

SAVE THE MOTHERS EAST AFRICA 2024

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE



FRIDAY,
26 APRIL 2024
NKOYOYO HALL,
UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY



NO MOTHER OR CHILD SHOULD DIE DUE TO
PREVENTABLE CHILDBIRTH COMPLICATIONS -
THE ROLE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONALS

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ACRONYMS

Amref:	African Medical and Research Foundation
ANC:	Antenatal Care
AOGU:	Association of obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda
BOTHM:	BA of Tourism and Hospitality Management
CDFU:	Communication for Development Foundation Uganda
DHO:	District Health Office
DRC:	Democratic Republic of Congo
MBFH:	Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
MCH:	Maternal and Child Health
MoH:	Ministry of Health
MP:	Member of Parliament
MPHL:	Master in Public Health Leadership
SCORED:	Simplified Call for Real Empowerment and Development
STEAM:	Save the Mothers East Africa
UCU:	Uganda Christian University
VC:	Vice Chancellor

OVERVIEW

SMALL STEPS IMPACTING POSITIVE CHANGE IN SAFE MOTHERHOOD

“What we are doing through Save the Mothers may be small in comparison with the need, but it’s making a difference because God is working through us and God notices what we do, Rev. Eng. Paul Sembiro, Chaplain Uganda Christian University (UCU) said in the opening prayer.

This was on Friday, April 26th, at the Save the Mothers East Africa 2024 Maternal & Child Health (STMEA 2024 MCH) Conference where a diverse congregation of 150 safe motherhood advocates from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC) Canada and USA convened. Their mission? To share insights, trends, and innovations shaping the landscape of safe motherhood under the theme: *No Mother or Child Should Die Due to Preventable Childbirth Complications - The Role of Multi-disciplinary Professionals.*

The conference which was held at Nkoyoyo Hall, UCU had in attendance Save the Mothers’ Master of Public Health Leadership students and alumni, faculty, UCU community, Ministry of Health, STM East Africa, STM Canada and STM USA board members, STM founders, STM funding partners, *NGO Partners*, friends and well-wishers. STM Canada team was led by the Vice Chair of the board, Heather Sinclair and STM Canada MD, Janet Sampson; while STM USA team was led by the board chair, Dr. Shaun Gills.



STMEA 2024 MCH conference comprised of speeches, presentations, panel discussions, exhibitions, an award-giving ceremony and a fundraiser to renovate Mirembe Hall. Dr. Charles Olaro, Director of Curative Services at the Ministry of Health (MoH) Uganda, was the guest of honor and the keynote speaker was Prof. Pius Okong, Chairperson Health Service Commission MoH & founding member of STM. Other speakers included Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, Executive Director, Dr. Olive Sentumbwe, one of the founding members of STM, Mr. David Mugawe, Dep. Vice Chancellor Finance & Admin, and Hon Musana Eric Acaali, Member of Parliament Buyaga East.

Guest of honor - DR. CHARLES OLARO



*MoH appreciates UCU role
in saving mothers through its
innovative approach*

Dr. Charles Olaro, Director of Curative Services at the Ministry of Health (MoH) Uganda, graced the event as the guest of honor and expressed the commitment of MoH to the safe motherhood cause. He noted that STMEA conference is key and timely especially in the area of reducing the three delays using multi-disciplinary professionals. *“This conference represents the*

passion of vigilant and multi-disciplinary professionals under the leadership of Save the Mothers; united with a shared commitment of improving maternal health.”

Dr. Olaro pointed out the significant reduction in maternal mortality rate from 336 to 189 per 100,000 live births in Uganda. He indicated that MoH acknowledges and appreciates the role of academic institutions like UCU in saving mothers through its innovative approach, which has trained multi-disciplinary professionals and championed change and contributing significantly to the change we are seeing. Calling delegates to action, Dr. Olaro said that despite these strides, a lot more needs to be done by multidisciplinary professionals.

Key note speaker – PROF. PIUS OKONG

Tracing the genesis of Save the Mothers multidisciplinary approach

Prof. Pius Okong, Chairperson of Health Service Commission and co-founder of Save the Mothers, delivered a keynote speech stressing the fact that we are able to prevent the death of a mother and a baby at different stages. He stressed the importance of multi-disciplinary professionals as he traced the genesis of safe motherhood in this region. *“Safe motherhood was conceived and launched in*

1987 in Nairobi as a major chapter where scientists and technical people recognized that we cannot tackle maternal mortality and children dying based on our work as scientists



and health workers alone. That's when we learnt of the multi-disciplinary approach to health issues." Prof Pius pointed out that this birthed the idea of training multi-disciplinary professionals on maternal and child health through a Master in Public Health Leadership program which was started in 2005 by Save the Mothers in partnership with Uganda Christian University.

