



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

**MakSPH**



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

College of Health Sciences  
School of Public Health

This annual report was prepared by MakSPH Communications Office  
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This report represents a collaborative effort in which all MakSPH Department and related Projects provided content. We are grateful for all units, individuals who contributed to this work.

#### LAYOUT & DESIGN

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#### PHOTO CREDITS

All photos in this report were sourced from/ taken by Communications Office unless where cited otherwise.

## **Vision**

To be a leader in public health training and knowledge generation for societal transformation.

## **Mission**

To promote better health for the people of Uganda and beyond through public health training, research and community service.

## **Core Values**

- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Innovativeness
- Responsiveness
- Collaborations
- Equity & social justice

# Inside...



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# Message from the Dean

The year 2021 has been an extraordinary year for the world and we have all had to adapt to living our lives differently.

I would like to thank and congratulate all our stakeholders starting with our staff, students, development partners and the Ministry of Health (MoH) who have risen to the challenges posed by the pandemic and continue to excel in serving our communities.

To our partners, thank you so much for the great support through the years and thank you for the resilience. Together, we can survive and thrive even during adversity.

While managing the pandemic, we did not lose sight of our mandate of teaching, research and community services through our extended research programs and outreaches.

## Covid-19 response

The Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) has worked with the MoH and other partners to contribute to the national response as well as the regional networks to evaluate the Covid-19 pandemic, and generate evidence to inform decisions across multiple partners. We have members that are on the Uganda National Task Force, the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Vaccine Advisory Group and on regional and global committees in various fields of public health. We have also implemented several regional research and capacity building projects in Africa to advance public health on the continent.

## Teaching and learning

In 2021 we continued to consolidate and deliver our teaching using predominantly virtual approaches, which have been embraced especially by our students. We will build on these experiences to

accelerate the planned transition to blended teaching and online courses.

## Partnerships & Research

Our partnerships have continued to grow and expand in reach across 18 countries in Africa and various fields of public health including infectious diseases, non-communicable disease and health systems.

Our team continues to implement a large number of research projects with deliberate efforts to achieve knowledge translation. The evidence from some of our projects informed the development of national policies and plans and adaptations to service delivery, among other actions. Our teams also continue to engage in public debates, conferences and with communities, and also publish widely, with >250 publications within the year.

## Infrastructure

We have made a lot of progress with our infrastructure projects.

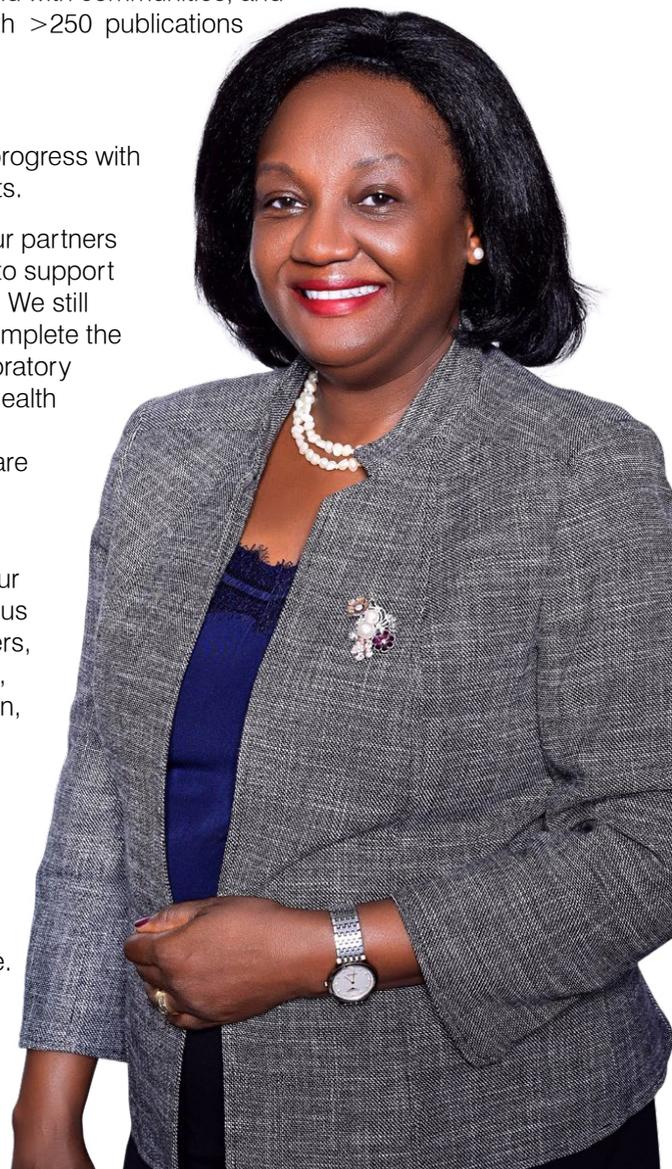
We sincerely thank all our partners and staff for continuing to support our construction project. We still need your support to complete the building, furnish the laboratory and expand our public health research portfolio. Your donations and support are precious to us.

## Appreciation

I would like to express our appreciation to our various partners and stakeholders, and staff for their loyalty, hard work and dedication, and to our partners for their trust, patience and guidance. We are confident that with your continued support, and with bounded optimism, we will achieve even greater success in future.

With gratitude

**Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze,**  
Professor & Dean,  
MakSPH



# MakSPH Leadership 2021



## Dean

**Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze**  
(Professor)



## Deputy Dean

**Dr. Fredrick Makumbi**  
(Associate Professor)



**Dr. Esther Buregyeya**  
(Associate Professor)

**Head, Department of Disease  
Control & Environmental Health**



**Dr. Noah Kiwanuka**  
(Associate Professor)

**Head, Department of  
Epidemiology & Biostatistics**



**Khamili Gladys**  
**Principal Registrar**



**Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa Kiracho**  
(Senior Lecturer)

**Head, Department of Health  
Policy, Planning & Management**



**Dr. Christine Nalwadda**  
(Senior Lecturer)

**Head, Department of Community  
Health & Behavioral Sciences**



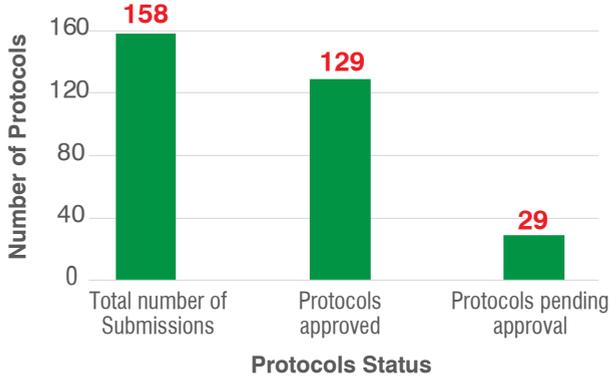
**Elizabeth Nambi Nsoby**

**Manager, Finance  
Management Unit**

# 2021 IN NUMBERS

## Research Protocols

Number of research protocols submitted to MakSPH, Research and Ethics Committee



## Grants



**230**  
Number of **Donor Funded Grants**

**\$25,832,047**  
Average annual revenue for **the last 5 years**

## Scientific Peer reviewed Publications



**>250**  
Number of **publications from MakSPH faculty**

## Community Engagements



**47,072** patients  
screened for CVD risk factors



**4,800** Sensitised  
on CVD prevention during house-to-house visits

## Capacity Building



**34** Staff  
were trained and completed PMD Pro Project Management course



**846** VHTs  
**766** in Wakiso trained on Epidemic and Pandemic preparedness & response  
**80** trained in CVDs prevention (Buikwe & Mukono)



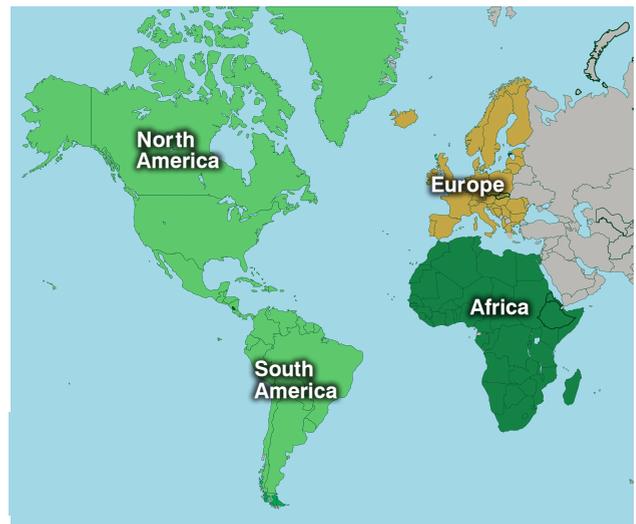
**30** Junior Researchers  
trained in grant writing



**10** Seed Grants  
Issued to early career researchers



**250** Participants  
from four continents; **Africa, Europe, North America** and **South America** trained in 'Writing a winning grant proposal' short course offered by MakSPH RAN through USAID's Research Technical Assistance Center



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Key Appointments



**Professor Rhoda Wanyenze**

Reappointed Dean, MakSPH



**Dr. Esther Buregyeya**  
(Associate Professor)

Reappointed Head, Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health



**Dr. David Musoke**

Promoted to Senior Lecturer



**Dr. Edith Nakku Joloba**

Promoted to Senior Lecturer



**Mr. Jude Oboth**

Joined MakSPH family as IT officer



**Mr. Ivan Mutyaba**

Joined MakSPH family as an Administrator.



**Mr. Andrew Kayondo**

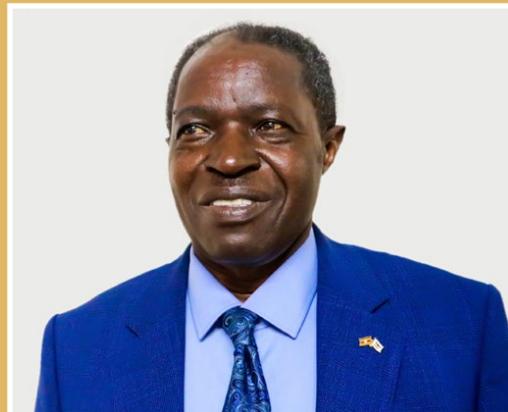
Joined MakSPH family as a Laboratory Technologist



**Mr. Emmanuel Balinda**

Joined MakSPH family as the Infrastructure Development Officer -IDO

## Retirement



**Prof. William Bazeyo**

Professor Bazeyo, retired from University Service, having served for more 28 years in different capacities. His lengthy list of achievements and contributions; Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor In-Charge of Finance and Administration (DVC-F&A), Makerere University; Dean, MakSPH; Lecturer, Head of department (Disease control and Environmental Health), physician, public health specialist, and researcher.



**Mr. Marvin Kansiime**

After 8 years of dedicated service to MakSPH as IT officer, Marvin retired.



**Mr. Adolf Buga**

Retires after 36 years of dedicated service to MakSPH as Lab Technician. Mr. Buga expressed his heartfelt gratitude for all the good things that he achieved while at MakSPH.

*Thank You!*

*For your dedicated Service*

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

MakSPH is one of the leading public health training institutions in Uganda and in Africa. We aspire to maintain leadership in producing outstanding, innovative and diverse human resources for health. Our approach to teaching is hands-on to ensure the acquisition of competences that are relevant to the market and to deliver services to the communities.

