



Since its inception in 2005, Save the Mothers has had over 300 students graduate on its Master of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) program offered in partnership with Uganda Christian University. Many of these alumni are making positive change in safe motherhood.

In this issue we present Connie Bwire, Jeremiah Mbulamani, Edwige Namwanga and Edith Grace.

Connie Bwire, MPHL Class 2014, Assistant District Health Officer, Maternal & Child Health-Tororo district.

When Connie enrolled on the MPHL program, she was a nursing officer working at a health facility in Tororo district as an in-charge. After graduating on the MPHL program, the district leadership promoted Connie to acting district health officer maternal and child health, Tororo district. "Though I loved my clinical work and my patients, I was happy to move to the new position on merit."

"The knowledge and skills I gained at MPHL did not go in vain."

As the Assistant District Health Officer of Maternal and Child Health, Connie

Game changers



Connie
Acted as a DHO for Tororo district in 2021. She is also a health coordinator at Tororo diocese.

oversees safe motherhood issues and influences policies.

She has interested district leadership in safe motherhood.

"At one time, we were experiencing maternal deaths in Tororo General Hospital, which is a high volume hospital. I caused a meeting with the Medical Superintendent of the hospital. We agreed to have monthly meetings geared at reducing maternal deaths. We activated maternal and perinatal death audits which had been irregular. We put someone in charge of perinatal and maternal death review.

In the beginning, I made sure that I attended the audits to encourage this practice. I also ensured that not only midwives handle the audits. I brought on board the Medical Superintendent, medical officers and hospital administrator since they are key decision makers. I instituted quarterly meetings for medical officers."

Connie's office also realised that pregnancy and childbirth related problems were coming from the health facilities into Tororo General Hospital.

To address this Connie says: "We instituted functional Maternal & Perinatal Death Surveillance & Response Guidelines (MPDSR) committee at health facilities. Our health facilities know that once a mother or baby dies, an audit must be done within seven days. I also receive notifications of any maternal or perinatal deaths."

Connie revealed that Tororo General Hospital did not have a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and that resulted in deaths of newborns. "I used to hear about NICU in other hospitals but Tororo General Hospital had none. We used to refer babies to Mbale Regional Referral Hospital. Many of these babies would die before reaching the referral point."

Connie lobbied and advocated with various partners to set up NICU. "Now Tororo Hospital has NICU and we are saving many babies."

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Academic updates



Welcome MPHL 2023 Cohort: Join us to welcome the MPHL May 2023 Class. Welcome to the Save the Mothers network of game changers. Together we can make a positive change in safe motherhood with small and big steps.

Writing week: Are you a continuing MPHL student? Save the Mothers is committed to walking with you this MPHL journey to completion as we work together to save mothers and babies. Save the Mothers is organising a writing week to support students to complete research. More information coming your way soon.

Graduation: 28 July 2023

Game changers

Connie Bwire championing MCH

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"I cannot forget the partnership Tororo hospital has with Save the Mothers – they have supported the set up of a maternity High Dependency Unit." Connie also noted that STM has trained health workers in Tororo hospital under the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.

"I also appreciate my colleague Stella Agembi (MPHL alumna) working at Tororo General Hospital. We have a great partnership to ensure no mother or child dies."

Connie attributes these strides in promoting safe motherhood to the skills and knowledge she gained at Save the Mothers – MPHL program.

Connie concluded her interview with STM by inviting multi-disciplinary professionals to join the MPHL program.

The maternity HDU in Tororo Hospital has contributed to saving lives of mothers and babies.



STM boosts Post-natal care unit at Kyetume Health Centre III

At the Save The Mothers East Africa May 2023 Conference, Edwige Namwanga (MPHL alumna), in-charge Kyetume Health Centre III in Lwengo, central Uganda received an enhancement fund for presenting one of the top change projects.

In June Edwige sent this message to STM: "Thank you so much for this support. This fund has been used to plaster the postnatal ward. Our mothers are going to enjoy a bigger space now."



Edwige had embarked on a task to expand the postnatal care unit which could only accommodate two beds. She started construction works to expand the unit. Using

the STMEA Conference fund Edwige was able to plaster the structure and make it ready for use. The postnatal unit can now accommodate five beds.



Post-natal Care unit: On the extreme right of the post natal care unit is the newly constructed wing before it was plastered.



The wing is plastered.

Save the Mothers East Africa (STMEA), Uganda Christian University, Mukono www.stmeafrica.org.

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WhatsApp connect #STM Network

It is always a pleasure to hear from you dear Save the Mothers family. This season we received WhatsApp news from Bugiri, Mbale City & Oyam district.

Edith Grace Naluwende - MPHL 2012 Class - Bugiri districts



Dr Olive



Edith

Edith is the Founder & Director of Simplified Call of Real Empowerment & Development. She also chairs the Health Unit Management Committee Nankoma Health Centre IV, Bugiri district. **Left:** Edith and her team give counsel to the students of her training institute. **Right:** Edith hosted Dr Olive Sentumbwe and her team at Nankoma Health Centre IV. Dr Olive works with the World Health Organisation, Uganda.

Peter Olet, Hospital Administrator, Timagi Hospital, Oyam

Peter initiated a chicken per household project at Timagi Community Medical Centre, to raise funds towards construction of a general ward and theatre. Peter and his team conducted a door to door mobilization for chickens and health camp in June 2023.

Top-right: Community members present hens to Timagi Community Medical Centre.
Bottom-right: A health camp in progress



Doctors on duty to save lives of newborns: Dr Edward K Mukooza & Dr Walter Luru at Amai Hospital.

STM donates life saving equipment to Amai Community Hospital

Save the Mothers East Africa through the Leila C Reader Fund donated a baby incubator to Amai Community Hospital in Amolatar district, northern Uganda on 16 June 2023. Dr Edward Mukooza, STMEA interim Executive Director handed over the incubator to Dr Walter Luru, Medical Director, Amai Community Hospital.

Dr. Walter Luru, thanked Save the Mothers for the support.

In Loving Memory



Patrick Ogen -MPHL 2012

Died on 10 June 2023 STM remembers Patrick for his commitment to serving mothers and babies through his NGO work.

RIP Patrick



Mutoto people receive mosquito nets

Jeremiah Mbulamani - founding director, Mothers Heart Uganda, Mbale City

Friends of Mothers Heart donated mosquito nets to the Golden Hill community in Mutoto, Mbale City. In July Mothers Heart Uganda distributed 1,000 nets to women, pupils in Golden Hill school and community.

Jeremiah says:

"We aim at preventing malaria among pregnant mothers and children below the age of 5 years. The exercise was an eye opener that there is a big chance for you and me to support Mutoto people. We can reduce maternal and child deaths."



Jeremiah

South Sudan calling

MPHL classmates meet in Juba It was a moment to share beautiful memories of Save the Mothers when Clement Honda and Reuben Godson MPHL class met in Juba on 14 July 2023.

Reuben was pleasantly surprised to catch up with Clement Honda, in Juba. The two are working in South Sudan.

Post by Reuben Godson, South Sudan- MPHL class 2013.



Clement

Reuben

Gentlemen, what are you up to? STM network is eagerly waiting to hear about your work in South Sudan.