

## Congratulations October MPHIL Graduates



Master of Public Health Leadership graduates at the UCU graduation grounds.

**On 23 October, Uganda Christian University (UCU) held its 26th Graduation (Part 2). Over 500 students graduated and these included 13 Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) graduates.**

We celebrate the MPHL graduates:

Catherine Nafula Naluwende, Aanyu Gorreti, Atenga Rosamond, Atim Grace, Ayuel Deng Ayuel Nul, Draru Jessica Endrea, Galikwoleka Suzan Lillian, Kukundakwe Annah, Magoba Patricia, Muhindo Milly Dezire, Nakabuubi Fazirah, Nalubowa Halimah and Namumbya Beatrice. Congratulations to this these multidisciplinary professionals who have joined the Save the Mothers (STM) network.

In his speech, the University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aaron Mushengezezi, recognised STM—UCU's contribution to safe motherhood, citing the upgrade of the Maternity High Dependency Unit at Tororo Hospital in eastern Uganda and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Amai Community Hospital in

Amolatar District, northern Uganda. Following the official graduation ceremony, STMEA under Dr Mushin Nsubuga's leadership hosted the graduates and their families to a luncheon at Jean Chamberlain Froese House, UCU.

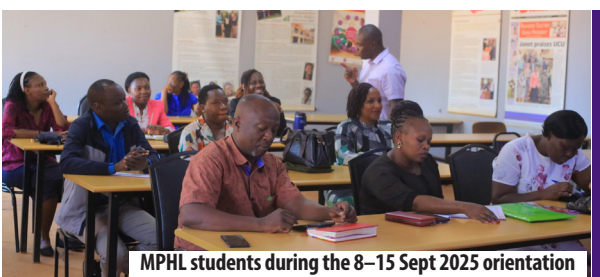
Present at the luncheon were Prof Pius Okong, Prof Florence Mirembe and Dr Jean Chamberlain (STM founders), Heather Sinclair—STM Canada board chairperson, Janet Sampson—STM Canada managing director, Jayne Gurley STM USA board member, Dr Eve Nakabembe and Josephine Waako—STMEA board members, STMEA staff, friends and well-wishers.

In recognition of excellence, Save the Mothers, in partnership with Meros Centre, presented the Dissertation Award to Catherine Nafula for her thesis titled – *Resilience & pregnancy-related stress among refugee adolescent mothers in Rhino Camp - Uganda*



### MPHL Curriculum Review Updates

In October STM stakeholders gathered to review the MPHL curriculum. These included MPHIL alumni, faculty, founders, board members and staff.

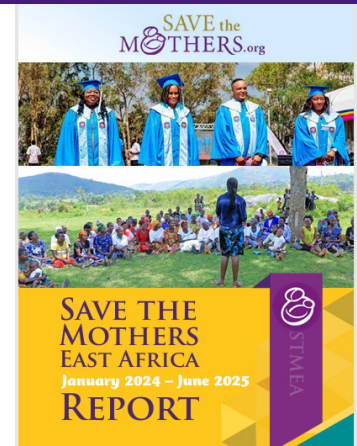


MPHL students during the 8–15 Sept 2025 orientation

### Welcome the MPHIL Sept 2025 Cohort

Save the Mothers welcomed new MPHIL students for the Sept 2025 intake at Uganda Christian University. 15 students joined the program.

**MPHL 2026 INTAKE** Applications are now open for the Masters Degree in Public Health Leadership at Uganda Christian University **SHARE THE NEWS**



**Save the Mothers releases Jan 2024 to June 2025 Report:**

<https://savethemothersea.org/media/attachments/2025/12/15/stmea-jan-2024--june-2025-report-interactive-version.pdf>

## STMEA hosts partners from North America

In October Save the Mothers was privilege to host partners, friends and well wishers from USA and Canada at STMEA, at Uganda Christian University Mukono. **To page 2**



**October donations:** STM donates two incubators to Mukono General Hospital. L-R: Dr Jean Chamberlain – STM founding member, Dr Geoffrey Kasirye Hospital Director & Dr Mushin Nsubuga STMEA Executive Director.

