



**SAFE MOTHERHOOD
CONFERENCE**

5th NATIONAL SAFE MOTHERHOOD Conference, Awards and Expo

Theme: Strengthening Multisectoral Collaboration
and Mutual Accountability for Safe Motherhood

22nd - 24th October 2025 | Speke Resort Munyonyo

Introduction

National Safe Motherhood conference is an annual scientific conference organized by Ministry of Health and its Partners. It was launched in 2021 and it has since been held annually. The conference has brought together stakeholders in Maternal and newborn care to galvanize a political, financial and public health response to women's pregnancy related and newborn morbidity and mortality in Uganda. The conference agenda is to provide a comprehensive and engaging experience for attendees, with a mix of expert speakers, interactive sessions, and opportunities for networking and collaboration.

Maternal mortality, though declining globally, remains a significant indicator of health system performance and societal well-being. The disparities in maternal health outcomes are glaring, with marginalized communities often experiencing disproportionate challenges. Factors such as access to quality healthcare, education, and socio-economic conditions play pivotal roles in shaping maternal health trajectories.

The urgency to address maternal health issues is underscored by the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 3 - "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." Safe Motherhood is at the heart of achieving this goal, and concerted efforts are required to bridge existing gaps, enhance healthcare systems, and empower women with the knowledge and resources necessary for a safe and fulfilling motherhood journey.



Background

The health of women, children, and adolescents is a central component of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030) lays out a broad strategy for achieving the health-related SDGs, especially the ending of preventable maternal, child, newborn and adolescent deaths with a greater focus on enabling all citizens of the world to achieve their full health potential. Both the SDGs and the Global Strategy call for a significant paradigm shift on the part of national governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development aid organizations, and the private sector. Success will require strategic, action-oriented partnerships; unprecedented coordination across sectors; and a focus on prevention through locally-led approaches.

Despite significant progress in reducing Uganda's maternal and neonatal mortality, persistent challenges such as inadequate healthcare access, weak health systems, limited resources, and socio-cultural barriers continue to hinder the health of women, children, and adolescents. The urgency to strengthen multisectoral collaboration and mutual accountability has never been greater, as achieving sustainable improvements in maternal, newborn, and adolescent health requires coordinated efforts

across various sectors, including health, education, community development, and governance.

Uganda's healthcare system faces additional pressures from rapid population growth, economic constraints, and emerging global health threats, necessitating a more resilient and responsive approach to maternal and newborn care. Recognizing that no single entity can address these challenges alone, this conference provides a platform for stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, professional bodies, development partners, and communities to engage in meaningful dialogue, share best practices, and develop actionable strategies for improving maternal, newborn, and adolescent health outcomes.

The National Safe Motherhood Conference, under the theme "Strengthening Multisectoral Collaboration and Mutual Accountability for Safe Motherhood," seeks to foster cross-sector partnerships, enhance policy implementation, and promote innovative, evidence-based interventions. By strengthening accountability mechanisms and ensuring an inclusive approach, the conference aims to accelerate progress toward achieving national and global maternal health targets, including Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Conference Objectives

1

To provide a platform for sharing evidence-based strategies, innovations, and successful models in safe motherhood.

2

To facilitate discussions on shared responsibility and transparency among stakeholders in implementing maternal, newborn, and adolescent health policies, programs, and interventions.

3

To discuss barriers to safe motherhood, including healthcare financing, human resource shortages, quality of care gaps, and socio-cultural factors, and develop actionable solutions.

4

To generate actionable recommendations and commitments from stakeholders to ensure long-term improvements in maternal, newborn, and adolescent health, aligned with Uganda's Vision 2040.



Conference Sub-themes

1

Service Delivery

Ensuring quality and accessible Maternal, Newborn, and Adolescent Health services.

- Improving quality of care for maternal, newborn, and adolescent health services
- Strengthening referral systems for emergency obstetric and newborn care
- Expanding community-based maternal, newborn, and adolescent healthcare models

2

Health Workforce

Enhancing human resource capacity for safe motherhood

- Addressing workforce shortages and improving retention
- Strengthening community health worker models for maternal and newborn care
- Training and capacity building

3

Health Financing

Sustainable investment in maternal, newborn, and adolescent health

- Strengthening domestic resource mobilization
- Enhancing financial efficiency and accountability
- Mitigating the impact of external funding reductions on essential maternal services
- Alternative health financing models

4

Health Information system

Strengthening data for Decision-Making

- Improving maternal and Perinatal Death surveillance and response systems
- Leveraging digital health and real-time data for maternal and newborn health monitoring
- Enhancing health management information system for evidence-based policy making

5

Medical products, vaccines, and Technologies

Innovations for Maternal and Newborn care

- Utilizing digital innovations and telemedicine
- Strengthening supply chain management
- Expanding access to essential commodities and life-saving medicines

6

Leadership and Governance

Strengthening accountability

- Strengthening community engagement and social accountability mechanisms
- Enhancing policy implementation and enforcement
- Improving coordination among government, private sector, and development partners
- Improving functionality and accountability through the local maternity and neonatal systems

7

Family planning

A key pillar for safe motherhood

- Expanding access to quality and equitable family planning services
- Strengthening community engagement and male involvement
- Leveraging innovation and digital health solutions for FP service delivery.