"The Master of Public Health Leadership classes we ran at the beginning we brought police officers, media, teachers, social scientists, and we tasked them with case studies of what was happening in health centers. That interaction with different people enriched the experience for an academic program. MPHL students get their academic paper, finish the research, and now they have learnt to think systematically and have experienced the interaction of other professionals." Prof. Pius emphasized that physical interaction for students on the MPHL program is the core of training and formation. Because interaction with students from Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, West Africa, enriches the course by giving them the knowledge, that spurs the program and that's what is sustainable when students leave the program.

SPEAKERS

Among the speakers were Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, Executive Director of STMEA, and Dr. Olive Sentumbwe Mugisa, one of Save the Mothers founders and a stalwart of maternal health advocacy, Mr. David Mugawe, Dep. Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration at UCU and Hon. Musana Eric Acaali, Member of Parliament.

Dr. Mushin Nsubuga—Executive Director STMEA

The rest of us contribute 90% of making sure that mothers do not die. Doctors contribute 10%

Dr. Nsubuga Mushin stressed that maternal mortality is a tragedy that needs action of multidisciplinary professionals. *"Twelve mothers are going to die by the end of today in Uganda because of the three delays. Health workers can only prevent 10% of maternal deaths."* Emphasizing the importance of the multi-disciplinary approach, Dr. Nsubuga noted that all the non-medical people contribute to the rest of the 90% of making sure that mothers do not die. Through the multi-disciplinary approach, Dr. Nsubuga said that STM offers a Masters of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) to ensure that the few medical personnel who address the 10% are equipped, but more so the rest of the non-medical who should address the 90%. To contribute to reducing the third delay Dr. Nsubuga revealed that STM implements the Mother Baby Friendly Initiative (MBFHI) in 15 hospitals in Uganda.





Dr. Olive Sentumbwe: Co-Founder STM

The gradual decrease in mothers who are dying because of pregnancy related causes is the work of all stakeholders here today doing small things and eventually making impact in the communities.

“For me and for many of us who have been at the front line of supporting mothers and their families to bring forth a new baby, it has been a wonderful experience.” ... 19 years of Save the Mothers. This program has grown. Reflecting on the 500 graduates who have gone through the MPHL program and who made about 70% of the conference delegates, Dr. Olive thanked the STM founders and UCU leadership who made the MPHL course possible. She also thanked the great people who have gone through Save the Mothers’ MPHL program for all the projects they are doing and serving in different sectors. Dr. Olive called upon legislators to increase the budget towards maternal and child health since this contributes significantly to economic growth of any country.

Concluding her remarks Dr. Olive pointed out the gradual decrease in mothers who are dying because of pregnancy related causes. *“In 2016, we were at 336 per 100,000 live births and now it is at 189. It’s the work of many stakeholders including you who are seated here. Each of us doing small things and eventually making impact in communities in which we work.”*

Mr. David Mugawe– Vice Chancellor Representative

Save the Mothers has distinguished its identity in this institution.

Mr. David Mugawe, Dep. Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration who represented the University Vice Chancellor said that it’s a joy for Uganda Christian University to witness a conference like this. He said that it gives UCU very special flavour as an institution of higher learning to be part of this event and Save the Mothers, which has good practices that the University is proud of. *“We had a council meeting last year and there was an observation that as UCU we are strong in terms of teaching and learning, we are growing in terms of research, and our community outreach was an area that needed to be strengthened. In that council meeting an example was given; why don’t we do more Save the Mothers.”* Mr. Mugawe revealed that this means that Save the Mothers has distinguished its



identity in the institution. He added that STM is a model that UCU recognises and replicates. *“There was also an example given that as an institution we are as good as our graduates, and the examples that were given following that statement were Save the Mothers’ graduates. The person who was speaking had attended the previous conference and said, when he came here, he walked around the different displays and listened to what was happening out there. He said, “this is what UCU should be about.”* Mr. Mugawe highlighted that this conference was a celebration of something that is not only academic but something that is impacting and transforming society. He noted: *“All that we do academically is empty unless it touches a life, an individual, unless it causes a smile. Today it’s a conference but also a celebration of what STM has attained. We are marking 20 years next year, and as UCU we are honoured that we were selected to be the host of this excellent program.”*

Hon Musana Eric Acaali, Member of Parliament, Buyaga East, Kagadi District

Saving mothers is my responsibility and your responsibility

Hon. Musana who is an advocate of safe motherhood indicated that through partnerships with his colleagues from Kagadi district they are implementing interventions to save mothers. He noted that the Government of Uganda is working hard to make sure that mothers are safe. Hon.

