



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MakSPH



ANNUAL REPORT
2022

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This report represents a collaborative effort in which all MakSPH departments and related projects provided content. We are grateful to all units, individuals who contributed to this work.

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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

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Message from the Dean, MakSPH

Dear Stakeholders,

2022 was a milestone year for MakSPH as we celebrated the Makerere University's centennial anniversary. MakSPH was proud to be a part of this year-long celebration, reflecting on our own 68-year journey since our inception as a department of preventive medicine in the Faculty of Medicine. We take pride in our collective achievements, as we reinforce the solid foundation and growth as a leading public health training and research institution in Africa, providing solutions to public health issues, technical support to various health organizations, and training public health experts in Uganda and Africa.

Our 2022 annual report, shows the remarkable progress and achievements we have made in advancing excellence in public health education, research, and innovation in Uganda and beyond.

Our research teams focused on pressing issues to support evidence-based decision-making and improve health outcomes among vulnerable groups, including adolescents, children, and refugees.

Looking ahead, MakSPH's strategic direction has in focus health security and resilient health and other relevant systems, climate change and environmental degradation, rapid urbanization and rapid population growth, particularly of the youth demographics, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Our continued growth over the years has prompted MakSPH to initiate the construction of a new building to accommodate the growing student population, demonstration, and innovation laboratories. As you will see in this report, our success has been made possible through our strong partnerships and collaborations with both local and international organizations. We are grateful to our partners and donors for their unwavering support. Our network extends to 25 African countries, which provides an opportunity for us to contribute to public health in Africa and to learn from our partners. We are committed to strengthening these partnerships and fostering new ones, as we work towards our goal of advancing public health solutions in Africa.

We also maintained a strong focus on community engagement and knowledge translation, and a high research output.

We thank Makerere University Management, under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Council and the government of Uganda for their unwavering support. My sincere gratitude goes to the exceptional staff, students, and alumni of MakSPH, as well as our valued stakeholders. Your unwavering dedication to advancing public health has been instrumental in our continued success. Thank you for your continued commitment to the mission and vision of MakSPH.

Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze,
Professor & Dean, School of Public Health,
Makerere University



MakSPH Leadership



Dean

Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze
(Professor)



Deputy Dean

Dr. Elizeus Rutebemberwa
(Professor)



Dr. Christine Nalwadda
(Senior Lecturer)

Head, Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences



Dr. Esther Buregyeya
(Associate Professor)

Head, Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health



Ms. Gladys Khamili
(Principal Registrar)

Office of the Academic Registrar,
Makerere University



Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka
(Senior Lecturer)

Head, Department of Health Policy Planning and Management



Dr. Joan N. Mutyoba
(Senior Lecturer)

Head, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics



CPA Elizabeth N. Nambi
(Finance Manager)

Finance Management Unit

2022 in Numbers



959

MakSPH
Student
population



219

Current
number of
Research
projects



45%

Research
portfolio growth
(2021-2022)



96

Research
Administrators
trained and
mentored



458

Program staff in 13
PERSuADE II partner
countries impacted with
skills



≈ 250

Peer reviewed
research
publications



150

Early Career
Researchers
trained



MakSPH Human Resources

Promotions



Dr. Nazarius Tumwesigye
to Professor
Effective **July 1, 2022**



Dr. Elizeus Rutebemberwa
to Professor
Effective **July 1, 2022**



Dr. John Ssempebwa
to Associate Professor
Effective **July 1, 2022**



Dr. Simon Peter Kibira
to Senior Lecturer
Effective **September 1, 2022**



Dr. Eron Joan Mutyoba
to Senior Lecturer
Effective **September 1, 2022**



Dr. Justine N. Bukenya
to Senior Lecturer
Effective **September 1, 2022**

Appointments



Mr. Perez Nicholas Ochanda
Assistant Lecturer,
HPPM



Dr. Rawlance Ndejjo
Assistant Lecturer-
DCEH



Dr. Agaba Marianna Nyangire
Assistant Lecturer-
DCEH



Mr. Michael Omoda
Laboratory Technician



Jacqueline Nakiyingi Adlyn
Administrator- Higher
Degrees Committee



Further studies & New Posting

- **Doreen Tuheebwe**, PhD Student in Public Health San Diego State University and University of California San Diego.
- **Enid K. Ahimbisibwe**, academic Manager HPPM moved to Senate as Assistant Registrar.
- **Dr. Moses Mukuru** Nottingham Trent University.

HPPM Department



Dr. Ekirapa's tenure Highlights



39

Active Research Projects



9

PhD students graduated over the past four years



3

Makerere faculty joined the department.

Dr. Kiwanuka pledged to work towards restoring a culture of respect and professionalism and to increase staff.

Incoming HPPM Chair



Former HPPM Chair



Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka takes over as Head, Health Policy, Planning and Management (HPPM) Department



Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka takes over from outgoing Head, HPPM Department Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa. Witnessing the handover is the Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze and Internal Auditor Mr. Dembe Amos Ashaba

On September 23rd 2022, Dr. Suzanne N. Kiwanuka took over as the new head of the Department of Health Policy Planning and Management (HPPM) at MakSPH following her appointment by the University Appointments Board.

Dr. Kiwanuka replaced Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa Kiracho, who was the head since July 2018.

The handover ceremony was witnessed by the Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze alongside and Mr. Dembe Amos Ashaba, the Internal Auditor, Dr. Joan Eron Mutyoba, the Head of Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dr. Justine N. Bukenya then acting Head Department of Community Health and Behavioural Sciences and CPA Elizabeth Nambi Nsobya, the Head of Finance at MakSPH. Dr. Ekirapa highlighted the growth of the department over the past four years, including an increase in research evidence publications, and number of projects. She also noted the need for more staff and a research track to provide permanent affiliation with the University.



Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka delivers her acceptance speech and her plan for the department after receiving tools.

Dr. Kiwanuka pledged to work towards restoring a culture of respect and professionalism and to increase staff. She also noted the need to appreciate staff and improve visibility. Dr. Kiwanuka joined Makerere University in 2006 as a research fellow and is now a Senior Lecturer and a Knowledge Translation & Engagement expert.

Epi-Bio Department

Growth



>400

Students excluding upcoming admissions



>54

Research Projects

Dr. Mutyoba becomes first female Head of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (Epi-Bio) Department

Dr. Joan Eron Mutyoba became the first female head of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at MakSPH on September 12, following the end of tenure of Dr. Noah Kiwanuka, who led the Department for four years (2019-2022).

The department hosts a variety of master's programs and short courses in the fields of epidemiology, biostatistics, health services research, health informatics, and biostatistics.

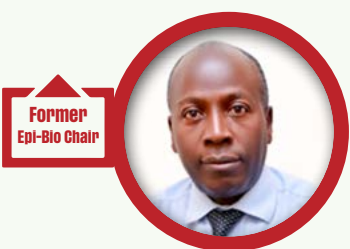
Professor Elizeus Rutebemberwa, the Deputy Dean hailed Dr. Noah Kiwanuka for the great work. He further commended efforts to make reports that show trends in performance of the officers that take responsibilities.

In her remarks, the Dean, Professor Rhoda Wanyenze praised Dr. Noah Kiwanuka for his scientific expertise and dedication as Head of the Department and expressed gratitude towards Dr. Joan Mutyoba for taking on the role as the first female head of the department, which is the largest in the school with many students and a lot of responsibilities with a long history of success. Professor Wanyenze believes the department should strive to be the leading source of analytics for health

in the region and encouraged the new leadership to use the trust and support of development partners to make positive changes.

Dr. Mutyoba joined the school as an Assistant Lecturer in 2008 and holds advanced degrees in public health and has received numerous awards for her work in infectious diseases epidemiology and cancer prevention. She is currently involved in several studies, including a 5-year NIH grant to study HIV and liver cancer in Africa and a study on the effect of a hepatitis B vaccine and antiviral prophylaxis in pregnant women. In 2022, she received a grant to implement models to link and retain hepatitis B-infected adults into long term care.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is a part of Makerere University School of Public Health and was established in 2001. The department has had five heads since its inception, including Prof. Joseph Konde-Lule, Prof. David Guwatudde, Prof. Fredrick Edward Makumbi, Prof. Nazarius M. Tumwesigye, and most recently Prof. Noah Kiwanuka.



Prof. Noah Kiwanuka hands over tools of office to Dr. Joan Mutyoba in witness of the Dean MakSPH, the Internal Auditor, Head of Finance and Deputy Dean.

Celebrating our retiring faculty



Dr. Olive Kobusingye

At retirement, she was a Senior Research Fellow at MakSPH and a Distinguished Fellow of the George Institute for Global Health.

Dr. Olive Kobusingye made a remarkable contribution to research, teaching, and community service around trauma, injury, and disability in low-income countries. She built capacity in her department and the university at large, by securing grants and training the next generation of leaders in this critical field. She mentored three(3) PhD students nearing completion in TRIAD namely; Oporia Frederick, Jimmy Osuret and Esther Bayiga. Others that were under her inspiration, at some point, in their doctoral journey: Charles Semugabo, Clare Biribawa and Lukia Namaganda. Her advocacy work on road safety and drowning prevention has saved lives and prevented injuries. We express deep gratitude for her dedication, hard work, and inspiration even in her post-retirement. Her legacy will live on, and we wish her good health and success in her future endeavors.

Ten years of establishing and running the TRIAD Unit at MakSPH, Dr. Kobusingye Olive retired in December 2022.



“It has been a privilege and honor to work with such a supportive team and accomplish so much growth in myself and our unit. As I leave, I have no regrets and am truly grateful for the opportunity.

While some have asked what will happen to the work I started, I remind them that the team has grown and will continue to flourish. They will be even more successful than I have been, with the support of the department, the Dean, and the school. I am excited about the next chapter in my life, but I leave with great memories of these wonderful people. Thank you for your support. And I also want to acknowledge the TRIAD Centre, a project my team and I started, which is currently in the approval process. Thank you again.” - Dr. Olive Kobusingye.

Dr. Sebastian O. Baine, former head of the HPPM Department, MakSPH (2000-2003) and (2008-2011)



“It is an honor to recognize the invaluable contributions of Dr. Baine, a soft-spoken storyteller whose legacy lives on through the representatives he has left throughout the university, including his wife, Dr. Euzobia Baine. His instrumental work in health economics and financing has left an indelible mark on the department and the school. We are proud to present this award to Dr. Baine in recognition of his inestimable contribution to our community.”

Dr. Suzanne N. Kiwanuka, Head, Health Policy Planning and Management Department, Makerere University School of Public Health



“I feel honoured to receive this award on behalf of my husband. The School has been part of our life, and sometimes I joke about how it’s going to be difficult for him to manage elsewhere, because the School has been his life. The school has contributed a lot to our life, and I am sure he will always be part of it. He’s always happy to be associated with the School, and you can be sure that next week he will receive the award and we shall have our celebration at home.”

Dr. Euzobia, accepting an award on behalf of her husband, Dr. Baine Sebastian, who was head of the HPPM Department at the school from 2000-2003 and 2008-2011, and made a significant contribution to health economics and financing.



Dr. Sebastian Olikira Baine

At retirement, he was a Senior lecturer in the HPPM Department, MakSPH. He is a researcher and mentor to many.



Prof. Fred Wabwire-Mangen

At retirement, he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, MakSPH.

As the curtains drew on his illustrious career, Makerere University celebrated the remarkable contributions of Dr. Fred Wabwire-Mangen. His leadership as Director of the Institute of Public Health (IPH) from 1995-2003 paved the way for the institute’s autonomy, setting the stage for greater innovation and impact.

Dr. Wabwire-Mangen’s passion for experiential learning transformed public health education at Makerere, through the development of innovative MPH and Masters in Health Services Research curricula. His vision produced graduates who have become leaders in public health globally. Moreover, his contributions to the expansion of teaching space at the current MakSPH building at Mulago hospital have left an indelible mark on the institution.

We thank him for building for the future and for being a great mentor and inspiration.

We wish him well in his future endeavors. Congratulations to the silent genius, whom we are proud to call our own.

Prof. Fred Wabwire-Mangen, Director, Institute of Public Health (1995 –2000) – Pre-autonomous and 2001 - 2003) – post-autonomous.



Dr. Henry Wamani

At retirement, he was a lecturer, Department of Community Health and Behavioural Sciences, MakSPH

Dr. Henry Wamani is a remarkable, humble individual who has made a lasting mark in the field of public health. As a lecturer at Makerere University, he inspired countless students with his expertise and dedication to the field. His contributions to disease control programs with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation, and as Resident Advisor of A2Z, the USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness project, have been invaluable.

But it is his 16-year commitment to the School of Public Health that truly sets him apart. Dr. Wamani supervised six PhDs from start to finish, before he officially retired.

Dr. Wamani’s fierce independence and willingness to chart his own course is an inspiration to many. His impact on child health, malaria, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and community research is undeniable, with publications in peer-reviewed journals. We thank him for his incredible contributions to public health and wish him and his family all the best in the future. Dr. Wamani, may your retirement be filled with joy, peace. God bless you, always..

“Dr. Wamani, Dr. Olive, Dr. Baine, and others who have served diligently and have now decided under your own volition that you can continue to help in another way, having built capacity, we want to thank you for really rendering a great service to Makerere University.”
Dr.Umar Kakumba, the First Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) Academic Affairs, Makerere University.

Dr. Wamani supervised six PhDs from start to finish, and has decided to retire officially



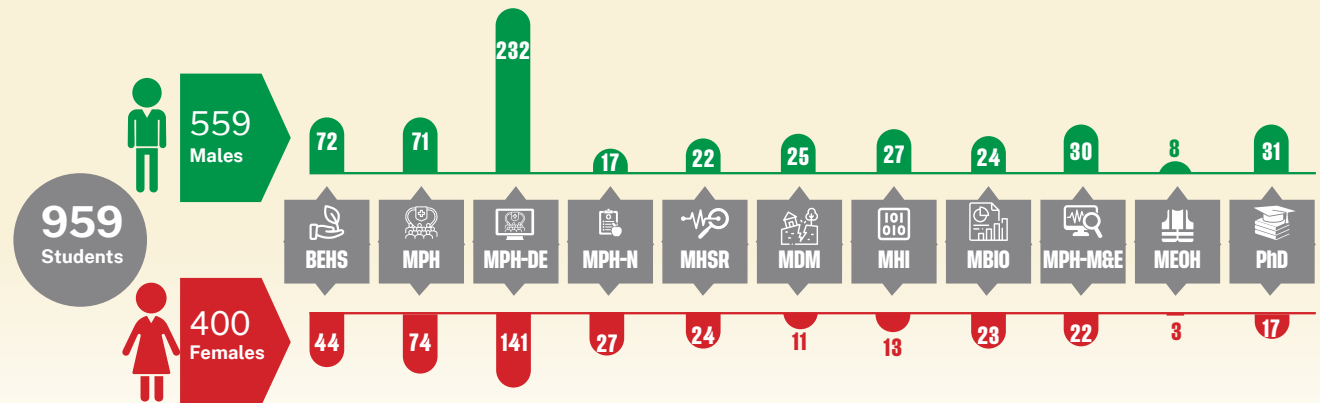
Teaching and Learning

To further its growth, MakSPH has steadfastly pursued innovation in the realm of academics. New programs have been implemented and existing ones have undergone review to ensure their relevance. Additionally, new educational tracks have been established. In accordance with its mission to enhance the abilities of individuals in the healthcare industry, the school has also crafted short courses that address the specific skills and knowledge requirements of practitioners. The Master of Public Health (full-

time and distance education) has had its review process commenced. Meanwhile, the review process for the Master of Public Health (Monitoring and Evaluation) has commenced. The Master of Public Health in Disaster Management was reviewed and presented at Quality Assurance in September 2018, while the Master of Health Informatics was reviewed and is to be presented at Directorate of Research and Graduate Training. The Master of Public Health in Nutrition has been reviewed and is to be presented at College, and the Bachelor of

Environmental Health Science was sent to NCHE. The Master of Environmental & Occupational Health has been approved. In the pipeline: MakSPH is expanding its academic offerings with the introduction of programs, including a Taught PhD in Public Health and a Master of Health Economics, ensuring its students are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to tackle public health challenges in a dynamic and rapidly changing world.

Student enrollment



KEY

BEHS - Bachelor of Environmental Health Science | **MPHN** - Master of Public Health Nutrition | **MHSR** - Master of Health Services Research | **MPH** - Master of Public Health | **MPH-DE** - Master of Public Health (Distance Education) | **MDM** - Master of Public Health Disaster Management | **MHI** - Master of Health Informatics | **MBIO** - Master of Biostatistics | **MPHM&E** - Master of Public Health (Monitoring and Evaluation) | **MEOH** - Master of Environmental and Occupational Health | **PhD** - Doctor of Philosophy



72nd graduation ceremony



Ms. Audo Tabitha (Extreme Right) together with her colleagues L-R; Mike Wejuli, Irene Nakaziba and Arac Oscar all of whom obtained first Class Degrees in BEHS of Makerere University.

