

SAVE the
MOTHERS.org



SAVE THE MOTHERS EAST AFRICA January 2024 – June 2025 REPORT



STMEEA

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Male involvement is key for safe motherhood.



A maternity High Dependency Unit in one of the Mother Baby Friendly Hospitals for critically ill mothers.

ACRONYMS

CPA	Certified Public Accountant
HDU	High Dependency Unit
MBFHI	Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
MPHL	Master of Public Health Leadership
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
STMEA	Save the Mothers East Africa
UCU	Uganda Christian University
UJA	Uganda Journalism Association
WHO	World Health Organisation
UDHS	Uganda Demographic Health Survey



STMEA Leadership team: Dr Edward Mukooza - outgoing interim Executive Director STMEA, Dr Mushin Nsubuga - Executive Director, Prof Florence Mirembe (Founding Member) and Hon Sylvia Ssinabulya - Board Chairperson

1. SAVE THE MOTHERS OVERVIEW

Save the Mothers (STM) is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to reducing maternal and newborn deaths from preventable causes. STM addresses the three delays through a multidisciplinary approach using the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) and Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI).

STM offers the MPHL program in collaboration with Uganda Christian University to train professionals from diverse fields to champion innovative maternal health initiatives in their communities. Through the MBFHI, STM works with 15 health facilities across Uganda to strengthen safe, respectful and dignified maternity care.

Every year, 280,000 mothers and 2 million newborn die from preventable complications. SDG goal 3 is to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030 and reduce neonatal mortality to at least 12 per 1,000 live births. Uganda has

made significant progress in the reduction of maternal mortality from 336 per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 189 per 100,000 live births 2022 according to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS).

STM is committed to contributing to the SDG 3 through its a community-centered multidisciplinary approach.

Prof. Pius Okong Reflects on the Genesis of STM

Founding partner shares the history and vision behind Save the Mothers.

<https://youtu.be/0cbicniAT8Y?si=HotK2QK7cRH9IYqI>

Vision: A world where no mother or newborn should be harmed or die from preventable causes related to childbirth.

Mission: To train, mobilise and equip networks of dedicated professional leaders within strategic context and professions to reduce maternal mortality within their own countries.

Figure 1: STMEA Strategic Plan Pillars



2. FOREWORD

Globally, maternal and newborn health continues to demand urgent attention, despite progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3). In Uganda, steady improvements reflect collective efforts even as more must be done to ensure every mother and newborn thrives.

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) responds to this challenge to improve maternal and newborn health through its strategic pillars of training and research, community engagement, sustainability and strengthening alumni. These align to Uganda Christian University's mission to develop leaders transforming communities.

Between January 2024 and June 2025, STM marked 20 years of advancing safe motherhood through milestones including the graduation of 23 Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) students, recruitment of professionals on the MPHL program, implementing the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative that involved upgrades of maternity High Dependency unit in Tororo General Hospital and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, in Amai Community Hospital in Amolatar district and health worker training to improve quality and respectful maternity care.

Through robust advocacy and partnerships with government, faith-based institutions, civil society, and the media, STMEA engaged over 740 clergy, trained journalists in maternal health reporting, and coordinated blood donation campaigns for maternal health. The program also convened two Annual Maternal and Child Health Conferences, bringing together more than 320 delegates from eight countries to share knowledge, innovations, and policy solutions for maternal and newborn survival.

Digital and communications efforts, amplified program visibility, while enhanced financial and administrative systems ensured transparency, accountability and sustainability.

These achievements reaffirm our shared commitment to sustainable, community-driven action to advance maternal and newborn health. We remain deeply grateful to our partners whose dedication continues to give hope to mothers and babies.


Dr Mushin Nsubuga,
Executive Director STMEA.



3. STRATEGIC DIRECTION



STMEA-UCU leadership. L-R: Janet Sampson - Managing Director STM Canada, Dr Shaun Gills - STM USA Board Chairperson, Dr Mushin Nsubuga - Executive Director STMEA, Prof Aaron Mushengyezi - Vice Chancellor UCU, Heather Sinclair - STM Canada Board Chair, Dr Jean Chamberlain - Founder and Board Member STM, and David Smith, Board Member STM Canada.

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) strengthened its governance, leadership, and institutional partnerships to advance its vision of a world where no mother or newborn dies from preventable causes.

A key milestone was the transition of the Executive Director role from Dr. Edward K. Mukooza to Dr. Mushin Nsubuga in February 2024, officiated by Hon. Sylvia Ssinabulya, Chairperson of the STMEA Board. This smooth succession marked a new chapter in organizational growth.

In April 2024, STMEA leadership, with representatives from Save the Mothers Canada and USA, met Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, Vice Chancellor of Uganda Christian University (UCU). These engagements resulted in the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between UCU and STMEA, reaffirming shared commitments to training leaders for innovative maternal and newborn health, research, and community engagement for safe motherhood. The same period saw the successful convening of the STM Tri-Board Meetings (STMEA, STM Canada, and STM USA), strengthening collaboration and accountability across the global network.

In May 2024, STMEA finalized a seven-year Strategic Plan (2024–2031) to align its work with evolving maternal and newborn health priorities under Sustainable Development Goal 3. The process engaged STMEA

leadership staff, UCU leadership, MPHL students and alumni, and partners from the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI).

The Strategic Plan underscores STMEA's commitment to strengthening training and research, deepening community engagement and fostering a vibrant alumni network, to promote institutional sustainability.

During the year, STMEA also updated key policy manuals, including Human Resource, Finance, and Procurement, enhancing transparency and operational efficiency. These efforts reinforced leadership, accountability, and partnerships, positioning STMEA to deliver greater impact in maternal and newborn health.



Dr Edward Mukooza hands over STMEA directorship to Dr Mushin Nsubuga

4. MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP (MPHL)



October 2024 MPHL graduates

The Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) program achieved significant progress in curriculum review, student recruitment, teaching coordination, research support, publication, scholarship and graduation.

