



Delegates engage with innovative change projects showcased through poster presentations during the STM2026 Conference.

# Every Change Project Matters: STM2026 Conference

**STM2026 conference was a call to action. Held on 24 April 2026, over 200 stakeholders convened at Uganda Christian University(UCU) for the Save the Mothers Maternal & Child Health Conference under the theme: "Every Change Project Matters: Multidisciplinary Collaborations to Reach Every Woman, Every Newborn, Everywhere."**

With over 30 maternal and child health research and change projects, the conference showcased practical, real-world solutions transforming safe motherhood. From strengthened referral systems and community midwifery models to digital innovations, youth-focused antenatal care, inclusive menstrual health, and expanded immunization efforts: One thing was clear: impact is happening at every level.



**Guest of Honor: Hon Margaret Muhanga**

The Guest of Honour, Hon Margaret Muhanga, emphasized that policies alone are not enough. Meaningful impact requires action through multidisciplinary collaboration at community, national, and global levels.

The keynote address by Prof Jerome Kabakyenga, Founding Director Maternal and Child Health Institute Mbarara University Science and Technology emphasized the need for multisectoral collaboration, community-based approaches, and data-driven solutions to strengthen safe motherhood.



*Dr Mushin Nsubuga Executive Director Save the Mothers East Africa, Prof Aaron Mushengyezi Vice Chancellor Uganda Christian University, and Government leaders including Hon. Margaret Muhanga and Hon. Beatrice Akori arrive for STM2026, signalling a shared commitment to advancing safe motherhood.*

This message was further reinforced by the participation of Hon Beatrice Akori Akello Min of State for Economic Monitoring Office of the President and an alumna of the Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL). Her participation highlighted that maternal & child health is also a financing and development priority.

Speakers reinforced a shared message: Prof Aaron Mushengyezi Vice Chancellor

Uganda Christian University highlighted the role of higher institutions of learning in addressing preventable maternal and child deaths. Prof Mushengyezi stressed UCU commitment in promoting safe motherhood in collaboration with Save the Mothers through the MPHL and Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI).

Dr Mushin Nsubuga Executive Director Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) underscored that every Master of Public Health Leadership alumnus represents a safe motherhood change project making impact in communities.

A dynamic panel discussion further emphasized the importance of partnerships, co-creation, and the evolving role of multisectoral players in addressing safe motherhood challenges.

The conference closed with a candlelight tribute honoring mothers and babies lost and renewing a shared commitment to action.

*By Teopista Agutu, Comm & Networking Unit STMEA*



**Keynote speaker: Prof Jerome Kabakyenga**



**Over 200 multidisciplinary stakeholders convened at Uganda Christian University for STM2026 Conference.**

# Leadership in action



Left: Group photo-STM-UCU leadership with keynote speaker, guest of honour, keynote speaker and partners. Above: Dr Betty Mirembe Path Country Director and Dr Mushin Nsubuga ED STMEA meet up.



## Panel discussion

Panelists: Peter Olet Hospital Administrator Timagi Community Medical Centre / MPH alumna, Dr Elizabeth Ekong Dean Faculty of Public Health Nursing & Midwifery UCU, Dr Eve Nakabembe STMEA board member & Dr Betty Mirembe Country Director Path Uganda. Right: A cross-section of delegates

## Oral Presentations



Deo Agaba Path Uganda



Dr Francis Bwambale - UCU



Sr Cheptoeck Patricia: Tororo Hospital



Aanyu Goretti: Hand in Hand Ugaanda

## Poster Presentations



# Delegates



## Exhibitions



## Closing Ceremony



Candlelight tribute honoring mothers and babies lost & renewing a shared commitment to act led by Prof J Kabakyenga keynote speaker, Dr J Chamberlain STM Founder & Dr Baifa Arwinyo of Mbale Regional Referral Hospital.

## Networking



**Our sincere appreciation to all partners, delegates & friends of Save the Mothers who supported us during the STM2026 Conference and pre-conference engagements. Thank you for contributing to the success of the STM2026 Conference.**



As part of the build-up to the Save the Mothers Annual Maternal & Child Health Conference 2026, Save the Mothers East Africa engaged partners through a series of impactful pre-conference activities.

# STM Pre-Conference Activities

## 4 Feb 2026: Pre-Conference Writing Webinar

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA), in partnership with Uganda Christian University, successfully hosted a Pre-Conference Writing Webinar that brought together over 100 participants. The speakers Prof. Pius Okong and Prof. Elizabeth Balyejusa Kizito, guided participants on how to transform their work into compelling abstracts that communicate real impact in saving the lives of mothers and babies. The webinar emphasized the importance of documenting and sharing change projects across sectors and settings. It set the stage for meaningful participation in the STM2026 Conference and officially marked the launch of the 2026 Annual Maternal & Child Health Conference.