During the 72nd graduation ceremony held at Makerere University's Freedom Square, a total of 119 students graduated from the School of Public Health. The graduates included Dr. Mukuru Moses and Dr. Nankya Mutyoba Eron Joan, who received their PhDs. Other MakSPH Faculty who graduated with their PhDs from the College of Health Sciences were Dr. Dinah Amongin and Dr. Gertrude Kalema Namazzi.

Additionally, 40 students obtained their Bachelor of Environmental Health Sciences (BEHS) degrees, while 54 students were awarded a Masters in Public Health from Makerere University. 25 students graduated with Masters of Biostatistics, Masters of Health Informatics, Masters in Public Health Nutrition and Masters in Health Services Research. Among the graduates, Ms. Audo Tabitha and her colleagues Mike Wejuli, Irene Nakaziba, and Arac Oscar received first-class degrees in BEHS of Makerere University.

At the same graduation ceremony, Makerere University Council awarded Professor William

Bazeyo, outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration and former Dean of the School of Public Health, a certificate of exceptional service in recognition of decades of service to the university. The Council Chairperson, Mrs. Lorna Magara, commended Professor Bazeyo's passion for national transformation and his efforts in championing the transformation of the research agenda at Makerere University. This certificate of exceptional service is a testament to the dedication of men and women who have gone beyond the call of duty to serve Makerere University.

A special tribute was extended to the gallant members of staff, who served Makerere for long periods of time with diligence and honorably retired. The gallant staff who were retiring with decorated honors included Prof. Elly Sabiiti, Prof. David Serwadda, Assoc. Prof. Alex Okot, Prof. Sylvia Tamale and others.



L-R: Dr. Mukuru Moses, Dr. Gertrude Kalema Namazzi, Dr. Nankya Mutyoba Eron Joan, and Dr. Dinah Amongin, MakSPH faculty who received their PhDs during the ceremony.



Master of Environmental and Occupational Health Program launched

With the increasing population growth and urbanization, environmental and occupational health issues are becoming more critical in low- and middle-income countries, including Uganda. The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) recognized the magnitude of this problem and approved a new program; the Master of Environmental and Occupational Health (MEOH) that was launched at Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) in August 2022. 18 students have been enrolled on the program.

The MEOH program has been designed to address these

pressing concerns by providing students with a comprehensive understanding of Environmental and Occupational Health principles, tools and systems. They will also be equipped with the skills required to plan and implement effective interventions, as well as conduct research in the field. This will help to equip graduates with the necessary knowledge to make a real difference in their communities and contribute to the sustainable development of their countries. Graduates will be equipped to work in government, non-government organizations, research institutions, and private consulting companies

and contribute to sustainable development.

The program aligns with global and national goals of ensuring a healthy and productive population, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the second National Health Policy of Uganda. Specifically, SDG target 8.8 highlights the importance of protecting labor rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers.

We extend our warmest congratulations to our pioneering students for taking the initiative to enrol on the innovative program.



Some of our pioneering students pursuing the Master of Environmental and Occupational Health (MEOH). Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika.

Celebrating a successful 2022 and looking towards a promising future for the PhD Forum



MakSPH PhD Forum members and faculty pose for a group photo during the inaugural PhD Colloquium focused on peer support, mentorship, and research enhancement, held on September 8th, 2022 at Kololo RAN Complex.

The PhD Forum a membership association for PhD students based or affiliated with MakSPH works closely with the Office of the Dean and the Chair of the Higher Degrees Committee to foster and extend scientific and academic support between MakSPH PhD candidates and students. The forum is a valuable association for PhD students. There was a change in Forum Executive leadership, with the previous term of office of the Executive team expiring in December 2022. The outgoing team, including Dr. Aloysius Ssenyonjo as President, Olivia Nakisita as Vice President, James Muleme as Mobilisation & Welfare officer, and Harriet Aber as Secretary, were thanked for their contributions to the Forum over the 2020-22 period.

A new Forum Executive was constituted for the term of service 2023-24, with Dr. Nicholus Nanyeenya as President, Ms Rebecca Nuwematsiko as Vice President, Dr. Dennis Buwembo as General Secretary, Mr Swaibu Zziwa as Treasurer/Finance Secretary, and Dr Peter Mudiope as Mobilisation and Welfare Secretary.

There was continued formalisation and vibrancy of the MakSPH PhD Forum especially through the

development and launch of the PhD Forum Constitution in September 2022, continued regular team meetings to streamline operations and strategic direction, and a successful roundtable discussion on the draft constitution in July 2022.

The Forum also maintained a yearly schedule for seminars for members to book in advance, with five concepts and proposals presented during regular seminar series. The inaugural PhD Colloquium was also held, where 25 students presented their work, a keynote address was given on the position of PhD research in the national development agenda, and

the Forum history was presented along with the launch of the PhD Constitution.

Other achievements included increased sharing of resources through email and a WhatsApp group, celebrating colleagues who have successfully completed their PhD studies, supporting welfare activities through mobilising social support, and the continued productivity of the Forum members evidenced by progression from one stage of the PhD journey to another, research products generated, and successful completion of doctoral studies by some colleagues.



MakSPH PhD Forum launching its constitution.

Mentorship

MakSPH Alumni tipped on ethics and professionalism

Twenty-one alumni of MakSPH class of 2017 have been urged to continue to excel in their profession with hard work, resilience and ethics.

The Dean, Professor Rhoda Wanyenze congratulated the best students who at the Makerere

University's 71st graduation ceremony held last year appeared on the Vice Chancellor's and Dean's lists by virtue of their exceptional academic performance. This was at a colourful ceremony held at the Kololo Annex of the School of Public Health on Tuesday, February

9, 2022. Students with CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) of 4.40- 5.00 (First Class Honors) belong to the Vice Chancellor's list while those between 4.00-4.39 (Second Class Upper Honors) on the Dean's list.



"Be different, do not go to meeting for the sake of allowances. Always look around for opportunities to execute and impact communities. You will truly be different and please, be leaders with a difference."
Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean, MakSPH.



The solutions, the problems exist in communities. How much interaction you have with society also matters. You could be a genius who is only interested in those search engines, who knows so much, but the problems out there in the society might actually require you to get out and interact with society,"
Mr. Saul Kamukama, MakSPH.



"You have demonstrated that you deserve a Degree and much more. Congratulations to Faith [Atai]. She has been outstanding from Year One and I am glad that you have been recognised at the School, University and other levels beyond and it shows that hard work pays and when you perform well, it's a sign of better things to come like Masters degrees, work, scholarships and further studies but also being able to grow career wide," **Dr. David Musoke, MakSPH.**



"I have been here 13 years and I have not been disappointed hence my continuity in doing work on the program. Otherwise, if we have been getting bad students, I don't think I would be willing to continue as a program coordinator. I encourage you to keep that name," **Mr. Abdullah Ali Halage, MakSPH.**



MakSPH awards seed grants to innovative projects in round 4 of funding scheme

Three early career researchers at Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) have been awarded seed grants as part of the school's capacity strengthening initiative. The scheme was launched in 2018 to enhance the school's research capacity in important yet neglected areas of public health in Uganda and the region, and equip junior faculty, staff and students with skills to build independent research careers.

Applications are reviewed by the MakSPH Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee, with support from select faculty content experts. The funding recipients include Dr John Ssenkusu, Ms. Juliana Namutundu, and Mr. Abdullah Ali Halage, who will conduct research on topics such

as health emergency preparedness and response, cervical cancer screening services among HIV

positive women, and heavy metal concentration in milk from lactating cows.



Dr. David Musoke (left – Chair of the Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee) and Ms. Stella Kakeeto (right – Secretary of the Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee) with the 3 grant recipients (left to right: Mr. Abdullah Ali Halage, Dr. John Ssenkusu and Ms. Juliana Namutundu).

MakSPH staff receive induction on University Sexual Harassment Policy and Regulations

Staff at MakSPH received an induction on the University Policy and Regulations against Sexual Harassment in a seminar held on August 03, 2022. The policy defines Sexual Harassment as unwelcome/unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or unwanted physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature. The seminar aimed to sensitize staff on the policy and the resources available to address sexual assault at Makerere University. The policy seeks to create a sense of social responsibility and zero tolerance for sexual harassment.

MakSPH is committed to changing the culture across the campus to ensure that all members of the university community feel safe and supported. The revised policy provides for a standing committee of 100 members appointed by the Vice Chancellor, from which a special investigations team is picked to investigate a case of sexual harassment if and when it emerges. The Seminar was facilitated by Dr. Euzobia Mugisha Baine, head of the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate at Makerere University.

At MakSPH, we are committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all students and staff, free from all forms of sexual harassment.



L-R: Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor and Dean, MakSPH and Dr. Justine N. Bukunya, Dr. Euzobia Mugisha Baine, the Director Gender Mainstreaming Directorate at Mak, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Project Director Dr. Elizabeth Nabiwemba in a group photo after the seminar.

MakSPH excels in Jhpiego capacity assessment

MakSPH graduated from an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) conducted by Jhpiego, a non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University. The assessment covered areas such as leadership and governance, finance and administration, human resources, project management, and data visualization and communications. After a three-year evaluation, Jhpiego reported that Makerere University School of Public Health had greatly improved in the management of finance, human resources, and data visualization.

At a graduation ceremony held on 9th August 2022 at the Protea Skyz Hotel in Kampala, Dr. Martin Ndifuna, the Country Program Manager of Jhpiego Uganda Country Office, hailed the leadership of Makerere University School of Public Health as a great collaborating institution. He also congratulated the school for reaching a great milestone. “Jhpiego is thrilled to be a part of this achievement.”

Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, the Dean of MakSPH, also expressed her excitement at the School’s graduation and thanked the teams from Jhpiego and MakSPH for their excellent work. She said that when people invest in MakSPH, they are investing in the whole of Africa, as the school trains the next generation of leaders and has many partnerships across the continent. According to Professor Wanyenze, graduation is only the beginning. She plans to expand project management training to benefit more people from the school. She is also passionate about growing the area of knowledge management in the school to document and learn from all their projects. The Dean believes that the school is sustainable when there are more strong institutions in Africa working together towards a healthier society.

As a result of the OCA, MakSPH has updated its grants management

tools and developed several new human resources tools. The Finance Manager of MakSPH expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Organizational Capacity Assessment and for the chance to further strengthen the School’s systems.

Overall, the graduation from the Organizational Capacity Assessment is a major milestone for Makerere University School of Public Health and represents its ongoing efforts to improve its capacity and sustain growth.

“Please do extend our sincere appreciation to [our partners] for an excellent job done at the School of Public Health. Let them know that when they invest in Makerere School of Public Health, they are investing in the whole of Africa because we are highly networked...”

Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze



Teams from Makerere University School of Public Health and Jhpiego join in a cake-cutting session at the OCA graduation ceremony in Kampala.



“It was such a great opportunity for us to have participated in the Organizational Capacity Assessments that was facilitated by Jhpiego. We have been able to further strengthen our systems and widen our strategic planning objectives for continued growth and capacity strengthening. We thank you for being part of our growth curve in our efforts of continued capacity strengthening.”

— Finance Manager, MakSPH,
Ms. Elizabeth Nambi Nsobya



“The OCA assessments provided us (MakSPH) another opportunity to reflect and assess our Leadership and Governance, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Project Management, and Data Visualization and Communications practices. We identified areas of strength that we have capitalized on, and some weaknesses that we have worked on and seen improvement over the years of the assessments. All these contribute to attracting more research funding, and high levels of compliance. We are privileged to have participated in this very important initiative.”

— Grants Office at MakSPH,
Ms. Stella Kakeeto



ICT and PR committee at MakSPH delivers significant accomplishments in enhancing technology and communications

The ICT and PR Committee of MakSPH has the mandate to enhance the School's ICT systems and support the public relations function of the School.

With the support of the committee, the IT and Communications offices have achieved several tasks, including the development of a Communication Strategy, production of annual reports, creation of branded products, planning of School events, guiding the purchase of network firewall and gateway, supporting project visibility through media, maintaining the School's website and social media, and promoting student activities.

ICT & PR COMMITTEE

- Dr. Simon P.S. Kibira (Chairperson)
- Dr. John Ssenkusu (Vice Chairperson)

MEMBERS

- Dr. Rawlance Ndejjo
- Dr. Christine Nalwadda
- Dr. John Bosco Ddamulira
- Dr. Chrispus Mayora
- Dr John Bosco Isunju

THE SECRETARIAT

- Mr. Davidson Ndyabahika
- Ms. Melody Kukundakwe
- Ms. Judith Grace Amoiti
- Mr. Jude Oboth
- Ms. Esther Nakasiko
- Ms Harriet Adong

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Ms. Hanifah N. Bukirwa

ECR Capacity building series

The Early Career Researchers' (ECR) Capacity Building Series is an initiative at MakSPH that conducted two capacity building sessions for faculty aimed at strengthening research management skills among early career researchers and students. Over 150 participants attended the sessions, which included a presentation on "Funding your research and career development: Navigating NIH funding as an early career investigator" by Dr. Susan M. Kiene on March 14th, 2022 and another on "Reciprocal learning - towards mutually beneficial research partnerships" by Dr. Stefan Peterson on September 14th, 2022.

The grants committee consists of 9 members from the departments of DCEH, CHBS, EPI/BIO and HPPM. They are;

- Dr. David Musoke (Chair)
- Dr. Justine Bukenya
- Prof. David Guwatudde (Co-Chair)
- Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka
- Dr. Lynn Atuyambe
- Dr. John Ssempebwa
- Dr. John Bosco Isunju,
- Dr. Nankabirwa Victoria, and
- Dr. Ssenyonjo Aloysius.

It is supported by a 3-member secretariat; Elizabeth Nambi, Susan Mawemuko and Stella Kakeeto.



Prof. Susan Kiene from San Diego State University making a presentation during the seminar at MakSPH.

Research and Dissemination

New Study found an urgent need for interventions to improve continuity of care for preterm infants after hospital discharge



The Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi) project based in Busoga subregion of Uganda showed 11.3% to 28% post-discharge deaths among preterm babies.

A study by the MakSPH in partnership with National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford found that there is an urgent need for interventions to improve continuity of care for preterm infants after they are discharged from the hospital. The study conducted in Eastern Uganda among 240 caregivers of preterm babies showed significant differences in care provision at home, such as variation in advice received from healthcare providers and lack of advice on recognizing danger signs. The study was conducted by a team of researchers including; Dr Christine Nalwadda Kayemba and Dr. Peter Waiswa from MakSPH, Dr. Harriet Nambuya, from Jinja Regional Hospital, Dr. David Muwanguzi, Iganga District Local Government and Dr Joseph Okware from the Ministry of Health, Uganda while at the University of Oxford, Associate Prof. Manisha Nair and Professor Jenny Kurinczuk of the NPEU, Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH) and Professor Maureen Kelley of Ethox Centre, NDPH led the team.

Read more here; <https://sph.mak.ac.ug/news/joint-study-makerere-and-oxford-university-found-urgent-need-interventions-improve-continuity>

Women RISE COVID-19 slum study team meets stakeholders in Kampala, Mbale cities



The evidence generated will inform inclusive, sustainable and equitable gender transformative solutions for COVID-19 recovery and future health emergencies.

Makerere University School of Public Health and University of Waterloo co-led a research study on the impact of COVID-19 on employment, economic status and HIV risk and vulnerability among women living in urban informal settlements in two major cities (Kampala and Mbale) in Uganda using a participatory action research.

This two-year research project funded by three partner organizations involved in Women RISE (IDRC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) is implemented by MakSPH, Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC), and Afrislum Uganda.

The evidence generated will inform inclusive, sustainable and equitable gender transformative solutions for COVID-19 recovery and future health emergencies.

On Wednesday December 7, 2022 the project team led by Susan Babirye, a Research Associate in the Department of Health Policy Planning and Management (HPPM) at MakSPH engaged with local leaders in Nakawa and Kawempe divisions at Kabira Country Club in a research co-design meeting.





PMA Uganda has been a vital source of data for family planning indicators that inform government policies and guidelines

Spotlight

The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) utilized data from PMA Uganda to support their findings in the 2022 World Population Data Sheet. This data is being used to promote global policies aimed at improving reproductive health and population outcomes. The goal of PRB is to provide population and health evidence that informs policy decisions and positively impacts people's lives.

