

UCU honours Dr Jean Chamberlain Froese



L-R: D Jones, Eng D Kivumbi, Rev P Ssembiro, Dr M Nsubuga, Dr J Chamberlain, Prof A Mushengyezi & H Adong.

On April 17, 2025, Uganda Christian University unveiled the Jean Chamberlain Froese House in recognition of Dr. Jean's exceptional contribution to the University's maternal & child health agenda through the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) – Save the Mothers. Presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, the event celebrated Dr. Jean as a renowned obstetrician, and founding Executive Director of Save the Mothers and one of the founding members. Through the MPHL, UCU has trained over 500 professionals across the globe to champion safe motherhood.

To reduce maternal deaths in Sub Saharan countries like Uganda, addressing the third delay by promoting timely and appropriate emergency care to avert maternal mortality is crucial. Through the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, (MBFHI) Save the Mothers (STM) is transforming maternity care in 15 hospitals across Uganda. An example is the recent expansion of the Maternity High Dependency Unit (HDU) at Tororo General Hospital in eastern Uganda.

In 2018, STM established a one-bed HDU which has saved over 150 mothers since inception. As demand grew, expansion became a priority. In early 2025, STM embarked on the expansion works in partnership with Uganda Christian University, Tororo district and hospital leadership.

The upgrades involved expanding the one-bed maternity HDU to a three-bed unit. Upgrades included new flooring, ceiling, painting, lighting, plumbing, mosquito-screened windows, power outlets, and custom-built emergency supply cabinets and a workstation. These upgrades which are aligned to the Ministry of Health HDU standards address safe, dignified and respectful maternity care.

With more space created, the maternity HDU was equipped with three HDU beds, patient

STM Expands Tororo Hospital Maternity HDU



Tororo Hospital team, district officials and STM team at the Tororo Hospital Maternity HDU launch



A mother receives care in the maternity HDU at the hospital. Right: Diane Jones (L) addresses district officials, Tororo Hospital staff, management and board during the maternity HDU launch. She revealed that her personal maternal related loss drives her to support, fund and advocate for safe motherhood.

monitors, oxygen concentrators and cylinders. The expanded HDU was launched on April 17, 2025. In attendance were Dr Jean Chamberlain-STM Founding Director, Dr Mushin Nsubuga Executive Director STMEA, Diane Jones-STM donor, Harriet Adong-Director UCU Communication & Public Relations Director, Tororo district leaders, hospital leaders and staff, MPHL alumni.

By Teopista Agutu

This expansion is a replicable model for maternity HDUs. STM thanks Diane Reader Jones, Dan & Janet Crouse and all partners who made this milestone possible.

MPHL Students conduct field visit to CDFU & Mukono General Hospital

At Save the Mothers, learning goes beyond the classroom. As part of the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) program, students are continually exposed to the realities of Uganda's healthcare system through field visits. These experiences provide an essential bridge between theory and practice, empowering future leaders to design, lead, and implement community-responsive maternal and child health interventions. Brenda Acheng shares MPHL students' updates

Communication for Development Foundation Uganda

In May 2025 MPHL Class 2024 conducted a field visit to Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU) as part of Health Promotion Strategies for Safe Motherhood course unit.



At CDFU, students explored the power of communication in influencing behaviour change and improve health outcomes.

Through interactive sessions with CDFU staff, the students gained a deeper understanding of how strategic messaging and community



MPHL students at CDFU were received by A Nankunda (3rd right) ED-CDFU & MPHL alumna. The students were led by Dr Lillian Luwanga - MPHL lecturer (4th right) & B Acheng - STM program Assistant (L).

engagement can influence maternal and child health behaviour. The experience also highlighted the importance of tailoring communication methods to local contexts and leveraging media to amplify public health impact.

Mukono General Hospital

MPHL students of class 2025 conducted a field visit to Mukono General Hospital, central Uganda in May 2025. Mukono General Hospital delivers over 900 babies each month.

During the field visit at the hospital students observed a dedicated team of 32 midwives, many serving on a voluntary basis.

The field visit also gave the students an opportunity to engage in open dialogue with the

hospital administrators about the challenges and innovations in delivering quality maternal healthcare, valuable discussions with international students, offering cross-cultural perspectives on childbirth and health system gaps.



MPHL students at Mukono Hospital. The students were led by Dr Nsubuga Mushin (4th left) STMEA - ED

Concept Review Sessions

The session was held on 26–27 May 2025 at Mirembe Hall, Uganda Christian University. 11 MPHL students (Easter Semester 2025), presented their research concepts and received guidance from Public Health Faculty research team to refine their research proposals.