## Antishock garments save lives in MBFHI sites

In 2023 Save the Mothers donated 25 Non-Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASGs) to six hospitals: Kawolo Hospital, St. Francis Hospital Naggalama, Mukono General Hospital, St. Francis Nyenga Hospital, Mukono Church of Uganda Hospital, and Buvuma Health Centre IV. Recently, STMEA conducted a follow up visit to health facilities and communities to speak to the beneficiaries about NASGs benefits. **To page 3**





# STMEA hosts partners from Canada and USA

## From page 1

The partners led by Dr Mushin Nsubuga STMEA Executive Director joined in the implementation of activities that included MPHL alumni, Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI), and Seed fund follow-up engagements.

**Student-Alumni engagement:** STM met MPHL student, Jackson Kadumye at the Ministry of Health, Kampala to discuss how the MPHL program informs and impacts his work in the field of health promotion. The team was received by Jackson's supervisor, Dr Richard Kabanda, Commissioner Health Promotion.

STM also followed up alumni Goretti Aanyu working in a school with children with disabilities in Mukono, central Uganda and Moses Kyangwa working with Busoga Health Forum in Jinja City, eastern Uganda.

## MBFHI sites follow up visits:

STM visited four of its 15 MBFHI sites to support ongoing maternal and newborn health initiatives aimed at safe, dignified and respective care.

At Kawolo Hospital STM donated a baby warmer in the maternity unit. At Mukono General Hospital STM donated two incubators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. These equipment are very key for saving lives of newborns.

**Seed Fund:** In Manafwa district, eastern Uganda STM met 8 of the women groups it supports with a seed fund and goats for economic empowerment aimed at promoting access to maternal and newborn health services. STM awarded groups with best practices a top-up seed fund. Rev Moses Mukholi MPHL alumnus joined STM.

Through a multidisciplinary approach, we continue to strengthen safe motherhood practices across Uganda.



**L-R back row:** MPHL student Jackson Kadumye, Diane Jones, Dr Mushin Nsubuga, Dr Richard Kabanda, Commissioner Health Promotion. L-R Front: T Agutu STMEA staff, Lois (STM friend), Dr J Chamberlain founding member STM, Brenda Acheng STMEA staff.



**Inset:** L-R Dr Nsubuga and Jackson



STM at Busoga Health Forum (BHF) hosted by MPHL alumnus Moses Kyangwa (2nd left -back row) CEO BHF & his team. BHF showcased the newborn work at Jinja hospital, Zoe teenage girls project and WASH projects in Jinja City.



STM and its partners hand over the baby warmer to Kawolo Hospital. L-R: Sr Iendo Principal Nursing Office, senior hospital administrator / MPHL alumnus Haruna Wamala, Sr Kevin in charge maternity unit, Dr Mushin Nsubuga STMEA ED, Heather Sinclair STM Canada board Chairperson, Janet Sampson MD STM Canada, Diane Jones STM funding partner & friends of STM.



STM team takes a group photo with the Seed Fund Women.



## Antishock garments save lives

From page 1

During the follow up visit in Sept 2025 health workers shared their experiences of using NASG to manage excessive bleeding. Mothers whose lives have been saved also spoke to STMEA.

Midwife Yudaya at Kawolo Hospital, Buikwe district central Uganda said: "Before, we lost many mothers on the way to referral hospitals. Now, with the NASG, we stabilize them and it has changed everything."

Fazira Naigagga from Bujunta village, Nyenga -Buikwe district is a mother of two babies. She almost lost her life due to excessive bleeding after birth. Fazira was referred to Kawolo Hospital, unconscious and bleeding heavily.



Sr Yudaya Kawolo Hospital (L) led STMEA to Fazira's home in Buikwe - Nyenga central Uganda (C). Fazira is a near miss mother whose life was saved through the use of NASG. STMEA Executive Director, Dr Mushin Nsubuga (R)

Health workers managed Fazira and saved her life using NASG. Sr Barbara Nekesa a midwife at Kawolo hospital says: Since we got NASG in 2023 to date, Kawolo Hospital has not lost a mother due to excessive bleeding just because of the use of NASG.

