The 13th International East Africa Psychology Conference

Community Based Participatory Mental Health Care: Focusing on the Role of the Family

Hosted by the University of Kisubi at Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Entebbe, Uganda
October 2nd-3rd, 2025

Sebastian Family Psychology Practice LLC

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Welcome Remarks from Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Psychology, University of Kisubi

Our distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, cherished scholars, and all of you treasured participants, it is with great honor and heartfelt enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 13th **International East African Psychology Conference**, hosted here at Mary Reparatrix – Entebbe by the University of Kisubi. As Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Psychology, I am proud to open our doors to this renowned gathering. Hosting this prestigious conference is both a privilege and a testament to our shared commitment to advancing mental health care across Africa and beyond.

This year's theme, ***Community-Based Participatory Mental Health Care: Focusing on the Role of the Family*****,** reminds us that mental health is not merely a clinical concern, but a social imperative rooted in everyday lives of families, neighbors, and caregivers. It emphasizes the fact that healing does not happen in isolation but is nurtured in homes, in neighborhoods, and in the bonds we share with one another. In today's world where mental health challenges are increasingly complex and widespread, the importance of community-driven solutions should not be underestimated.

As we convene here, we are inspired by the opportunity to explore how family, as the most intimate unit of society, can be empowered in her pivotal role of shaping mental well-being, resilience, and recovery. We believe that sustainable mental health care must be participatory, culturally grounded, and inclusive of the voices that have too often been marginalized.

Over these two days, we look forward to engaging in rich dialogue, sharing groundbreaking research, and forging new collaborations that honor the wisdom of communities and the strength of families. Let this conference be a space of learning, healing, and transformation.

Once again you are all most welcome; your presence here forecasts a future where families are at the heart of mental health care. Thank you very much, let the conversations begin.

Sr. Dr. Nnantamu Jane Frances
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Psychology
University of Kisubi

Welcome Message from Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja and Mrs. Yvonne Ssempijja

On behalf of the staff at Sebastian Family Psychology Practice and its partners, both locally and globally, we welcome you to this year's Global Mental Health Conference. We hope your experience is filled with learning, connection, and renewed commitment to serving one another.

This year, Sebastian Family Psychology Practice celebrates its 35th anniversary of providing formal clinical services to the communities we serve. We are deeply grateful to those who have continued to believe in and support our mission to deliver high-quality, compassionate mental health care.

With this year's theme, Community-Based Participatory Mental Health Care: Focusing on the Role of the Family, we are excited to reflect on the central role that families play in human development. Every life begins, is nurtured, and grows within the context of family. Culture, social and economic factors, and broader social determinants of health all shape and influence family systems. This theme could not be more timely.

We are especially honored to welcome Mr. Victor Ochen, a son of Uganda and global peace leader, as one of our keynote speakers. His work as a UN Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goal of Peace and Justice and Chair of the African Union's Commission on the Wellbeing of Women and Children exemplifies the values at the heart of this year's theme. We also extend our gratitude to Dr. Hafsa Lukwata and her colleagues from Uganda's Ministry of Health, as well as delegates from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, for sharing their insights on how family is central to their work.

To all attendees, we salute your presence and invite you to take what you learn and launch a campaign of collective care and impact in 2026. May you return next year ready to share the fruits of your efforts.

With deep respect,
Dr. Sebastian & Ms. Yvonne Ssempijja
Co-Founders and Co-Directors, Sebastian Family Psychology Practice

Reflections from the UBHA Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance (UBHA), we congratulate the attendees of the 2025 Global Mental Health Conference, co-sponsored by the University of Kisubi (UniK) and Sebastian Family Psychology Practice (SFPP). This marks the 13th year since the partnership was established to promote mental health within the broader context of whole health and community well-being.