## Public health teaching and learning

299

**Students**

admitted to programmes at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

MakSPH has continued to adopt initiatives to extend public health training despite the coronavirus pandemic.

During the 2020/2021 academic year, 299 students were admitted to programmes at both graduate and undergraduate levels (80% of these are graduate students).

To adhere to the COVID-19 SOPs the School used blended methods of teaching and learning with staggered face-to-face and ODEL-E teaching and learning.



## University Semester Dates for 2021/2022

Orientation

29<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>  
January – February

Semester ONE

5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>  
February – May

Semester TWO

30<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>  
May – September

Recess term

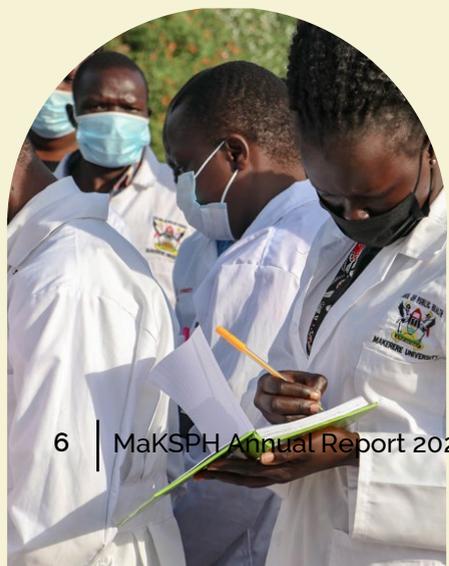
Alternative modes of Recess

Source: <https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/12/semester-calendar-for-2021-2022/>

## Student Enrollment

Students enrolled at MakSPH.

Student categories		Gov't		Private		Total Students
No.	Programme	F	M	F	M	
<b>Undergraduate</b>						
1.	BEH III	2	2	13	24	41
2.	BEH II	2	3	18	23	46
3.	BEH I	4	1	14	16	35
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Postgraduate</b>						
4.	MPH (Full Time) I			10	28	38
5.	MPH (Full Time) II			61	43	104
6.	MPH (Distance) I			25	39	64
7.	MPH (Distance) II			28	34	62
8.	MPH (Distance) III			92	149	241
9.	MPH (Nutrition) I			5	1	6
10.	MPH (Nutrition) II			28	13	41
11.	MHSR I			5	5	10
12.	MHSR II			15	20	35
	MDM I			4	6	10
	MDM II			5	12	17
	MHI I			6	6	12
	MHI II			15	30	45
	MBIO I			6	7	13
	MBIO II			12	14	26
	M&E I			6	8	14
	M&E II			8	11	19
	PhD			12	23	35
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>343</b>	<b>449</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>						<b>792</b>



### KEY

<b>BEHS</b>	Bachelor of Environmental Health Science
<b>MPHN</b>	Master of Public Health Nutrition
<b>MHSR</b>	Master of Health Services Research
<b>MPH-FT</b>	Master of Public Health (Full Time)
<b>MPH-DE</b>	Master of Public Health (Distance Education)
<b>MDM</b>	Master of Public Health Disaster Management
<b>MHI</b>	Master of Health Informatics
<b>MBIO</b>	Master of Biostatistics
<b>MPHM&amp;E</b>	Master of Public Health (Monitoring and Evaluation)
<b>PhD</b>	Doctor of Philosophy



**Mak71<sup>st</sup> hybrid  
Graduation ceremony**



**12,550  
graduands were  
awarded degrees  
and diplomas.**

**MakSPH**



**Awards**



## Curriculum Development

The School has developed new academic programmes in a bid to address the gaps in public health training in Uganda and the African region. The curricular are undergoing University approval processes.

**The new academic programmes include;**

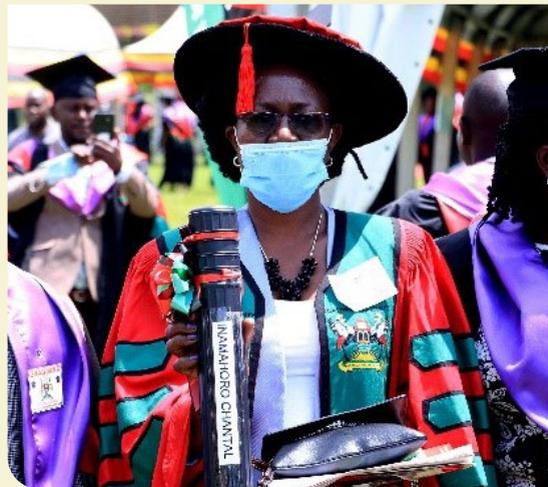
- a) Master of Environmental and Occupational Health
- b) Taught PhD
- c) Master of Health Economics

## Graduation May 2021

Makerere University held its 71<sup>st</sup> hybrid Graduation ceremony amidst the coronavirus pandemic on May 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. A total of 12,550 graduands were awarded degrees and diplomas. 108 received their PhDs.

The School presented a total of 108 graduates across all academic programmes, 4 were awarded PhDs, 51 were awarded masters degrees and 53 attained Bachelors in Environmental Health Science.

The Ph.D. graduates were Dr. Justine Bukenya Nnakate, Dr. Arthur Bagonza, Dr. Inamahoro Chantal, and Dr. Batamuliza Kaitesi Mukara. Ms. Faith Atai the best student in the only Bachelor's program at the School had the exception for the in-person graduation



## Dr. Seth Berkley receives Makerere University Honorary Doctor of Letters

Acclaimed American epidemiologist Dr. Seth Franklin Berkley received Makerere University's Honorary Doctorate of Letters (Honoris Causa) Award, the highest honor Makerere can confer upon one for their distinguished service. The award originated through MakSPH and was awarded during the 71<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony of Makerere University in May 2021.

The Makerere University doctorate award citation hails Dr. Berkeley, a former honorary lecturer at MakSPH and a decade-long CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance for tremendous contribution to the staff capacity building in training and research, and student training at the Makerere School of Public Health.

**“I am extremely honored to receive this honorary doctorate and delighted to join the rest of the graduates to be into the ranks of this esteemed institution,”** Dr. Seth Franklin Berkley



*Some of the graduands from MakSPH share a photo moment with the Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, at the Makerere University 71<sup>st</sup> hybrid Graduation ceremony held at Freedom Square.*

## 12 Disease Detectives graduate from MakSPH-CDC Fellowship Program

In its mission to champion the training of Field Epidemiologists in Uganda, the Public Health Fellowship Program (PHFP), a tripartite Public Health Workforce Capacity building program of the Ministry of Health, Makerere University School of Public Health and the U.S Centers for Disease Control (US CDC), in 2021 graduated 12 experts after the fellows completed their two-years' field disease analysis.

The graduates were commissioned off with certificates of completion by Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, the then junior Minister of Health for General Duties who represented Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, the Minister of Health at the 5<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony of the fellowship program on Friday, January 29, 2021, at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala.



*Over the past 6 years, Fellows have conducted over 110 outbreak investigations most of them on high priority diseases of public health importance...*



*The fellows cut cake with representatives from CDC, MakSPH and Ministry of Health*



*Dr. Julie Harris, the CDC Resident Advisor handing a certificate to Dr. Ronald Reagan Mutebi a graduating fellow*



*Director General Health Services Dr. Henry Mwebesa hands a certificate to a graduating fellow at the ceremony.*

## MakSPH PhD Forum: 2021 reflections



 10  
colleagues  
completed their PhD  
Journey

 28  
convened &  
supported  
PRESENTATIONS

The PhD Forum is an association of like-minded individuals, including prospective & current PhD students and PhD graduates associated with the MakSPH. The forum aspires to have every member enjoy a worthwhile and remarkable PhD journey.

### Highlights of our successes.

As of 2021, 10 colleagues completed their PhD journey. The forum convened and supported 28 presentations during the reporting year. These included 3 special sessions on;

- studying complexity,
- Impact evaluation (quasi-experimental) designs and
- Research designs; 14 student presentations; 8 PhD pre-defences and defences; 2 roundtable discussions and 1 journal club seminar.

On networking and peer support, the PhD Forum consolidated online community engagements.

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the forum celebrated their achievements at the PhD luncheon at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala, in honour of colleagues who had recently defended their PhDs.

The ceremony was attended by senior staff at the MakSPH, PhD candidates still on their journey, celebrants and their family and supervisors, and the Dean, School of Public Health, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze. The Dean urged the celebrants and PhD candidates to demonstrate a committed and empathetic heart in their work with the overarching goal of making a change in the world. It was a time of merry-making, encouraging those still on their journey and congratulating those who made it through.



*MakSPH PhD celebrants from L-R Dr. Justine Bukonya, Dr. Fredrick Makumbi (Associate Professor), Dr. Ndejjo Rawlance, Dr. Mukuru Moses, Dr. Chrispus Mayora, Dr. Joan N. Mutyoba & Dr. Arthur Bagonza pose with their certificates awarded to them in celebration of their successful completion of their PhDs.*

# COLLABORATIONS

## Karolinska Institutet, Makerere University enter new phase of closer collaboration with Centre for Sustainable Health

On Friday (January 29), Makerere University and Karolinska Institutet, entered an agreement to further an alliance between the two research-led universities with the view of deepening the long-standing successful cooperation. The collaboration agreement led to the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health – CESH.

This Centre seeks to promote partnerships, develop capacity, resources and tools to drive the agenda for sustainable health and currently implements capacity building activities in three African countries including Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia.

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor Makerere University, and Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen, President Karolinska Institutet, signed the agreement to establish CESH in a virtual ceremony. The agreement is a step in the deepening of the collaboration between the institutions and a major leap towards driving the

agenda for sustainable health. CESH is a virtual Centre that will utilize technology and digital tools to achieve its aspirations. It shall focus on three broad areas of research and innovations around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Children, adolescents and characterizing the risk of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Karolinska Institutet, Makerere University enter a new phase of closer Collaboration with Centre for Sustainable Health.



**Karolinska Institutet's President, Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen, and Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor at Makerere University, signed an agreement to establish the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Photos: Ulf Sirbom.**

**CESH** Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health

*Negotiations around the Centre's establishment began about a year ago. Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, the Dean, School of Public Health –and the Centre lead at Makerere University says the Centre is built around the global goals for sustainable development, specifically the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals.*

## Mak enters Research and Training partnership with Somali National University

Makerere University -Mak and Somali National University (SNU) on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will commence a collaboration between the two African Universities.

The signing ceremony took place at Makerere University between Professor Hassan Omar Mahadalle, the Rector of Somalia National University and his Ugandan counterpart Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University and was witnessed by The Somali Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Ali Mohamud Mohamed.



**Professor Hassan Omar Mahadalle, the Rector of Somalia National University and his Ugandan counterpart Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University after signing the MoU.**

Professor Nawangwe said the two institutions have agreed to collaborate in research and training. The agreement will enable Makerere University through MakSPH to support Somali National University which is currently pioneering its public health training and research program at its Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.



