



27,000,000 Million UGX raised for Mirembe Hall at UCU

In April 2024, during the annual Safe Motherhood Conference, Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) launched a renovation drive for Mirembe Hall, our home at Uganda Christian University (UCU).

This initiative was championed by a dedicated Renovation Committee that comprised of Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) alumni: R Birungi, H Nakanyike, S Thembo, Dr. O Kabanda, M Mukalu, and A Koolya -chairperson. A heartfelt thank you.

Andrew shares: "Special thanks to each of you MPHL students & alumni, board members, STM founders, and donors for your generous contributions!

Together, we raised 27,000,000 UGX, which has transformed Mirembe Hall."

Your support has enabled us to paint, renovate the rooms, refresh the lounge and kitchenette, and upgrade the beds, linen, curtains, and mosquito nets. Today, the interior of Mirembe Hall shines bright.

Save the Mothers appreciates UCU's contribution towards refurbishing Mirembe Hall roof. The next phase of painting the exterior and upgrading the lecture rooms shall be undertaken by UCU.

#TogetherWeThrive #MirembeHall-Renovation #SafeMotherhood

Save the Mothers at 20 Years

Join us for the Annual Safe Motherhood Conference as we mark 20 years of Save the Mothers on Fri, April 11, 2025, at Nkoyoyo Hall, Uganda Christian University. Register: <https://forms.gle/tEXcK-ykSBrupgMw1A>

Since 2005, the Master of Public Health Leadership program has trained over 500 change agents dedicated to safe motherhood. Through the Mother Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, we continue to impact maternal & child health in 15 hospitals promoting safe, respectful and dignified maternity care.

In Canada, our 20th Anniversary Fundraising Gala will be held on May 1, 2025, featuring Dr. Jean Chamberlain, founding ED STM & Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, ED STMEA. Funds raised will support safe motherhood initiatives in East Africa. **Let's celebrate together!**



Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative milestones



STM EXPANDS NICU IN AMAI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL: *Left:* The UCU engineering team hands over the NICU to STM and Amayi Community Hospital: Dr. Mushin Nsubuga-ED STMEA and Dr. Walter -Director of Amayi Community Hospital. *Right:* A mother cares for her newborn in the newly expanded NICU. **Story on page 2**



From page 1

Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative milestones

STM Expands NICU at Amai Community Hospital

In 2023, Save the Mothers (STM) established a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Amai Community Hospital, a major referral hospital in Amolatar district, northern Uganda. It was a level one NICU, with space for only one newborn baby. This limited the hospital's ability to meet the growing demand for neonatal care.

Recognizing this need, STM launched a project in 2024 to expand the NICU from level one to level two. By Feb 2025, the upgraded NICU was completed. On 17 Feb, the STMEA team led by Dr Mushin Nsubuga, Executive Director, alongside the UCU engineers, officially handed over the new NICU to the Hospital.

The upgraded facility which can accommodate up to 10 newborns has incubators and respiratory support

among other newborn care support. Designed to provide high-quality, family-centred neonatal care, the NICU prioritizes dignity, respect, and privacy for mothers and newborns.

This achievement was made possible through Save the Mothers' funding from Leila C. Reader Fund and support from Lango Diocese, Amolatar Local Government, the Amai community, and Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) alumni: Rev. Susan Olwa and Dr. Jimmy Odong.

Amai Community Hospital is one of STM's 15 MBFHI sites. Thank you to all our partners for making this life saving expansion a reality. *By Brenda Acheng, STM Programs Intern/MPHL student*



Handover: Dr. Mushin (R) discusses with the maternity in-charge and hospital director.



Dr. Mushin (centre) with Amai Hospital staff, the chaplain (left), and UCU engineer, Fred (right).



A group photo celebrating the STM-Amai Community Hospital partnership.

STM plans to expand & equip Tororo Hospital HDU



L-R: Dr Ochar, Dr Mushin, Brenda and Sr Stella



Sr Connie

STM visited Tororo district health office and Tororo General Hospital on 19 Feb 2025, to discuss the expansion of the Maternity High Dependency Unit at the hospital.

This aligns with the MBFHI, aiming to reduce the third delay barrier to timely, quality care at the facility level.

STM held discussions with key district and hospital leaders, who included Sr Connie Bwire (MPHL alumna)-Ag District Health Officer,

Dr Thomas Ochar-Hospital Director and Sr Stella Agembi (MPHL alumna)- Principal Nursing Officer. The expansion of the maternity HDU at Tororo General Hospital will result into more mothers with critical maternity complications to be served.

Currently the HDU at Tororo General Hospital accommodates one bed in a small room and has limited space for more equipment and work. Plans to expand the HDU to a three bed capacity are underway.

The expansion will increase capacity, providing more beds, equipment & adequate space for health workers to deliver life-saving care.

Ending preventable maternal and perinatal deaths is a global priority and key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Uganda has made progress, with maternal deaths dropping from 336 to 189 per 100,000 live births between 2016 and 2022 (Uganda Demographic Health Survey-UDHS). However, the 2022/2023 Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance Review Report shows the need to implement quality improvements processes at the health facility level to address the third delay.