As we review the themes under which we have convened conferences and trainings over the past decade, we celebrate the following:

- A deeper appreciation of what is possible when a group of dedicated individuals, across disciplines and educational backgrounds, come together for the common good.
- A profound commitment to respectful and collaborative principles, where every voice counts, and the collective impact is meaningful.
- Ongoing partnerships with academic institutions, government entities, the private sector, and individual practitioners - relationships that have strengthened our mission and will continue to do so in the years to come.

These reflections take on special meaning within the context of this year's conference theme, which focuses on the family. It affirms the original mission and vision of UBHA: to promote mental health through collaboration with professionals and communities, using diverse and culturally grounded interventions.

Our appreciation for the vital role of families in this work runs deep. This past year alone has revealed both the opportunities and the challenges families face locally and globally.

Over the past 12 years, our gatherings have reached more than 3,000 individuals across 17 countries. We are now actively collaborating in 8 countries and 17 cities. These numbers are a testament to the commitment of this community, and they fuel our hope for continued growth and impact as we look ahead to the mission for CY 2026.

Respectfully yours,
Sebastian Ssempijja,
On behalf of the UBHA Board of Directors

Our Sponsors:





















Grandmothers Beyond Borders







ANONYMOUS DONOR

Gilliam K. Mukasa Estate Namulamba

Sisters of Mary Reparatrix

Dr. Gerald Makumbi Medical Services

Conference Theme:

Community Based Participatory Mental Health Care: Focusing on the Role of the Family

Conference Sub-Themes

1. **Family Systems and Intergenerational Mental Health**
   - Family dynamics, resilience, and support for those living with mental health challenges
   - Intergenerational trauma, grief, and patterns of silence
   - Maternal, paternal, and infant mental health (perinatal and postnatal support within family systems)
   - Shifting cultural narratives through storytelling, advocacy, and inclusive community engagement.

2. **Embedding Family Mental Health in Broader Systems of Care**
   - Mental health integration into public health and education systems
   - Task-shifting models (using community health workers, midwives, primary care)
   - Locally driven research, data, and public health policy development
   - Leveraging digital tools and youth-driven technologies to support families.
   - Exploring risks and opportunities in the digital world for parenting and youth mental health.

3. **Traditional, Faith-Based, and Culturally Grounded Interventions**
   - Synthetic, traditional, and alternative mental health treatments
   - Faith-based healing practices and community support models
   - Inclusive interventions for underrepresented families (migrants, families with disabilities, etc.)

4. **Hidden Crises Within Families: Grief, Violence, and Addiction**
   - Grief and unresolved loss across generations
   - Domestic violence, trauma, and generational silence
   - Substance use, gambling, and addition in family contexts.
   - Family-centered approaches to prevention, recovery and support.
   - Community-based responses to hidden and stigmatized struggles

5. **Living with Disability, Impairment, and Adaptation**
   - Mental health challenges linked to disability and decreased functioning
   - Family support for cognitive, psychological, and physical disabilities
   - Recognizing the resilience and strengths of individuals navigating disability and recovery.

6. **Family Resilience in the face of Environmental and Social Change**
   - Mental health impacts of forced migration, environmental crises, and economic hardships
   - Family resilience amidst ecological and financial disruptions
   - Sustainable support systems for displaced or vulnerable families
   - Crop and climate change, regional and economic change
   - Geographic forced and chosen change: who does it benefit?

Theme-Based Learning Objectives

1. Family Systems and Intergenerational Mental Health

- Provide guidance on strengthening cultural, relational, and structural protective factors that have helped families to thrive.
- Examine how intergenerational patterns shape family mental health across the lifespan.
- Identify risk factors that influence family mental health and functioning in diverse settings.

2. Embedding Family Mental Health in Broader Systems of Care

- Examine the integration of mental health care into public systems such as education and primary health care, and how this affects family support structures.
- Learn from successful task-shifting models (e.g., midwives, CHWs) that enhance access to mental health care for families.
- Evaluate the potential and risks of digital tools and youth-driven technologies in promoting and protecting family mental health, including guidance on screen use.