Curriculum Review

In collaboration with the Department of Public Health at Uganda Christian University (UCU), STMEA embarked on a comprehensive curriculum review process. This included curriculum review meetings, a tracer study, and consultations with key stakeholders, ensuring the program remains aligned with emerging maternal and newborn health priorities and global public health standards.

Student Recruitment

STMEA supported MPHL recruitment through information sessions, prospective student follow-up, and application support. During this period, the academic unit conducted four information sessions for prospective students, resulting in 54 students being admitted to the program. (see Graph 1) Forty-two students were retained, while 12 discontinued, primarily due to tuition challenges. To address this, STMEA implemented targeted

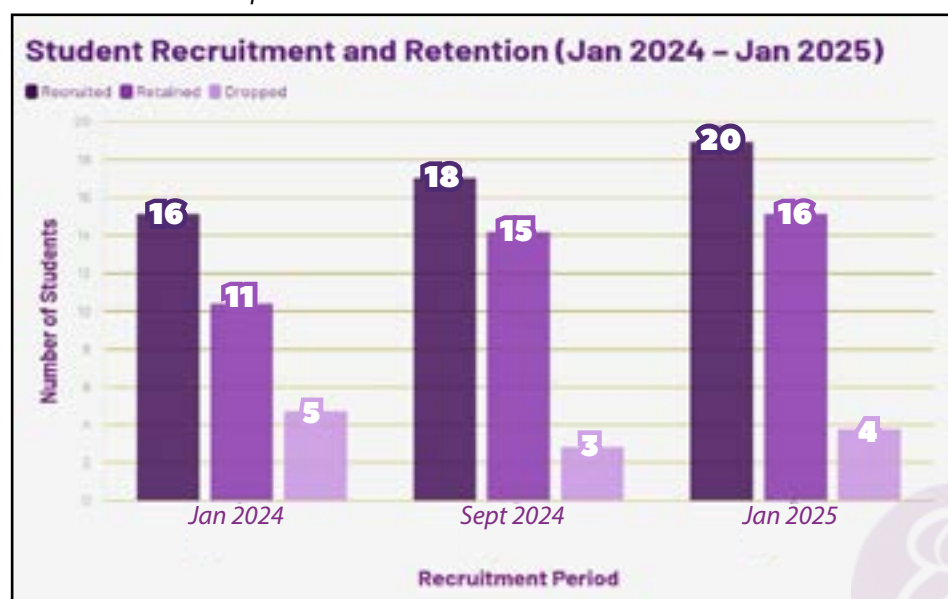
strategies to improve retention. Overall, student admissions and retention demonstrated an upward trend, reflecting growing interest in the program.

Teaching Coordination and Student Support

Orientation sessions were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Public Health to onboard students effectively. STMEA coordinated online and in-person lectures across the January 2024, September 2024, and January 2025 semesters.

Practical exposure was strengthened through organized field visits to health facilities and communities, including Kawempe National Referral Hospital, Mukono

Graph 1



General Hospital, and Kalagala community in Mityana District, to deepen students' understanding of maternal and child health interventions.

Research Support

Research remains a core component of the MPHL program. STMEA conducted five research workshops supporting students through concept development, proposal writing, and dissertation completion. These sessions benefited a total of 125 students, enhancing academic rigor and research quality.

Three viva sessions were held with 22 students who successfully defended their dissertations.

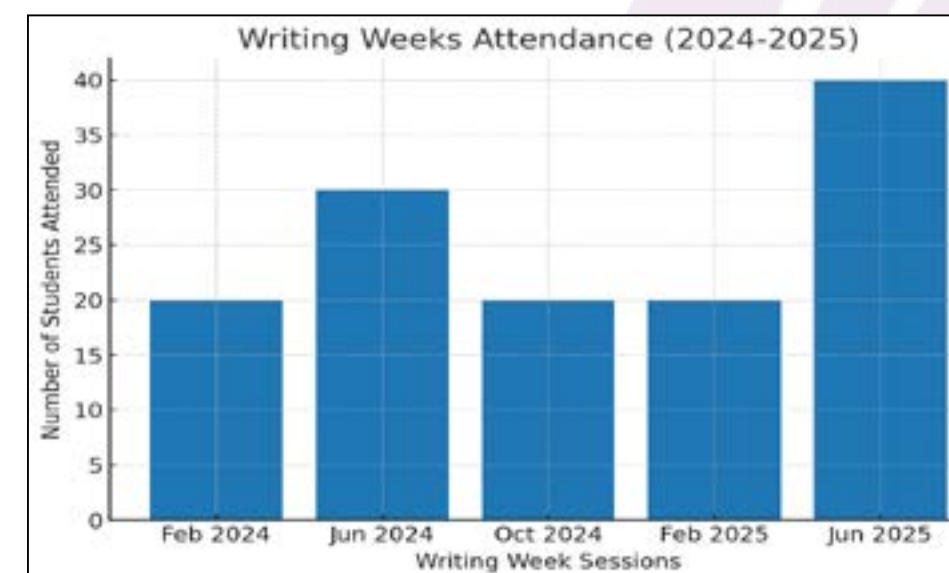
Publications

In partnership with Meros Centre, STMEA supported six MPHL alumni to develop research manuscripts. This resulted into acceptance of four manuscripts for publishing in the Christian Journal of Global Health.

Scholarships

During this period, a total of UGX 11,348,748 (approximately USD 3,242) was awarded in scholarships, supporting students' retention and completion of the MPHL program.

Graph 2



Graduation

Twelve students graduated on the MPHL program during this period. These graduates continue to strengthen a network of multidisciplinary professionals championing safe motherhood in their communities.



MPHL students – Sept 2024 intake

5. MOTHER BABY FRIENDLY HOSPITAL INITIATIVE (MBFHI)

Implemented in 15 health facilities across Uganda, the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) strengthens maternal and newborn health by promoting safe, dignified, and respectful maternity care. Between January 2024 and June 2025, the program achieved significant progress across infrastructure development, training and mentorship.