**STM's NASG intervention directly supports WHO's postpartum haemorrhage guidelines and contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 3: reducing maternal mortality worldwide.**

Every year, 287,000 mothers die from preventable causes, most from postpartum hemorrhage. Nearly 95% of these deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Non-Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASG) is one of the simple tools helping to save lives of mothers due postpartum hemorrhage. NASG is a simple and low-cost device that is used in manage excessive bleeding in hospitals and during transit incase of a referral to save lives of mothers and newborns. When wrapped around a bleeding mother, the NASG applies gentle pressure that redirects blood flow to vital organs like the heart, lungs, and brain, stabilizing her until definitive treatment is instituted.

Antishock garment video link: <https://youtu.be/MsaYNSOIUUE>

### MPHL Faculty Engagements



Faculty team & STM staff members.

On 5 September 2025, Save the Mothers hosted faculty to a luncheon at Jean Chamberlain Froese House, Uganda Christian University, bringing together MPHL lecturers to plan for the current and future students.

The luncheon provided a valuable platform for reflection, connection, and strategic planning, as faculty discussed ways to strengthen teaching,

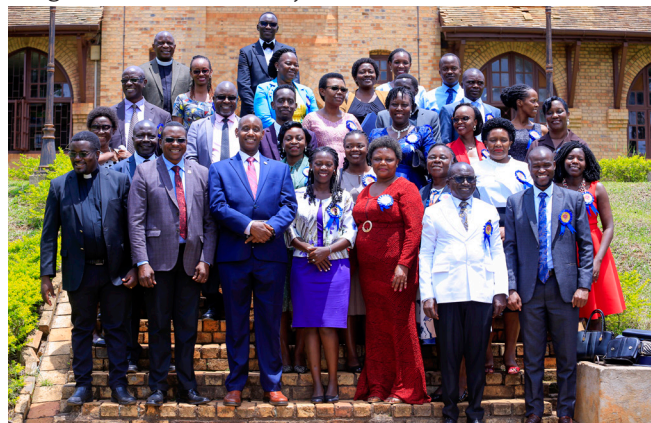
mentorship, and the overall student learning experience. The engagement reaffirmed a shared commitment to excellence in training multidisciplinary leaders for safe motherhood.

Save the Mothers appreciates the dedication of its faculty, whose collaboration continues to shape transformative learning for MPHL students.

### MPHL faculty recognised

On 3 Sept 2025 UCU held Staff Excellence Performance Award Ceremony officiated by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Aaron Mushengyezi. The awards celebrate outstanding performance in research, grant writing, and publications.

Three members on the MPHL faculty Josephine Namyalo Mawerere, Dr. Miriam Mutabazi, and Prof. Basaza Robert received awards. Save the Mothers congratulates our faculty.



The awarded staff join the VC Prof Aaron Mushengyezi, Rev Prof John Kitayimbwa Dep Vice Chancellor Academic affairs and Mr David Mugawe Dep Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration for a photo moment. Josephine Namyalo (4th left front row) & 2nd right front row is Prof Robert Basaza



On 23 October 2025, Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA), in partnership with Uganda Partners, hosted a Partners dinner at Jean Chamberlain House at Uganda Christian University (UCU).

The dinner brought together over 20 key

partners who support STM-UCU's maternal and newborn health programs.

The evening was graced by the Vice Chancellor of UCU, Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance & Administration, Mr. David Mugawe, and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Rev Prof. John Kitayimbwa.

## STM's partner dinner



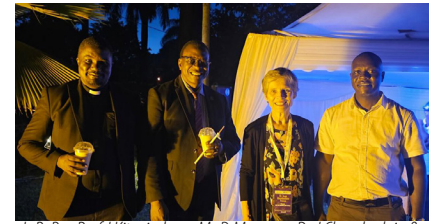
L-R: Josephine Namyalo (MPHL Academic Coordinator), Dr M Nsubuga STM EA ED, Rev Prof John Kitayimbwa and Mr David Mugawe.

Also in attendance were representatives from Meros Centre, partners from the USA and Canada, STM founders represented by Jean Chamberlain, as well as friends and well-wishers.

Guests celebrated the collective impact of partnerships in strengthening community engagement to advance safe



STM-UCU partners and the VC Prof Mushengyezi (R)



L-R: Rev Prof J Kitayimbwa, Mr D Mugawe, Dr J Chamberlain & Dr Nsubuga.

motherhood.