8

Harnessing Multisectoral engagement

To strengthen community health for safe motherhood

- Tackling poverty, gender inequality, education, and cultural barriers that impact maternal, child, and adolescent health outcomes.
- Role of community health workers in bridging the gap between health facilities and communities
- Strategies for reducing maternal and newborn mortality through cross-sector partnerships
- Community engagement and ownership

Target Population

Healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, community health workers and members, advocates, donors, and other stakeholders engaged in maternal, newborn, and adolescent health programming and advocacy.



Expected Impact for the Conference

The NSMC 2025 is expected to generate significant impact at multiple levels—policy, health system, community, and research—by fostering multisectoral collaboration and mutual accountability for maternal, newborn, and adolescent health. Through the conference, strategies on enhancing coordination between government, health institutions, civil society, and development partners in implementing maternal and newborn health programs. Increased government commitment to sustainable financing and policy enforcement for maternal health programs, especially in light of donor funding cuts. A framework for continued engagement among stakeholders to monitor progress and sustain the momentum beyond the conference will be drafted.

Conference sessions

The conference will feature a diverse range of sessions including;

1. Plenary sessions including keynote speeches.
2. Parallel sessions
3. Panel sessions
4. Poster presentations

Sessions will be structured around the six-health system building blocks, with a focus on policies, practices, and scalable interventions/innovations surrounding maternal and newborn health.



Abstracts

We shall receive two types of Abstracts:

1. Program Abstracts: Program description submission must use structured abstract format and include Background, Description, and Conclusions.

2. Research Abstracts: Research submissions Must use structured abstract format and include: Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

What Must be Included in the Program Abstract submission?

- Submission MUST include the author/main contact, background, and description sections of the structured abstract.
- Titles and abstracts will not be formatted or edited. It is your responsibility to check for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. You will be judged in the review process on the professionalism of your submitted abstract.
- The background section: should include program objectives and/or purpose, background description and setting. Word limit is 120 words.
- The description section: should include the process of developing, implementing, and evaluating your new service, program, or initiative and may not exceed 200 words.
- The conclusions section: If your program has already been completed, enter your outcomes at this time. Otherwise, include outcomes of the program you expect to measure. Word limit is 120 words.

What Must be Included in the Research Abstract submission?

- Submission MUST include the author/main contact, objective, and methods sections of the structured abstract.
- Titles and abstracts will not be formatted or edited. It is your responsibility to check for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. You will be judged in the review process on the professionalism of your submitted abstract.
- The objective section (for which you may substitute the research question) may not exceed 200 words. Should have a brief background and Objectives for the study
- The methods section: should describe your methods in sufficient detail (include the design, setting, population, intervention, and exposure as appropriate) so the peer reviewers can evaluate your submission adequately. Word limit is 200 words.
- The results section: enter results and conclusions if completed. Authors should share any available information about your results at the time of submission, such as how the approach to analysis (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, etc.) will inform conclusions. The results section may not exceed 100 words.
- The conclusions section: enter conclusions if completed. Authors should share any available information about conclusions at the time of submission, such as trends you have noticed in this field will inform conclusions. The conclusion section may not exceed 120 words.

The Abstracts should not contain tables, figures, or references.

A submission link will be used in receiving the abstracts. Deadline of Abstract submission: 15th July 2025 before 2359hrs EAT.

Abstracts will be reviewed after closure of submission and a notification email about the status of your abstract (accepted or declined) will be sent on or before 22nd August 2025. If the submitting author wouldn't have received the notification email by 29th September, please contact;

Dr Nelson Twinamasiko on Tel: +256-755-260763, Email1: drtwinamasikonelson@gmail.com, or Email2: nsmc.moh@gmail.com

Accepted abstracts will be categorized into oral and poster presentations. Authors with accepted abstracts will be notified by email the type of accepted presentation for their abstract.



Scan QR CODE to Submit your abstracts to link below:

<https://www.safemotherhoodconference.org/submit-abstracts/>