Infrastructure Enhancements

Maternity High Dependency Units (HDUs): Tororo General Hospital

Tororo General Hospital, a government facility serving an estimated population of 609,117 people conducts an average of 450 deliveries per month. Critically

ill mothers require close monitoring and timely interventions in a fully equipped maternity High Dependency Unit (HDU) to prevent maternal deaths.

In 2018, STMEA established a one-bed HDU for mothers with childbirth complications. With the high volume of deliveries, the facility quickly became overstretched. In April 2025, STMEA, in partnership with Uganda Christian University (UCU), expanded and remodeled the HDU to a three-bed capacity and fully equipped it to meet Ministry of Health standards. Since the upgrade, the HDU has served an average of 15 mothers per month, most presenting with postpartum hemorrhage, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, and ruptured uterus.

Tororo HDU before expansion



Tororo HDU after expansion



HDU sink before expansion and remodeling



STM-UCU hands over HDU to Tororo General Hospital

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU): Amai Community Hospital

Amai Community Hospital, a Private Not-for-Profit facility owned by the Church of Uganda in Amolatar District, serves a population of approximately 188,589, extending services to Dokolo, Kwanja, Kaberamaido, and Nakasongola districts. Prior to STMEA's interventions, critically ill newborns were referred to a facility 150 km away, resulting in high neonatal mortality.

In 2022, STMEA established a level one NICU, which served 165 newborns in 2022, 199 in 2023, and 367 in 2024 as reflected in graph 3. Due to rising demand, the level one facility became insufficient.

In February 2025, STMEA, in partnership with UCU, upgraded the NICU to level two, expanding capacity to 10 newborns. The facility now includes three incubators, two phototherapy machines, a radiant warmer, two oxygen concentrators, and five oxygen cylinders. The upgraded NICU currently serves an average of 25 newborns per month, contributing significantly to the reduction of preventable newborn deaths.

Amai NICU video: <https://youtu.be/e1Lrpu7bJqs>

NICU beneficiaries

Juliet Acham and her husband Ojok Sam are among the beneficiaries of the NICU services. Their premature baby survived thanks to critical care received at the upgraded NICU, highlighting the lifesaving impact of the initiative.



Sam and his wife Juliet attend to their baby in the NICU.

Expansion of Maternity Suite: Mukono General Hospital

STMEA, in partnership with UCU, began expanding the labor suite at Mukono General Hospital. Previously accommodating only three beds for approximately 900 deliveries per month, the ward faced overcrowding, and infection risks. The expansion will double capacity to six

Graph 3

AMAI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL NICU Admissions Between 2022 and 2024



Inside Amai Hospital NICU

delivery beds, add essential equipment, and strengthen safe, dignified maternal and newborn care.

Mbale Regional Referral Hospital and Follow-Up Visits

At Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, STMEA, alongside MBFHI advisor Dr. Boaz Aruho (MPHL alumnus), conducted assessments of the HDU, identifying improvements needed in water supply, monitoring equipment, oxygen systems, and backup power.

In May 2024, follow-up visits were conducted at Boroboro Health Centre III, Jinja, Mildmay, and Kawolo hospitals to assess and support ongoing MBFHI activities.

Training and Mentorship



Health workers at St Francis Naggalama Hospital during the in-service training on neonatal resuscitation

St. Francis Naggalama Hospital

In August 2024, STMEA conducted in-service training on neonatal resuscitation for health workers at St. Francis Naggalama Hospital. Led by Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, Executive Director (Ob/Gyn), and Dr. Hellen Nasambu, a pediatrician, the training focused on timely recognition of newborn complications and prompt resuscitation. Essential equipment, for newborn resuscitation, was donated to the hospital's 16-bed NICU, which serves over 400 babies annually.

Through MBFHI, STMEA continues to strengthen NICU services, contributing to improved newborn survival and advancing Uganda's national targets for maternal and newborn health under SDG 3. **Globally, perinatal mortality remains 17 deaths per 1,000 live births, above the SDG target of 12 per 1,000.**



Dr Hellen (right) leads the training



Dr. Simon Otim, Director of St Francis Hospital Naggalama, gives the STM team a tour of the maternity ward during a follow-up visit to this MBFHI site.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

By setting up saving women groups, STMEA deepened its grassroots engagement, empowering communities to champion maternal and newborns health.

Seed fund

In 2022 STM set up a seed fund to empower women economically and improve access to maternal and newborn health care using existing women saving groups. The initiative supports ten groups with a seed fund to enhance group savings, facilitate birth preparedness, and improve access to essential health services. Each group received UGX 250,000 and two goats to boost economic resilience.

In August 2024, STMEA conducted support supervision for the **Seed Fund women's groups** in Bukhadala Sub-County, Manafwa District, Uganda. During the follow-up visit, women shared the tangible benefits of the Seed Fund. One beneficiary explained:

"Through the seed fund, I have been able to borrow money and grow my business, which helps me provide basic needs for my family."

Outcomes of the STM engaged the groups on record keeping, saving for safe motherhood, and also held a safe motherhood talks to promote safe motherhood in



STM meets beneficiaries of the seed fund, women groups in Manafwa district. STM directly supports over 200 women in the 10 women's groups.



the community.

Nakamura Brenda, a member of the Pirra Zion Group, experienced severe labor pains at eight months. She was referred to Tororo General Hospital, where she was induced and delivered safely. But Brenda suffered heavy bleeding. Thanks to the seed fund saving group's contribution of UGX 85,000, she was able to travel quickly to the hospital, where she received timely life-saving care.

By economically empowering women, the Seed Fund enhances household stability, nutrition, and health-seeking behavior. The project enables better access to healthcare and childbirth preparation while promoting healthier families and stronger, more resilient communities.

Seed Fund: Boosting Women's Economic Empowerment Showcasing women-led initiatives supported by Save the Mothers.