**Dr. Mohamed Gedi Qayad, Dean Faculty of Health Science & Tropical Medicine SNU alongside MakSPH Dean Professor Rhoda Wanyenze signs MoU in witness of Amb. Ali Mohamud Mohamed and Mak VC Professor Nawangwe plus the entire delegation**



**A team from Makerere University led by Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor exchange MoU after its signing with a delegation of Somali National University. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Somali Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Ali Mohamud Mohamed.**

## CHS-MakSPH, Family TV Uganda partnership gives birth to a health show

On May 10, 2021, MakSPH, through the Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences and the Makerere University Centre of Excellence for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health formalized a partnership with Family Television to support and implement the Health Pot Program that is aimed at supporting dissemination of topical health information and latest research and innovations from the School. This partnership extends to the entire College of Health Sciences and has seen several projects' research and innovation see the light of the public through media engagement.



**MakSPH's Head of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences Department Dr. Christine Nalwadda in a photo with Family TV team led by the CEO Mr. Amos Mwesigye in May 2021 - Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika**



**Family TV CEO Mr. Amos Mwesigye and Dr. Christine Nalwadda, Head, Department of Community Health and Behavioral sciences. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika**

## MakSPH-Family TV hold talks to promote Health Communication

MakSPH held talks with the leadership of Family TV. The talks aimed at strengthening the partnership were guided by Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor & Dean MakSPH in her office on Thursday December 16, 2021.

The partnership seeks to cement the relationship between the School and Church of Uganda's Family TV, through a Health Talk Show "The Health Pot show"

which is aired every Friday at 7:00PM.

The Dean hosted the visitors alongside Dr. Christine Nalwadda Luutu Kayemba, a Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Nalwadda has been spearheading the efforts to see the growth of this partnership.



**Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor & Dean MakSPH, Dr. Christine Nalwadda Luutu Kayemba, a Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences, Mr. Amos Mwesigye, the Executive Director Family TV Uganda, and Mr. Katende Alex Biriggwa, the Station's Marketing Manager in her office on Thursday December 16, 2021.**

## MakSPH and San Diego State University Partnership Meeting

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 marked a continuing partnership between MakSPH and San Diego State University (SDSU) as a team of three students from SDSU received orientation to prepare them under take field placement at Mbale District Health Office.

The meeting was attended by two Professors from SDSU- Prof Stephanie Brodine and Prof Dena Plemmons who

lead the MHIRT (Minority Health International Research Training) Program. The three Global Health students were hosted as part of a long-term collaboration that MakSPH and SDSU have had since 2016 when the first batch of SDSU global health students completed field attachment paired with the Uganda Master of Public Health Students.



*Dean MakSPH and Doreen Tuheebwe–Research Fellow meet with the San Diego State University (SDSU) MPH-Global Health students and their Faculty on 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 to have an orientation ahead of field placement at Mbale District Health Office.*

## The University of Manchester and MakSPH Partner to conduct research in Limb trauma & reconstruction Study in Kampala

Makerere University through MakSPH was awarded pump priming grants from the University of Manchester to establish a new interdisciplinary research collaboration involving surgeons, public health specialists, health economists, and emergency care system development and blended learning specialists. With Uganda having one of the highest rates of disability in Africa due to road traffic injuries, the team will implement research with the primary goal of delivering transformative impact in limb reconstruction pathways in Uganda to reduce the burdens of disability and amputation following limb trauma. This proposed research will contribute to the development of an integrated emergency care system in Uganda to meet the Ugandan national health sector strategic plan and the individual health needs reflected

in the WHO Sustainable Development Goal 3.6.

The study will be implemented in collaboration with first responders, surgeons and researchers and other stakeholders including boda-boda riders. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021, consultative meetings of stakeholders were held with boda-boda riders, officers from the Uganda Police Force, senior surgeons, and other health workers involved in emergency care. The dialogue meetings focused on strengthening unintentional injuries and the emergency care system. Dialogue participants highlighted various challenges they face as accident victims and others as first responders, shared ways on how patients can be handled in order to prevent further damage and save lives.



*A group of Boda-boda riders during the workshop. They expressed need for first aid boxes/kits on their respective stages and how to use them*



*Health workers, surgeons and the project team in a group photo in Masaka region. Masaka Regional Referral Hospital and Kawolo General Hospital, in Buikwe District reported having inadequate supplies.*



*Participants including a team of researchers from MakSPH team and Uganda Police Force from Jinja and neighbouring Districts.*



*Uganda has no designated ambulances particularly for road traffic accidents even the police patrol pick-ups which assist lack basic equipment and they are actually not appropriate for taking severe patients to hospital. Therefore, lack of well-equipped ambulances and other stand by vehicles to take victims to hospitals is a big problem.*

## MakSPH leads Universities in Africa to build capacity for Ministries of Health in Analytics and Data Use

MakSPH in partnership with seven Universities in Africa has been implementing a grant with funding from The Global Fund: Partnership to enhance technical support for analytical capacity and data use in Eastern and Southern Africa (PERSuADE). The partner Universities in the first phase of the initiative included Universities of Nairobi, Muhimbili, and Kinshasa in Eastern Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Witwatersrand in Southern Africa. The partnership involved Schools of Public Health and Statistics across the participating universities. MakSPH hosts the PERSuADE secretariat.



*Country teams at the PERSuADE Inception Phase Launch Meeting in Kampala, Uganda 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018*

At the close of the first phase in April 2021, MakSPH together with the partner universities presented the achievements to the Global Fund Secretariat in Geneva and several stakeholders from Africa and globally. The PERSuADE initiative supported capacity building efforts in data analysis and use of evidence in decision making at national and sub-national levels in the countries through the implementation of analytical outputs to address evidence gaps. The evidence has been used by countries to inform improvements in Malaria, TB, and HIV programs.

The PERSuADE initiative has been extended for another three years through a competitive bid, effective 2021, and will expand from the initial 8 to 13 countries in Africa.

## Showcasing the UgandaEMR; a facility level electronic medical record system

The UgandaEMR was developed and customized based on an open source system (OpenMRS) by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded project; the Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support Program (METS) at Makerere University School of Public Health in collaboration with the Division of Health Information at the Ministry of Health.

The UgandaEMR offers support

for clinical decisions by providing red flags on patient traffic, allows clinicians to collect patient data at entry points of care, allows patient files to be updated piecemeal and in real time as patients move between different service areas from reception to pharmacy/dispensary and summarizes patient data for reporting purposes resulting in uploads of aggregated reports into the National Health Management Information system of the Ministry

of Health on which the electronic medical record (EMR) data collection and reporting tools are based. The system is primarily run at government/public health facilities and was used at 2,250 National ART sites as of May 2021. Among these sites are health facilities that fall under the Regional Comprehensive Partner, Mildmay Uganda-Mubende Region.



*Photos of a visit by the CDC Country Director in Uganda, Dr Lisa Nelson, in the company of the Dean, MakSPH, Prof Rhoda Wanyenze to Mubende District, where the functionality and usage of UgandaEMR was demonstrated by facility staff.*

## MakSPH continues to provide evidence to inform family planning policy and programs in Uganda

MakSPH through the Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) Project and Research for Scalable Solutions (R4S) has significantly contributed to generating evidence to inform the Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan and the Family Planning 2030 goals in Uganda.

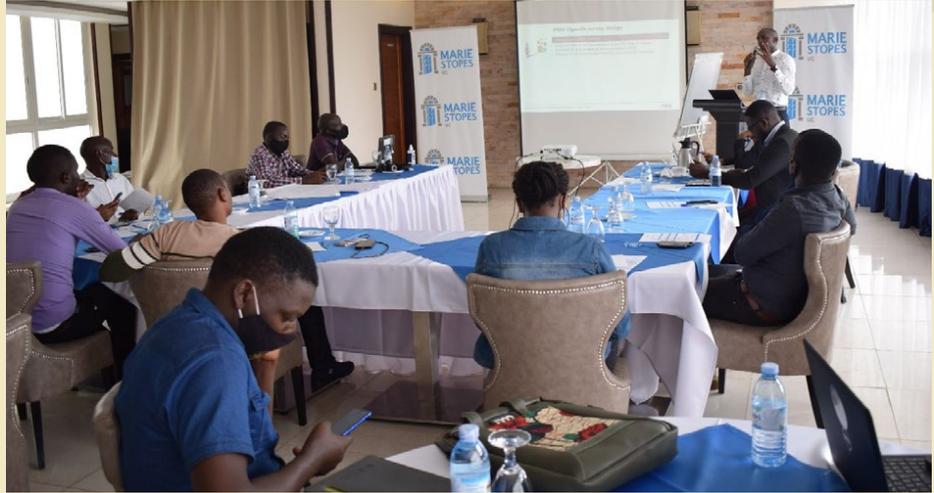


*Stakeholders attending the Tooro subregion PMA dissemination meeting on Family Planning in March 2021.*

In March 2021, PMA held regional survey disseminations in Hoima (Bunyoro Region), Masaka (South Buganda Region) and Fort Portal (for Tooro region). They were attended by close to 300 stakeholders from MOH, Government agencies, Local Governments, District Health Offices, implementing partners, family planning service providers and the Media. PMA supported stakeholders to make commitments for improving Family Planning service delivery and utilization in their respective regions based on the data presented. Some of the commitments included: ensuring religious leaders and cultural leaders participate and use their influence to create awareness of FP to their congregations; integrating FP services in other health services offered at the facilities to ensure that all women with an unmet need are reached; District Health Officers to work with partners that deal in FP commodities like MSI to promote social marketing to ensure affordability for the communities.

## Journalists trained on Family Planning Data Use

In March 2021, PMA Uganda Co- Principal Investigator Dr. Simon Kibira presented findings from the PMA phase 1 baseline survey to journalists at a media training organized by Marie Stopes Uganda (MSUG). Journalists were also taken through how to request and access the [PMA Datalab](#), as a source of health data to use during their daily reporting. The training was meant to orient journalists on maternal health issues.



*Dr. Simon Kibira, PMA Co-investigator presenting at the MSI media training organized by Marie Stopes Uganda*

## MakSPH-FP data influences Uganda government's FP2030 commitments

Data from the PMA Uganda and R4S Family Planning projects contributed to the Uganda FP2030 commitments. Dr. Fredrick Makumbi and Dr. Simon Peter Kibira were members of the core committee of experts on a steering committee, leading to the launch of the Uganda FP2030 commitments on November 4, 2021. Representatives from the donor community, government, civil society, academia and the private sector made commitments towards meeting the FP2030 goals at the meeting.



*Dr. Fredrick Makumbi presenting an overview of the FP 2020 (2017-2020) commitments*



*Minister of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor & Dean MakSPH pose with stakeholders from government, academia, implementing partners at the launch of the Uganda FP2030 commitments.*

The key commitments made by the Ugandan government were to increase Uganda's modern contraceptive prevalence rate for all women from 30.4% to 39.6% and reduce the unmet need from 17% to 15% by 2025.

Prior to this event, PMA Uganda Principal Investigators and the TAG chairperson participated in a regional experience sharing and learning meeting on the FP2030 commitments on October 5-6. The meeting, organized by

Reproductive Health Uganda and Partners in Population and Development (PPD-ARO), recognized the importance of data in tracking the FP2030 goals, with a view of continuous family planning data collection.