PMA Uganda has been a vital source of data for family planning indicators that inform government policies and guidelines. Our data has been used to inform the Uganda National Population Policy, 2020, Uganda Family Planning 2030 commitments, increase mCPR for all women from 30.4% to 39.6% by 2025; reduce unmet need from 17% to 15% by 2025, allocate 10% of MCH resources to adolescent responsive health services by 2025 and the National Costed Implementation Plans (CIP), 2015-2020 and CIP II 2020-2025.

Additionally, PMA has fostered enhanced collaboration among stakeholders and improved research capacities at Makerere University School of Public Health

through capacity assessments, grant management guidelines, and data visualization tools. Project management trainings were also provided to improve the quality of research and data utilization.

PMA held trainings for resident enumerators and supervisors to collect good quality family planning data in Uganda. 17 female REs were recruited and trained for 5 days, followed by a 7-day refresher training for all 121 REs. A 2-day refresher training was also held for supervisors in September 2022. The data collection for Phase 3 took place from September to October 2022 with 138 REs, and data analysis is ongoing.

Following the a 2-day refresher training for supervisors in September 2022, PMA sent field

research teams across the country for Phase 3 data collection exercise from September to October 2022 with 138 REs. Following Data analysis, dissemination is expected in early 2023. Additionally, PMA Uganda project held a five-day e-learning training on data visualization for staff from MakSPH, Resilient Africa Network, Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support (METS), and PMA project teams. The training was focused on using Excel, Adobe Illustrator, and PowerBI to develop charts and graphs for technical dissemination briefs. The participants were able to create complete data briefs and submitted them for assessment. Jhpiego staff were also trained on data visualization best practices.



The team from MakSPH that participated in the brief training

Mak boosts hand hygiene in Wakiso district with local sanitizer production



The PEER alcohol hand rub project under MakSPH is aimed at promoting hand hygiene in health care facilities in Wakiso district, Uganda.



Health workers producing the 1st batch of the sanitiser

The PEER alcohol hand rub project under MakSPH is aimed at promoting hand hygiene in health care facilities in Wakiso district, Uganda. With support from USAID, the project trains health care workers on the local production of alcohol-based hand sanitizers using WHO-approved formulation, funds the purchase of ingredients, and provides information, education and communication materials on hand hygiene.

The project is being carried out in four health care facilities involving a hospital, two health centre IVs and a health centre III as a pilot and aims to ensure constant availability of hand sanitiser in these facilities.

Health care workers in Wakiso district, Uganda, have emphasized the need for constant availability of hand sanitizer in health care facilities, especially when water

and soap are not available.

Dr. Esther Buregyeya and her team are now working on expanding the project to other health care facilities in Wakiso district and eventually to other districts in Uganda.



Ms. Rebecca Nuwematsiko, the Project Coordinator facilitating the CMEs

50 Health Practitioners trained on Antimicrobial Stewardship

The NTU-Mak partnership, an international partnership between Nottingham Trent University and Makerere University through MakSPH trained over 50 health practitioners on antimicrobial resistance, at a two-day One Health training workshop at Central Inn Hotel Entebbe.

The training was conducted through Strengthening Antimicrobial Stewardship in Wakiso District project supported by the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship Scheme, an initiative of Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) and the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) under the Fleming Fund of the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

The two-day training workshop of health practitioners involving community pharmacy staff, other human and animal health practitioners ran from 29th to 30th March 2022 with the view of enhancing their capacity. The training also provided an opportunity to facilitate

knowledge exchange and share experiences on Antimicrobial Stewardship/Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control between the UK and Uganda as a means to improving health practitioners' practices on antimicrobial prescription and consumption.

The Uganda AMR National Action Plan 2018-2023 aims to prevent, slow down, and control the spread of resistant organisms.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global One Health—human, animal, and environmental health concern. It has reduced the ability of antimicrobial agents to effectively control infectious diseases caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses, and fungi impacting negatively on global health security, healthcare, global trade, agriculture, and the environment. The consequences of AMR threaten the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals recently agreed upon by UN member countries.

Uganda RMNCAH operations research yields critical findings and recommendations for improved service delivery



In 2022, MakSPH continued coordinating the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health Operational Research Programme (RMNCAH OR Program).

Designed and launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with Sweden and the World Bank, the program aimed at generating evidence for RMNCAH policy and implementation, as well as strengthen capacity for Ugandan researchers.

Twelve studies were disseminated in a two-day meeting held in November at Hotel Africana -Kampala with more than 200 participants, including representatives of the MoH, World Bank, Sweden, and civil society organizations and research institutions.

The studies found challenges with weak leadership and governance in the health sector, bottlenecks in service delivery, and inadequate health financing. The meeting also discussed the challenges with health data, including unreliable indicators and limited training on information systems. Findings also outlined socio-cultural factors affecting family planning use. The World Bank, MoH, and MakSPH will release a compendium of all 12 studies in 2023. The MoH committed to implementing the research recommendations, including improving investments in governance, managerial capacity, and service delivery.

12 Studies
in the following themes

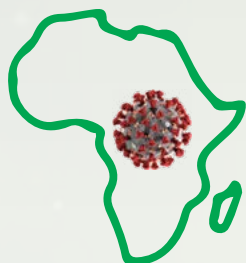
-  Service Delivery
-  Health Workforce
-  Health Financing
-  Health Information Systems
-  Leadership & Governance
-  Demand-Side Factors of MNH/FP

The studies found challenges with weak leadership and governance in the health sector, bottlenecks in service delivery, and inadequate health financing.



Leaders in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health Operational Research (RMNCAH OR) Program, including researchers, members of the Advisory Committee, and representatives from the Ministry of Health, Makerere University School of Public Health, Sweden and the World Bank, gather to share the results and recommendations of 12 studies at a two-day dissemination meeting held on November 23rd-24th, 2022 in Kampala. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika.

Assessing COVID-19's impact in Africa: project findings shared globally and continuously disseminated



The project studied COVID-19 testing and surveillance, the impact on essential health services, consequences of non-pharmaceutical interventions, and health systems readiness.

The COVID-19 response in Africa project, led by MakSPH and implemented in partnership with several universities including the University of Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar, Senegal; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Kinshasa, DRC; and the University of Ghana, has been disseminating its findings globally and in Africa. The project studied COVID-19 testing and surveillance, the impact on essential health services, consequences of non-pharmaceutical interventions, and health systems readiness.

The project also conducted surveys on vaccine uptake in four African countries and presented findings at various international conferences and events, including the Dubai Expo Preventing Pandemics event during the Health and Wellness week in January and the Expo's Africa Spotlight on Evaluating and Building Resilient Health in Africa with the Africa CDC in

March, the World Health Organization session on Respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness in July, and a virtual dissemination event for African stakeholders in October 2022.

The other dissemination events where project findings were presented include: The 7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Bogota, Columbia; The Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference of Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda; Prince Mahidol Award Conference, Bangkok, Thailand; The Biannual Global Security Conference, Singapore; the Association of Schools of Public Health Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and the Institute of Tropical Medicine Colloquium, Antwerp, Belgium, among others. The project was funded and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Gates Ventures Exemplars in COVID-19 Response.



Dr. Alice Namale of the Project Secretariat (Second from left) during a panel discussion at the Global Health Security Conference in Singapore.

MakSPH conducts data quality assessment of post abortion care records in Uganda

In 2022, MakSPH continued to make strides in promoting women's health through the Vital Strategies' Data-Driven Policy Initiative to Improve Women's Health (DDP for WH) program. Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Vital Strategies, MakSPH aimed at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality resulting from unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and complications of pregnancy and childbirth in Bangladesh, Rwanda, and Uganda.

To ensure the success of the program, the team at MakSPH held a series of meetings with key stakeholders in the Ministry of Health. These meetings included an Embedment Meeting for the Program Officer Dr. Arthur Bagonza with the Commissioner-Department of Reproductive and Child Health, Dr. Jesca Nsungwa at the Ministry of Health in Kampala, Uganda. The project core team also worked with Dr. Dinah Amongin, Senior Specialist Obstetrics and gynaecology, and advisor/project consultant, to develop a data quality assessment protocol to ensure that all priority issues were captured in the survey.

The team also conducted a data quality assessment of Post Abortion Care records across 80 health facilities in Uganda. They compared raw data from health

facility registers with aggregate data at the district and national levels, looking for discrepancies in timelines, completeness, and accuracy. They also explored the perceptions and barriers towards Post Abortion Care data from different stakeholders in the health system.

Through their efforts, MakSPH and Vital Strategies are working towards closing the gap between existing policies and actual practice, improving local capacity to collect, analyze, and apply data, and developing evidence-based policy to promote women's health.



L-R: Ms. Agnes Namagembe Technical Advisor MoH, Dr. Arthur Bagonza-Program Officer DDPWH, Dr. Justine Bukenyua Co-PI DDPWH, Dr. Jesca Nsungwa-Commissioner Reproductive and Child Health Dept. MoH and Dr. Lynn Atuyambe PI-DDPWH Uganda

Uganda's quicker path to Universal Health Coverage through Health Technology Assessment

The commitment to universal health coverage (UHC) in Uganda by 2030 and improvements in key health indicators such as under-five mortality and maternal mortality are commendable. However, optimising available resources to achieve UHC is an ongoing challenge. MakSPH with support from the International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI) team at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), has been working with Uganda's Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop institutionalised Health Technology Assessment (HTA) systems to ensure that the best evidence informs resource allocation and decision making.

The first step was to carry out an HTA landscape analysis in Uganda to understand how priority setting is undertaken and implemented through an organised institutional approach, if one exists. The study found that there were several priority setting activities in Uganda, but none explicitly utilised HTA-like methods to support these processes. Moreover, there is

limited HTA-relevant literature that focuses on the Ugandan context, and existing routine data sources could be leveraged to build a locally relevant evidence base for HTA. The collaboration between iDSI, MakSPH and the MoH is aimed at developing the evidence generation and uptake structures necessary for HTA use in

Uganda. The HTA institutionalisation will help ensure that existing resources and any new funds are spent wisely to achieve UHC. Through the use of the iDSI framework, Uganda will have a structured process to support decision-making, minimise difficulties, and improve impact in the health sector.



Staff from the Health Policy Planning and Management (HPPM) Department Makerere University School of Public Health receiving a consignment of books from iDSI

MakSPH and partners make strides towards reducing newborn mortality rates in the country



The MakSPH team during the brainstorming meeting at Kiwoko Hospital in Nakaseke District.

MakSPH continues to play a crucial role in improving maternal, newborn, and child health in Uganda through its partnership with ELMA philanthropies. Together with other partners, MakSPH launched the 'Uganda Newborn Programme' in 2022 to reduce newborn mortality rates by 40% at target health facilities and improve care for 120,000 small and sick newborns over three years. We support partners by evaluating the programme, tracking activities, and developing national guidelines and protocols for the care of small and sick newborns.

To understand the local context, MakSPH teams visited various partner sites, including Kiwoko Hospital, Nakaseke Hospital, Nsambya Hospital, Kyegegwa HC IV, Kyangwali HC IV, and Masindi hospital. The teams discussed the expansion of the neonatal intensive care unit at Kiwoko Hospital due to the overwhelming number of admissions, noting that the downtrend in survival rate is due to critically ill and late referrals. The team also discussed forming a Centre of Excellence and adopting a care model that includes late Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a special method of care of low birth weight (<2500gm) babies, early KMC, mother-baby care unit, and specialized care. Additionally, MakSPH visited the human breast milk bank at Nsambya Hospital to document progress, successes, and bottlenecks and provide insights for scaling up the practice countrywide. This human breast milk bank provides a ready supply of safe pasteurized human breast milk donated for preterm babies and neonates whose mothers may be unable to provide adequate breast milk. The team witnessed firsthand the impact that the availability of breast milk has had on the health and development of vulnerable babies.



Refrigerators where unpasteurized and pasteurized human breast milk is stored after expression from mothers.

Urban Thrive Project on course to reduce unmet need for family planning in urban areas

The Urban Thrive Project has been actively implemented since July 2021, aiming at reducing the unmet need for family planning (FP) in urban settings by developing a tailored package of interventions. The project is implemented by Dr. Peter Waiswa, Ms. Catherine Birabwa, Dr. Muhumuza Kananura Rornald and Dr. Kakaire Othman, with funding from the John Templeton Foundation.

The project has already made significant progress, such as the training of Community Health Workers (CHWs) on FP service delivery and the provision of supportive supervision for health workers, commodity managers, and community group facilitators. The project has reached approximately 116,028 women, men and young people with FP knowledge and information, through community group engagement, drama groups, mass media, digital technologies, and CHW home visits.

The project's baseline assessment identified barriers to FP use, including myths and misconceptions, inadequate agency among women, and concerns about side effects. The supply-side issues included inadequate FP supplies and the lack of FP services' integration into routine health services. To



Co- design workshop: Developing a tailored package of interventions together with health workers, community members and leaders.

address these issues, the project uses community engagement practices, including drama groups and radio talk shows, to educate communities about the benefits of FP. The radio talk shows have been particularly successful, with trained FP focal persons and project staff providing education about different FP methods, addressing myths and misconceptions, and receiving questions from the audience. Digital technologies such as WhatsApp groups and tailored SMSs are also used to disseminate FP information, targeting the youth and men.

Through quarterly review meetings, the project strengthens governance and management capacity, and leaders and key stakeholders in the management of FP services can disseminate

research findings and generate solutions to management-related challenges to improve system performance. The project aims at reaching 800 individuals through community groups, 96,690 through radio talk shows, 4,500 through mobile phone-based platforms, and 1,920 through drama groups. An additional 3,600 will be reached through CHW home visits, while others will be reached through 120 trained health workers seeking healthcare services in supported facilities. The capacity building activities at the community, facility and sub-national level will not only improve FP services but will also enable peer-to-peer mentorship, further strengthening the health systems.



A drama show performance in Iganga

HIV/AIDS Legal Environment Assessment for Key Populations in Uganda report launched

The year 2022 marked a significant milestone in Uganda's fight against HIV/AIDS as the Ministry of Health, Uganda AIDS Commission, and Makerere University School of Public Health collaborated with support of the U.S. government to conduct a ground-breaking legal environment assessment for key populations. This assessment aimed at shedding light on the legal issues faced by these vulnerable communities and their impact on accessing HIV services.

On the 2nd of September 2022, a dissemination session was held

to unveil the report that assessed the strengths and weaknesses of Uganda's legal and policy framework, focusing on its impact on the right to health and access to HIV services for key populations. This report provided a wealth of new data and evidence, shedding light on the role of the law in shaping human rights and its ramifications for key populations.

This initiative stands as a breakthrough moment, igniting a multifaceted conversation among stakeholders about addressing the inequalities perpetuating the HIV

pandemic through a legal lens. The assessment report unequivocally calls for a comprehensive review of relevant laws to establish an enabling legal environment that supports the national response to HIV for key populations. The recommendations put forth in the report encompass strategic reforms in areas such as legal and policy frameworks, programming, awareness creation, testing and counselling, access to justice, employment equity, and social welfare.



Her Lordship Eva.k. Luswata, the Chief Guest and Justice of the High Court of Uganda launches the report at Speke Resort Munyonyo as Ambassador Natalie E. Brown, the Chief of Mission, U.S. Mission Kampala, Hon. Ayume Charles, Chair Sectoral Committee of Parliament on Health and Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean School of Public Health looks on.



Tracking progress in healthcare services coverage and equity with VERSE tool kit



VERSE study team in a group photo shortly after a virtual dissemination training meeting at MakSPH

In September 2022, MakSPH in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health held a virtual training workshop for the Vaccine Economics Research for Sustainability and Equity (VERSE) program. The workshop's theme was to use the VERSE toolkit to track progress in health care services coverage and equity through composite ranking and multivariate equity assessments.

The VERSE Equity Toolkit methodology was officially launched on Wednesday 25th May 2022. In Uganda, the VERSE project is co-led with Makerere University, and examines tradeoffs in equity and efficiency in vaccine coverage for priority vaccines, including the rotavirus vaccine introduced in the national program in 2018. The team is also adapting the VERSE

toolkit to produce estimates from a health systems perspective, beyond immunization programs.

The VERSE Equity Toolkit provides a quantitative measure of immunization coverage and equity. The collaboration aims to seeing the adaption of the VERSE Equity Toolkit in response to evolving health policy priorities and multi-agency feedback in Uganda. The project also seeks to provide countries with robust evidence on the economic and equity implications of their immunization financing and delivery strategies. The project team presented routine immunization in Uganda based on DHS data as an example of healthcare service. The VERSE Equity Toolkit generates efficiency and equity metrics, such as concentration indices, absolute equity gap, relative equity

gap, slope index of inequality, and relative index of inequality. The coverage and equity metrics can be visualized for each subnational region, and changes can be tracked over time.