<https://youtu.be/iq9Fgv1tBBA?si=XYf7ZGzl292NI0Cx>

Commemorating International Pre-eclampsia Day in Kayunga

In partnership with Kayunga Hospital, STMEA participated in a community dialogue and awareness

march to mark **International Pre-eclampsia Day**. Pre-eclampsia remains the second leading cause of maternal mortality, and the event aimed to educate communities on early recognition, prevention, and timely care.

Blood Donation Drives

Obstetric hemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal mortality, STMEA collaborated



Blood donation drive at Triple P Primary School.



Dr. Mushin Nsubuga led a wellness and safe motherhood session at the East Rwenzori Diocese Clergy Retreat hosted by Rt. Rev. George Turyasingura. The UCU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, was the chief guest.

with local partners to strengthen community health through blood donation initiatives.

In May 2024, STMEA partnered with **Triple P Primary School** in Mukono, owned by MPHIL alumna Plan Virginia, to hold a community dialogue on safe motherhood alongside a blood donation drive, which collected **100 units of blood**. These initiatives strengthened awareness of maternal health and directly supported emergency care for mothers and newborns.

In partnership with the Certified Public Accountants

(CPA) Eastern Region Chapter, STMEA organized a week-long blood drive (29 July – 3 August) in Mbale City, Eastern Uganda, collecting **1,000 units of blood**. In his presentation, Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, Executive Director of STMEA, emphasized the life-saving role of blood in maternal and newborn care.

Safe Motherhood at the Pulpit

Leveraging its alumni network, STMEA engaged five dioceses of the Church of Uganda through strategic

meetings and clergy conferences to promote safe motherhood and community health. The engagements included partnerships with **East Busoga Diocese, Central Busoga Diocese, East Rwenzori Diocese and Ruwenzori Diocese**.

At the East Rwenzori Diocese Annual Clergy and Spouses Retreat (15–17 January 2025), STMEA led a health and wellness session for 140 participants alongside UCU partners, promoting spiritual growth, safe motherhood, and community wellbeing.

In May 2025, during a three-day conference organized by Ruwenzori Diocese, STMEA joined the Uganda Christian University delegation to engage over 600 church leaders, their spouses, and district leaders, including Richard Rwabuhinga, LC Chairperson of Kabarole District. The event focused on safe motherhood, HIV prevention, and spiritual growth. This conference followed up on earlier discussions with Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo in January 2025 to advance collaborative strategies addressing maternal and neonatal mortality, high HIV prevalence, and teenage pregnancies.



Rt. Rev. George Turyasingura, Bishop East Rwenzori Diocese and Rt Rev Reuben Kisembo of Ruwenzori Diocese receive Save the Mothers pins from Dr Mushin Nsubuga- ED STMEA as a symbol of continued partnership in promoting safe.



7. ALUMNI ENGAGEMENTS

Engaging alumni of the **Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL)** program remains a central component of Save the Mothers East Africa's advocacy and sustainability strategy. Alumni continue to advance safe motherhood initiatives in their communities, providing leadership, mentorship, and expertise. STMEA maintains regular contact with about **500 MPHL alumni**, fostering ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and sustained impact. 425 of these alumni are in Uganda and 74 are in other countries as indicated in the pie chart figure 3,

Alumni Follow-ups visits and Collaborations

In 2024, STMEA conducted follow-up visits with over 15 alumni across Uganda to explore collaborative opportunities in maternal and child health (MCH).

Save the Mothers Game Changers

Stories of program champions driving change in their communities.

<https://youtu.be/gylAEieZkSQ?si=W71YSpldPY7TdDdK>

MPHL Alumni Game Changers

Alumni share leadership experiences in promoting safe motherhood.

<https://youtu.be/nuElgX9KJn0?si=CurRSQHzlyBPXw1r>

Local Community Financing for Maternal and Child Health. Community-led funding models in Oyam District.

<https://youtu.be/t1LQei-lfH0?si=jON8f0FNPT04xSd2>

Triple P video

<https://youtu.be/h2U7ER6ILhY>

Notable engagements included:

- **Rev. Susan and Bishop Alfred Olwa (Lira):** Strengthened ties with Amai Community Hospital and Boroboro Health Centre, both MBFHI facilities, including support for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Amai Community Hospital.
- **Dr. Boaz Aruho Mbagaya (Mbale):** Advanced safe motherhood initiatives in private health settings at Mbale People's Hospital.



STM at Mothers Heart Uganda, a Community Based Organization founded by MPHIL alumnus- Jeremiah Mbulamani.