Members from partner organizations with Dr. Charles Olaro (seated, third from right) after the FP 2030 regional partners meeting

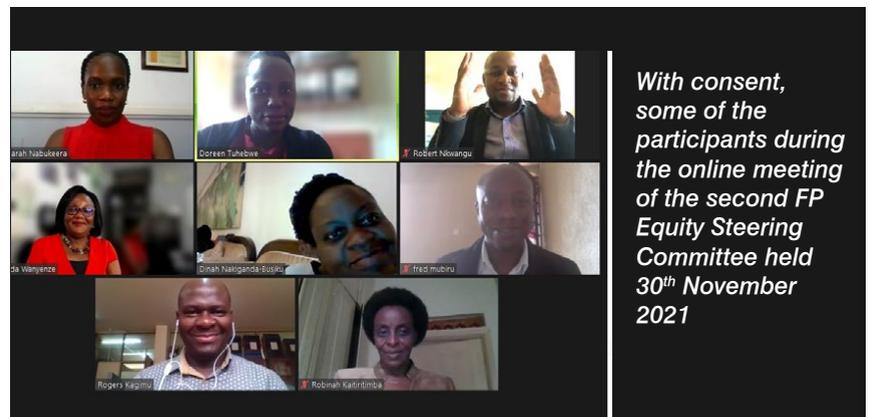
## Four Research Studies conducted through Research for Scalable Solutions (R4S) Inform FP Costed Implementation Plan

With funding from the USAID under the FHI 360-led Research for Scalable Solutions (R4S) consortium, the School of Public Health as one of the partners conducted implementation science research with a view of improving the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and equity of family planning (FP) programs in several countries in Asia and Africa.

Between January and July 2021, MakSPH-R4S conducted four research studies which generated evidence to inform the Uganda Family Planning costed implementation plan for 2021-2025. Together with the Ministry of Health and the R4S consortium the MakSPH-R4S team developed the Uganda family planning research and learning agenda (FP RLA), and contributed to the development of the Uganda National Self-care guidelines for sexual reproductive health and rights. MakSPH is

also Secretariat to the recently initiated Family Planning Equity Steering Committee, to generate and use evidence to enhance equity within family planning programs in Uganda.

In 2021 the MakSPH-R4S team under the stewardship of Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, the PI, alongside Dr. Fredrick Makumbi, Dr Joseph Matovu, Dr Suzanne Kiwanuka, Dr Dinah Amongin and Dr Simon Peter Kibira completed the development of the Uganda FP research and learning agenda (RLA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. As Uganda celebrated the launch of the FP2030 commitments, the first Family Planning Research and Learning Agenda (FP RLA) 2020-2025 was shared by Ministry of Health through the Ministry's knowledge management portal (<http://library.health.go.ug/publications/family-planning/family-planning-research-and-learning-agenda-uganda-2021%E2%80%932025>)



# CAPACITY BUILDING

## 34 Staff Trained in Project Management

In November 2021, PMA's Project Management Unit trained a 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of 34 people – 25 staff from MakSPH and nine staff from Jhpiego Uganda in Project Management.

A one-week capacity building initiative provided a comprehensive and participatory approach to project management; a common and contextualized vocabulary and framework specifically for managing development projects; and developed participants' understanding of the value of a project management standard language and tools.

After the training, all participants were also subjected to a certification examination set on-line at the PM4NGOs Exams Platform. The project management training followed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Organizational Capacity Assessment for MakSPH in January 2021. A similar training had been conducted for 27 staff from MakSPH/PMA in 2019.



*MakSPH's Olivia Nakisita presents group work during the workshop. Recording the presenter is Mr. Pascal Olinga, the PMA Project Manager, at Golden Tulip Hotel, Kampala. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika*



*Mr. Davidson Ndyabahika, the MakSPH Communications Officer receives a certificate from the Deputy Dean and PMA PI Dr. Fredrick Makumbi (Associate Professor), PMA Project Manager Mr. Pascal Olinga and Jhpiego Country Program Manager Martin Ndifuna. Photo by Harriet Adong*



## 12 Finance staff benefit from NIH Capacity Building Grant

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) approved a grant of \$105,708 (for one year to strengthen capacity of MakSPH Administrators to efficiently manage NIH grants (SMAC). Under this grant, 12 MakSPH Finance Management Unit (FMU) staff were trained in grants and finance management by project partners from George Washington University. The training enabled sharing of best practices between Northern university grants finance managers and administrators and the southern university. The training also exposed the FMU staff to

Intellectual Property protection, Research in animals in addition to improving their knowledge and skills in finance management, invoicing, accountability and pre-award procedures. The grant will also support the improvement of tracking for sponsored research. Earlier on, the MakSPH Grants Unit Team secured funding from AuthorAID to strengthen capacity of junior researchers in Grants Writing. A total of 30 junior researchers were trained in writing winning grant proposals, and some of these have gone on to win external research grants.

## Communications Officers receive Adobe Creative Suite training

At least seven communication specialists from across the various projects at MakSPH received training in design and video editing programs: Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop and Premiere Pro design



The eight-week Adobe Suites training was supported by the PMA project. Participants were equipped with skills and competences in the Adobe Suites programs to develop their own communication and data products in-house.

## SIHI Uganda conducts a crowdsourcing challenge

From 1<sup>st</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) Uganda hub at MakSPH ran a national call for solutions to recognise community-based solutions that improve the health and nutrition of Ugandans. The call received 30 submissions, 17 of which were eligible for review. An independent expert panel comprising of public health specialists and Social scientists was set up to review the submissions. Amani Family Centre and Influencing Social Behaviour Change & Communication through the Peer-to-Peer Support Groups are the two



*SIHI Uganda team sharing a moment with the founder of Amani Family Centre. Photo by Emmanuel Ahumuza*

submissions that were selected by an independent expert panel as this year's top social innovations.

To better understand how the identified social innovations have been able to improve healthcare and to gain insights about how the organizations have successfully implemented the solutions, the team conducted field visits to the operation sites. During the field visits, the team conducted interviews with founders, project staff, beneficiaries, district health teams and the local leaders. On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the SIHI Uganda team, led by Hub Director Dr. Phyllis Awor, visited Amani Family Centre (AFC). This innovation ensures that mothers living in severely low resource and slum communities in Kampala can access free, compassionate, dignified, safe and

evidence-based maternity care regardless of their financial status. AFC focuses on the following elements: building relationships with women and the urban slum community; partnerships with stakeholders; referral assistance to mothers; supporting homeless children. A case study plus a short film highlighting key lessons from the innovation were developed by SIHI Uganda.



*SIHI Uganda team with the staff of Amani Family Centre during the field visit. Photo by Irene Angiro*

## Four Innovations Win 2020 Social Innovation in Health Awards

Four innovations identified by external reviewers, received awards from the MakSPH Social Innovation in Health Initiative –SIHI Uganda project. These included; 1) Ishaka Health Plan Project (Community based health insurance scheme) that facilitates access to quality and affordable healthcare services to communities in Bushenyi district; 2) My Pregnancy Handbook project, a user-friendly portable short handbook prepared to deliver authentic health information concerning pregnancy to pregnant mothers, midwives and the general population; 3) SEEK-GSP project, a project aimed at narrowing the treatment gap for depression among people living with HIV using group support psychotherapy delivered by community health workers and the Community Health Insurance, an initiative by the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau and 4) MakSPH students who showcased their innovations; They are; HIV/AIDS Awareness campaign (SHIVA), Youth led cancer

and diabetes awareness campaign (YCADAC).

This was during the 3<sup>rd</sup> national stakeholders workshop held on March 17, 2021 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala to reward and recognize the best community-based health solutions in Uganda.



*The winners of the 2020 Social Innovations in Health Awards organized by the School of Public Health pose for group photo. Photo by Kelvin Atuhaire*

## MakSPH champions Mobility on Water, Road and Child Safety promotion initiatives

The Trauma Injuries and Disability Unit (TRIAD) at MakSPH conducted research in the areas of injuries, disability, trauma care systems and emergency medical services for over 11 years. In 2021, the unit worked with multiple stakeholders both local and international to address a number of mobility and safety challenges in Uganda.



*The Marine Police in a group photo with the representative of the Dean - MakSPH (Mr. Abdullah Ali Halage) Project Coordinator – Frederick Oporia, and the Principal Investigator – TRIAD, Dr. Olive Kobusingye, during donation of search and rescue equipment*

### Preventing Drowning in Uganda project

Over the last several months, the Unit coordinated the development of the national water safety & drowning prevention strategy, which was unveiled to the public at a virtual seminar on 27 July 2021, as part of the World Drowning Prevention Day.

The strategy is a product of multi-sectoral collaboration involving Ministries of Transport (Maritime Department), Internal Affairs (Marine Police), Water and Environment, Education and Sports, Disaster Preparedness, and academia. The unit coordinated the development of the first ever National Water Safety Strategic Plan for Drowning Prevention. Part of this strategy was discussed during the commemoration of the first ever World Drowning Prevention Day on 27 July 2021. The strategy is a product of multi-sectoral collaboration and consultations from Ministries of Works and Transport (Maritime Administration), Internal Affairs (Marine Police Unit), Water and Environment, Education and Sports, Disaster Preparedness, Defense and Veteran Affairs (Uganda People's Defense Forces – Marines), Tourism, Fisheries, Local Government, other non-government organizations and academia. The unit also supported the Marine Police's search & rescue efforts through donation of rescue equipment, after which refresher training on safe search and rescue was conducted in all the Marine Police Detachments in Uganda.

As part of the community services, the unit also facilitated the protection of some high-risk community water sources in the efforts to prevent drowning in Mayuge district. An earlier survey revealed that over 40 children had drowned in one of the protected water sources in Mayuge district.



*One of the high-risk water sources before and after protection. It was revealed that over 40 children had drowned in this water source in Mayuge district*

## TRIAD Holds Media Training on Road Traffic Crashes



*Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Estate, Ministry of Works and Transport officials and other participants of road safety media training posing for a photo at Hotel Africana.*

Throughout the Collaboration for Evidence Based Health-care in Africa (CEBHA+) RT4 project, TRIAD Unit at MakSPH in May 2021 organized a media training workshop and breakfast meeting for editors to train media on more constructive reporting of road traffic crashes. Trainers were drawn from

MakSPH, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Insurers association, Uganda National Roads Authority, Ministry of Works and Transport, and the media fraternity. Participants for this training were drawn from the major media houses in Kampala including newspaper outlets, radio and television stations as well as

online media and blogs. Arising out of the training, MakSPH announced the Uganda Road Safety Journalists' Award as one of the activities that will be held 2022 during the national road safety symposium to be organized by TRIAD.

## Investigation on impact of COVID19 on mobility in the Kampala metropolitan area Concluded



With funding from the Federal Republic of Germany (Funding Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), to the Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa MakSPH conducted a study to assess the impact of COVID19 on mobility in the Kampala metropolitan area. The study population included health workers, boda boda riders, market vendors and commuter taxis operators. Results from this study were validated with stakeholders in December 2021. The study team included Dr. Olive Kobusingye as the Principal

Investigator, Dr. Anthony Mugeere (Co-Principal Investigator), Ezekiel Musasizi (Study Coordinator) and Rogers Nsubuga (Data Manager).