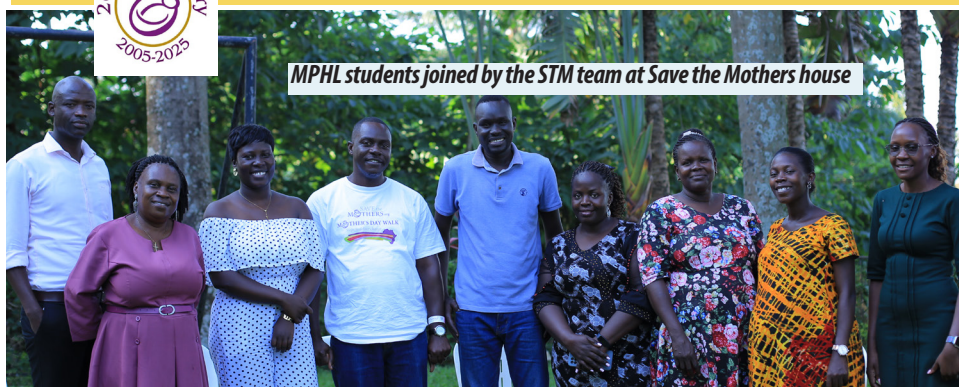
Maternity High Dependence Units are one of the innovative solution that provide critical care for mothers with severe complications. These units enable timely detection and rapid-appropriate interventions, helping to prevent avoidable deaths.

Neonatal mortality rate has decreased from 27 (UDHS 2016) to 22 deaths per 1,000 live births (UDHS 2020). Despite this progress life saving interventions such as setting up Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) to save newborns is still needed.

Save the Mothers East Africa continues to advocate and implement HDUs and NICUs to promote maternal and neonatal health.



Welcome new MPHL students #Jan intake



MPHL students joined by the STM team at Save the Mothers house

Writing week: To support students with research, the writing week was held on 17-21 Feb 2025. During this week 15 students were supported.

In Feb 2025, Save the Mothers proudly welcomed 15 new students on the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) program.

The students who arrived at Uganda Christian University (UCU) on 3 Feb for a two-week orientation are from Tanzania, South Sudan and various regions of Uganda. The students have now transitioned to online learning as they continue the semester.

We are excited to see these future safe motherhood champions embark on their journey to drive change in maternal and child health across East Africa!

STM joins UCU at East Ruwenzori Diocese Annual Retreat

Save the Mothers was honoured to join Uganda Christian University (UCU) team at the East Ruwenzori Diocese Annual Clergy and spouses retreat, on 15 -17 Jan 2025, at Afreka Hotel Kamwenge, western Uganda. The retreat was opened by the Rt. Rev. George Turyasingura, Bishop of the East Ruwenzori Diocese, with Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, Vice Chancellor of UCU, as the chief guest.

He co-facilitated the sessions alongside his wife, Mama Patience.

Save the Mothers was represented by Dr Mushin Nsubuga, Executive Director STMEA, who was among the key presenters on safe motherhood. Also presenting was MPHL alumnus Rev Dr Richard Mulindwa, UCU church relation lead.



Dr. Mushin Nsubuga fastens a Save the Mothers pin onto Bishop Kisembo's jacket, marking a partnership with the diocese in safe motherhood.



L-R: Prof. Mushengyezi, Rev Mulindwa, Mama Patience, Dr Mushin & Rev Esther.



A group photo capturing the spirit of collaboration

STM meets Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese

Save the Mothers joined Uganda Christian University (UCU) in a strategic meeting with Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo, Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese, to explore collaboration on urgent safe motherhood challenges. The meeting was held at the diocese offices in Fort Portal, on 31 Jan 2025.

Bishop Kisembo highlighted pressing concerns including maternal and neonatal mortality, teenage pregnancies and high HIV infections calling for joint action to address these issues.

The UCU team, led by Rev. Richard Mulindwa (MPHL alumn, Head, Church Relations, included Jennifer from UCU Partners and Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, STM Executive Director. Dr. Mushin reaffirmed STM's commitment to this safe motherhood partnership.



Above: Dr. Mushin Nsubuga pins a Save the Mothers pin onto Bishop Kisembo's jacket, symbolizing a shared commitment to improving safe motherhood in Ruwenzori.



UCU-STM team joins the Bishop and his team for a group photo.

Save the Mothers is honored to collaborate with faith leaders in advancing maternal and child health within their communities.

A special thank you to Rev. Dr. Mulindwa for leveraging his influence to champion safe motherhood.

Together, we can save mothers and babies!



Save the Mothers East Africa
(STMEA) Uganda Christian University,
<https://savethemothersea.org/>
Editor/graphic designer: **T. Agutu**,
Photographers: **R Masiga, A Bugembe, T Agutu, B Achieng**
Contributors: **B Acheng, A Koolya**
Reviewer: **Dr M Nsubuga**