The project offers to estimate the economic burden of illness by filling gaps in cost-of-illness and economic benefits data at the country level for use in country-specific models through collaboration with stakeholders in Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, and Uganda. Other countries in the project are China and Ecuador. It is spearheaded by Dr. Bryan Patenaude, Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health alongside Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa Kiracho, and Mr. Anthony Ssebagereka from MakSPH.

Advancing family planning in Uganda: R4S project snapshot

The Research for Scalable Solutions (R4S) project, a USAID-funded project led by Family Health International, has made significant strides in the past three years with the support of its partners (Population Services International, Save the Children, and Evidence for Sustainable Human Development Systems in Africa (EVIDHAF)). One of the key achievements of the project was co-developing the Family Planning Research and Learning Agenda (FP-RLA) for Uganda 2021-2025, which aims to support the Ministry of Health, researchers and implementing partners to develop and prioritize FP implementation science questions that will contribute to Uganda's FP policy and program goals 2021-2025. The R4S team has worked with MoH to operationalise and track the use of the FP-RLA through dissemination to FP researchers and implementing partners. The FP-RLA can be accessed via <http://library.health.go.ug/sexual-and-reproductive-health/adolescent-health/family-planning-research-and-learning-agenda>

In 2022, the team also participated in monitoring and supervision for phase I of the pilot of the draft Uganda Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Self-care guidelines. The R4S project conducted a formative study on the acceptability of FP self-care in Uganda and engaged the selfcare expert technical working group. The findings informed the operationalization of the self-care guidelines in Uganda.



The R4S team engaging the selfcare expert working group with study findings on 23rd September at Speke Resort, Kampala Uganda.

Following a series of engagements with FHI360, USAID, the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, the R4S team conducted a landscaping study on the integration of FP-HIV to document the implementation processes and perceptions of integrating FP services and methods into self-care differentiated service delivery models (SC-DSDM) for HIV to inform program improvements and scale-up.

The R4S team presented 7 abstracts at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Pattaya, Thailand, 14-17th November 2022. The team shared learnings on establishing an Equity Steering Committee and advancing the equity Agenda in Uganda, measurement of the Scale, Reach Quality and cost of the service delivery High Impact Practices, Research and Learning Agenda successes, challenges, and suggestions for improvement, women's experiences with family planning access and use during COVID-19 in Malawi, Nepal, Niger, and Uganda, FP-HIV Integration under the ART Therapy Differentiated Service Delivery Models in Selected Regions of Uganda, Demand for modern family planning satisfied and teenage childbearing, and a moderated session on FP services among

people with disabilities which was chaired by the R4S Co-Principal Investigator Prof. Dr. Fredrick Makumbi.

The team also engaged over 56 stakeholders on Women's experiences with family planning access and use during COVID-19 in Uganda. The engagement happened on 7th June 2022, at Golden Tulip hotel, Kampala. The stakeholders generated key strategies for mitigating both demand side and supply side barriers for accessing FP services during a pandemic.

The team also contributed to the development of a global call to action paper on addressing contraceptive-induced menstrual changes and were nominated to be part of the contraceptive-induced

menstrual bleeding changes (CIMCs) Global Task Force

The team engaged with the Uganda drug shops task force and presented recommendations to 60 stakeholders to improve the monitoring and evaluation of High Impact Practices (HIPs). Contributed to the development of the district's drug shops' implementation protocol and training manual on the readiness of drug shops to provide injectable contraceptives and contributed to the discussions which led to NDA approval of the provision of injectable contraceptives in drug shops. The team also co-authored four briefs and developed a manuscript on HIPs indicator inventory.



Researchers from MakSPH R4S Project disseminate findings of the VIAMO study that sought to understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on family planning access and use in Uganda on June 7, 2022 at Golden Tulip Canaan Hotel.

Scaling up Antimicrobial Stewardship in Wakiso District with a One Health Approach

MakSPH alongside partners Nottingham Trent University (NTU), Buckinghamshire NHS Health Care Trust in the UK, Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital (ERRH), Wakiso District Local Government, and the Ministry of Health have implemented a multidisciplinary project to scale up interventions for antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in Wakiso district. Using a One Health approach, the project aimed to enhance capacity, engage stakeholders, and facilitate knowledge exchange. The project, funded by the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship Scheme (CwPAMS), achieved several objectives, including carrying out workshops for members of the medicines and therapeutics committee (MTC) of Entebbe RRH, organizing workshops for laboratory staff on AMS and microbiology, developing an AMS plan for Entebbe RRH, training pharmacy staff on conducting Global Point Prevalence Surveys (GPPS), conducting a GPPS at ERRH, and training health practitioners and community health workers on AMS, AMR, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

The project also provided AMR/AMS/IPC mentorship to lower-level health facilities in Wakiso District and conducted a survey on AMS among private pharmacies.

Post-training assessments showed that participants gained vast knowledge on AMR, AMS, and IPC, which they used in their practice. This project also established two multidisciplinary online Communities of Practice for health professionals and students. The final project evaluation showed improved practices among health workers and enhanced health facility capacity on AMS. The project interventions contributed to the Uganda AMR National Action Plan. The project was led by Dr. David Musoke at MakSPH and Prof. Linda Gibson at Nottingham Trent University.



Dr. Ismail Kizito having a discussion with health workers from a lower-level health facility during a mentorship visit on AMS.

MakSPH, DJC Explore Collaboration for Master's Programme in Health Communication

On January 6th, 2022, the MakSPH Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) welcomed the Head of the Department of Journalism and Communication (DJC) at Makerere University, Dr. Aisha Nakiwala Sembatya, and Dr. Adolf E. Mbaine to discuss potential areas of collaboration. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Christine Nalwadda Kayemba Luutu, Senior Lecturer and Head CHBS.

During the discussion, the trio explored several areas of collaboration, including the possibility of starting a Master's programme in Health Communication. Both departments have well-established network of collaborations with international universities and development partners. This collaboration aligns with Makerere University's strategic vision of a multidisciplinary approach to research and teaching that yields sustainable solutions to societal challenges.

For over 30 years, the Department of Journalism and Communication at Makerere University has been training a critical mass of journalism and communication professionals. The Department has expanded its academic programs from bachelors to masters and doctoral degree awards and has been involved in cutting-edge research and publishing in the

fields of media, journalism, and communication, as well as community outreach. CHBS on the other hand has been working with several international universities and development partners, such as UNFPA, WHO, and UNICEF, to address critical areas of Public Health Nutrition, Sexual & Reproductive Health, Disaster Risk Reduction & Management, and Health Promotion & Wellness Center. The collaboration will undoubtedly benefit both departments and contribute to the advancement of public health in Uganda.



Dr. Christine Nalwadda, the Head, CHBS Department hosting her counterparts from the DJC from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University.

National quality improvement database launched to enhance health care in Uganda

Makerere University School of Public Health Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support Programme (MakSPH-METS) developed and launched the National Quality Improvement (QI) database under the theme; “Optimizing access to quality improvement data and information for evidence-based decision making in health service delivery” to improve healthcare delivery in Uganda. The launch was celebrated at a breakfast meeting attended by key partners, including the Minister of Health, CDC Director, and Dean of Makerere University School of Public Health in May 2022, at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel. The purpose of the database is to streamline reporting of QI investments at different levels and provide access to QI data to all stakeholders. The meeting also demonstrated the National QI database, which can be used for reporting, monitoring, and generating performance

dashboards. METS plans to support a national training for roll-out of the database nationwide.



A group photo of implementing partner representatives with (L-R) Dr. Lisa Nelson - CDC Director, Professor Rhoda Wanyenze - Dean MakSPH, Dr. Martin Ssendyona - Head of SCAPP at Ministry of Health, and Dr. Alice Namale - Director METS.



Dr. Martin Ssendyona recognizing partners that had made significant contribution to the CQI database

DHIS2 Academy participants take a group photo with the State Minister for Primary Education, Dr. Joyce Kaducu (Front Row in Gomesi) at the workshop.

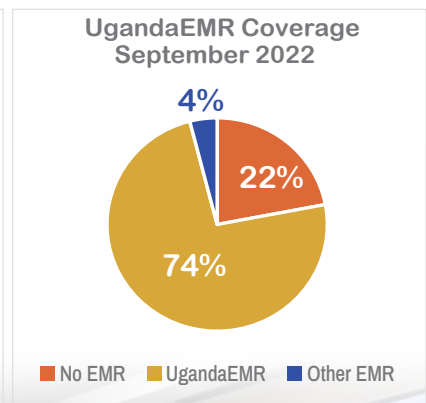
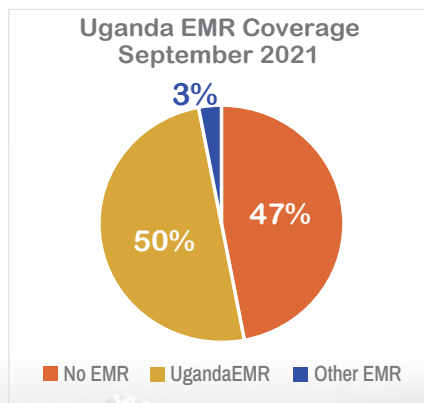


METS boosts healthcare delivery with ICT procurements and training

The METS program, with funding from PEPFAR, supported the distribution of ICT equipment to over 1000 health facilities, contributing to an increase in EMR coverage from 50% to 74%. A total of 26 implementing partners received networking equipment, solar kits, video conferencing equipment, and data capture devices. The equipment included the 844 laptops, 902 computers, digital persona 822 pieces, solar kits to 300 facilities and video conferencing equipment to 18 facilities.

METS program provided internet connectivity between the treatment units and situation rooms during the Ebola Disease Response. This allowed real time data collection and supported decision making. The METs team also conducted training sessions for partners on the proper utilization of the equipment especially at the district headquarters, Mubende Ebola

Treatment Unit and the situational room in Kassanda, Masaka and Jinja Districts. These efforts have greatly improved healthcare delivery and management in Uganda.



Successful 2022 UgandaEMR stakeholder's meeting: innovations and continuity

MakSPH-METS program successfully convened the 2022 UgandaEMR Stakeholder's Meeting in June. The meeting brought together 94 participants from PEPFAR supported partners and was a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Health.

The conference was a showcase of new and innovative features in UgandaEMR such as SMS patient reminders, surge reporting, TB integration, and more. Attendees were also provided with updates on the future of UgandaEMR, including a new version with improved interfaces, seamless data exchange, and clinical decision support.

The conference concluded with METS committing to supporting partners in upgrading UgandaEMR to the latest version (3.3.7). The meeting was a significant step in ensuring continuity of treatment through effective EMR implementation.



A group photo of the participants at the Stakeholders' Meeting



Group discussions on how best to improve the system from users

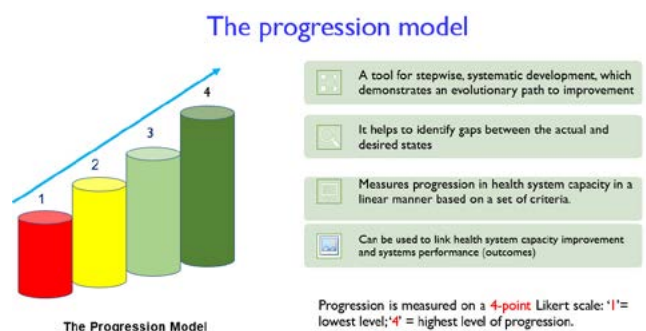
Baseline RRH capacity assessment

To be able to link the Health System Strengthening (HSS) efforts to outcomes and impact of interventions, METS in partnership with MoH designed an M&E framework for measuring capacity of the Regional Referral Hospital (RRH) health systems at the sub-national level. The M&E framework builds on the six World Health Organization HSS building blocks and uses a Progression Model to measure HSS improvements using a set of indicators and benchmarks.

The model was designed (i) to identify gaps between the actual and desired states across a range of health systems as defined by pre-specified performance indicators and (ii) to demonstrate an evolutionary path (progression) to improvements in each health system component based on a set of criteria. According to the model, the RRH health system capacity is measured on a four-point Likert scale with '1' representing the lowest level and '4' representing the highest level of progression. For each of the health system components assessed, the model generates scores with colour codes of dark green for level 4 of progression (>90% scores, surpasses basic expectations), light green for level 3 (70%-90% scores, meets basic expectations), yellow for level 2 (50%-<70% scores, needs improvement) and

red for level 1 progression (<50% scores, needs urgent attention).

The model was used to conduct a baseline assessment in March 2022 at the 8 RRHs



The results of the assessment showed gaps in leadership and governance, supply chain, health information systems and health workforce at some hospitals. METS continued to collaborate with MoH to support the RRHs to address the identified gaps. Annual assessments will be conducted to monitor improvements in health system capacity at the RRHs.

IBM Research-Africa Collaboration with MakSPH

MakSPH Dean and Principal Investigator of the COVID-19 Assessment project, Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, on September 21, 2022, welcomed collaborators from IBM Research- Africa (IBM-RA), a 12th global research lab and the first industrial research facility on the continent of Africa based in Nairobi, Kenya. The IBM-RA had worked with the MakSPH team and partners virtually for over one year on the COVID-19 Assessment project where they supported documentation of the non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), modelling the impact of COVID-19 and NPIs, and capacity building on data science and artificial intelligence. Led by Sekou Remmy, a Research Scientist and Technical Lead, and accompanied by Sharon Okwako and Charles Wachira, the team had come to discuss progress with

ongoing work and seek for more areas of partnership with MakSPH including students training and research. The MakSPH-IBM-RA collaboration virtual capacity building sessions on data science in 2022 were attended by over 300 participants across 17 universities in Africa. While here, the IBM-RA team conducted a workshop for stakeholders on Accelerated Decision Making with Artificial Intelligence with participants from the Uganda Ministry of Health, CDC, and MakSPH among others.



IBM Research Africa team in a group photo with leadership and project team at MakSPH. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika

Women in Global Health Chapters Meet to Promote Gender Equality in Healthcare Leadership

On May 18, 2022, Women in Global Health (WGH) members from Uganda, Kenya, and Germany chapters gathered to exchange ideas on chapter activities within their respective countries. The meeting was hosted by Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, the Dean of Makerere University School of Public Health and Chapter Lead for WGH Uganda.

During the meeting, members shared their experiences and best practices on how to promote equal participation in decision-making processes within the healthcare sector, regardless of age, gender, or other differences. The discussion also focused on ways to create opportunities for growth and learning among WGH chapter members and women in the healthcare industry in Uganda.

WGH Uganda chapter is a national platform that has brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds and genders to work

towards the common goal of promoting equal participation in decision-making processes regardless of age, gender, or other differences. By networking with other WGH chapters across Africa and the globe, WGH Uganda aims to foster growth and learning opportunities for its members and other women in the healthcare industry in Uganda. The goal is to create a robust network that can contribute to the efforts of other WGH chapters globally and in the African region, ultimately leading to service improvement for women, especially those in underserved areas. With its efforts, WGH Uganda is paving the way for a brighter future where gender equality is the norm in healthcare leadership.



Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor and Dean, MakSPH and the Team Lead for the Women in Global Health Uganda chapter in a group photo with the young women in global health in her office. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika.

Mayuge District leaders trained on Sustainable Development Goals implementation



Members of the District leadership including the political and technical wing in a group photo with the CESH and SDG Secretariat team after the two-day SDG capacity building workshop, Mayuge District in Eastern Uganda.

Makerere University and Karolinska Institutet through the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health (CESH) conducted workshops in Mayuge District in Eastern Uganda aimed at building capacity for sustainable development in fragile states.

The focus of the workshop was to demonstrate the need for multisectoral collaboration in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). The workshop aimed at identifying key priorities for SDGs within Mayuge District, increase knowledge and awareness of SDGs among district leaders and officials, and demonstrate the importance of collaboration between all sectors and teams. The district officials were able to identify the role of each sector in achieving progress and identified key priorities for their district, but also learned a lot about SDGs as a framework. Irene Wanyana, a Health Informatician and Project Manager at MakSPH said her hope was to extend this

project to other districts in the future.

CESH and the SDG Secretariat in the Office of the Prime Minister are working together to ensure that all sectors appreciate the importance of multisectoral actions and work together towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. Aguti Betty Adimo, Senior Commercial Officer in Mayuge District, said she had never attended anything concerning the SDGs before but realized during the workshop that they are focusing on sustainability in all sectors of development. She observed that all 17 global goals complement each other.



Dr. Rawlance Ndejjo, an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health at MakSPH and a coordinator for CESH at Makerere University, speaks during the workshop.