*Impact of COVID19 study data validation meeting held at Forest Cottages Hotel in Kampala in 2021.*

## MakSPH conducts observational studies for Helmet, Seatbelt use and Speeding in Kampala



Data collectors conducting speed measurements on one of the study sites

With Funding from the Bloomberg philanthropies through the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS) project and in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit, the Trauma, Injury and Disability Unit at MakSPH conducted observational studies for helmet use, seatbelt use and speeding within Kampala. Findings from this study are expected to contribute to the understanding of risk factors for crashes and injuries in Kampala.

Findings from this study are expected to contribute to the understanding of risk factors for crashes and injuries in Kampala

## Prototypes aimed at addressing Childhood injuries Developed

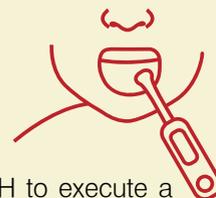
Basing on results from a Preventing childhood injury study conducted in Jinja in 2020, TRIAD contracted *Design without Borders Africa* (DwBs) to develop simple and affordable environmental modifications within a home aimed at protecting children from injuries risks. After ideation, conceptualization, and prototyping, five prototypes aimed at addressing the most prevalent injuries (burns, falls and cuts) were developed. These include an outdoor cooking ring, fixed cooking station, cooking cages, a multipurpose mat and a sharps box. The prototypes will be piloted in selected homes in Jinja city in 2022. This work is done in collaboration with The George Institute and Imperial College London.

Road Traffic injuries Research Network (RTIRN): Currently the Road traffic injuries research network, a global network of researchers with an interest in improving road safety in low- and middle-income countries, has its secretariat hosted under TRIAD with the unit head Dr. Olive Kobusingye as the current Board Chair. In 2021, RTIRN awarded 5 small grants each

amounting to 5000 Euros to early career researchers. All the awardees have their projects focusing on improving road safety around schools and are being monitored by the Secretariat. The awardees are from Pakistan, Nigeria, Malaysia, India and Gambia. The funds for these grants were provided by the *Federation Internationale de l'Automobile* (FIA). MakSPH TRIAD unit got funds to manage the grant.



In 2021, RTIRN awarded 5 small grants each amounting to 5000 Euros to early career researchers.



## ORAQUICK STUDY Concludes Data Collection, Donates Furniture to 32 Health Facilities

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) entered into an agreement with MakSPH to execute a protocol entitled “Caregiver-Assisted Oral Fluid-based HIV Screening in Children: Estimation of Acceptability, Feasibility and Effectiveness Linked to Index Testing Services in Uganda” and short named ORAQUICK Study.

The study evaluated the acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness of a caregiver assisted HIV oral fluid-based test (OFBT) to screen children for HIV. A total of 32 health facilities in 16 districts were selected for this study. The protocol was a collaborative work involving the Ministry of Health Uganda, US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and CRS. MakSPH conducted field work, managed and analysed the data as per protocol.



**Study team in a group photo at the handover function at Kasangati Health Centre IV.**

As of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 MakSPH ORAQUICK Study team had successfully completed data collection and handed over of all data and data collection equipment including cupboards, chairs to the host facilities.

The field staff upcountry and management of health facilities where the project staff were working attended virtually and all handed over the furniture to the health facilities, in a blended function.

Speaking at a physical function held at Kasangati Health Centre IV, Dr. Nazarius Mbona Tumwesigye, the team leader noted that despite the pandemic, a team of 74 staff on the study including 64 field staff (32 Research counsellors and 32 research assistants), three field supervisors, two technical supervisors, study coordinator, one data manager/IT specialist, a costing specialist, a clinical specialist had performed exceptionally well. At the ceremony the field staff were given certificates of successful completion.



**Study team Associate Prof. Nazarius Mbona alongside Dr. Aggrey Mukose handing over a certificate and a cupboard to the health Centre leadership at Kasangati Health Centre IV.**

## MakSPH leads a partnership of five African universities to generate evidence to support the COVID-19 response

MakSPH is in the second year of the assessment of the COVID-19 response in Africa in partnership with several universities including University of Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar, Senegal; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Kinshasa, DRC; and the University of Ghana. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Gates Ventures Exemplars in COVID-19 Response (ECR), the project has documented interventions implemented as part of the response and their effectiveness. This includes testing and surveillance approaches, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on maintenance of essential health services, the consequences (intended and unintended) of implementing the non-pharmaceutical interventions in pandemic control, and the role of trust in vaccine uptake.

The project has generated evidence including best practices, challenges, and lessons learned in countries' response which has provided technical guidance and support to the respective Ministries of Health. For example, in Uganda, the study findings informed the revision of the guidelines on the Continuity of Essential Health Services to bridge gaps. The project has also started a virtual community of practice of African institutions on pandemic preparedness focused on sharing evidence, expertise, peer learning and strengthening capacities for COVID-19 control and the broader disease preparedness and response. Furthermore, findings from the COVID-19 assessment project have been widely disseminated at various local, regional, and international fora including webinars, conferences, and online publications. These avenues include: The Consortium of Universities in Global Health 2021 conference, Regional World Health Summit in Kampala, Uganda; the 1st International Conference on Public Health in Africa, and the Galien Afrique 2021 conference in Senegal. The project has also engaged and shared findings with policy makers and global funding institutions including the World Health Organization and the World Bank Global Financing Facility. The other project partners include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) and IBM-Research Africa.



## MakSPH Launches Training for malaria program managers in high-burden Malaria countries in Africa

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MakSPH in collaboration with Schools of Public Health in 6 high-burden Malaria countries (Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Burkina Faso), is implementing the African Leadership and Management training for impact in Malaria Eradication (ALAMIME)

program.

The program is training malaria program managers to increase their leadership and management competencies in increased use of evidence from data at national and sub-national level. There are three outcomes from the project namely: having a critical mass of people trained in leadership and management and data driven

decision making for impact in malaria eradication; having institutions like a scientific hub / community of practice / technical working group in the national malaria program to give a forum for the graduates of the program to contribute and get mutual learning and support in their eradication efforts, and having a short course on leadership and management

and data driven decision making in malaria eradication incorporated in the university curricula which will continue to produce graduates equipped with competencies and skills in leadership and management for malaria eradication.

The partners in the consortium are: Makerere University School of Public Health, Université de Kinshasa Ecole de Santé Publique, University of Ibadan Faculty of Public Health, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Université Joseph Ki Zerbo Département Santé Publique and Université Abdou Moumouni Faculté de Sciences de la Sante.



**Program team and partners from the schools of public health in six African countries with high malaria burden in a group photo at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe launched the program**

## SPICES project CVDs intervention in Mukono, Buikwe communities

The Scaling-up Packages of Interventions for Cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention in selected sites in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa (SPICES) project at MakSPH has continued to implement and evaluate activities at health facilities and communities in Mukono and Buikwe districts of Uganda. In 2021, the project extended its activities to 5 new parishes further building capacity at health centre IIIs and communities in CVD prevention and management. The health facilities of Kabanga, Nagojje and Kyabazaala in Mukono district and Njeru West and Wakisi in Buikwe district received equipment including blood pressure measuring devices, mechanical weighing scales with height measuring rod and BMI function, glucose meters and strips, circumference measuring tapes and each, a desktop computer.



**The SPICES project Principal Investigator Dr. Geoffrey Musinguzi (in blue suit) poses for a photo with the field-based team and other project staff at MakSPH.**

Also, at these health facilities, 58 health workers received an 8-day training on CVD prevention and management. Additionally, in each of the parishes, four villages benefitted from CVD prevention efforts and a community health worker (CHW) from each, trained and supported to deliver CVD prevention activities. In total, over the 3 years of intervention implementation, the SPICES project has extended support to 23 health facilities and trained 366 health workers of different cadres. Also, 80 community health workers (CHWs/VHTs) from 80 villages have been trained.

Through the project efforts, CVD risk factor screening for all adults has been instituted at a majority of target facilities with 10 facilities initiating specific NCD clinic days which has improved access to care for NCDs. At the health facilities, 47,072 patients have been screened for CVD risk factors. Electronic data capture has also improved surveillance for NCDs which is informing planning and resources prioritization. In the community, members have appreciated the role and relevance of healthy lifestyles in preventing CVDs. The community members have reported improved knowledge, positive changes in their diet, an increase in physical activity, and improved health-seeking behaviours for chronic diseases. Efforts to reduce alcohol intake and smoking in the community have also been reported. To



**A cross-section of health workers during training at Kyabazala HC III in Mukono district.**

date, CHWs have sensitised about 4,800 households on CVD prevention during house-to-house visits reaching about 7500 adults.



**Mukono and Buikwe District Health workers and Community Health Workers (CHWs/VHTs) in a group photo with SPICES project Principal Investigator Dr. Geoffrey Musinguzi and Dr. Gerald Mutungi, the Assistant Commissioner, Non-Communicable Diseases Department, Ministry of Health at a Dissemination workshop on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 at Colline Hotel, Mukono.**



*A team of CHWs in Busabaga Parish, Buikwe district, working together to educate and conduct CVD screening of community members.*



*Keneth Sebukeera, a SPICES project community-based health promoter reviews data collected by community health workers during a feedback meeting in Wakisi parish, Buikwe district.*

In December 2021, the SPICES project organized a stakeholder’s dissemination event to share an update on project progress, achievements and plans. The project shared key findings and lessons arising from the work and there was a discourse on how to improve impact and ensure sustainability. The event was well attended with representatives from the Ministry of Health, district stakeholders, political leaders, health workers, and community members among others.

## **Strengthening the use of Impact Evaluation Evidence to guide policy Decisions (IEED) and program implementation in Uganda and beyond**

The Impact Evaluation for Evidence Based Decisions (IEED) project is a collaborative effort amongst academics and researchers at the School of Public Health and, the School Statistics and Planning within Makerere University, as well as policy makers in the sectors of health, education and agriculture. The project is funded by the Hewlett foundation and our major goal is to strengthen the use of impact evaluation in policy decisions and program implementation.

Its priorities include; building and strengthening capacity for impact evaluation among academics and researchers at Makerere University, enhancing the coordination and collaborative work among IE researchers at Makerere University, policy and programme officers, and

their engagement in national and regional IE networks, integrating and/or strengthening teaching of impact evaluation among selected

academic programs in Makerere University, and finally implementing two impact evaluation flagship projects in Health and Education



*The IEED Project team in a group photo at Piato Restaurant in December 2021*

with policy makers and implementers.

The project comprises an advisory board, chaired by the Makerere University Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Prof. Umar Kakumba, other board members include; Director Quality Assurance, Director Gender Mainstreaming, the Commissioner Health Services, Planning, Financing & Policy at the Ministry of health and Commissioner for Monitoring & Evaluation at the office of Prime Minister.

In 2021, the IEED project integrated impact evaluation in five academic programmes at Makerere University, including; PhD in Statistics, Master in Statistics, Master of Science in Quantitative Economics, Master of Health Services Research and Master of Public Health in Monitoring and evaluation.

With support from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) and the UC Berkley Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), the training on Impact Evaluation Methodologies was successfully conducted. The training targeted policy makers, researchers and academics. The 37 attendees were from Makerere University, Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

The project also conducted four (4) public virtual seminars aimed at introducing IE techniques to participants and created a platform to

network with International and Local IE researchers. The seminars were attended by 200 participants on average.

During the first year of the IEED project, significant progress has been made towards building partnerships with the Government of Uganda (MoH, MoES, OPM), International organizations (CEGA & 3ie), Uganda Manufacturers Association, and Center for Systematic Reviews to ensure the achievement of IEED goal and objectives.



