Florence Mirembe thanked God for moving STM this far as she invited everyone to join her to sing *What a friend we have in Jesus*. She thanked the board chairperson for steering the move. She also thanked Dr Mukooza for the great job. Welcoming the new ED, Prof Mirembe said: "You did not choose to come. God chose you."

Stressing the relevance of STM, she said that there are many maternal deaths but doctors can do very little to avert these deaths as they see only the end bit of these cases. This led to the birth of STM to train multidisciplinary professionals as safe motherhood advocates to contribute to the prevention of these deaths:



Prof Mirembe

About 3500 women die annually as per available data. "But many more are dying and yet not known. We have a lot of work to ensure that mothers and their babies do not die."



Dr Miraim, Dr Mushin & Dr Mukooza



Cake