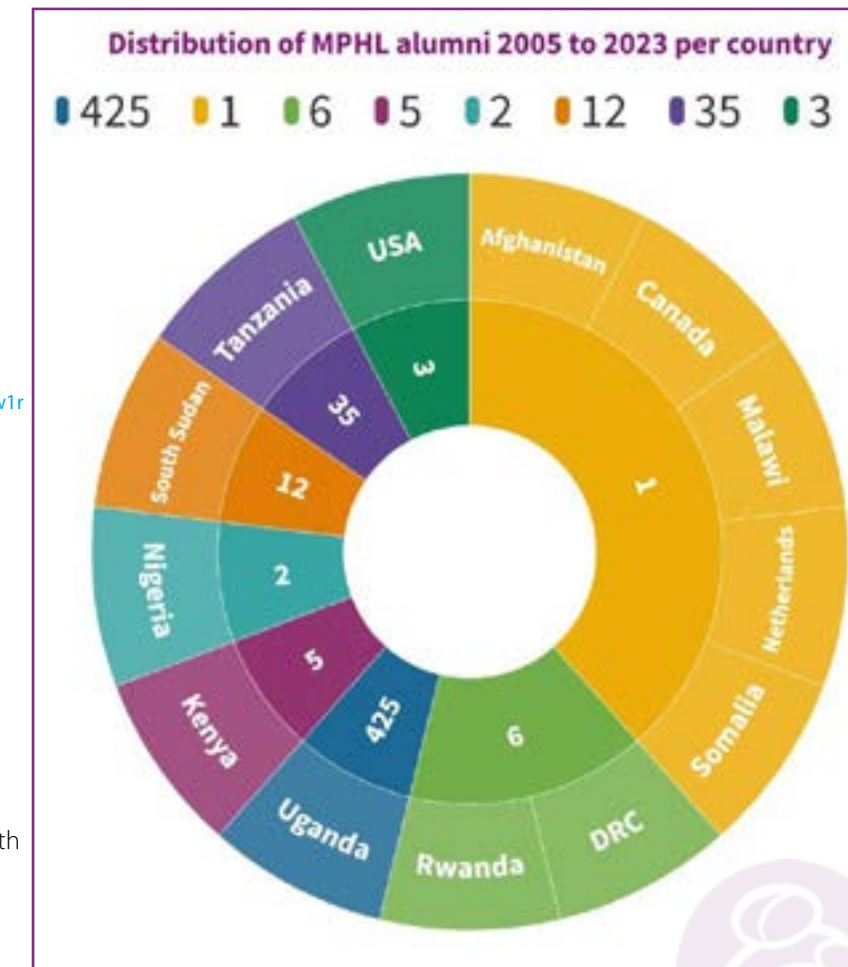


Figure 3: A pie chart showing the 74 alumni outside Uganda



STM visit its alumni at Uganda AIDS Commission: Tom Etii and Joanita Kemigisha (extreme left). The team was received by the Ag Director General Dr Vincent Bagambe



Dr Jean Chamberlain connects with Dr Thierry Uhawenimana MPH alumna from Rwanda



MPHL alumni Moses Kyangwa and Martha Ajilong present at STM Conference

- **Moses Kyangwa (Busoga Health Forum):** Collaborated on webinars and served as a panelist at the 2024 Annual Safe Motherhood Conference.
- **Stella Agembi (Tororo General Hospital) & Connie Bwire (Tororo DHO):** Coordinated the expansion of the High Dependency Unit at Tororo General Hospital.
- **Christine Ematete (Soroti Health Centre III):** Strengthened maternal and child health services and improved nurse–patient relationships.
- **Medi Mukalu (Communities for Childbirth International), Rev. Moses Mukholi (Mbale Diocese), and Stephen Waniale:** Implemented the Seed Fund project in the Elgon region through Mbale and North Mbale Dioceses. Rev Dr Richard Mulindwa led STMEA to connect with over five Church of Uganda dioceses.

STMEA also visited the following alumni. Tom Etii and Joan Kemigisha (Uganda AIDS Commission), Deo Agaba (PATH Uganda), Allen Nankunda (CDFU), Jeremiah Mbulamani (Mother's Heart Uganda), and Plan Virginia (Triple P Primary School).

Online Engagements

Beyond in-person follow-ups visits, STMEA maintains regular communication with alumni through email, WhatsApp updates, and annual conferences. These efforts reach about 500 MPH alumna, ensuring sustained engagement and knowledge exchange.

These activities reaffirm the critical role of MPH alumna as **advocates, collaborators, and leaders**, driving meaningful change in maternal and child health in their communities.

8. STMEA ANNUAL MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCES

Each year, **Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA)** convenes the Annual Maternal and Child Health Conference. These conferences provide a platform to share experiences, showcase innovations, and advance the maternal and newborn health agenda at national and regional levels. During this reporting period, two major conferences were successfully held.

2024 Conference

In April 2024, STMEA hosted the Maternal and Child Health Conference at **Uganda Christian University** under the theme: *"No Mother or Child Should Die Due to Preventable Childbirth Complications – The Role of Multidisciplinary Professionals."* The event drew **150 delegates from six countries**.

The Guest of Honour, **Dr. Charles Olaro**, Director of Curative Services at the Ministry of Health, reaffirmed the government's commitment to reducing maternal mortality. In his keynote address, **Prof. Pius Okong** (Chairperson, Health Service Commission and STMEA co-founder) emphasized the importance of training professionals beyond the medical field to address maternal and newborn health challenges. Other speakers included **Dr. Mushin Nsubuga** (Executive Director, STMEA), **Dr. Olive Sentumbwe** (STM co-founder), **Mr. David Mugawe** (Deputy Vice Chancellor, UCU), and **Hon. Musana Eric Acaali** (Member of Parliament).

Conference presentations and exhibitions highlighted partner-led innovations, such as extending antenatal care to hard-to-reach areas and improving newborn survival through quality improvement collaboration. Panelists underscored the importance of research,

partnerships, and context-driven interventions for safe motherhood.

During the conference a Think Tank to steer the MPH alumna towards a formal association was formed, and a fundraising drive to renovate Mirembe Hall raised UGX 10 million.

Maternal and Child Health Conference

Highlights from the annual MCH conference showcasing multidisciplinary engagement.

<https://youtu.be/Z1cbAa7hvts?si=Hc5wH9uSlj9SPJL>

Child Health Conference (Recap)

Overview of conference sessions and key messages.

https://youtu.be/okF74PeIYKY?si=7YKQB_0cZ_Rw9IC2

Dr. Olive Sentumbwe Remarks

WHO Representative emphasizes multisectoral collaboration for safe motherhood.

<https://youtu.be/x7uhp0xPHeQ?si=BAoEIOsfPX8Sc9YA>

Dr. Jean Chamberlain's Remarks

Founding Director's reflections on progress and partnerships.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/YAhHU38YkTo?si=efA3ylsDI7NGILEe>

Mr. David Mugawe, Deputy Vice Chancellor (UCU)

UCU leadership reaffirms commitment to maternal and child health.

<https://youtu.be/J6VDvmyxf0?si=c3W7qbHI8u1dpANF>

2025 Conference – 20th Anniversary

In April 2025, STMEA celebrated its 20th anniversary with the Annual Maternal and Newborn Health Conference at Uganda Christian University. Themed *"The Impact of Multidisciplinary Professionals in Strengthening Community Engagements for Safe Motherhood,"* the



Key stakeholders at STM Annual MCH 2024 conference



event brought together 170 delegates from more than seven countries.