SPICES project hosts heart disease stakeholder consortium

After the gathering of Global South-North Collaboration Scientific Meeting on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention held at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala, Uganda, SPICES Uganda organized a two-day in-person meeting with consortium partners to assess project progress and share insights within the consortium before the project deadline of June 2022.



Meeting participants stretch in between presentations.

The objective was to record project accomplishments, talk about sustainability strategies, and provide additional equipment like blood pressure monitors, glucometers, and strips.

The meeting was graced by the Director of Health Services in charge of Public Health at the Ministry of Health (MOH), Dr. Daniel Kyabayinze; the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Team Advisor on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Dr. Hafisa Kasule; the CDC Uganda Country Director, Dr. Lisa Nelson; the Makerere University Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration, Prof. Eng. Henry Mwanaki Alinaitwe; the Commissioner, NCDs at MOH, Dr. Charles Oyoo Akiya; and the Executive Director of the Uganda Heart Institute, Dr. John Omagino.



The core SPICES consortium team poses for a photo with some of the guests at the meeting. First row Right to left: Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dr. Geoffrey Musinguzi, Prof. Hilde Bastiaens (Project Coordinator, SPICES Project), Prof. Eng. Henry Alinaitwe, Dr. Daniel Kyabayinze, Dr. Lisa Nelson, and Dr. Hafisa Kasule.

Also, as part of the final project activities in Uganda, the SPICES project held gatherings with project executors in various locations such as healthcare and community health workers in June. The objective was to record project accomplishments, talk about sustainability strategies, and provide additional equipment like blood pressure monitors, glucometers, and strips. The team also had meetings with the health teams in Mukono and Buikwe districts to inform them of project progress and accomplishments and address continuation plans.



Left: The SPICES Project Coordinator, Dr. Rawlance Ndejjo (3rd right), and the Project Assistant, Mr. Paineto Masengere (2nd right) together with the Assistant



Commissioner Non-Communicable Diseases at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Gerald Mutungi (2nd left) hold a meeting with the Mukono district health team led by the District Health Officer, Dr. Stephen Mulindwa; the Assistant DHO-Maternal and Child Health, Mr. Isaac Ddumba and the NCD Focal Person, Ms. Doreen Nalugwa. Right: The team hands over glucometer strips, a blood pressure machine and a power stabilizer to health workers at Kojja HC IV.

Boosting children's health: study on the effects of peanut snacks on gut microbiome

MakSPH in collaboration with the University of Georgia Athens is currently conducting a study aimed at investigating the effects of peanut snacks on the regulation of gut microbiome and microbial metabolisms in 6 to 9-year-old boarding primary school children; specifically, Kituba, Nalya, Nama 1 and Nama 2 Villages in Mukono District in central Uganda.

The project has a long-term goal of studying the specific roles of peanut snacks in improving nutrition and health status in growing children. A baseline study was conducted and followed up with the intervention, targeting 115 school-going children and involved intensive monitoring and a sensory evaluation of the peanuts on a weekly basis to ensure the children did not have any reactions to eating the snacks. At the end of every 30 days, fecal samples were collected

and analyzed for metabolites and microbiomes.

The samples collected are currently being analyzed in laboratories, with assistance from several laboratories, including the University of Georgia in Athens and the Makerere University School of Public Health laboratory in Kasangati. The results of the study will be used to improve the nutritional status of children and support school feeding programs in the district.

The project highlights the need for nutritional education to show households the varied uses or methods of consumption for peanuts. Introducing peanuts as an agricultural crop, even on a small scale, can have benefits for many households as it is a fast-growing crop that can be grown in small pieces of land.

Results of this project have the potential to have a significant impact on the health and nutrition of growing children in Mukono district and will be shared with communities and stakeholders at the district level to improve the nutritional status of children and support the school feeding programs.

The project in Uganda was co-led by Dr. John C. Ssempebwa, Dr. Gakenia Wamuyu-Maina and Dr. Musinguzi Geoffrey from the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health (DCEH) at the School of Public Health. Prof. Jia-Sheng Wang, from the Department of Environmental Health Science at the College of Public Health in the University of Georgia while Dr. David A. Hoisington and Dr. Jamie A. Rhoads from the USAID Peanut Innovation Lab are leading lab investigations.

The field research team included; Sebanenya Joshua, Namuli Prossy, Racheal Tumwebaze, Rose Nauma, Balinda Emmanuel, Nakyanzi Jovia, Chris Masaba Eddix and Nalubwama Faridah.



The project has a long-term goal of studying the specific roles of peanut snacks in improving nutrition and health status in growing children.



Nakyanzi Jovia, a research assistant takes height and weight measurement recordings of a child in Kituba Village in Mukono District as a VHT looks on. Photo by Davidson Ndyabahika.

IEED's Progress in Building Capacity for Impact Evaluation



IEED Advisory Board meeting: the IEED Project team and members of the Advisory Board

The Impact Evaluation for Evidence Based Decisions (IEED) project is focused on promoting evidence-based decision-making processes and building the capacity of professionals to design, implement, and utilize Impact Evaluation (IE) studies effectively. The project aims to grow a network of professionals across universities, development organizations, and government institutions who possess expertise in IE and can effectively apply IE evidence to inform policy decisions and program implementation.

In 2022, the IEED project made progress towards achieving these goals through various initiatives that prioritize capacity building and training of professionals, fostering coordination and collaborative work to grow national and regional networks of IE professionals, and strengthening IE evidence through evaluating government programs and interventions. The project offered a range of training programs, including certificate IE short courses and executive IE short courses for senior-level professionals of organizations. Additionally, the project worked with the Office of the Prime Minister to train over 40 government M&E

officers and strengthen their skills in the design, implementation, and use of IE evidence in their work.

The IEED project is committed to generating high-quality evidence that informs decisions and drives positive development outcomes. To achieve this, the project employs a range of research methods and techniques, including randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs, and mixed-methods approaches. The studies are designed to generate evidence that is relevant, reliable, and actionable. The project also utilizes Evidence

Gap Maps to identify areas where evidence is lacking and prioritize research investments.

The IEED team, composed of academics and researchers from Makerere University's School of Public Health and School of Statistics and Planning, is led by Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze and Dr. Saint Kizito Omala. The team works closely with government institutions and academic institutions to address their capacity needs in IE and promote the use of evidence in decision-making processes.



Group photo of collaborators from Uganda Manufacturers Association, Ministry of Education and Sports and Makerere University at a consultative meeting with stakeholders on study on Improving the employability and employment status of University graduates: Impact of HEST's Internship at Hotel Golden Tulip Canaan Kampala on November 18, 2022.

Stakeholder Engagements and Community Outreach

Ugandan legislators applaud MakSPH for road safety and injuries research

Makerere University's Trauma and Disability Unit (TRIAD) housed in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health were commended by members of the Parliamentary Forum on Road Safety (PAFROS) for its leadership in injury and prevention research.

This was at an engagement meeting held on Thursday 17th February 2022 at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala with MakSPH researchers and legislators. The Ugandan legislators praised the research team for their efforts in contributing to the reduction of injury burden in Uganda through strengthening research capacity on injuries and their consequences.

The team shared evidence from

their research and the achievements they have made in collaboration with partners. The legislators also committed to supporting efforts aimed at improving road safety in Uganda. TRIAD focuses on mobility,

road traffic injury prevention, drowning prevention, childhood injury prevention, and emergency trauma care and emergency medical services.



The TRIAD research team in a group photo with Members of Parliament under the Parliamentary Forum on Road Safety (PAFROS) at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala on Feb. 17, 2022

MakSPH launches VHT IDs, donates motorcycles for community health strengthening in Wakiso District

MakSPH in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University (NTU), Wakiso District Local Government and Ministry of Health -Uganda, successfully implemented a project aimed at improving the health status in Bussi sub-county, Katabi Town Council and Kyengera Town Council in Wakiso District through strengthening community health using a health systems approach. 386 Village Health Teams (VHTs) were trained, 40 VHT coordinators and 16 health practitioners were engaged, and non-financial incentives such as motorcycles and branded T-shirts were provided to improve the motivation of the VHTs. The project resulted in significant improvements in the competencies, performance and capacity of VHTs, VHT coordinators, and health practitioners, as well as changes in health practices among

model households. The experiences and lessons from this project are expected to be used in scaling

up interventions in other areas in Wakiso District and beyond.



Dr. David Musoke, the project Principal Investigator (PI) handing over motorcycle gear to one VHT on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at Rose Gardens in Kyengera Town Council, Wakiso District.

Makerere@100: Gavi CEO delivers public lecture on vaccines

Dr. Seth Franklin Berkley's honorary degree nomination is the only one I have chaired without debate. We at Makerere University are honored to be associated with him and his work, especially as an alumnus, and former faculty," Prof Nawangwe.

On November 7, 2022, a gowning ceremony was held at Makerere University to celebrate the honorary Doctor of Science degree that was conferred on Dr. Berkley, an American epidemiologist, in recognition of his distinguished work and contributions to Uganda and global health.

The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries and Dr. Berkley delivered a public lecture on the power and science of vaccines as part of the university's 100th anniversary

celebrations. Dr. Berkley previously served at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Task Force for Child Survival of the Carter Presidential Center, and worked under the Ministry of Health in Uganda in 1987.

He is also a founder of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and played a key role in starting the Public Health Schools without walls program.



Makerere University VC Professor Barnabas Nawangwe supported by MakSPH Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze decorate Dr. Seth Berkley on the Gowning Ceremony and Public Lecture



Dr. Seth Berkley cuts cake on his gowning ceremony at Makerere University in November 2022. He was accompanied by the Minister of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, WHO Country Representative Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam and Mak leadership led by Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe.



Some of the MakSPH's students who participated in the Marathon

Running to End TB in Uganda

On World TB Day, MakSPH students and staff participated in the Uganda Tuberculosis Marathon, organized by the Ministry of Health and the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme, to raise awareness and funds for TB control. TB is a major public health concern and is one of the top ten causes of death worldwide.

MakSPH has contributed to the fight against TB in Uganda and beyond through cutting-edge research. For instance, through a study titled DOT Selfie,

researchers investigated whether Video Directly Observed Therapy (VDOT) is an effective way to improve medication adherence in TB treatment in an African context. The results have shown that VDOT is an effective intervention and feasible option for monitoring and supporting adherence to TB treatment in an urban setting. Other studies about TB include the Capture Study and the MATT study.

MakSPH Commemorates World TB Day

The CAPTURE study team, consisting of Dr. Noah Kiwanuka from Makerere University, Dr. Charles Bark from Case Western Reserve University, and Dr. Chris Whalen from the University of Georgia, have taken a significant step towards ending TB and leprosy through their research study titled "Capturing Spatial patterns of new mycobacterium TB infections in Kampala". The team locates areas of high MTB transmission using GPS tracking technology to trace and longitudinally map subjects in

the Lubaga and Kawempe divisions of Kampala. This research is a crucial step towards ending TB and leprosy, and we are hopeful that the insights gleaned from it will help save countless lives. The study team on May 6, 2022 joined the Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, in Lira City, West Nile to commemorate World TB and Leprosy Day.



MakSPH hands over items to support MoH's reproductive maternal & child health efforts

“We are excited as a project to support the Ministry of Health. What we do is we synthesize reproductive, maternal and child health data that comes from DHIS 1 and Health Facilities and help them to do better action in terms of policy.”

Dr. Arthur Bagonza, the Project Officer.

Makerere University through MakSPH Vital Strategies Data Driven Policy Initiative to Improve Women's Health (DDP for WH), project donated an assortment of equipment to the Ministry of Health's Reproductive Maternal and Child Health work.

The handover included stationary (120 reams), a Lenovo laptop, 2 HP printers, Airtel Uganda Broad Band as well as 4G Mifis. The items were received by Dr. Henry Gatyanga Mwebesa, the Ministry of Health's Director General Health Services at his office accompanied by Dr. Jesca Nsungwa Sabiiti, Commissioner in Department of Reproductive Maternal

and Child Health.

The project aims to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality resulting from unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and complications of pregnancy and childbirth in Uganda.

Dr. Lynn Atuyambe, the Project Principal Investigator says the program seeks to promote women's health by addressing leading causes of morbidity and mortality with funding from Vital Strategies, a global public health organization that seeks to accelerate progress on the world's most pressing health problems.

Dr. Henry Mwebesa, the Director General Health Services Ministry of Health receives one of the HP printers at his office from the Project PI and team-Dr. Lynn Atuyambe; Samuel Etajak; Dr. Arthur Bagonza. Also present was Dr. Jesca Nsungwa Sabiiti, Commissioner in Department of Reproductive Maternal and Child Health.



PMA Uganda impresses at Thailand family planning conference

The PMA Uganda team attended the International Conference of Family Planning (ICFP) held in Pattaya City, Thailand, from November 14-17, 2022. The delegation was led by Dr. Fredrick Edward Makumbi and Dr. Simon Peter Kibira. The PMA country teams, including Uganda, participated in a breakfast meeting where they reflected on and shared their top achievements from the past years. The ICFP is an important platform that brings together the global development community to promote universal access to family planning since 2009. The conference provided a great opportunity for PMA Uganda and the School of Public Health to showcase their work in the area of family planning research.



PMA Uganda PI, Dr. Fredrick Edward Makumbi and Dr. Simon Peter Kibira in a photo with Jamaica Corker from BMGF at the sidelines of the ICFP global development community engagement in Pattaya City in Thailand.

Partnerships

MakSPH partners with University of Malaga in the Erasmus+ KA107 mobility programme

MakSPH has partnered with the University of Malaga in the Erasmus+ KA107 Mobility Programme, an activity funded by the European Union that provides higher education students and staff the opportunity to gain educational and professional experience in other countries.

The project is led by Dr. Arthur Bagonza and Dr. Christine Nalwadda at the School of Public Health and aims to increasing international cooperation, support the competitiveness of European higher education institutions, and modernize

higher education in partner countries.



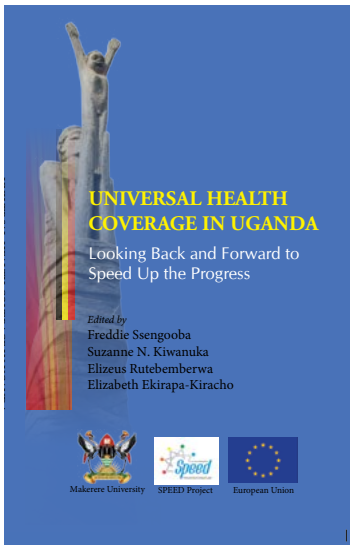
Dr. Arthur Bagonza with Professor Javier Pérez Frías and Professor Adelaida de la Calle from the University of Malaga



Four PhD students and two staff members from MakSPH traveled to Spain and spent 5 months and five days respectively at the University of Malaga, while two staff members from the University of Malaga will travel to MakSPH in Uganda. The first round of mobility benefited students Lukia Namaganda, Esther Bayiga Zziwa, Jimmy Osuret and Joseph Mbabazi to finalise manuscripts for their PhDs as well as writing their final theses.

Ms. Lukia Namaganda and Esther Bayiga Zziwa with staff from the University of Malaga

WHO's Dr. Droti pays courtesy visit to MakSPH



Dr. Benson Droti the WHOAFRO Region's Universal Health Coverage and Life Course Directorate lead receives a souvenir from the Dean, MakSPH Professor Rhoda Wanyenze accompanied by Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka, the Head, HPPM Department and Dr. Freddie Ssengooba.

On April 21, MakSPH Dean Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze alongside Dr. Freddie Ssengooba and Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka received and hosted Dr. Benson Droti from the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office

for Africa's Universal Health Coverage and Life Course Directorate. WHO is a great partner of the Makerere University School of Public Health.

The School shared ongoing work on Universal Health Coverage led

by Dr. Ssengooba. They shared a copy of a book titled; *Universal Health Coverage in Uganda: Looking Back and Forward to Speed Up Progress*, a product of the three-year EU-funded SPEED project

The 443-page book was edited by Dr. Freddie Ssengooba, Dr. Suzanne N. Kiwanuka, Dr. Elizeus Rutebemberwa and Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa-Kiracho.

MakSPH team, WHO-Uganda, discuss collaboration

Makerere University School of Public Health has a partnership with the World Health Organization. Under this partnership, the two institutions collaborate in research and capacity building for health workers with objective to contribute to the strengthening of the Uganda health system and improvement of

public health for the country and beyond.

During this period, MakSPH and WHO have jointly implemented over ten projects focussing on; supporting the Uganda Ministry of Health to review and update strategic plans, implementation of health facility assessments,

community surveys like NCD-STEPS survey, post-campaign surveys as well as studies on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health services among other topical public health areas. The partnership is always responsive to the prevailing public health issues as it plans and implements its activities



Dean MakSPH Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze and WHO Uganda Country Director Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam after an engagement on our ongoing partnership at WHO office.