Musana called upon everyone to take on the responsibility of saving mothers. *“It is not just a responsibility of Government. It’s my responsibility and it’s your responsibility. Now we are in the budget cycle as parliament of Uganda and we are saying that saving the mothers should be catered for. As a member of parliament, I have procured a community ambulance for my constituency and distributed mama kits for mothers. I have also participated in improvement of health facilities using locally available materials.”*



PRESENTATIONS

Presenters including distinguished alumni of the Master of Public Health Leadership program Rogers Mandu and Selevano Thembo, illuminated the conference with their research findings and change initiatives.



SELEVANO THEMBO, MPHL graduate & district surveillance Officer Kagadi district
Taking safe motherhood services to the hard-to-reach villages

Thembo's presentation was on a change project he is implementing in a hard-to-reach community, Ndaiga village, Kagadi district in western Uganda. Ndaiga is bordered by escarpments that make it hard for mothers to access maternal and child health services.

Problem - In his presentation Thembo explained that the problem was limited access to Antenatal Care (ANC) Services for pregnant women in Ndaiga: Performance reviews conducted on health centres revealed that an indicator of ANC was zero in this village. *"According to the population, we were expecting 500 mothers accessing health and maternal services per year."*

Intervention - Community engagement: Thembo initiated meetings with community leaders and village health teams in Ndaiga. The meetings revealed that there were no ANC services offered at the health facility because it was a health centre II. A few mothers who accessed ANC services had to travel by boat to Ntoroko or Hoima districts and this was very costly. The interventions to address the challenge included engagements with local leaders. The local council community leaders pledged to provide a boat and an engine to transport pregnant mothers and the pregnant mothers agreed to contribute some money for fueling the boat engine to go for ANC outreaches.

Results: This initiative resulted into five outreaches conducted, 58 pregnant mothers making at least four visits and an increase in the number of mothers getting ANC services.

ROGERS MANDU, MPHL graduate -
Quality improvement intervention package for preterm births.

Rogers presented a study on quality improvement collaboratives as part of a quality improvement intervention package for preterm births at sub-national level in East Africa. A Quality Improvement Collaborative (QIC) was implemented as part of a quality improvement intervention package designed to improve newborn survival in Kenya and Uganda, using a multi-method approach to describe how a QIC was used as part of an overall improvement effort, specific changes measured and participant perceptions of the QIC. The study was conducted in a collaborative network of different hospitals in Busoga sub region, eastern Uganda with Jinja Hospital as the epicentre.

Problem - Data strengthening initiatives were done using a modified childbirth checklist due to the fact that issues of immaturity had been ignored even in the documentation. The data was



captured after introducing a number of indicators. It was a challenge for each of the hospitals to identify preterm labour. The teams worked on identifying some local solutions and came up with different ideas, for example identifying preterm labour.

Results - Run charts for all indicators reflected an increase in evidence-based practices across both countries. In Uganda, pre-QIC median gestational age (GA) recording of 44% improved to 86%, while Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) initiation went from 51% to 96% and appropriate antenatal corticosteroid (ACS) use increased from 17% to 74%. In Kenya, these indicators went from 82% to 96%, 4% to 74% and 4% to 57%, respectively. Qualitative results indicate that participants appreciated the experience of working with data, and the friendly competition of the QIC was motivating. The participants reported integration of the QIC with other interventions of the package as a benefit.

IRENE NAKAMATTE - nursing student:

A case of medical waste management

Nakamatte presented her research '*Effect of an Education Intervention Based on utilization of an Individualized Rapid Assessment tool on knowledge, attitude and practice of health care workers on management of medical waste at Health Centre IIIs in Uganda*'. The study was piloted in two Health Centre IIIs in Mukono. The results showed the need for leaders to train health care workers on how to use that tool. It encourages the leaders in health administrative roles to provide requirements for management of medical waste. The study showed that this tool is very effective, and knowledge and attitude towards waste management improved.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The panelists who included Prof. Justus Barageine, Moses Kyangwa, Martha Ajilong and Dr. Jean Chamberlain shared unique perspectives, emphasizing the importance of contextualized solutions within a global frame work of best practices, the need for partnerships and harnessing research.