The Guest of Honour, Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, Archbishop of the Church of Uganda and Chancellor of UCU, called for increased investment in maternal health and male involvement. He commended the MPHL program for equipping multidisciplinary leaders to champion safe motherhood and emphasized that maternal health is a shared social, economic, and spiritual responsibility. He urged stakeholders to amplify awareness for maternal health in different spaces.

Dr. Richard Mugahi, Commissioner for Reproductive and Child Health, in his keynote address emphasized that maternal health is a shared responsibility for all stakeholders. He noted the need to move beyond treating the mother and child as separate entities and called upon stakeholders to embrace the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere framework to ensure accountability and progress towards SDG 3.

Dr. Mushin Nsubuga emphasized the role of multidisciplinary professionals in strengthening community engagement for safe motherhood. Representing the Vice Chancellor, Mr. David Mugawe, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance and Administration), commended STMEA's two decades of growth, innovation, and leadership in maternal and child health, noting that Save the Mothers is a key priority in UCU's

strategic plan.

Conference participants showcased innovations and research reflecting the impact of multidisciplinary professionals in improving maternal and newborn health. The event honored STMEA founders, **Prof. Pius Okong, Prof. Florence Mirembe, Dr. Jean Chamberlain, and Dr. Olive Sentumbwe** and recognized 9-year-old Mutesi Elizabeth, a learner at Triple P Primary School owned by MPHL alumna Plan Virginia, with the Young Champion Award for her advocacy efforts using drama at her school.

Both conferences strengthened **partner engagement and collaboration** with government, religious institutions, and civil society, providing vital platforms for knowledge sharing, peer learning, and translating research into action. These gatherings reaffirmed the collective commitment to ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

Notable Recognition

Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, Easter 2025 Message hinged on STM 2025 MCH Conference:

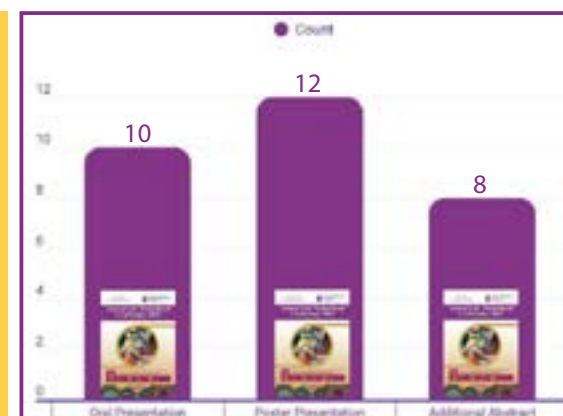
"On Friday 11 April, I was delighted to preside over the 10th Annual Maternal and Child Health Conference organized by Save the Mothers at Uganda Christian University. This year's conference also marked 20 years of impactful work in improving maternal and child health in Uganda and beyond. We call upon all stakeholders to take decisive action by prioritizing



health system investments, innovations, regular maternal and prenatal death surveillance, and coordinated government-led programs that leave no woman or newborn behind."

A spiritual call to action for safe motherhood. [https://](https://youtu.be/42RNJvNGyys?si=bG6xLyV6TnRnri-)

youtu.be/42RNJvNGyys?si=bG6xLyV6TnRnri-



9. ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS



Ministry of Health officials and MCH key stakeholders led by Min of Health Dr Ruth Aceng (3rd left) and Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health Dr Atwine Diana (1st left). Dr Jean Chamberlain (4th right)

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) recognizes that advocacy and strategic partnerships are essential to advancing safe motherhood. Between 2024 and June 2025, STMEA strengthened collaborations with government institutions, media, civil society, professional networks, and faith-based organizations to foster community action and promote maternal and newborn health.

National Safe Motherhood Conference 2024

STMEA played a prominent role at the National Safe Motherhood Conference, convened by the Ministry of Health from 29–31 October 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala. Dr. Jean Chamberlain-Froese, STM founding director, delivered the keynote address, underscoring STMEA's leadership in maternal and child health advocacy. Her address highlighted the

MPHL program at UCU and the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) as central strategies for strengthening community engagement and advancing safe motherhood.

National Safe Motherhood Conference – Kampala

Dr. Jean Chamberlain advocates for stronger policy action on maternal health.

<https://youtu.be/DfoSTvaT8QM?si=DIJ4MjF5v9p7qd0t>

Ministry of Health

STMEA held two high-level meetings with the Ministry of Health to explore partnerships within the Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS), focusing on reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths. Discussions emphasized how STMEA can serve as an implementing partner in the LMNS framework.



*Journalist training:
Dr Mushin Nsubuga led
the journalists in a safe
motherhood*

Media Engagement – Uganda Journalists Association (UJA)

On 14 August 2024, STMEA partnered with the Uganda Journalists Association to train 15 journalists on safe motherhood at Uganda Christian University. Led by Dr. Mushin Nsubuga (Executive Director, STMEA), the training emphasized the media's critical role in maternal health advocacy. Participating media houses included Daily Monitor, NTV, Vision Group (Bukedde), Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC), and Central Broadcasting Services (CBS).

Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS)

During a meeting hosted by Kayunga General Hospital, STMEA engaged with maternity unit staff and the hospital director. This collaboration resulted in a joint pre-eclampsia awareness campaign and strengthened linkages between STMEA and the greater Kayunga LMNS system.

Engagement with Certified Public Accountants (CPA)

STMEA engaged accountants in a workshop held from 29 July – 3 August 2024 in Mbale City, Eastern Uganda, highlighting their role as multidisciplinary professionals in advancing safe motherhood.

Church of Uganda Secretariat

STMEA met with Church of Uganda Provincial officials at Namirembe, Kampala, to discuss the church's role in promoting safe motherhood at various levels. The delegation, led by Dr. Mushin Nsubuga, held a meeting with Mr. Balam Muheebwa (Provincial Secretary), Rev. Barbara Mwesigwa (Coordinator, Mothers Union), and Stephen Ochieng, exploring collaborative opportunities in community health initiatives.