PERSuADE II - Towards enhancing analytical capacity and data use in Eastern and Southern Africa

The Partnership to Enhance Technical Support for Analytical Capacity and Data Use for HIV, TB and Malaria (PERSuADE) II initiative has achieved significant progress towards its goal of increasing analytical capacity and data use in Eastern and Southern Africa. Through the collaboration of 13 universities and their respective Ministries of Health, PERSuADE II has focused on enhancing analytical skills among program staff in the three diseases of HIV, TB and Malaria, thus building

solid national capacity at Ministry of Health, and ensuring linkages between analytical outputs and program reviews for data use in decision-making. The project is funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. In 2022, PERSuADE II partners also transferred five categories of skills to 458 program staff in 12 countries, including in DHIS2 access, data handling, data analysis, packaging of results, and specialized analysis techniques. 58/72 (81%) analytical outputs in the three disease

areas were completed and 66% (38/58) of the analyses completed were disseminated to Ministries of Health by country partners. In 2023, the partnership shall further launch a Community of Practice to further consolidate regional capacity in routine program data analysis and use. MakSPH is the Secretariat coordinating the partnership by providing administrative, financial, and technical oversight for the initiative.



Mak hosts ToT workshops for CARTA network through iCARTA project



Left to right: D; r. Florah Karimi (CARTA Manager); Prof. Elizeus Rutebemberwa (Ag. Dean MaKSPH); Prof. Olufunke Fayehun (CARTA Board Chair); Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi (CARTA Focal Person Makerere & Director, DRGT); Prof. Daphney Conco (Lead Facilitator); Prof. Anne Nangulu (Facilitator); Dr. John Bosco Isunju (CARTA Focal Person, Makerere University, and Host Facilitator)

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) has been instrumental in supporting the development of a vibrant African academy that can lead world-class multidisciplinary research impacting positively on public and population health. The consortium has been active since 2008 and has been working tirelessly to enhance the capacity of African universities to create sustainable multidisciplinary research hubs. Recently, the Makerere University, a CARTA partner institution, hosted the Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops for the entire CARTA network through the iCARTA project with support from the University of Bergen and the CARTA Secretariat. The beneficiaries of the ToT will continue to support academic, professional, and administrative staff workshops

at their home institutions and cascade the skills acquired during the ToT. The training was officiated by the acting Dean, Prof. Elizeus Rutebemberwa and Prof Buyinza Mukadasi, Director, Directorate of Research and Graduate Training representing the Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe. Also, in June, CARTA's Joint Advanced Seminars (JASes) that are offered sequentially for four years to each cohort, and are designed to enhance fellows' skills and knowledge to guide them through the research process were held for Cohort 9 Fellows hosted by MakSPH. They provide a foundation for building networks. CARTA-JAS4 addresses professional development, including skills necessary to manage and teach large class sizes, raise and manage research funds, and grant writing.

ICAN Project: Empowering Women through self-injection of contraceptives

The ICAN project, led by a team of investigators from the University of California, San Francisco, USA, and Makerere University, Uganda, aims to empower women by exploring the implementation of self-injection of subcutaneous Depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA-SC) as a contraceptive option. With a focus on Mayuge and Oyam districts as primary sites, and secondary sites including Kole, Lira, Mayuge, and Jinja districts in Uganda, the project seeks to understand how self-injection of DMPA-SC can meet women's needs and identify effective implementation approaches. By conducting formative qualitative research, the project aims to uncover barriers and facilitators to the uptake of self-injection. Additionally, human-centered design (HCD) methods will be employed to develop program enhancements for self-injection of DMPA-SC. A longitudinal cohort study will be conducted to assess

the potential effectiveness of self-injection in enhancing women's contraceptive autonomy. The project will also pilot a social support program, utilizing mentors to provide guidance and support to women in making and acting upon their contraceptive decisions. The ICAN project seeks to promote informed contraceptive choice and use among women. By investigating self-injection of DMPA-SC, the project seeks to empower women, particularly those facing the most barriers, and contribute to the advancement of women's reproductive health and rights.



Partnership with Amref Health Africa - Uganda



A group photo of MakSPH and Amref after discussing the collaboration.



The two institutions look forward to collaborating on projects in Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MNCH), Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) as well as community and family health amongst other public health areas

On March 30th 2022, MakSPH leadership held a meeting with the leadership of Amref Health Africa – Uganda. The team from Amref, led by the Country Manager, Dr. Patrick Kagurusi paid a courtesy call to Makerere University.

In a meeting convened by Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, the Dean at her office, the Amref team expressed desire to continue partnering with MakSPH and hailed the School of its outstanding contribution to the region's research, teaching & community service.

The two institutions further discussed areas of potential collaboration that could benefit from synergistic efforts such as joint delivery of courses for MakSPH students, capacity building for staff in implementation research, joint innovations and scale-up, joint research and project evaluation and joint dissemination of project outputs to common stakeholders.

Particularly, the two institutions look forward to collaborating on projects in

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MNCH), Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) as well as community and family health amongst other public health areas.

The meeting was attended by MakSPH's Dr. Esther Buregyeya (Associate Professor and Head, Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health Sciences), Dr. Christine Nalwadda Luutu, (Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences), Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa Kiracho, Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Health Policy Planning and Management -HPPM and Ms. Jackie Norah Nanteza, Grants Officer at MakSPH.

Dr. Ekirapa is the newly appointed chair of Amref Uganda Advisory Council. She replaces George Barnabas Kirya, former Makerere University Vice Chancellor (1986 – 1990) & Uganda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (1997-2003) AMREF is Africa's leading health development organization.



MakSPH and Amref Teams discuss potential areas of collaboration between the two institutions

WUN ED Prof. Lennie discusses network opportunities with MakSPH leadership

“We thank you very much for the invitation to join WUN. Our staff are now applying for research grants with member universities. This is aligned to enhancing the internationalization of higher education as well as Makerere University’s implementation of strategies to become a research-led University.”

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor, Makerere University said in appreciation

MakSPH hosted Professor Peter Lennie, the Executive Director of World Wide Universities Network (WUN), a leading global higher education network of 25 research-intensive universities, on March 22, 2022. During his 3-day visit, Professor Lennie and the team at MakSPH discussed potential areas of collaboration with the network.

WUN focuses on research in universities, capitalizing on their potential with respect to comparative advantage in regions, disciplines, fields and culture.

The visit was well received by MakSPH and staff are now applying for research grants with member universities to enhance the internationalization of higher education and Makerere University’s implementation of strategies to become a research-led University.

The Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze shared the School profile and expressed gratitude for his visit. Also present was the Deputy Dean Prof. Elizeus Rutebemberwa, Mr. Abdullah Ali Halage and Prof. John Mango Magero, the Coordinator for WUN at Makerere University. #MakerereAt100



MakSPH team in a discussion with Professor Peter Lennie during his visit.

Netherlands Ambassador to Uganda Visits MakSPH

On Apr 13, 2022 H.E Dr. Karin Boven, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda paid a courtesy visit to Makerere University on invitation of Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, the Dean, MakSPH. During her visit, the Ambassador was briefed on the outcomes of the Nuffic funded SRHR capacity building project, which included the construction of a center for SRHR in Kasangati. She was later warmly

received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe in his office. The Ambassador also inspected the construction works of the upcoming new home of MakSPH, which will feature an auditorium generously funded by the Netherlands Government. The new building, which is near completion of its first phase, will have space for innovation, environmental and other health laboratories, a library,

and office space, among other infrastructure. We are grateful for the support we have received so far and continue to seek further funding to raise an additional \$6Million to complete the entire project. We look forward to sharing the space with our students, faculty, and community and contributing to world-class multidisciplinary research that positively impacts public and population health.



H.E. Dr. Karin Boven, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda (3rd R) receives an assortment of Mak souvenirs from the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (C) as the Dean MakSPH, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze (2nd L) and other officials witness on 13th April 2022, CTF1, Makerere University.



H.E. Dr. Karin Boven (C) receives a guided tour of the auditorium by Arch. Nankya Collins (2nd R). The auditorium is part of the New MakSPH home under construction at the Main Campus, Makerere University.

Partnership with Wakiso district for the Community Lab

MakSPH has through the Department of Community Health and Behavioral Sciences strengthened our partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with hands-on learning experiences and real-world opportunities. In 2022, MakSPH entered a partnership with Wakiso District Local Government to facilitate the establishment of a Community Research Laboratory (ComR-Lab). With Dr. Richard Kajura as the pioneer community Lab Director, MakSPH hopes to utilise the platform to conduct research, allow easy access to students for their practical and experiential learning. The need for a community research laboratory at MakSPH was identified as a strategy to support operationalization of the school's new ten-year strategic plan, which emphasizes transformative

education, knowledge generation and translation, partnerships, and institutional capacity development. The ComR-Lab will offer an opportunity for learners to conduct research within infrastructure that reduces research costs, improving completion rates for the learners. Additionally, it will provide a platform for carrying

out the university mandate of research, teaching, and community service in one intervention, which is particularly useful for conducting operational research that can contribute to improved guidelines for the management of existing and emerging health challenges in Uganda.



Wakiso district administration block. In set, Dr. Richard Kajura, the pioneer community Lab Director.

Director of LSHTM and MRC/UVRI visit MakSPH to strengthen partnership and explore new collaborations

On his maiden visit to MakSPH, Professor Liam Smeeth, the Director of London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), had a fruitful discussion with the Deputy Dean, Professor Elizeus Rutebemberwa, and other senior faculty members including Prof. Freddie Ssengooba and Prof. Peter Waiswa. The visit was made more significant as Professor Smeeth was accompanied by the Director of the MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit, Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu.

During the visit, the teams discussed a range of issues on which the institutions have been collaborating, such as research activities, student and faculty exchange programs, and joint publications. They also explored new areas of collaboration, particularly in the field of public health and explored how to involve MRC/UVRI

staff in teaching at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, where both institutions have extensive experience and expertise. The visit was a great opportunity for both institutions to strengthen their partnership and continue to work together towards their common goal of improving public health in Uganda and beyond.



Deputy Dean, Professor Elizeus Rutebemberwa (L), and other senior faculty members Dr. Freddie Ssengooba and Dr. Peter Waiswa and Professor Pontiano Kaleebu, the Director of the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) interacting with Professor Liam Smeeth, the Director LSHTM and his colleagues at MakSPH.

Championing sustainable health through CESH



Seated: The Vice Chancellor-Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (2nd L) and President of KI-Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen (C) with L-R: DVCAA-Prof. Umar Kakumba, Rector Benadir University-Prof. Mohamed Mohamud Bidey, Dean of Students-Mrs. Winifred Kabumbuli, Members of Management and the delegation from KI on 5th May 2022, CTF1, Makerere University.

MakSPH continues to spearhead the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health-CESH, a collaboration between Makerere University and Karolinska Institutet in Sweden with a view of developing capacity and mobilise actions to drive the agenda for sustainable health. From idea to implementation, the Centre is permeated by the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

CESH has established strategic partnerships with several universities in Africa including University of Kinshasha, Benadir University, University of Nairobi, University of Malawi, and University of Gondar and Tinkr, a company specializing in innovation, to facilitate and promote networks and partnerships for sustainable health.

In 2022, several activities were carried out as part of the

SDGCap project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Uganda. With support from Sida to build capacity for sustainable development in fragile states, these activities included launching the first national forum for Sustainable Development Goals in the DRC, creating a multisectoral platform for sustainable development in Somalia, and conducting a workshop on how to include vulnerable populations in the universal health care strategy. The project involves various stakeholders, such as public sector institutions, civil society, private sector actors, academia, and multisectoral platforms.

Since its launch, the Centre created an online seminar series called Global Conversations on Sustainable Health to facilitate discussions and sharing of ideas on innovative solutions and visions for sustainable health. Three

seminars were held in 2022, including one on multisectoral collaboration featuring Professor Nelson Sewankambo and Gabriel Wikström.

In 2022, the Centre representatives participated in several networks and conferences including the 17th Makerere University Environmental Health Students' Association Scientific Conference, the Nordic Mental Health Conference, the Development Research Conference, the KI Educational Congress, the World Health Summit, the Global Symposium on health systems research and the European Public Health Conference. The working group and university leaders met at Makerere University in May 2022 to celebrate 20 years of collaboration, and more than 100 alumni, faculty, and students attended the alumni event and reception at the Swedish ambassador's residence.



Professor Ole Petter Ottersen, the President KI, Sweden displays a brief that shows himself and his Ugandan Makerere University counterpart Professor Barnabas Nawangwe holding a partnership copy after signing. This was during a meeting between Mak and KI Teams at the Embassy of Sweden Officials on 4th May 2022 in Kampala, Uganda.



MakSPH Dean Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze and senior faculty in a group photo with Professor Ole Petter Ottersen the president Karolinska Institute with his delegation at MakSPH in Kampala, Uganda in May 2022.

Health Economics and Policy Dissemination Workshop

The Health Economics and Policy Program (HEPP) at MakSPH, held a two-day dissemination workshop in Kampala in July 2022. The workshop was a great opportunity for participants to learn and network with others in the health economics field, and to gain insights into how collaborations can support health policy and decision making in low-income countries.

The HEPP is a collaborative program between MakSPH, the Uganda Ministry of Health and the University of York's Centre for Health Economics. The workshop had about 60 participants from different fields, including researchers, policy makers, academia, civil society, and development partners. They discussed topics ranging from tools to support resource allocation in resource-constrained environments, refugee health in Africa, harnessing efficiencies in health care delivery, and highlights from the HEPP and experiences from the Thanzi La Onse (TLO) collaboration. The workshop was held in a hybrid mode, allowing for physical and virtual attendance.



MakSPH team led by Prof Freddie Ssengooba in collaboration with University of York, and MoH held a two day dissemination program to discuss the progress under the HEPP held on the 19th - 20th July 2022 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala.



Team from University of York led by Paul Revill and the MakSPH Team Lead of Health Economics and Program and MakSPH Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze in a group photo.

“

“We place the partnership with Makerere at the highest priority. We had a new Vice Chancellor, that is Professor Charlie Jeffery, who joined us in 2019 and he really reset the direction of the university very much along the lines of the origin of the university. And our aim is to be a university of the global public good. Yes, we are concerned with research, yes, we are concerned with teaching but really our core is to find a way of how research and teaching can transform wellbeing both locally and globally,”

Professor Paul Revill, Professor and Co-Director of the Global Health Team at the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) & the Director of Thanzi la Onse (Health of All) University of York.



“

“We have got what it takes to move this Health Economics area forward. It has been lagging for quite some time. As MakSPH, we must be at the forefront of the conversation.”

Dr Rhoda Wanyenze, Professor & Dean of the MakSPH, thanking the partners from the University of York for choosing to work with MakSPH:



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“Delivering health services involves prioritization and multiple players and processes. Policy options are constantly being discussed, and partnerships are crucial in shaping policy direction and decisions where services are provided by partners or non-state actors. Development partners, implementing partners, and civil society contribute over 40% of health financing. The government heavily relies on partners and collaborators in the health system, particularly in policy formulation and decision-making.”

Dr Tom Aliti, Commissioner in charge of Health Sector Partners and Multi-Sectoral Coordination.



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“There is a way in which those who are in academia and those who are at the ministry are miles apart,” she said. “So, in academia, we shall come up with all our theory with everything we think we know that we think is important: And sometimes you meet reality whenever you meet folks from the Ministry of Health. You meet politics and you are told this is not going to fly- you meet resources constraints, or your language of writing a report has to change because it may be read as offensive to the decision-maker.”

Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa, the Department Chair, HPPM.



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Dr. Seth's Visit to Uganda

Dr. Seth meets contemporaries

On invitation of the Dean of MakSPH, Gavi CEO visited Makerere University at the beginning of November, 2022.

On Sunday November 6, prior to his official visit to Makerere University, Dr. Seth Berkely met with his contemporaries from Makerere University College of Health Sciences hosted by the

Dean, MakSPH, Professor Rhoda Wanyenze. The engagement notably Dr. Seth's old-time friends a professor of Internal Medicine, currently the Director THRIVE Consortium, President Uganda National Academy of Sciences and former Principal, College of Health Sciences. Dr. David Serwadda, a

professor and infectious disease epidemiologist, at MakSPH and former Dean. Dr. Serwadda has long fond work memories with Dr. Seth Berkely, a medical epidemiologist from the Atlanta-based Carter Presidential Center's Task Force for Child Survival, when he had been attached to Uganda's Ministry of Health.



Dean of MakSPH, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze alongside the Head of Department Disease Control and Environmental Health Dr. Esther Buregyeya, treated Dr. Seth Berkley and contemporary colleagues Prof. David M. Serwadda and Prof. Nelson K. Sewankambo to a dinner in Kampala.