**MOSES KYANGWA, MPHL graduate and Chief Executive Officer,
Busoga Health Forum**

Save the Mothers program equips leaders with skills to find solutions to safe motherhood challenges

Moses shared on how he uses his workspace to promote the safe motherhood agenda. Moses indicated that with knowledge he acquired from Save the Mothers, saving mothers is a responsibility of everyone. *“Save the Mothers program has equipped many of us from the region and we got challenged especially during the time of COVID when everything was cut off. During this period, we decided to go digital, mobilised and registered 6000 professionals in Busoga. We started discussing how women can access care because people were dying. We formed leadership and within one year, we mobilised around 200 million UGX from local individuals and formed Busoga Health Forum. In the second year we mobilised 600 million UGX from local people. Some of the activities include conducting health camps to screen mothers of TB and hypertension.”* Mr. Kyangwa revealed that currently they run an organisation with an annual budget of 2 billion UGX and most of this money is from the local professionals in Busoga. He said behind this is the power of partnerships, collaborations, community engagements. *“These are some of the skills we got from the Save The Mothers program.”*

**MARTHA AJILONG—MPHL graduate working with
Uganda Blood Transfusion Services Soroti**

Wherever we are placed we can change the narrative for better safe motherhood outcomes

Martha shared insights on how to strengthen the health system, based on her experience as a non-medical professional. Before she enrolled on the program, Martha’s work was to mobilise communities and teams for collecting blood and blood donations. Enrolling on the MPHL program empowered Martha to realise the power within her to make a difference. In the regional referral hospital, there was always a challenge in that blood could be there but the connection to have it when required was a hurdle. Martha noted that there was always a blame game between facilities and blood bank. For many maternal deaths, the facility would say there was no blood, yet the bank had blood. Martha addressed some of these challenges by:

- Becoming a liaison person between the teams of gynaecology and paediatricians so that they can reach out to her office immediately whenever blood was needed.
- Held engagement with maternity teams to discuss the gaps regarding blood. This resulted into the maternity unit having a few units of blood in their maternity fridge to cater for emergencies during odd hours of the night.
- Set up a WhatsApp platform with all lab staff and in charges of all the transfusing Units within the DHO’s office. This platform is used for easy communication regarding the blood needs in various health facilities.

“As Save the Mothers, we are multi-disciplinary actors, wherever we are placed we can change the narrative. One doesn’t have to be in a big position to change the narrative. Start

from where you are. Everyone of us can identify where there is a gap in our places of work or communities and start from there. We are all positioned uniquely to make a contribution to better the outcomes of mothers and children.”

PROF. JUSTUS BARAGEINE – President, Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU)

Prof. Justus shared on research and implementation. He noted that we cannot stop maternal deaths without systematically following it. He thanked MoH for the local maternity network which provide some form of research where you are in your community, a woman dies, you analyse what could be the cause, follow it and present it to the whole country. He noted that one of the ways to make others learn is by having and sharing such statistics. Prof. Justus encouraged STM to strengthen its research agenda and support its students to write and publish their research. He said if all the MPHIL students produce and publish one paper, UCU would greatly promote its research arm.

“As a president of Gynaecologists in Uganda, I want to commit before my predecessors that we are ready to support this unique program. Finally on the issue of local problems, local solutions, we need these problems to have universally acceptable solutions.”

DR. JEAN CHAMBERLAIN – founding director Save the Mothers

■ *Use the skills you have to save mothers and babies* ■

Speaking on the vision of Save the Mothers, Dr. Jean said that one thing that stands out is working together with other people: *“With different skill sets that we have, when we work together that is the power of this program. We came together and saw the need and that’s what has brought us all this far, and also having hope as Christians.”*

Dr. Jean encouraged the delegates especially the MPHIL students and alumni to look at the skills they have that can save mothers and children, here, in East Africa and beyond. When we look into the future, we don’t want to be only in East Africa, we need West Africa, they all have same issues and they need people working together with different skills, abilities to make a difference. In her final words Dr. Jean noted the need for safe hospital environment where mothers feel safe to have babies safely. *“Let’s look at the situation around us and work together.”*

LIFETIME ACHIEVERS AWARDS

The highlight of the event was the ceremony honoring the four founding members of STM: Prof. Florence Mirembe, Prof. Pius Okong, Dr. Olive Sentumbwe and Dr. Jean Chamberlain. Their unwavering dedication to the cause of safe motherhood was celebrated with heartfelt tributes and lifetime achievement awards, a reminder of the enduring impact of visionary leadership.