The evening reaffirmed a shared vision to deepen partnerships to support improvement of maternal and newborn health outcomes in East Africa and beyond.

## MPHL Alumni Driving Change for Safe Motherhood in Kagadi

**22–24 Sept 2025, STMEA conducted a field follow-up in Hoima & Kagadi districts, western Uganda to engage with MPHL alumni & students implementing life-saving maternal & child health initiatives in their communities. The team was led by Executive Director, Dr. Mushin Nsubuga.**



Thembo Selevano-Taking ANC to the last mile mother.



MCH outreach in Ndaiga

ANC: Dr Nsubuga attends to a woman.

Thembo is taking Antenatal Care (ANC) to the Last Mile mother in the hard-to-reach community of Ndaiga in Kagadi district. He is leading a transformative ANC outreach initiative serving women and babies in hard to reach communities. Through strong community mobilization and the

innovative use of boat transport across Lake Albert, pregnant mothers now access ANC and immunization services closer to home.



L-R: Dr Nsubuga (STMEA ED) & Thembo-Surveillance officer Kagadi district/MPHL alumnus

During the outreach supported by STMEA, 112 pregnant women received ANC services and over 70 babies were immunized. The first ANC attendance in the area has since risen significantly.

### Andrew Koolya championing maternal birth preparedness

In Kagadi, alumnus Andrew Koolya is promoting safe motherhood through Maternity Basket Funds integrated into community savings groups.



Dr Mushin Nsubuga speaks into safe motherhood to the Tulibamwe Women's Group members—Buhumuri, Pacha Town Council, Kagadi.

These funds help pregnant women prepare for delivery costs in advance, reducing financial barriers at the time of birth. STMEA joined Andrew on follow-up visits to two savings groups, witnessing how financial inclusion is improving maternal health outcomes.

STMEA also visited Azar Health III in Hoima run by Bunyoro Kitara diocese.

**These efforts show how MPHL alumni are translating training into real community impact.**



L-R: B Acheng, Tumuhimbise Alice leader Tulibamwe Women's Group, Dr Nsubuga & Andrew

Andrew is a town clerk in Kagadi & the Health Coordinator Bunyoro Kitara Diocese.



**Save the Mothers gathered to celebrate the Master of Public Health Leadership graduates.**

In her remarks, Dr Elizabeth Ekong, dean Faculty of Public Health Nursing and Midwifery urged the graduates to disseminate their research findings and implement operational research to promote safe motherhood.

Prof Pius Okong, STM founding member invited the graduates to identify MPHIL champions in their communities or other safe motherhood partners and work together for safe motherhood.

Dr Nsubuga STMEA urged the graduates to be ambassadors of STM in their communities.

## Camera's Eye of MPHIL Graduation Moments



**We are a big family:** Save the Mothers East Africa and Save the Mothers Canada join the graduates for a group photo soon after the graduation ceremony.



**Cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the new cohort of safe motherhood champions.**



*Time to share a meal.*



Diane Jones STM funding partner flanked by her daughter Dr Sharon (L) and Harriet Adong (R) Director Communication & Public Relations - UCU



MPHIL Academic Coordinator (na2 left), Josephine Namyalo Mawere joins MPHIL graduate Dr Ayuel from South Sudan for a photos moment with his family.



Nafula receives the Meros-Save the Mothers dissertation award for her MPHIL thesis. L-R: Dr M Nsubuga STM EA ED, Prof Florence Mirembe founder STM, Dr Shade Kolade Meros scholar, Nafula and Heather Sinclair STM Canada Board Chair.



STM leadership team at the graduation luncheon. L-R: Heather Sinclair STM Canada board chair, Dr M Nsubuga ED STM EA, Dr Jean Chamberlain STM founding member, Prof Florence Mirembe STM founding member, Dr Eve Nakabembe STMEA board member, Prof Pius Okong STM founding member, Ps Josephine Waako STM board member/ MPHIL alumna and Janet Sampson STM Canada Managing director.

Gifts for the graduates: Atim Grace receives a Save the Mothers bag from Dr Mushin Nsubuga STM East Africa Executive Director.



**Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) Uganda Christian University** <https://savethemothersea.org/>  
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