VC Prof. Nawangwe receives Dr. Seth at Makerere University

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe received and held brief conversation with Gavi CEO Dr. Seth Berkeley at his office at the Main Campus. The duo shared pleasantries and deliberated on the role of research Makerere is doing in public health on the globe. Professor Nawangwe was flanked by the Academic Registrar Professor Buyinza Mukadasi, Dean, MakSPH Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze and Professor David Serwadda.



Dr. Seth Berkley engages in a friendly dialogue with Makerere University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, and the Dean of MakSPH, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze.

Dr. Seth tours construction site of MakSPH new home

\$10m

Funds required for a fully fitted building.

Funds so far raised

\$3.5m

MakSPH is one of the oldest and largest public health training institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. Over the past 15 years, the School has significantly increased student enrolment and staff numbers. The School offers nine (9) Masters programs, a bachelors and PhD training and is a leading player in public health in the African region with several multi-country, multi-institutional research and capacity building initiatives. To accommodate this growth, MakSPH has initiated construction of a new building on the Makerere University Main Campus with an estimated cost of \$10 million of the fully fitted building. The School has raised \$3.5 million from various fundraising drives.



In a guided tour, Makerere University Vice Chancellor Professor Barnabas Nawangwe alongside MakSPH Dean, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, the Makerere University Director Estates and Works Eng. Christina Kakeeto guide Dr. Seth Franklin Berkley.

Dr. Seth holds meeting with PhD students, early career researcher at CHS

After his public lecture and gowning ceremony, Dr. Seth Berkley had a roundtable discussion with PhD students and early career researchers (ECR) from Makerere University College of Health Sciences to learn about their research and career plans. He also shared with them his perspectives on global health, how to bridge the capacity and funding gaps ECRs face and tips on career and success.



Top: Dr. Seth Berkley accompanied by Dean Rhoda Wanyenze and UNEPI Program Manager Dr. Alfred Driwale join the Early Career Researchers in a group photo at Makerere University.

Left: Dr. Seth Berkley holding a session with Early Career Researchers at Makerere University Main Campus, shortly after delivering a public lecture on the Power and Science of Vaccines.

Right: Representing the VC, Prof. Umar Kakumba, the Deputy VC Academic Affairs handed a portrait to Dr. Seth on behalf of the Early Career Researchers and PhD students

Faculty Accolades 2022



Charles Ssemugabo

Charles won **Best Poster Presentation at the 16th Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference in Kampala**. His poster, “Community Engagement to Reduce Injury Risks among Children in Uganda,” was recognized. The conference was held from September 21-23, in collaboration with Makerere University and UNACOH.



Dr. Peter Waiswa

Awarded by the Ministry of Health in recognition for his **outstanding Technical Support towards Quality Improvement implementation for Health Services in Uganda**. He was also named Lancet commissioner on Evidence-Based Implementation in Global Health, and joined Uganda National Academy of Sciences as a fellow.



Dr. David Musoke

Dr. Musoke **was selected as an Affiliate Member of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) for the period of 2022-2026**.

He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health at MakSPH.



Dr. Freddie Ssenooba,

Dr. Ssenooba was **named Commissioner on the Lancet Global Health Commission on Medical Oxygen Security**.

He is one of the 20 multidisciplinary team of commissioners and an Associate Professor of Health Policy Planning and Management at MakSPH.



Dr. John Bosco Isunju,

Dr. Isunju was **elected onto the CARTA Board of Directors**.

He is a Lecturer in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health, MakSPH.



Mr. Fredrick Oporia,

Mr. Oporia was **appointed to head the Trauma, Injuries and Disability (TRIAD) Unit of Makerere University**. This is the only unit in Uganda that does research on injuries. He was also selected to join the WHO Technical Advisory Group to write the first-ever status report on drowning prevention.



Ms. Doreen Tuhebwe

Ms. Tuhebwe was **selected to be part of the Women in Global Health's official delegation to the 75th World Health Assembly**. Alongside colleagues, Doreen will be pushing key advocacy items on the agenda for gender-transformative policy change.

Bravo! Dr. Kiwanuka and Dr. Bukenya selected for WomenLift health leadership



WomenLift Health selected MakSPH's Dr. Justine Bukenya and Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka as emerging leaders to participate in the inaugural East Africa Cohort of the Leadership Journey, a fully-funded leadership initiative designed to support women through the challenges and opportunities of advancing to senior leadership positions in global health.

WomenLift Health's 2022 East Africa Leadership Journey is a year-long program

designed to give talented women leaders the tools – confidence, networks, understanding of barriers – along with peer, mentorship and coaching support, to successfully use their voice, expertise and leadership skills for health impact.

The duo was selected to be part of an elite group of 30 women leaders working in global health, who come from a wide range of sectors and disciplines.

Dean Rhoda Recognized by the US Ambassador among Women of Courage



1. Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze
2. Dr. Annet Aleny Ngabirano
3. Gloria Katusiime
4. Isabel Agol
5. Primah Kwagala
6. Joyce Wanda
7. Zulaika Mirembe Kassajja
8. Dr. Grace Bantebya
9. Diana Nabiruma
10. Evelyn Zalwango
11. Miria Matembe
12. Nancy Kalembe
13. Eleanor Nabwiso



Women of Courage in a group photo with the U.S. Ambassador to Uganda H.E Natalie E. Brown at the Ambassador's residence.

The US Ambassador to Uganda, Natalie E. Brown, hosted a reception to honor Ugandan Women of Courage who have made significant contributions in various fields, including public health. One of the women recognized was Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean of the MakSPH, who was recognized for her 28 years of work in public health, including implementing large CDC-funded projects, leading NIH projects, and contributing to training, policy and programmes. The reception also honored other trailblazing women in various fields including business, politics, education, and arts. Each woman of courage was accompanied by a mentee, an up-and-coming woman

in her field. They are; Dr. Annet Aleny Ngabirano from the Makerere University Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) for her role in health. The other honorees included businesswomen; Gloria Katusiime and Isabel Agol, civil society leaders; Primah Kwagala, Joyce Wanda and Zulaika Mirembe Kassajja, Dr. Grace Bantebya academics; Communications specialist Diana Nabiruma, seasoned businesswoman Evelyn Zalwango, politicians; Miria Matembe and Nancy Kalembe, and filmmaker Eleanor Nabwiso. These women have made significant contributions to their respective industries and serve as role models for women everywhere.

Staff Retreat



Rising above the pandemic, MakSPH builds strong team for the future

The Makerere University School of Public Health has bounced back stronger after a challenging period due to the pandemic. The seamless staff retreat held on December 15th and 16th, 2022, at Sheena Hall in Speke Resort Munyonyo provided an excellent opportunity for staff members to reconnect, reflect on their work, and plan for the future. The two-day retreat allowed the staff to take a step back from the day-to-day work and focus on team building,

harmonizing working processes, and rejuvenation.

It covered several critical areas, including the review of the four pillars of the 2020-2030 strategic plan, highlighting the progress made so far and identifying gaps. The staff also discussed research impact and outputs, emerging public health challenges, and the relevance and sustainability of Makerere University School of Public Health as a leader in Africa, teaching and

learning, with the staff mapping all academic programs and identifying opportunities for improving efficiency. The retreat was generally a huge success, and it sets the tone for a more robust, connected, and efficient institution moving forward. MakSPH is well-positioned to achieve its strategic vision, mission, and goals, and we look forward to more exciting developments in the future.



Left: Dr. Suzanne Kiwanuka, a Senior Lecturer and Head, Health Policy Planning and Management Department at MakSPH submits during the staff retreat. Right: Members of staff listen in during the staff retreat.

African culture and unity celebrated at MakSPH's end-of-year party

As the sun began to set over the picturesque Speke Resort in Munyonyo, the staff of MakSPH were eagerly anticipating the start of their end-of-year party, that was themed to the African culture and heritage that the school was so proud to be a part of. The party was organized by the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, alongside the Office of the Dean, and everyone was excited to let their hair down after a long and challenging year. The venue was decorated with colorful African fabrics and patterns, and the aroma of delicious food filled the air. The sound of traditional African music mixed with modern beats, creating a lively atmosphere that was contagious.

As the evening went on, staff members mingled and laughed, enjoying the chance to connect with colleagues they had only seen through a screen for so long. There were speeches and awards, recognizing the hard work and dedication that had been put in throughout the year, and everyone felt a sense of pride and accomplishment.

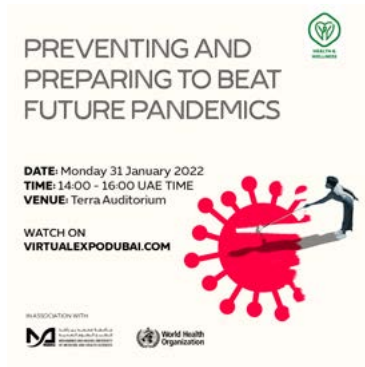
As the night drew to a close, and the last dance was danced, the MakSPH staff left the party feeling energized and motivated. They had celebrated their accomplishments, honored their culture, and strengthened their relationships with each other.



International Engagements | Conferences



COVID-19 response in Africa was a trade-off between lives and livelihoods - experts



The Expo 2020, held in Dubai from October 2021 to March 2022, provided an opportunity for nations and experts from various fields to engage with millions of people and create lasting impact. On January 31st, the Expo held a session titled “*The Next Wave: Preventing and Preparing to Beat Future Pandemics*” where panelists discussed the impact of COVID-19 on health systems, societies, and economies, and featured sessions on responding to current and future pandemics.

During the session, Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, a Professor in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health, Makerere University and Dean MakSPH, presented lessons on how African countries responded to the pandemic, including success stories from Uganda, the DRC, Nigeria and Senegal, which were studied because they demonstrate a wide range of COVID-19 response and outcomes and have experience managing public health emergencies.

MakSPH commitment to advancing sustainable health for people and the planet

MakSPH is proud to have been represented at the World Health Summit 2022 in Berlin, Germany by our esteemed Dean, Professor Rhoda Wanyenze in October 2022. Professor Wanyenze discussed the crucial link between human and animal health, climate change impacts in low- and middle-income countries, and the need for comprehensive surveillance systems to monitor the impacts of climate change and disease outbreaks. She also highlighted the importance of funding

research and supporting vulnerable communities, conducting vulnerability assessments in Africa, and incorporating local knowledge and innovations to adapt to climate change impacts. Professor Wanyenze presented alongside Dr. Ariane de Hoog, the Executive Assistant to CEO of Bayer Pharmaceuticals and Professor Ole Petter Ottersen, the President of Karolinska Institutet in a session moderated by Dr. Stefan Swartling Peterson, a Professor of Global Transformations for Health at

Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. The summit brought together industry leaders, academics, and researchers from across the world to discuss pressing challenges in sustainable agriculture and public health. The World Health Summit is an international forum held annually at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Europe’s largest university hospital, that aims to promote global health as a key political issue and foster collaboration and open dialogue guided by science.



Rhoda Wanyenze (2nd from right), Co-chair of the Centre, at the World Health Summit in Berlin in 2022. Photo: Monika Berge-Thelander

Eastern Africa GEOHealth Hub gets NIH grant for air quality, health study



10 | Public Primary Schools

- Buganda Road
- Kitante P/S
- St. Paul P/S
- St. Martin Mulago P/S
- Queen of Peace P/S
- Namirembe Infant P/S
- Kibuye P/S
- Kibuli Demonstration Muslim
- Makindye division
- St. James P/S Biina
- St. Jude P/S

The Eastern Africa GEOHealth Hub is a research and training center based at Makerere University School of Public Health, aimed at environmental and occupational health in Eastern Africa. It is supported by the Global Environmental and Occupational Health program through the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and training is provided by a consortium of US-based institutions such as Columbia University and USC. Research initiatives are led by universities in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda. In Uganda, key stakeholders include; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development (MGLSD), National Environment Management

Authority (NEMA), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Makerere University Lung Institute, Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health, 5 hospitals, and 10 public primary schools in different divisions of Kampala. In 2022, the Hub received funding from the NIH for a 5-year program starting in 2022 and ending in 2027. On December 5th, 2022, the GEOHealth Hub was officially launched at the University of Nairobi with a workshop led by Dr. Berhane and Dr. Samet. The launch was attended by members of the GEOHealth Hub team from Makerere University and Dr. Lynn Atuyambe who gave presentations on air quality and health effects in three eastern African cities.



Hospitals

- China Uganda Friendship Hospital
- Kibuli Muslim Hospital,
- St. Francis Hospital Nsambya
- Lubaga Hospital
- Kiruddu Referral Hospital



Digital Health Payment Initiative and Research in Africa Project –DHPI-R



Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda and the University of Dakar in Senegal launched a digital payments project for campaign health workers in sub-Saharan Africa. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the three-year project aims at evaluating the impact of digital payments on the effectiveness and quality of health campaigns in the region.

The project will focus on the integration of digital payments for health workers to improve their performance, and support evidence-based decision-making in Africa. The launch event was presided over by Dr. Umar Kakumba, Associate Professor and

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Makerere University and featured representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health, WHO, Ministry of Health in Senegal, and WHO-AFRO Country office as keynote speakers at the event, including Kendall Krause (Senior Program Officer, Global delivery program), Margaret McConnell (Associate Professor of Global Health Economics), Leah Wanjeri (Digital Finance Officer WHO AFRO), Ibrahima Khaliloulah D'ia (Head of Health Digital Unit, Ministry of Health in Senegal), and Andrew Bakainaga (WHO-AFRO Country office representative).

The project will focus on the integration of digital payments for health workers to improve their performance, and support evidence-based decision-making in Africa.



Graduate Students Awarded Grants for Digital Health Payments Initiative Research in Africa

Six graduate students have been awarded research grants by the Digital Health Payment Initiative and Research in Africa project (DHPI-R), supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and led by Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda and the University of Dakar in Senegal. On September 19th, 2022, four students from Makerere University and two from the University of Dakar Senegal were each presented with a grant worth \$4,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

The students awarded are: Wagaba Michael, Namuyonga Priscilla, Patrick Albert Ipola, and Arnold Tigaiza from Makerere University and

Pape Latyr FAYE and Dr. El Hadji Cheikh Abdoulaye DIOP from the University of Dakar Senegal. The research grants aim at supporting studies in the areas of the utility of digital payments, gender inclusivity, the process

of digital payment, awareness about digital payment, and policies over a period of six months. The project aims at generating evidence through these research areas on the effectiveness of digital payments in supporting

the delivery of healthcare services.

The contracts were signed in the presence of Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa, DHPI-R Anglophone Hub Director, and Ms. Cynthia Murungi, DHPI-R Project Administrator.



Dr. Elizabeth Ekirapa Senior Lecturer and Anglophone Hub Director (Second left) posing for a photo with the DHPI-R student awardees. Photo by Judith Grace Amoiti

The DHPI-R project with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has so far funded over 25 studies and here are some of the ongoing Expert-led.

Principal Investigator (PI)	Institution	Topic	Site
Dr. Vincent M. Kiberu	Makerere University School of Public Health	Landscape analysis in eight (8) countries - to understand the local context, challenges, and opportunities for digitized health in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.	• Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya Ghana, Ivory Coast, DRC, Senegal, and Cameroon
Dr. Victoria Nankabirwa	Makerere University School of Public Health	Effectiveness of mobile money payments to campaign health care workers participating in the polio mass vaccination campaign: A cluster randomized controlled trial	• Uganda
Prof. Mwapasa Victor, Dr. Simon Ndira	Kamuzu University of health Sciences, Malawi Compelling works limited,	Evaluation of the impact of mobile money payments on the morale and work output of community health workers implementing polio vaccination campaign in Malawi	• Malawi
Dr Amadou Ibra Diallo	Universite Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) Senegal	Evaluation of perceptions and Satisfaction with current Payment methods and acceptability of digital payment among health workers in Senegal to strengthen the health system	• Senegal

The MakSPH grants and research capacity building committee



The Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee at MakSPH was established in 2015 with the objective of creating and implementing grants management guidelines at the School.

The Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee at MakSPH was established in 2015 with the objective of creating and implementing grants management guidelines at the School. Recently, the committee expanded its role to support and guide institutional and faculty development for a robust grants portfolio at MakSPH.

The Committee is tasked with developing and implementing grants management guidelines for approval by the Board, standardizing information submitted to grantors, ensuring grant applications are submitted with the knowledge and approval of the School management while maintaining its legal, fiscal, and administrative responsibilities and liabilities, efficiently managing post-award compliance processes, and supporting and enhancing the research skills of researchers, staff, and students to improve research outputs.