Viva

The viva was held on 26 May 2025. Six MPHL students defended their dissertations and are on track for graduation in October 2025.

Writing Week

The writing week was conducted on 16–20 June 2025. 39 students presented their research work at different stages: dissertations, research proposals and research concepts to the faculty research experts for guidance.

SAVE the
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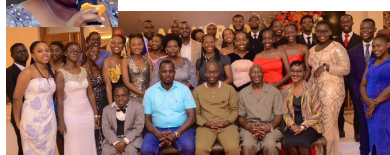
Editor/graphic designer: T. Agutu
Photographers: R Masiga, A Bugembe, T Agutu, B Acheng
Contributor: B Acheng
Reviewer: Dr M Nsubuga



Tanzania: Alumni Gladness & Saïda meet



Alumna Cathy Mwesigwa at UCU Media & Journalism Dinner



Connecting with MPHL alumni



Lira- northern Uganda: Alumna Rev Susan Olwa (R) and her husband Bishop Alfred Olwa meet Dr Jean (L).



Alumnus Mosika Sembu from DRC



Tororo- eastern Uganda: Alumna Connie Bwire (L) with Dr Jean



Mbale- eastern Uganda: Alumnus Jeremiah (L) with J Diane

Standing With You in Prayer and Solidarity

We extend our prayers to all Save the Mothers members who are grieving the loss of loved ones, facing illness, or walking through difficult seasons. We are holding you in prayer.
 May God's peace, strength, and guidance carry you through. Psalm 34:18

STM launches Amai Community Hospital NICU

Uganda's neonatal mortality rate stands at 22 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is nearly double the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 target of 12 per 1,000 by 2030. This underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions to save newborn lives and accelerate progress toward SDG targets. Interventions such as Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) can save newborns.

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, Save the Mothers in collaboration with Uganda Christian University (UCU), Amolatar district and Lango Diocese have set up Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Amai Community Hospital in Amolatar District, northern Uganda.

The NICU which was launched in April 2025 marks a major step in providing life-saving care for critically ill newborns in this rural region. It reflects the ongoing impact of STMEA's work to strengthen health systems and reduce newborn deaths.

During the NICU launch mothers in the maternity ward received care packages from STM-UCU team to support their newborns.



A mother of a sick newborn is joined by Dr Jean & Diane in the NICU at Amai Community Hospital.



Left: Diane Jones congratulates a new mother and shares with her newborn care package.



Right: STM-UCU team led by Dr Mushin Nsubuga - ED STMEA meets mothers in the maternity ward and donates newborn care items.

Present at the launch were Dr Mushin Nsubuga -ED -STMEA, Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese - STMEA co-founder, Harriet Adong - UCU Communication & Public Relations Director and Diane Jones, a longtime STM donor whose generous support made the NICU possible. **Thank you Diane.**

Through its multidisciplinary approach, Save the Mothers partnered with Ruwenzori Diocese, at a 3-day conference for over 600 lay readers, catechists, and their spouses. The conference was held at Kyebambe Girls School, Fort Portal, western Uganda.

The conference that run from 22 to 24 May 2025 was organized by the Church of Uganda, Ruwenzori Diocese. It focused on safe motherhood and HIV prevention and care.

Participants engaged activities such as safe motherhood talks and discussions, HIV counselling and testing, blood pressure and body weight screening, entrepreneurship presentations and daily devotions.

The HIV testing services were officially launched by Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo, Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese, alongside Mr. Richard Rwabuhinga, LC5 Chairperson of Kabarole District.

Empowering Church Leaders for Safe Motherhood



Rt Rev Reuben Kisembo in a group photo with STM-UCU team, LC 5 chairperson and the lay readers with their spouses.

Below

L: HIV testing was kicked off by the Bishop and LC 5 Chairperson

R: A conference participant takes the test



Rt Rev Reuben Kisembo

Lay readers are key influencers in their communities. Equipping them with knowledge and skills strengthens their role as safe motherhood and HIV prevention advocates.

Key speakers at the conference included STMEA Executive Director, Dr. Nsubuga Mushin, and Uganda Christian University



Church Relations team lead and MPH alumna Rev. Dr. Richard Mulindwa.

This engagement was a follow up on a strategic meeting Save the Mothers and Uganda Christian University held in Jan 2025 with Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo, Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese.

By Teopista Agutu