***Dr. John Bosco Asimwe, a Lecturer at School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University presenting during an end of year IEED Project review meeting.***



***Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor and Dean, MakSPH speaking during the Project end of year review meeting.***

## RMNCAH OR Program Validates Results from 12 Research Studies

With support from the Ministry of Health (MOH), the World Bank and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), MakSPH has in the past two-years supported the implementation and coordination of the Uganda Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health Operational Research Programme (RMNCAH OR Program).

Launched in 2018, the RMNCAH Operational Research (OR) program sought to assist Uganda in generating practical and actionable evidence for RMNCAH implementation; and further strengthen the capacity of Ugandan researchers in operational research. The OR program focused on seven main thematic areas that are aligned with the Sharpened Plan, namely: (i) stewardship and management; (ii) financing; (iii) service delivery; (iv) human resources for health; (v) supply chain management; (vi) health management information systems and civil registration and vital statistics; and (vii) demand-

side and gender issues.

A total of 22 researchers were recruited to develop research proposals on 12 topics. Twelve studies, whose implementation commenced in March 2020 and ended in June 2021 were subsequently financed.

Two separate virtual RMNCAH OR program stakeholder validation meetings were successfully held in May and June of 2021. In these meetings results from the 12 studies were presented and extensively discussed. The stakeholders included members of the Advisory Committee of the RMNCAH OR program, researchers and research assistants, heads and technical officers of programs in MOH and other relevant government ministries. Others were heads of programs in relevant civil society (RMNCAH program implementing partners), academic and administrative staff of MakSPH, selected researchers in universities and other research institutions in Uganda, the World Bank OR Program Team, Sida,

and other development partners, selected stakeholders from the districts involved in the research.

The validation exercise sought to verify the validity of the research reports and facilitate stakeholder dialogue and action on the findings and recommendations. Thus the validation meetings generated richer discussions as stakeholders provided useful feedback which not only served to validate the results and further shape the reports but also ensured prioritization of some actions based on the evidence therefore, contribute to the policy agenda for RMNCAH.

Upon successful completion of the validation meetings, researchers finalized the development of reports for the 12 RMNCAH studies as well as policy briefs arising from the study findings and recommendations.

With a successful validation exercise and report writing, the RMNCAH OR program has a major dissemination of results from the 12 studies early in 2022.



*File Photo: Dean and Principal Investigator addressing Researchers of the RMNCAH Operational Research Programme at a training meeting for Qualitative Research Methods at Resilient Africa Network (RAN) - Lower lab MakSPH Kololo.*

## Strengthening Antimicrobial Stewardship in Wakiso district, Uganda

Makerere University in partnership with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) UK, Buckinghamshire NHS Health Care Trust (UK), Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital (ERRH), Wakiso District Local Government, and the Ministry of Health implemented a multidisciplinary project on strengthening antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in Wakiso district with a focus on capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange using a One Health approach.

In 2021, 11 ERRH Medicine and Therapeutics Committee members travelled to Jinja Regional Referral Hospital for a benchmarking workshop which hosted 26 participants. Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital later organized a workshop of 23 participants with the aim of strengthening the existing Medicine and Therapeutics Committee at the hospital.

A total of 29 health practitioners, including animal health workers, and 93 CHWs participated in training workshops, and over 100 pupils from primary schools were sensitized on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), AMS, and infection prevention and control (IPC). The project team has continued to coordinate two multidisciplinary online communities of practice (CoPs) for health professionals and students, with a current membership of 437 and 236, respectively.



***A group photo of health practitioners from Wakiso Local Government and trainers from ERRH after the training workshop at Central Inn, Entebbe.***

In addition, the project organized several online seminars on AMR and AMS, as well as interactions with NTU students. The project also held an AMR awareness competition among Makerere University and Nottingham Trent University students as part of the World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) celebrations.

This project, led by Dr. David Musoke from Makerere University School of Public Health and Prof. Linda Gibson from Nottingham Trent University. It was funded by the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship Scheme (CwPAMS), an initiative of Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) and Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) under the Fleming Fund of the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).



***Dr. Obua Thomas Ocwa (standing), a Senior Pharmacist from Ministry of Health, Uganda presenting to the participants during the workshop at Entebbe Regional Referral (ERRH) Hospital***



*Florence Tugumisiriza, the Jinja Regional Referral Hospital Director (standing far right) speaks at the benchmarking visit in Jinja City.*

## 766 Wakiso District Village Health Teams trained on Epidemic and Pandemic preparedness and response

In order to enhance the capacity of communities to prepare and respond to epidemics and pandemics, Makerere University School of Public Health (MaKSPH) in partnership with Nottingham Trent University (NTU), UK, Wakiso District Local Government, and the Ministry of Health, with support from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) trained 766 Village Health Teams (VHTs) on epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response in Wakiso district. The VHTs trained were from Busiro South Health Sub District (Bussi Sub County, Kasanje Town Council, Kajjansi Town Council, and Katabi Town Council), Entebbe Municipality, and Kyengera Town Council



*A group discussion among Village Health Team members during the training in Ssisa, Kajjansi Town Council*



*Village Health Team members in Zzinga island carrying out a role play demonstrating the proper use of gloves as part of Personal Protective Equipment.*



*Village Health Team members display their certificates following the training in Kitende, Kajjansi Town Council. Mr. Adam Mbayi, In-charge Kajjansi Health Centre IV (purple shirt in first line) and Ms. Christine Wanyana (dress in first line) were among.*

The participatory training started in March and ended in June 2021 with the main facilitators as health practitioners from health facilities in the area, MakSPH and World Health Organization Uganda office.

## Understanding sustainable and healthy neighbourhoods through youth participation

MakSPH in collaboration with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), with funding from SHLC – *the Centre for Sustainable, Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods* implemented the Sustainable Neighbourhoods with the Youth (SustaiNY) study aimed to inform a community-based process on how to improve understanding of sustainable and healthy neighbourhoods through youth participation in low- and middle-income countries.

Sixteen youth from the informal settlement of Kisenyi,

Kampala, Uganda were trained on how to assess neighbourhood risks, identify community resources and equipped with transformative leaderships skills to effectively advocate for sustainable and healthy neighbourhoods. The study also engaged Kisenyi community leaders to mentor the youth and together reflect on the land use patterns and activities in this neighbourhood.

The study was implemented between October 2020 and September 2021. The youth also appreciated how



*One of the Kisenyi Resilience Leaders during action plan implementation on cleaning a spring.*



*A group photo of the Kisenyi Resilience Youth, Kisenyi Leaders and Makerere University Facilitators after the Community Dissemination*

humans interact with the environment and how the youth can contribute to and/or lead solutions to neighborhood challenges. With the support of MakSPH Researcher, the engaged youth formed the “**Kisenyi Community Resilience Leadership Club**” in order to sustain efforts and further enhance their transformative leadership abilities. The study was led by Ms. Doreen Tuhebwe, the Principal Investigator, alongside Mr. Jimmy Osuret, from MakSPH and Ms. Jacqueline Akello from KCCA.



*A member of Kisenyi Youth Resilience Leaders presenting on community mapping, problem prioritization and action planning*

## Researchers, Health managers and PhD students trained on Health Systems Research

The Department for Health Policy Planning and Management (HPPM) organized the first short course on health systems Research. The main aim of this course was to enable participants to acquire core competencies in health systems research in order to strengthen the health system and its responsiveness to the needs and expectations of the population in various contexts, with an overall goal of improving health systems performance and outcomes.



*A section of some of the course participants attending a zoom session*

# INNOVATIONS

## Update on development of the Low-Cost Medical Ventilator

To-date, two units have been completed and ready for animal tests and the third unit is expected to be ready soon. The project team is moving on to start off with animal tests working with a team from Makerere University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (CoVAB) and later a phase 1 clinical trial depending on the findings from the animal tests.



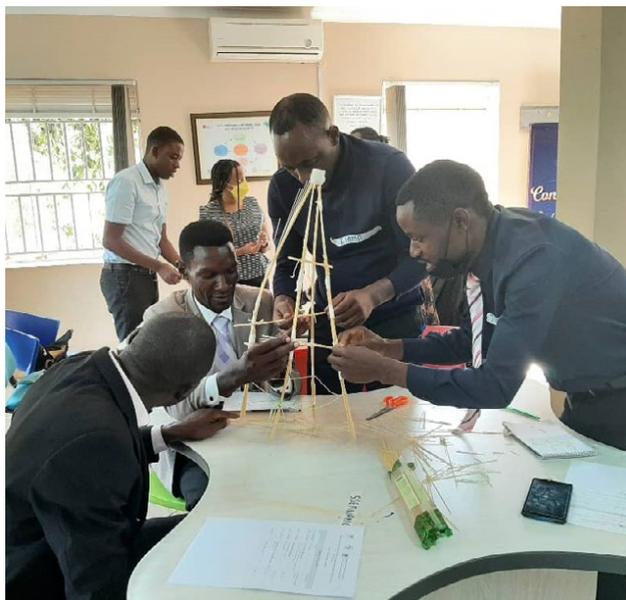
*The two Bulamu low-cost medical ventilators assembled and ready for animal tests*



*The Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe alongside the College Principal Prof. Damalie Nakanjako and the Head of Mak-RIF Prof. William Bazeyo inspects a Bulamu low-cost ventilator during the MakCHS Open Day in May 2021*

## Support to The National ICT Initiatives Support Program (NIISP) Awardees

Leveraging the RAN team's incubation expertise and experience, RAN was allocated additional 8 innovator teams by Uganda's Ministry of ICT and National Guidance for incubation. These teams are working on potentially transformative innovative solutions at different development phases for incubation. The teams include; the DotSaidia, Accessable, Sprim technologies, the touchless hand wash kit, Yukudemy limited, Busitema University light board for enhanced online learning, Terra the Robot, and the COVID-19 surveillance, tracing and follow up system which have gone through all the innovation and business incubation sessions and are currently working on their projects in the field; impacting lives.



*Team building session for NIISP Cohort III beneficiaries at RAN Lab*



*Akatele Fresh Innovator Frank (NIISP II beneficiary) sharing his story to motivate and inspire budding innovators of the Cohort III intake at the RAN Lab*

## Next generation Smart Intelligent Medical Device to Reduce hospital acquired infections developed

With funding from the Government of Uganda through the Makerere University Research and Innovation Fund (MakRIF), MakSPH researchers teamed with students across various institutions to develop the Vitex (e-) Medical Pandemic Assistance Tool (eMPAT) aimed at reducing infections (especially COVID-19) and other hospital acquired infections as well as enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of hospitals in meeting the basic clinical needs of in-ward patients especially during highly contagious outbreaks.

The faculty behind the device are Dr. Justine N. Bukenya and Christine Muhumuza from MakSPH, Faith-Michael Uzoka, a Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada and Chinyere Nwafor-Okoli from the Canadian Institute for Innovation and Development.

The students are led by Gift Arnold Mugisha at Swirburne University of Technology in Sarawak, Malaysia, Arnold Kiirya from the Department of Civil and Building Engineering at Kyambogo University, Joleta Nabunje from Makerere University School of Medicine, Melody M. Arindagye from the Department of Pharmacy, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Samantha Ainembabazi from the Uganda Christian University School of Medicine and Sylvia Immanirakiza from the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology at Makerere University.