**Pre-Conference Writing Webinar:** L-R: Prof Pius Okong, Dr Mushin Nsubuga, Dr Margaret Kiwanuka, Prof Robert Basaza & Dr Elizabeth Balyejusa

## 16-20 Feb 2026: STMEA hosted partners from Canada

Save the Mothers East Africa hosted a 13-member Canadian delegation of partners for a five-day visit. The partners led by STM Canada leadership team – Heather Sinclair, Katherine Johnson, Diane Jones and Janet Sampson included members from Westhill Park Baptist church in Regina (Karen, Adam, Elizabeth, Ryan, Rev. Elizabeth, Kristine, Dale, Carey, Ann) who brought mother-baby care items from the congregation. Thank you to the team and congregates for caring.



**UCU management led by Dr Elizabeth Ekong (2nd left) received Save the Mothers partners from Canada.**

**Strategic meeting with UCU:** STM had a strategic meeting with Uganda Christian University management team to explore areas of partnerships for safe motherhood.

**At Mukono General Hospital** under the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative STM had a meeting with the health facility leadership to discuss strategies to strengthen safe motherhood. STM donated -mother-baby care items on the postnatal wards.



**Above:** At Mukono General Hospital, STM was received by the Director, Dr Geoffrey Kasirye (front row, second from left). Above right: **Donation of mother-and-baby care items.**

## At Mbale Regional Referral Hospital in eastern Uganda

Save the Mothers and partners visited Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, where the Maternity High Dependency Unit established by Save the Mothers manages approximately 50 critically ill mothers each month, achieving an impressive 97% survival rate. To strengthen care, essential equipment including patient monitors and a wheelchair were donated. Mbale Regional Referral Hospital is one the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives.



At Mbale Regional Referral Hospital the team was received by Senior Principal Nursing Officer Sr Kokor Magdalene & Dr Baiya Arwinyo Head of Department Obstetrics & Gynaecology.



**Left:** STM hands over maternity HDU equipment.



**At Komamboga Health Centre III:** Dr Daphine Akot (right) received Save the Mothers team. Discussions were held on safe, respectful & dignified maternity care.

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA) Uganda Christian University



<https://savethemothersea.org/> Editor/graphic designer: **T. Agutu**, Photographers: **R Masiga, A Bugembe, T Agutu**, Contributors: **A Koolya & D Muhindo** Reviewer: **Dr M Nsubuga**

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### MPHL Updates

**Welcome new MPHL students:** Save the Mothers is excited to welcome a new cohort of Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) students - Jan 2026 intake at Uganda Christian University. Welcome to champion safe motherhood in your communities using your different spheres of influence.

**MPHL Easter Semester:** The students reported for the Easter semester in Feb. Lectures that run online were concluded with exams in April.

**Writing week:** Held on 23-27 Feb gathered 42 MPHL students.

**Vivas:** Held in April in preparations for July graduation.

**UCU appoints STMEA ED to head the University Health and Safety Committee.**  
**Congratulations Dr Mushin Nsubuga**

### MBFHI Updates MGH recognizes STM

Mukono General Hospital (MGH), central Uganda recognized Save the Mothers for its contribution to maternal and newborn health, through the implementation of the Mothers Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.

## Pre-Conference Community Engagements

**Seed Fund in Manafwa District, eastern Uganda:** STM partners from Canada visited the Seed Fund women groups supported by STM to improve access to maternal and child health services.



Goat rearing is one of the Seed Fund initiatives supported by STM to promote economic empowerment among community groups.



A group member shares benefits of the Seed Fund



STM partners meet the Seed Fund Women and shared a special message: "Khu bakana naabi" We love you very much.

### STM engages with Soroti City Council Leadership

STM partners visited Soroti City Council leadership in eastern Uganda to plan improve maternal and newborn care at Soroti Health Centre III.

At the heart of this engagement are MPHL alumna Christine Emameete and student Esther Madudu, who are leading change at the facility level demonstrating the power of trained multidisciplinary professionals in strengthening health systems for safe motherhood.



MPHL alumna Christine (middle) engages the safe motherhood advocates led by STM Canada leadership: Heather Sinclair (L) and Janet Sampson (2nd left).



Hand in Hand Uganda

At Hand in Hand Uganda, STM was received by Goretti Aanyu (MPHL alumna) & the Country Director Loyce Taaka. MPHL alumna Goretti showcased her work promoting menstrual hygiene and adolescent health among children with disabilities - hard to hear and thus use sign language.

### At Triple P Primary School



The delegation also visited Triple P Primary School, where MPHL alumna Plan Virginia is leading an initiative titled "Where Have the Fathers Gone?", advocating for increased male involvement in safe motherhood. Plan Virginia is the Founder & School Director.



STM partners met Soroti City Clerk Paul Batanda, City Health Officer Dr Alfred Anyanyo & MPHL alumna Christine plus In charge Soroti Health Centre III Mr Cuthbert Eriti.

### MPHL alumna Desire Muhindo & Andrew Koolya lead

In Bunyoro Kitara, western Uganda STM alumni supported a regional medical camp at St. Ambrose Charity Hospital Kagadi, reaching 517 people providing 117 Antenatal Care services, and repairing 49 birth injuries. Recognized for their impact, STM alumni continue to drive community-level change in maternal health. At the camp, the alumni showcased STM's work.



Desire & Andrew fly STM's flag high.

**Thank you Westhill Park Baptist church for donations to mothers and babies made possible through church fund raising efforts.**