Under the leadership of Dr. David Musoke from the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health, the committee

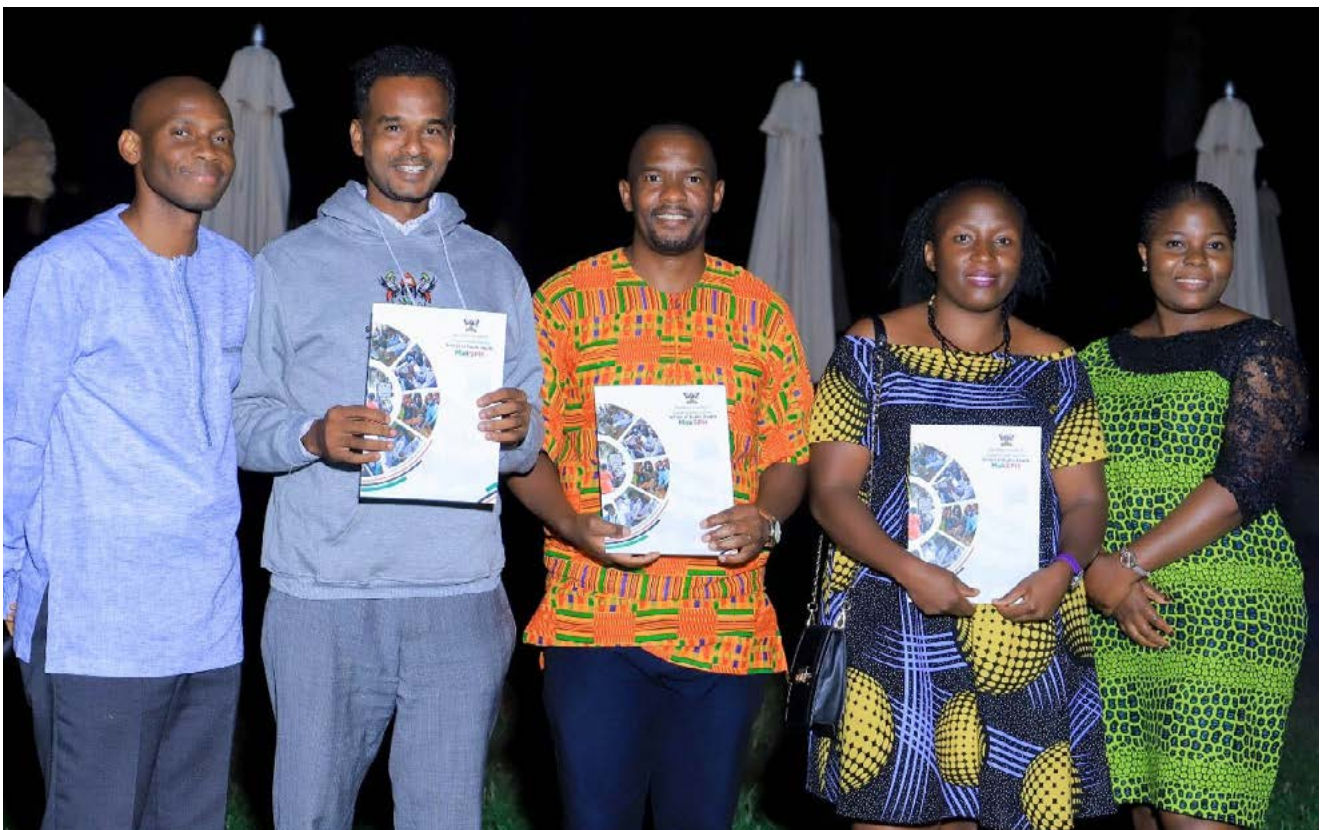
achieved significant milestones in 2022.

Review of the MakSPH grants management guidelines and standard operating procedures

The Committee, with support from the Grants Administration Secretariat, reviewed 6 guidelines and procedures for the management of grants and sponsored research at MakSPH to improve efficiency, oversight, and accountability for these programs.

The MakSPH Seed grants programme

The Committee oversees the MakSPH seed grant program, which has completed 10 grants and has 9 ongoing. The 4th round recipients including Ms. Juliana Namutundu, Dr. John Ssenkusu, and Mr. Ali Halage were announced at the end of year dinner in December 2022. The program, launched in 2018 with support from the Dean's office, aims to enhance the School's research capacity in neglected areas of public health and equip junior faculty and students with research skills.



Dr. David Musoke (left – Chair of the Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee) and Ms. Stella Kakeeto (right – Secretary of the Grants and Research Capacity Building Committee) with the 3 recipients of the 4th round of the seed grants (left to right: Mr. Abdullah Ali Halage, Dr. John Ssenkusu, and Ms. Juliana Namutundu).

Mak@100

MakSPH through the lenses of Makerere University's century of existence



H.E the President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhaburwa and Visitor of Makerere University in a group photo with Makerere University leadership during the Mak@100 Main Cerebrations at the Freedom Square in October 2022.

Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) origin dates back to the 1950s when preventive medicine was introduced as a discipline at the University of East Africa, which later became Makerere University.

In 1957, the discipline evolved into a fully-fledged department of preventive medicine, led by Professor George W. Gale. The department worked closely with the medical school to provide training, community services, and research through the Kasangati Health Center, which was established in 1959 with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. Under the leadership of Dr. John Bennet, Kasangati became one of Africa's preeminent community health centers and contributed to the development of primary health care. The department of preventive medicine played a pivotal role in advancing preventive medicine in Uganda and the region, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO). The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics provided statistical support to other departments, leading to an increased focus on health research. The department was eventually elevated to the Makerere University Institute of Public Health in 1975,

and in 2007 was renamed the Makerere University School of Public Health. Over the years, the institute upgraded its infrastructure and units to accommodate growth and development.

The School has since grown to become one of the leading training and research institutions in public health in sub-Saharan Africa and the world. It offers a range of training programs in public health, including undergraduate and graduate programs, and has contributed significantly to the development of the public health workforce with major research and capacity-building areas including infectious and non-infectious diseases, sexual and reproductive, and child health, and environmental and sustainable as well as health systems, among others.

MakSPH has a long history of ground-breaking research and partnerships that have been instrumental in expanding its portfolio of research and academic programs. MakSPH implements a hands-on field-based teaching model that fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills and has several field sites for student placement.

The School has had autonomy and efficient management systems

that have contributed to its growth and success, but further growth and sustainability will require motivated staff and efficient structures.

MakSPH has made significant contributions to public health workforce development in Uganda through various academic programs such as postgraduate and fellowship programs. Its flagship program, the Master of Public Health (MPH), is the oldest MPH program in Africa and has produced over 700 high-quality graduates. MakSPH has a strong record of innovative research and impact on policy and practice, and its students hold various high positions in academia, government, and health development organizations both in Uganda and internationally. Over 1,700 students have gone through various training programs in public health disciplines offered by MakSPH.

Over 1,700 students

have gone through various training programs in public health disciplines offered by MakSPH.

Uganda's public health workforce strengthened through successful partnership with Makerere University, Ministry of Health and US CDC



The fellows were able to conduct

12

Quality improvement projects

12

Surveillance data analysis projects

61

Epidemiological studies



13

Public Health Fellows Graduate

MakSPH has been a key partner in the Strengthening Capacity of Uganda Ministry of Health project, which is aimed at building the capacity of the public health workforce in Uganda through various training programs. This project is funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and is a collaboration between the Ministry of Health, MakSPH, and the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).

In January 2022, 13 Cohort 2020 epidemiologists graduated from the Uganda Public Health Fellowship Program, which is a tripartite program aimed at building the public health workforce capacity. The graduates were awarded certificates of completion by the U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, H.E Natalie E. Brown, at a graduation ceremony held in Kampala. With these graduates, a total of 65 field epidemiologists have now been added to the pool of PHFP graduates in Uganda over the last six years.

The project implemented various key

activities during the year 2022, including the training of in-service health workers on the Frontline Field Epidemiology Training Program (F-FETP), the Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program, and the continued support to Fellows enrolled on the Public Health Fellowship Program - Field Epidemiology Track (PHFP-FET). The fellows were able to provide technical assistance and support key human resource gaps at the Ministry of Health and conduct 12 quality improvement projects, 12 surveillance data analysis projects, and 61 epidemiological studies, including response to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Uganda.

Under the leadership of Principal Investigator Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, the Strengthening Capacity of Uganda Ministry of Health project is set to continue its impactful work over the next five years, building the capacity of the public health workforce in Uganda and helping to ensure a stronger and more resilient health system.



Cohort 2020 Fellows with US Ambassador to Uganda HE Natalie E Brown at the graduation ceremony

Students activities

Our students have been actively engaged in a wide range of activities both on and off campus under their umbrella association Makerere University Environmental Health Students Association (MUEHSA) throughout the year. The students association under the patronage of Mrs. Ruth Mubeezi Neebye promotes diversity and inclusion and has organized several successful events, including clean-up exercises, health education, commemorating important days, organizing a beach bash, orientation, mentorship sessions, and the making of MUEHSA activities.



Students under MUEHSA join in community clean up in Kagugube, Makerere

Additionally, there was an increase in volunteer and community service opportunities for students through partnerships with local non-profit and community organizations. Overall, our students have demonstrated a strong commitment to personal and academic excellence, as well as service to the community.

Clean-up exercises

A snapshot:

On April 9, 2022 MUEHSA in partnership with the Students Guild, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), the Uganda Red Cross Society, and Homeclin – Solid Waste Management Company conducted a clean-up exercise in Makerere-Kagugube slum where they provided health education on how to live a healthy life and the importance of living in a clean community.



MUEHSA joins Makerere University Nursing Students Association to commemorate the international week of nurses on the 25th of June 2022 in Kamwokya, Kampala.

New Students orientation

The 2022/23 academic year commenced on October 8th and MUEHSA organized an orientation for the incoming Bachelor of Environmental Health Sciences (BEHS) freshers 2022 cohort, a beach bash as a welcome party for them. The orientation was led by student leaders and provided first-hand information to the new students. The beach bash was attended by students from different cohorts.



BEHS new students' of 2022 cohort in a group photo shortly after orientation

MUEHSA leadership meets NTU delegation

The student leaders held an engagement with Prof. Linda Gibson and Professor Christine Moffatt from Nottingham Trent University on November 10th, 2022.

This was during the commemoration of 12 years of partnership between the UK based Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and Makerere University. The main focus of this engagement was the importance of MUEHSA conferences.



MUEHSA Leadership shortly after meeting the NTU Delegation at Mulago Hospital Guest House.

Returning to sports playing Post COVID-19

In a bid to address post Covid-19 stigma, MakSPH students participated in the College of Health Sciences the Annual Sports Gala on Sunday March 27.

This was the first of its kind after a two-year lockdown organized under the theme; “Breaking post-Covid stigma among medical students and practitioners.” The gala attracted a host of games including football, volley ball, athletics, FIFA games scrabble as well as chess among others and was held at the Makerere University main sports grounds.



New MakSPH Home Taking Shape



Side view of the Auditorium and the slab for the first floor of the MakSPH Main Building

MakSPH has in the last 4 years undertaken a fairly successful fundraising campaign within Uganda to expand the School with the construction of an 8-storey building that will house lecture and tutorial rooms, demonstration and innovation laboratories, an auditorium as well as space for research fellows, doctoral students and post-doctoral trainees and a health & fitness facility.

The building will facilitate adequate training and skills development for public health professionals who will be capable of addressing the ever-increasing magnitude and complexity of public health challenges including but not limited to; rapid population growth and urbanisation, climate change and environmental degradation, epidemics and pandemics of emerging and re-emerging pathogens and etiologic agents, internal displacements of people and refugee crises due to natural disasters and man-made conflicts, and poor and constrained health care systems.

Since the ground-breaking ceremony on 2nd February 2019 there has been a lot of progress despite delays caused by restrictions brought about by the pandemic. For instance, we have successfully concluded phase 1A of this project which includes a state-of-the-art auditorium and part of the main block and we are now planning to resume the construction works of the main building block.

MakSPH extends its heartfelt appreciation to all our stakeholders in Uganda and around the world for their invaluable support. Our deepest gratitude for your generous contributions, which have greatly contributed to the significant progress achieved in the MakSPH building project. However, we still require additional support to raise the remaining \$6 million needed to successfully complete the entire project.

We would like to give special recognition to our consultants, CNS Inc., led by Arch. Nankya Collins, whose expertise and guidance have been instrumental in this endeavor. We also extend our appreciation to the Makerere University Estates and Works Department, led by Eng. Christina Kakeeto, as well as the Makerere University Administration, under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, for their unwavering support. We are deeply grateful to ROKO Construction Ltd., the contracted construction company, for their dedicated efforts and hard work in bringing this project to fruition. We would also like to acknowledge the immense contributions of the Infrastructure Development Committee (IDC) and the dedicated MakSPH staff, who have personally contributed and provided encouragement throughout this journey. Together, we are making a significant impact in advancing the mission of MakSPH.

Finance Management



Improving the economic status of MakSPH staff through the SACCO

Some of the members of the MakSPH SACCO shortly after the AGM last year. Sitting L-R: Ms. Lydia Aliba Itaaga, the Treasurer for the SACCO, the Chairperson Dr. John Ssempebwa and CPA Elizabeth Nambi, the Finance Advisor to the SACCO.

Highlights as at Nov. 29, 2022

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SACCO Members



For seven years now, the Makerere University School of Public Health Cooperative Society Limited (MakSPH SACCO) has been providing its members with opportunities to improve their economic and social status. The SACCO offers loans and encourages members to save, earning interest on their savings in the process. Over the years, several staff members have leveraged the SACCO to start and grow their businesses, build homes, and buy assets.

At the recent Annual General Meeting held on 12th August 2022, a new executive committee was elected to lead the SACCO. The committee comprises of Dr. John C Ssempebwa as the Chairman, Dr. Christine Nalwadda as the Deputy

Chairperson, Mrs. Itaaga Aliba Lydia as the Treasurer, Edna Angelique Kalungi as the Deputy Treasurer, Davidson Ndyabahika as the Publicity Secretary, Ms. Melody Kukundakwe as the Secretary, and Ms Joan Nabulwala as the Deputy Secretary. The advisors to the MakSPH SACCO include Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dr. Ssengooba Freddie, and Ms. Hadija Omar.

MakSPH SACCO continues to play a significant role in improving the economic status of its members, providing them with the financial support they need to achieve their goals. The SACCO is a testament to the power of collaboration and the impact it can have on the lives of individuals.



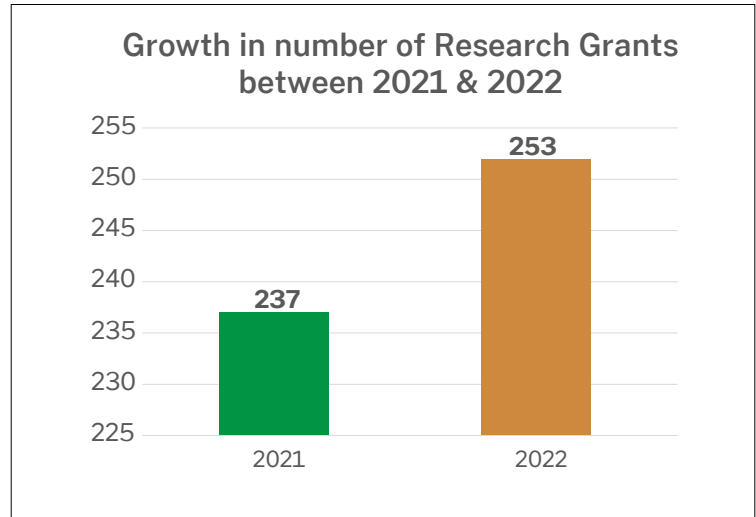
Outgoing SACCO leadership on the left and the in-coming SACCO Leadership on the right at the handover ceremony held on 23rd September 2022 at Fairway Hotel.

MakSPH Finance Unit reports strong growth in 2022

The Finance Management Unit (FMU) of MakSPH achieved several milestones in the financial year 2022. The unit maintained a strong internal control environment and a high level of compliance to register growth in its revenue. The research grant portfolio grew by 45% between 2021 and 2022.

The FMU Grants office submitted over 157 proposals and processed over 63 awards, to support MakSPH's research and training activities. The FMU Grants office conducted training and mentorship for 96 research administrators at Makerere University and sister Universities within the East Africa region. The grants office also undertook training for 32 early career researchers in Makerere University, to strengthen their grant writing capacity. With these achievements, the FMU Grants office continues to see growth in the fiscal year 2022, and has maintained a high level of expertise in

finance and grants management with its experienced and skilled personnel.



Dean and Professor Rhoda Wanyenze poses with grants officers and administrators who underwent a 3-month long grant writing capacity strengthening program for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) funded by IREX under the UASP fellowship.



Publications

MakSPH Publications 2022

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