Lifetime Achievers Award

**in Recognition of the Visionaries, Architects, and Driving Forces
behind Save the Mothers**



**Dr Olive Sentumbwe
Mugisa**

**Prof Florence
Mirembe**

**Dr Jean Froese
Chamberlain**

**Prof Pius
Okong**

Your tireless dedication, and visionary leadership have shaped the very foundation of Save the Mothers and also paved the way for impactful change in safe motherhood, using the multi-disciplinary approach to saving the lives of mothers and babies. As we reflect on the journey you embarked upon over two decades ago, we appreciate your foresight, wisdom, and unwavering passion for our mission and vision that propel Save the Mothers forward. Today, Save the Mothers stands firm, inspired by your legacy of excellence for maternal and child health.

**It is with great honor that we bestow upon you the
LIFETIME ACHIEVERS AWARD;
to serve as a testament to your unparalleled dedication, selflessness,
and enduring legacy.**

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor. May your legacy continue to inspire and empower future generations.

■ No Mother Or Child Should Die or be harmed due to preventable childbirth complications ■

Board Chairperson STMEA
on behalf of STMEA, STM USA & STM Canada

26th
April
2024

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Presenters, panelists and moderators were also recognized for their active participation in the conference. They received certificates of appreciation.



Thanks to the moderators:



Joan Mugenzi



Peter Olet



Obed Kabanda



Lillian Akuze

EXHIBITIONS

Amidst the presentations, panel discussions and speeches, the conference also hosted an engaging exhibition, featuring partners such as Amref, Communication for Development Foundation Uganda, TIMAGE Community Medical Centre, Oyam district in northern Uganda, Mothers Heart Uganda, Life Care Foundation Uganda, and SCORED. Their innovative approaches and collaborative endeavors served as tangible displays of the collective commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes.



AMREF:

Lillian Mugisha, communication manager, Amref presented the different intervention they have implemented to improve the uptake of maternal and child health services. These include provision of E-vouchers for mothers in Kwen, Bukwo, Namayingo, Bukedea, Mbale and Kalangala to ensure that they receive services free of charge.

“Our new innovation is a cocono crib. It’s an innovation to protect new born babies. The material is bio-degradable, the mattress is perforated, the little net is treated. This crib has been approved by Ministry of Health. We have distributed these cribs to about 1000 teenage mothers across the country. The cost of the crib is about 30 dollars.”



Timage Community Medical Centre - Peter Olet, MPHIL graduate.

Timage shared the local initiatives for health financing in their hospitals through the chicken project in Oyam district northern Uganda. Peter said: *"It was hard to source donations to continue enhancing access to quality health care in our community. So, I introduced the idea of using locally available materials. We realised every household could at least afford chicken."* They started the construction of the theatre and general ward with a capacity of 55 beds. This year Peter's team managed to roof the building at a cost of 41 million Uganda shillings. Total costs is more than 100 million shillings. *"There is power in mobilisation. What we need to complete this structure is about US 22 million dollars only."* Peter invited partners to contribute towards the US 22 million dollars towards completion of this structures so that more mothers and babies are saved from dying from avoidable causes in this community.

CDFU: Racheal Babirye: Communication for Development Foundation Uganda implements social behavioural change interventions and the services are family planning, gender-based violence and maternal health. *"We also have a call centre where people call in and are given information and counselled. Adolescents sometimes find it hard to consult that's the reason we brought in a call centre. They call to inquire and we give them information, counselling and link them to different youth corner services."*

Mothers Heart Uganda:

Jeremiah Mbulamani, MPHIL graduate. Jeremiah presented the change project he is implementing in response to his MPHIL thesis; 'utilisation of maternal care health services among the women of the reproductive age'. *"After my graduation I was able to mobilise the community to see how best we can improve maternal health in my community of Mutoto, Mbale city. I founded Mothers Heart Uganda in 2016. We focus on health, education and empowerment. We have Golden Hill Junior school, where we have enrolled 302 pupils from kindergarten to primary seven."* Mothers heart also runs health related programs and advocacy in the community to enable women access antenatal care services and encouraging mothers to deliver in the hospital. They also have programs to empower women, youth and the men. *"I am happy to inform you that women economic empowerment has come up with very good results of income generating products made by the community women."*

Comment: *Empowering women through education and economic empowerment is really going to be a key saving issue in all our communities. We thank you because this is really practical, women become more confident, it's very inspirational for the families. We want to congratulate you and we are also sending greetings to these great women.*

SCORED:

Apio Janet, alumni of 2016 international class, presented the work of Simplified Call for Real Empowerment & Development (SCORED), a Community Based Organisation in Bugiri District, founded by Edith Grace Naluwende an MPHL graduate. We empower young girls and boys to earn a living through their own income generating activities. We train them in tailoring skills to make dresses, baby shoals and reusable pads and plumbing skills among others.

Comment: *We thank you and your colleagues for putting these together, you are indeed speaking to the needs of the mother and the new born. You are doing a lot to address the needs of the girl child. We encourage you to do more.*

Life Care Foundation Uganda:

Canon Boaz Aruho Mbagaya. MPHL graduate and founder of Life Care Foundation Uganda. Boaz thanked the MPHL faculty for enabling him realise that he is part of government and he could do something to cause change. He did his MPHL research on the role of the community in improving facility- based deliveries. *"I went in to the community and I found very many challenges that drove me to start Peoples Lifecare Foundation NGO, purposely to organise local resources to start a hospital to serve communities."* Canon Boaz said that they sensitized the community to save for delivery, just as they save for food and school fees. Mobilization was done through the church and VHTs to ensure that families start saving the moment the mother gets pregnant and attends antenatal care and prepare for a health facility delivery.

Canon also mobilized resources and constructed Mbale Peoples Hospital as a hospital to offer mother baby friendly services. *"We have had a breakthrough. Mothers come and pay cash or in kind in form of hens, beans and coffee. We also have an ambulance, thanks to the rotary club of Canada. We also thank Save the Mothers that partnered with us in ensuring that we cater for HIV pregnant mothers."*

Comment: *Thank you, Life Care Foundation Uganda, for helping mothers and believing that they are now Government thus providing affordable health care services. You need to write achievements you are making for other communities to learn from what you are doing. We give thanks to God for the things alumni are doing in the community.*

MPHL Tanzania graduates - Asteria Masawe:

The team is engaged in mobilizing and sensitizing the community about preventing anaemia by using beetroot, ginger and lemon juice mixture for expectant mothers to boost their immunity and lower chances of pregnancy and delivery anaemia related complications thus contributing to the reduction of maternal deaths.

Comment: *Thank you for your efforts. Share a write-up on the formula and process of preparing the mixture for others to learn and start the talk in our antenatal clinics.*

Save the Mothers presented its two programs:

The Master in Public Health Leadership that trains multidisciplinary professionals to save lives of mothers and babies as advocates in their communities; and Mother Baby Friendly Initiative that is implemented in 15 health facilities across different regions in Uganda to improve the quality of healthcare in the maternity units. Save the Mothers partners with its alumni to support MBFHI sites as advisors.

Renovate Mirembe Hall drive

The conference also featured a segment on renovate Mirembe Hall facilitated by alumnus Andrew Koolya. This segment was a fundraiser that raised over 10 million UGX.

Educ–entertainment

This segment of the conference was provided by Tripple P Primary School which is founded by MPHIL graduate, Plan Virginia. The pupils presented safe motherhood messages through songs and drama.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The conference brought together multidisciplinary professionals from across East Africa to discuss safe motherhood. Based on the presentations, speeches, panel discussions, and exhibitions, the following key recommendations emerged:

- **Strategic Partnerships:** It is essential to form strategic partnerships among stakeholders in the safe motherhood arena to reduce maternal and child mortality through impactful, incremental steps.
- **Experience Sharing:** Stakeholders should regularly convene to share successful strategies and experiences in implementing safe motherhood interventions.
- **Multidisciplinary Collaboration:** Collaboration with a wide range of multidisciplinary professionals, extending beyond the health sector, is crucial to prevent the first three delays that lead to maternal deaths.
- **Academic Partnerships:** Partnerships with academic institutions are vital for training, community engagement, and research in the field of safe motherhood.
- **Community Engagement:** Grassroots communities possess valuable local resources that can be leveraged to support safe motherhood initiatives.
- **Workspace Advocacy:** Professionals should utilize their workspaces and spheres of influence to advocate for safe motherhood and promote relevant initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The STMEA 2024 MCH Conference highlighted the significant role multidisciplinary professionals play in saving mothers and babies. The collaborative efforts of scientists, healthcare workers, and other professionals are essential in addressing both simple and complex maternal and child health (MCH) challenges. To sustain and accelerate the reduction in maternal mortality in developing countries like Uganda, it is imperative to implement strategies that engage multidisciplinary professionals at different levels in driving positive change in safe motherhood.

Tea and lunch

Meals were part of the conference.



SAVE THE MOTHERS NETWORK THINK TANK TASK FORCE SELECTED

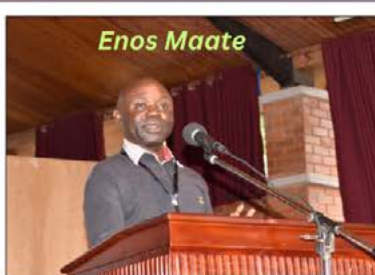
As the STMEA 2024 Maternal & Child Health Conference, came to an end the air was filled with a sense of accomplishment and renewed purpose. This saw Save the Mothers network of students, alumni, faculty, STM management usher in a Think Tank taskforce of alumni selected to stir the network forward as an established formal association to be unveiled at the 2025 STMEA MCH Conference.



THINK TANK TASK FORCE //ROAD 2 AGM 2025 STMEA NETWORK



Reuben Godson



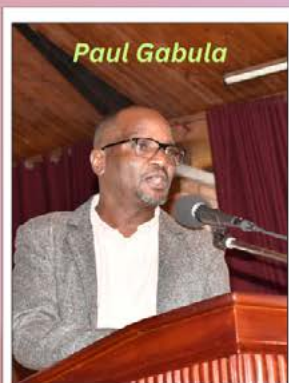
Enos Maate



Lillian Akuze



Grace Akot



Paul Gabula



Gladness Munuo



Peter Olet



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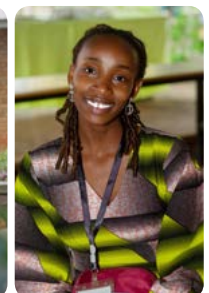
Jeremiah
Mbulamani



Harriet Nakanyike

MPHL alumni serving beyond self: Meet the task force that is planning the set up of a formal STM network to be launched @ STMEA 2025 MCH Conference. Members of this task force volunteered to serve during the STMEA network meeting on 26 April 2024, at Nkoyoyo Hall, Uganda Christian University. The president of the task force is Peter Olet. Thank you game changers.

PHOTO GALLERY



THANK YOU ALL OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, FRIENDS AND WELL WISHERS



All STM2024 Conference delegates

To our partners and supporters: Uganda Christian University, MPHL students, alumni and faculty UCU - School of Business – BA of Tourism and Hospitality Management (BOTHM), Marketing & Communications department. Government of Uganda – Ministry of Health MBFHI partners: Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Jinja Regional Referral Hospital, Tororo Hospital, Mityana Hospital, Nakaseke Hospital, Mubende Hospital, Mukono General Hospital, Kagando Hospital, Kawolo Hospital, Naggalama Hospital, Buikwe Hospital, Mildmay, and Boroboro Health Centre in Lira & Amai Community Hospital Lango Diocese, Mbale and North Mbale Dioceses

EXHIBITORS:

Amref, Communication for Development Foundation Uganda, Mothers Heart Uganda, Life Care Foundation Uganda, SCORED, Timagi Community Medical Centre – Oyam.

FUNDERS:

- Leila C Reader Fund,
- Stronger Together,
- Jeffs Family,
- Sisters of St Joseph

We believe in partnerships. Is your organization interested in collaborating with or sponsoring Save the Mothers? Contact Dr. Mushin Nsubuga at eadirector@savethemothers.org

Website: <https://savethemothersea.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/savethemothersnetwork/>



savethemothersea.org



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[STMEastAfrica](https://www.youtube.com/STMEastAfrica)

**#STMEA MCH2025 Convention -
25 April 2025,
Save the Mothers @ 20 years
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Thank you for attending...



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