***Gift Arnold Mugisha at Swirnburne University of Technology in Sarawak, Malaysia demonstrates how the device works at MakSPH-Kololo Annex RAN offices***



***A demonstration of the Vitex device after transitioning from a wooden piece developed by Students to a modern one developed with support from Mak-RIF***



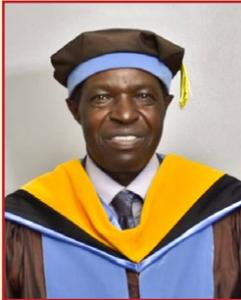
***Study team in a group photo with Mak-RIF representative and the representative from MakSPH-RAN with the device.***

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are only 33 nurses/midwives and 5 pharmaceuticals personal per 10,000 people in Uganda, yet WHO recommends 2:28 health workers per 1,000 people. Additionally, health workers are strained with heavy work load, burden of distributing medical supplies manually, carrying medical waste, taking observations (Temperature and Oxygen) as well as prevalence of paper-based records in health facilities which in turn lead to poor Patient Health Records management.

This next generation smart intelligent medical device has a medical System developed and installed on the vMAT device to ease patient record management. Additionally, the device has a Personal Medical Account that creates a virtual Cloud showing all the health records for each patient visit in one pool. Dr. Bukenya says the device will calculate the distance between two people detected in a frame, based on mathematical formulations. Then generate statistics for a frame like total person count, safe count, low-risk count, and high-risk count.



# INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND RECOGNITIONS



## Dr. William Bazeyo

Professor Bazeyo was **awarded a Honorary Doctor of Science degree** by Tufts University at its 165<sup>th</sup> All-University Commencement Ceremony in recognition of his selfless service to humanity in the area of public health.



## Dr. Rawlance Ndejjo

Ndejjo, a research fellow at MakSPH received the **2021 Velji Young African Leader Award**. This was at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health annual conference (CUGH) in March 12-14, 2021.



## Dr. Stefan Swartling Peterson

Stefan, a Professor of global health, former Chief of Health, UNICEF and visiting Professor MakSPH, was recognized as an **Expertscape Expert in Child Health Services** based on PubMed algorithms.



## Dr. Peter Waiswa

Assoc. Professor Waiswa, was rated a **Global expert in Infant Mortality** by Expertscape's PubMed-based algorithms (2020 & 2021). Also, in 2021, he was included in Stanford University's list of the Top 2% most-cited scientists in the world!



## Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze

Professor and Dean at MakSPH, was ranked **Makerere's top expert in interpersonal relations** by Expertscape's PubMed-based algorithms. The rankings are based on the past 10 years of publications (2011-2021), according to Expertscape.

She was **appointed Member of the Strategic Advisory Group for Ready2Respond**, a coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations whose mission is to assure the World's Readiness to Respond to the next pandemic through transformative change in vaccine access and immunization policy, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries.

Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze **joined the Executive Board for the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)**, a worldwide initiative covering all scholarly disciplines and all key stakeholders including funders, publishers, professional societies, institutions, and researchers. DORA aims to improve the way in which scholarly research is evaluated

Researchers who published articles in the interpersonal relations field at Makerere University during the years (2011-2021) were rated alongside Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze.

MakSPH researchers named to the list are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <b>Dr. Frederick Makumbi</b><br>(Associate Professor and Deputy Dean) | 8) <b>Dr. Anthony K. Mbonye</b><br>(R.I.P) |
| 2) <b>Dr. Joseph KB Matovu</b>   | 9) <b>Prof. Christopher G. Orach</b>       |
| 3) <b>Dr. Roy William Mayega</b>   | 10) <b>Prof. Stefan Peterson</b>           |
| 4) <b>Mr. Steven Kabwama</b>   | 11) <b>Dr. Musinguzi Geoffrey</b>          |
| 5) <b>Dr. Francis Xavier Kasujja</b>                                     | 12) <b>Dr. Lynn Atuyambe Muhimbuura</b>    |
| 6) <b>Dr. Esther Buregyeya</b><br>(Associate Professor)                  | 13) <b>Dr. Peter Waiswa</b>                |
| 7) <b>Prof. David Guwatudde</b>  | 14) <b>Prof. Fred Nuwaha</b>               |
|  | 15) <b>Dr. Juliet Kiguli.</b>              |

Makerere University Professors **David Serwadda, Rhoda Wanyenze, William Bazeyo** and **Nelson Sewankambo** were appointed to the National COVID-19 Vaccine Committee as Makerere's leadership in the fight against this pandemic is clear.

## MakSPH Top Researchers Named on National COVID-19 Vaccine Access Advisory Team

In February 2021, Government of Uganda constituted a 10-member committee to advise and support the national taskforce on COVID-19 on deployment and access of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Committee is chaired by Professor David Sserwadda, an expert in infectious diseases. Prof. Serwadda is a former Dean at MakSPH. Also, on the team is Professor William Bazeyo, also former MakSPH Dean who will advise on alternative resource mobilisation. Meanwhile, Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, a Professor and Dean School of Public Health advises the national committee on the public health national perspective.

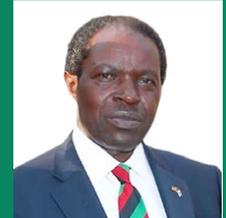
The others on the team include Professor Nelson Sewankambo, Professor Pontiano Kaleebu, Mr. Robert Kabushenga, Mr. Patrick Bitature, Lt. Col. Dr. Henry Kyobe Bbosa, Mr. Oscar Kihika, and Mr. Adonia Ayebare.



Prof. David Serwadda



Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze



Prof. William Bazeyo

## Congratulations to Stella Kakeeto for receiving the University Administration Support Program Fellowship



Congratulations to Stella Kakeeto for receiving the University Administration Support Program Fellowship (UASP). The UASP Fellowship in Research Management supports the development of university research management and knowledge transfer capacity through a six-week fellowship in the United States for mid- to senior-level university leaders. This fellowship aims to equip the new generation of university leaders across

Africa and Eurasia with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives to strengthen and improve institutional management of research and knowledge transfer and be catalysts of change. This initiative is funded by the IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board) for 2 years. More information on the UASP can be found here: <https://www.irex.org/project/university-administration-support-program-uasp>

## New MakSPH Building Project achieves steady physical progress

MakSPH's upcoming new home at the main campus championed by the Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC) chaired Dr. Lynn Atuyambe, (Associate Professor) is making tremendous progress amidst turbulent times as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The School is concluding phase 1A of this project which includes a state-of-the-art auditorium and part of the main block. The handover for

this component will take place in early 2022. MakSPH will, thereafter, continue construction of the main block partly supported by the USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (USAID/ASHA) initiative, which helps overseas schools, libraries, and hospitals.

The School will host the MakSPH Center of Excellence in Global Health (MakCEGH), a collaborative program between Makerere

University and the John Hopkins School of Public Health. The new building, once completed will have space for innovation, environmental and other health laboratories, library and office space among other infrastructure. MakSPH is grateful for a generous contribution from The Netherlands Government through Nuffic (Dutch organization for internationalization in education) towards construction of the auditorium.

MakSPH appreciates all partners in Uganda and globally for the support rendered. The School still needs support to raise an additional \$6Million to finalise the entire project. Special recognition to our consultants CNS Inc. led by Arch. Nankya Collins; the Makerere University Estates and Works Department led by Eng. Christina Kakeeto and the Makerere University Administration led by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe. The School is grateful to the contractor - ROKO construction Ltd. for the hard work on this project and the Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC) as well as the MakSPH staff for their personal contribution and encouragement.



## MakSPH wins Ugx3.9Bn ASHA Program Grant to Support New Building Construction

MakSPH has been awarded a \$1,100,000 (approximately Ugx3.9billion) grant to develop an augmented reality solution for the construction of the School's new home.

The grant was awarded by USAID (United States Agency for International Development) through its ASHA Program (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program) through our long-term partners and the Johns Hopkins University, under the leadership of Prof. David Peters. The funding will see the establishment of the Makerere University Centre of Excellence for Global Health).



*Taking shape; the new MakSPH building under construction. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika.*

*Inset; Prof. David Peters - Johns Hopkins University. Courtesy photo.*

## HPPM Departmental retreat at Kabira Country Club, 08<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The MakSPH department for Health Policy planning and Management (HPPM) held a two-days' retreat on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 at Kabira Country Club. The main aim of the year's retreat was to review past performance, plan for the implementation of strategic plan 2022, identify strategies for growing the Department and increase social interaction. The following Staff members received awards for their contributions towards running of the department; Doreen Tuhebwe, Ssendagire Stephen, Michael Ediau, Josephine Adikini and Enid Kemari. The Participants that received PhD awards included Dr. Moses Mukuru, Dr. Ronald Muhumuza Kananura, Dr. Chrispus Mayora and Dr. Dinah Amongin.



*The Health Policy Planning and Management (HPPM) staff at the retreat at Kabira Country club, 2021*



*Dr. Chrispus Mayora recognized upon his successful completion of his PhD by department Head, Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa, Dr. Peter Waiswa, Dr. Freddie Ssengooba and Josephine Adikini.*



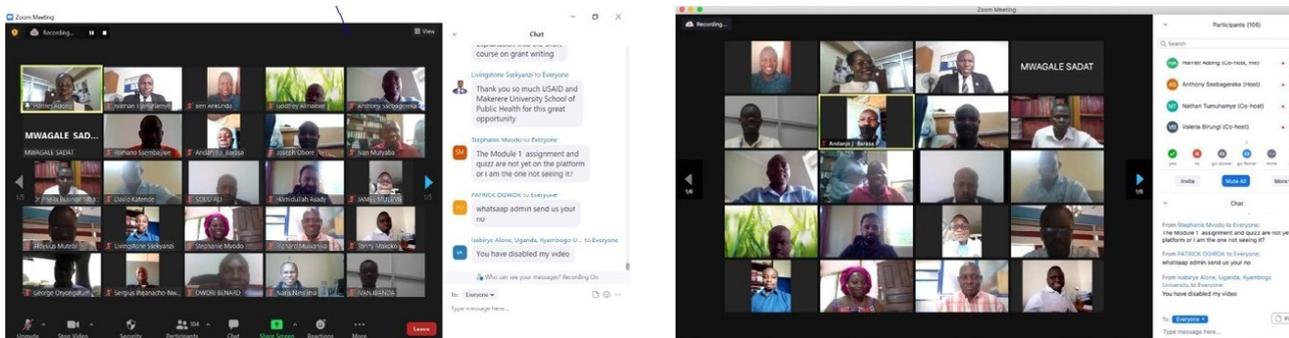
*Head, HPPM Department joins PhD celebrants (Dr. Muhumuza Rornald Kananura, Dr. Chrispus Mayora, Dr. Moses Mukuru) alongside the department Administrator Ms. Josephine Adikini in cutting cake.*

# ENGAGEMENTS

## 250 participants trained in 'Writing a winning grant proposal' Short Course

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC), the Resilient Africa Network (RAN) at MakSPH implemented several activities under the research, innovation and community engagement domains.

In 2021, RAN enrolled and delivered by 'E-learning' mode a high-level course entitled: 'Writing a winning grant proposal' over 250 participants from the four continents; Africa, Europe, North America and South America benefited from this course.