STMEA further engaged with Uganda Christian Lawyers, Faith for Family Initiatives, and the Busoga Health Forum (BHF), emphasizing safe motherhood promotion.



*Dr Mushin Nsubuga presents on safe motherhood and blood donation at the CPA meeting.
Below: STM meets Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity at their offices in Kampala-Uganda.*



10. CONNECTING WITH UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (UCU)



Media Link Association Forum – UCU School of Media and Journalism



On 14 June 2025, STMEA participated in a Media Link Association forum hosted by Uganda Christian University's School of Media and Journalism at Kampala Nile Hotel. Catherine K. Mwesigwa (Board Member, STMEA, and MPHL alumna) served as a panelist, highlighting the power of storytelling to uncover untold maternal and child health challenges and amplify advocacy efforts.

UCU Health Awareness Week

STMEA maintained a strong partnership with Uganda Christian University to advance maternal and child health, integrate academic programs, and engage the university community. During UCU Health Awareness Week, STMEA led presentations on wellness and maternal health. Key contributors included Dr. Olive Sentumbwe (WHO Sexual and Reproductive Health Expert and STM founding member), Mrs. Josephine Namyalo, and Dr. Mushin Nsubuga on safe motherhood advocacy.



Honoring STM Founder

On 17 April 2025, UCU officially unveiled the Jean Chamberlain Froese House, named in honor of Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese, STM co-founder. The MPHL program she helped establish at UCU has trained over 500 professionals advocating for safe motherhood across Africa, leaving a lasting impact in maternal and child health.



11. COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Between January 2024 and June 2025, STMEA expanded its digital presence to share updates, achievements, and advocacy efforts across its programs, emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach to maternal and newborn health.

E-Newsletter Production and Dissemination

During this period, STMEA produced and disseminated nine editions of its e-newsletter, a key platform for engaging partners and stakeholders. The newsletters documented and celebrated STM's progress, initiatives, and collaborative efforts, reaching over 600 partners. Access newsletters here.



Video Production

Between January 2024 and June 2025, STMEA produced over 18 videos to highlight its programs.

Through these videos, STMEA continues to leverage storytelling as a powerful advocacy tool, engaging communities, stakeholders, and partners to advance maternal and newborn health. These videos were uploaded on STMEA Youtube channel as indicated below:

Year	Highlight Videos	Key Focus / Theme
2024	• Maternal & Child Health Conference 2024 • Remarks by Dr. Jean Chamberlain, Dr. Olive Sentubwe, and Mr. David Mugawe • Seed Fund – Boosting Women's Economic Empowerment • 20 Years of Saving Mothers – staff gratitude reflections • National Safe Motherhood Conference – Kampala • Game Changers – MPHIL alumni and community champions	Showcased multidisciplinary collaboration, leadership voices, women's empowerment, and community-driven solutions for safe motherhood.
2025	• STM 2025 Conference – 20 Years of Impact • Keynote addresses: Dr. Richard Mugahi, Dr. Mushin Nsubuga • Reflections by Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba, Prof. Pius Okong, and Mr. David Mugawe • Conference Highlights and short recaps	Celebrated two decades of impact, renewed institutional partnerships, and amplified the call to action for safe motherhood.

Social Media Engagement

STMEA actively shared program updates and events across Facebook, X (Twitter), and YouTube, engaging over 15,000 users. Key metrics included:

- » **Facebook:** 8,500+ views, 1,200+ interactions, 20,000+ impressions
- » **X (Twitter):** 50,000+ impressions, 2,000+ engagements, 25% follower growth
- » **YouTube:** 5,000+ views, 300+ likes, active comments and shares

These digital efforts enhanced visibility, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and resource mobilization, reinforcing STMEA's position as a regional leader in maternal and newborn health.

Media Coverage

In partnership with UCU's Communication and Public Relations Directorate, STM engaged the media to showcase its maternal and newborn health advocacy and highlight the media's role in promoting safe motherhood..



STM-UCU partnership: L-R-Prof Aaron Mushengyezi, Rev Dr. Richard Mulindwa, Mrs. Patience Mushengyezi, Dr. Mushin Nsubuga and Rev Esther .



STMEA Conference Video links

- » **STM 2025 Safe Motherhood Conference – 20 Years of Impact** Conference recap celebrating 20 years of advancing safe motherhood. <https://youtu.be/-fCo9PmOyhM?si=884lkGXOZWnp036X>
- » **UCU's David Mugawe Reflects on 20 Years of Impact.** Institutional reflections on the STMEA–UCU partnership. https://youtu.be/tb3YtvzG_D8?si=kY29PGDpJ8qB4pOd
- » **Dr. Mushin Nsubuga's Message.** "Maternal health is everyone's responsibility." https://youtu.be/HRw2M7uoMRw?si=l87l4_tcFfdK6UX8
- » **Dr. Richard Mugahi's Keynote Address.** Policy insights on safe. <https://youtu.be/l8XBtwfQbBw?si=MWzaR6sXXlvSU9vF>
- » **STM_MCH 2025 Conference Highlights.** Short visual summary of key conference moments. <https://youtube.com/shorts/jXUT3X5jgDg?si=Xy07OYxCKE7OQLIM>

12. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

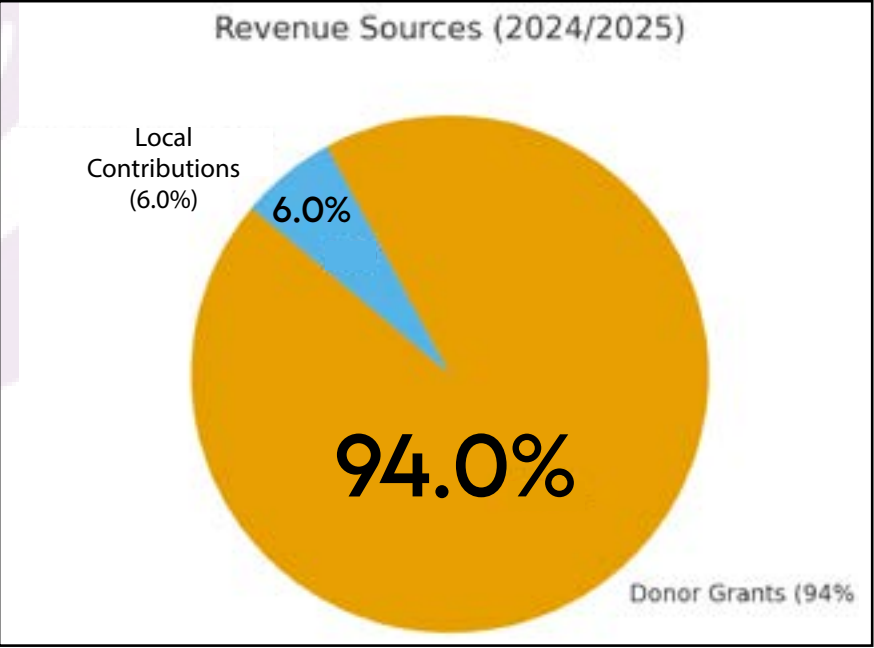
The Finance and Administration Department remains committed to ensuring sound financial management, transparent reporting, and efficient administrative support in order to facilitate the achievement of the organization's strategic objectives.

Revenue and Funding

Funding sources:
Donor grants – 94% and Local contributions – 6%

The local revenue comprised of the 10% from MPH tuition contribution by UCU and MCH conference participation fees.

Audit: 2023/2024 audit was successfully conducted with unqualified opinion



STMEA Founders

Facilities Development



STMEA offices: STM-UCU team and donors at STMEA offices at Mirembe Hall

Mirembe Hall Renovation – Uganda Christian University

Mirembe Hall, originally constructed in 2007 has 13 rooms used for accommodation and two for offices. Over time, the building showed signs of wear and tear on key facilities. In partnership with UCU, renovation works of Mirembe Hall were done totaling to UGX 32,981,600 (USD 9,458.23)

Sources of Funding Leila C. Reader (funder of STM E.A. projects), MPH alumni and students plus STM E.A. Board of Directors)

Procurement & Logistics

- Procured a new STM E.A. vehicle to support daily operations and fieldwork.
- Successfully managed the budgeting process for FY 2025/2026.
- Oversaw audits for FY 2023/2024.
- Organized the April 2024 physical Tri-Board of Directors meeting and all four quarterly Board meetings for STM E.A.

Grant Writing & Resource Mobilization

Grants applied for included joint proposals with Amref Uganda and 3FHI,

- **Successful proposals included:**
 - » Mukono General Hospital Maternity Suite Expansion (supported by Leila C. Reader)
 - » Skilling Teenage Pregnant Girls (supported by the Sisters of St. Joseph)
- These initiatives strengthened the organization's resource mobilization strategy.

Plans for the Next Financial Year (2025/26)

- Strengthen resource mobilization through diversified funding streams.
- Upgrade to QuickBooks Online.
- Continue improving internal control systems and compliance standards.
- Support infrastructure upgrades in key facilities to enhance program delivery (3rd phase of Mirembe Hall exterior painting of the building).

13. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION

Throughout 2024–2025, Save the Mothers East Africa (STM) navigated a range of programmatic, operational, and financial challenges while sustaining its impact on maternal and child health.

Programmatic Challenges: MPHL students face delays in graduating due to slow completion of their research. This is addressed through strengthened follow-up and tailored student support initiatives.

Tuition challenges for some students was addressed through STM scholarship fund.

Operational Challenges: Expanding alumni engagement across multiple districts and sectors required ongoing coordination and communication. STM strengthened its network, leveraging digital platforms, field visits, and conferences to maintain active participation and collaboration.

Maternal and newborn challenges require partnerships with a wide range of partners across different sectors in different regions.



Save the Mothers network of students, alumni, partners and well wishers.



MPHL alumni from Tanzania impacting safe motherhood in their communities.

14. CONCLUSION

The period between January 2024 and June 2025 has reinforced Save the Mothers East Africa position as a regional leader in advancing maternal and child health. Through the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) program, multidisciplinary professionals have been equipped to champion safe motherhood.

The Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) has strengthened safe, respectful and dignified maternity care. STM's advocacy and partnership efforts with a wide range of partners have amplified awareness and fostered community engagement. Digital platforms and alumni networks have further strengthened visibility for safe motherhood.

As Save the Mothers marks 20 years of impact, it remains steadfast in its vision that no mother or newborn should die or be harmed from preventable causes. Guided by its strategic pillars, STM continues to align its work with SDG 3 and national safe motherhood priorities. These milestones reflect the commitment of STM's partners, whose collective efforts are transforming maternal and newborn health outcomes.

16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) gratefully acknowledges the support and collaboration of its partners, donors, students, alumni, and staff, whose commitment and dedication have been instrumental in advancing safe motherhood across the region. We extend our sincere thanks to Uganda Christian University, the Ministry of Health, faith-based organizations, civil society partners, and all individuals and institutions who contributed their expertise, resources, and time. Special appreciation goes to our MPHL students and alumni, whose continued engagement strengthens our programs, advocacy, and community impact.

20 Years of Saving Mothers. Staff express gratitude for two decades of impact and partnerships.
<https://youtu.be/QT6S0rgCYVw?si=XGLXGriRbLlj443J>



STM-UCU at Amai Community Hospital in Amolatar



STM Board members.

15. IN LOVING MEMORY

During this period, Save the Mothers East Africa honored the memory of alumni, faculty, and partners who contributed to advancing maternal and child health. We remember with gratitude Nicholas Engwau, Pauline Kasoyonge, faculty members Dr. Godwin Turyansigura and Mr. Sam Biraro; and development partners Gerald Chamberlain, Allan Jeffs and Wayne Saar. Their dedication and support continue to inspire our work and impact across Uganda and the region.



Top: Save the Mothers East Africa Staff. Above: STM-2025 Annual Conference

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**Save the Mothers East
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