Screenshots from the Course sensitization session

## Public Health Experts urge Uganda Government to Increase Funding for Health Services

MakSPH with support from the Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Centre (SPARC), organized a dialogue on Strategic Purchasing. SPARC is a new initiative strengthening strategic purchasing expertise in sub-Saharan Africa and move countries closer to Universal Health Coverage alongside Ministry of Health. The two-hour dissemination

held on Tuesday November 30, 2021 discussed in detail, the strategic Purchasing arrangements for health in Uganda and their implications for Universal Health Coverage. This dialogue was a national level meeting and included a range of stakeholders from the different sectors.



Speakers for the SPARC conference.

# Covid-19 Pandemic in Uganda – A demonstration of the need to address the regulatory gaps in the country’s health system for equitable access to health care

As the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged several countries in the developing world, including Uganda, the capacities of public health facilities were exposed, especially in managing increased cases of Covid-19 patients, the private sector contribution was leveraged to expand the care capacity. However, given several reasons, including high costs of managing patients, especially in Intensive Care Units (ICUs), private facilities charged “high costs/fees” for managing these patients. The Health Economics & Policy Program (HEPP) at MakSPH, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and University of York -Thanzi la- Onse organized a dialogue on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 under the

theme; “Regulating health service delivery in Uganda’s Pluralistic health system” to discuss how the costs of using and providing private health care services can be effectively managed in Uganda. The dialogue explored the policy remedies (e.g., price regulation, subsidies, litigation & legal remedies) available to the government, service providers and users, and their applicability to the Ugandan context. With a distinguished panel of experts, ranging from policy makers at Ministry of Health and Parliament of Uganda, academic institutions, to civil society organizations shared knowledge and advice on the topic.



*Frontline workers on covid-19 getting a debrief. Photo by Kelvin Atuhaire |*



# Health Economics Unit commits to strengthen and promote the use of health economics in policy and decision-making

MakSPH, Ministry of Health(MOH), and [Thanzi la Onse](#) (TLO) represented by the [University of York](#) started a Health Economics and Policy Program (HEPP) to strengthen and promote use of health economics in policy and decision making in Uganda and the region. HEPP is a unit under the [Center for Health Policy and Systems Development](#) (CHPSD) at MakSPH. The program has led several initiatives including:

## 1) Developing a master's degree programme that is Master of Health Economics.

HEPP in collaboration with the Makerere University School of Economics developed a Master of Health Economics curriculum with the aim of addressing skills gaps that have been manifested in the area of health economics and financing, health policy, and decision-making in Uganda. Hopefully the MHE curriculum will be approved by end of 2022.

## 2) Short courses on Economic Evaluation.

A series of short courses including costing and cost effectiveness have been developed to support the capacity building agenda. Of these short courses, the costing course was rolled out and a total of 50 participants successfully attended the course.



**HEPP Team led by Dr. Freddie Sengooba – PI and Dr Elizabeth Ekirapa, Head, Department of Health Policy, Planning and Management (HPPM) meeting the Makerere University School of Economics team to develop the Master of Health Economics Curriculum**

The Health Economics Unit is a collaborative unit between MakSPH, Ministry of Health Uganda (MOH), and the Center for Health Economics, University of York (York-CHE). The Health Economics Unit is committed to strengthening and promoting the use of health economics in policy and decision-making in Uganda and the region.

The Unit specifically aims to; foster collaboration between the institutions on undertaking cutting-edge and policy-informative research particularly in the area of priority setting and resource allocation, support the Health Economics capacity building agenda for the MakSPH and Uganda in general, the success of which can represent a flagship centre of high-quality health economics research and training in the wider region and to work together as a partnership in the area of research, capability building and policy engagement.

## 3) Other key undertaking led by HEPP team.

The HEPP program led and coordinated the development of the Uganda National Essential Benefit Package for Uganda to support and guide attainment of Universal Health coverage

HEPP has contributed to the creation of platforms for experts to discuss key health issues in Uganda. These included the role of private sector amidst covid-19 pandemic, implications of Programme Based Budgeting on health sectors among others. These Webinars have provided a great ground for sharing valuable information with the population. These webinars attracted more than 100 participants' attendance.

To support the research agenda, the program has developed a policy brief on Program Based Budgeting to support better implementation of this intervention in the health sector. The HEPP Unit is also finalizing the evaluation of the current delivery models with the aim of supporting improvement and sustaining the Community health systems program as part of efforts to attain UHC.

**PUBLIC DIALOGUE**  
**THEME** | Regulating health service delivery in Pluralistic health systems  
 Organizers | Health Economics and Policy Program

**PANELISTS**

- Dr. Timothy Muella, Assistant Commissioner, Health Services, Ministry of Health - Uganda
- Dr. Ian Clarke, ED, International Hospital Kampala
- Mr. Robert Kasitamba, Uganda National Health Center for Organ Transplantation
- Dr. Cyprian Ogila, Director, Laser Hospital
- Mr. Malumba Moses, CEO, CHPSD
- Dr. Juliet Nabyonga Obiri, Team Leader Health Financing and Investment Programs (HFA), Regional Office Africa
- Hon. Dr. Charles Nyaningi, Chairman, Health Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda
- Mr. Patrick Sudema, Director Public, ACHEP
- CHPSD | MODERATOR**  
 Prof. Peter Waluma, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management at Makerere School of Public Health

**THURSDAY**  
**5<sup>th</sup> August**  
**2021**

**12:00pm-2:00pm**  
 EAT

**Zoom Meeting Link**  
 Register and join the dialogue  
<https://bit.ly/2Vclq9R>  
 After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**In this dialogue, participants reflected on the fees that were charged for Covid-19 management**

## MakSPH hosts global experts on Disaster Risk Reduction

The UN General Assembly declared October 13<sup>th</sup> the International Disaster Risk Reduction -DRR day. The theme for 2021 was “**Disaster Risk Governance**” under the Sendai Framework Global Target of “*International Cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses*”. In commemoration of the day, the MakSPH Master of Public Health Disaster Management (MPHDM) program brought together a multifaceted panel comprised of Global authorities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) from various disciplines.

H.E. Herem Alp, the Turkish Ambassador, the UNDP representative Dr Johnson Nkem, the Senior Technical Advisor on Nature, Climate, Environment and Resilience, top Faculty members and crew from different media houses physically attended the seminar at MakSPH.

Professor Virginia Murray - the Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction and a COVID-19 senior public health advisor, U.K. Health Security Agency delivered the keynote address.

H.E. Herem Alp, the Turkish Ambassador to Uganda, explained that Turkey is vulnerable to earthquakes which exert a high toll in terms of human casualties. Turkey also hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. In response, Turkey deployed effective Disaster Risk Governance policies and implemented “The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

Uganda is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change due to the extensive land/wetland degradation, which exacerbates disaster risk. Being a 70-80% land-based economy, an increase in temperatures reduces the productive time (Total working hours) and agricultural production, causing an estimated loss of more than 187 million dollars annually.



**Professor Christopher Garimoi Orach, former Head, Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences moderating a highly engaging interactive event**



**Michael Toskinz Wagaba, the MPHDM student representative speaking at the event.**



**Group photo L-R: Professor Christopher Garimoi Orach, Dr. Christine Nalwada, Dean Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Ambassador of Turkey to Uganda H.E. Herem Alp, UNDP Representative Dr Johnson Nkem, and MPHDM students representatives Marjorie Mukisa Kabatooro and Michael Toskinz Wagaba and Mr. Jude Oboth, MakSPH IT personnel.**

## Finance Management Unit

The MakSPH Finance Management unit (FMU) provides a 'one stop' centre for the management of the School's financial resources, grants and procurement processes while ensuring efficiency, quality, accountability and compliance to regulations. This is in addition to delivering top quality financial management, oversight and monitoring for MakSPH's financial resources as well as ensuring the timely procurement and purchasing of goods and services as required by the School, its partners and other stakeholders. The Unit also supports the continuous effort of building internal capacity for the School to manage its own resources for sustainability and future expansion and provide service for Donor projects to the entire College of Health Sciences and to the University at Large.

During the year 2021, the School got 30 new funding partners, the largest growth in funding partners ever recorded with a period of one year with a total funding amount at >30 Million USD. The portfolio has been successfully managed through the period with high

level of compliance, accountability, timely invoicing, efficiency, effective processes and timely reporting to all stakeholders.

The Consolidated Audit report by Deloitte and Touché for the period ended June 2020 was unqualified with no findings. Several other funder specific audit reports within the year 2021 were all unqualified. The following project specific audits were completed successfully within 2021; METS project, CTCA, SET -SRHR Project, CDC Fellowship & Managing in Innovation in Sustainable Health project.

Spot checks and reviews in the year reported a **very strong** internal control environment with low risk. These included; UNICEF Spot Check by BVL & CO certified Public Accountants of Uganda, May 2021; Ernest and Young (Sweden) Internal Control review on behalf of SIDA-September 2021; UNFPA Spot Check by BDO (United Kingdom)-March 2021 and Jhpiego organization capacity assessment -January 2021.



*Members of the FMU team at MakSPH in a group photo. The FMU is headed by Ms. Elizabeth Nambi Nsobya. It comprises Finance, Accounts, Grants and Procurement Sections.*

# The MakSPH Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation holds its 6<sup>th</sup> AGM with Steady Growth

Formed in March 2016, the MakSPH SACCO boasted of 224 members as of December 2021. Its members were treated to a blended AGM held on November 5<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Danstan Kisule, the CEO of Y-Save Multi-purpose co-operative owned by some Watoto Church members as a special guest speaker.

His story of how Y-SAVE started in 2001 to improve the finances of young savers who were living from hand to mouth was quite inspiring to MakSPH Sacco members. He tipped Sacco members to establish and encourage a minimum balance on savings, improve the share value

annually, to encourage members acquire more shares and venture into different investments since the MakSPH Sacco is a multipurpose cooperative.

Under the stewardship of Dr. Freddie Ssengooba (Associate Professor), the staff SACCO registered impressive growth in membership. As at December 2021, the SACCO had a total of 224 members as compared to 182 in the previous year, representing a 23.7% growth.

Statements from the SACCO also show that the Loan portfolio

has increased by 32% with the highest increase realised in the quarter of (April-June 2021) being attributed to new membership and competitive interest rates along with quick loan processing turn around.

A MakSPH client survey report of 2021 indicated that 86% of the members were satisfied with ease of financial accessibility such as acquiring loans and 14% said they experienced excellent customer care provided by the SACCO staff. Overall, 98% of the members said they would recommend the SACCO to other staff members.



*Member Edson Mugume receives a MakSPH Sacco flask from the Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze.*



*MakSPH SACCO leadership; Dr. Freddie Ssengooba, Elizabeth Nambi, Lydia Itaaga, Enid Kemaari and Stella Nakazibwe.*



*Some of the members of the MakSPH SACCO after attending the AGM. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika*

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- 8) **Ndejjo, R.**, **Naggayi, G.**, Tibiita, R., Mugahi, R., & **Kibira, S. P S.** (2021). Experiences of persons in COVID-19 institutional quarantine in Uganda: a qualitative study. *Bmc Public Health*, 21(1), 482+. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10519-z>
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