3. Traditional, Faith-Based, and Culturally Grounded Interventions

- Explore traditional, faith-based, and integrated treatment models in addressing mental health needs within families and communities.
- Identify how faith practices and culturally rooted beliefs shape help-seeking behaviors, healing pathways, and family responses to mental illness.
- Highlight inclusive approaches to care that center underrepresented families - such as migrants, those affected by disability, or from marginalized ethnic groups.

4. Hidden Crises Within Families: Grief, Violence, and Addiction

- Recognize how grief, violence, and unresolved trauma impact family cohesion and individual mental health.
- Discuss family-centered approaches to addressing substance use, gambling, and hidden behavioral health struggles.
- Explore community-based, culturally sensitive responses to crises that are often concealed or stigmatized within the home.

5. Living with Disability, Impairment, and Adaptation

- Understand the intersection of mental health and disability, including the impact on cognitive, psychological, and physical functioning in family life.
- Identify ways that families can provide long-term care and support while honoring the agency and strengths of individuals with disabilities.
- Explore adaptations and support systems that promote inclusive community participation for people living with disabilities and their families.

6. Family Resilience in the Face of Environmental and Social Change

- Learn how environmental crises (e.g., climate change, displacement) and economic instability affect family functioning and mental health.
- Examine sustainable models of support for displaced or vulnerable families, especially in low-resource or high-risk regions.
- Highlight the **2025 World Mental Health Day theme** - *"Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies"* - by identifying practical strategies to protect mental health in the context of social upheaval, migration, and ecological change.

Our Communities

Uganda:

- The University of Kisubi
- Muni University, Arua
- African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET), Lira
- The Almond Foundation, Gulu
- Grandmothers Beyond Borders (GBB)
- Mirembe Words of Wisdom
- Caritas for Children
- The Nachan Project
- Alpha Female Empowerment Initiative
- Senior Citizens Association of Namugongo

Kenya:

- Hope Without Borders, Nairobi
- International Peace Initiatives, Meru

Democratic Republic of Congo:

- Kivu Care, Goma
- Bethesda Counseling Center, Beni

Burundi

- Friend's Women's Association

Somaliland:

- Ministry of Health, Department of Mental Health
- Gabiley Mental Hospital, Gabiley

Nigeria:

- Nigeria Ministry of Health, Department of Mental Health
- University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Abuja
- Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro Abeokuta

Rwanda:

- Health Builders, Kigali

United States:

- Sebastian Family Psychology Practice, Milwaukee WI
- Kajsiab House; Cambodian Temple Program; The Hmong Institute; Southeast Asian Healing Center; Grand Journey, Madison WI

How to Join Online:

Global Synchronous Session on October 2nd & 3rd:
We're hosting an intentional joint online meeting for all participating sites. Make sure to adjust for your local time!

Location	Local Time
Wisconsin	8:00am - 10:00am CST
New York	9:00am - 11:00am EST
Nigeria	2:00pm - 4:00pm WAT
Burundi, Beni & Goma DRC	3:00pm – 5:00pm CAT
Uganda, Kenya Somaliland	4:00pm – 6:00pm EAT

Need to confirm your local time?
Use the Time Zone Converter: https://www.thetimezoneconverter.com/

Join Anytime on Oct 2nd and 3rd, 2025:
Beyond the joint session, participants are welcome to join online and view the events hosted by the University of Kisubi anytime between 8:00am and 6:00pm East African Time. Kindly refer to the detailed conference Program for specific events and timings.

Zoom Meeting Link:
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84771559890?pwd=sIp92XKmZm6cYDRR7sWwAE91zmTkXO.1

Meeting ID: 847 7155 9890
Passcode: 355833

Conference Program

DAY 1: THURSDAY OCTOBER 2nd, 2025

East African Time (EAT) Covers: Uganda, Kenya, Somaliland, and Tanzania
Central African Time (CAT) Covers: Burundi, Rwanda, and Beni & Goma, DRC
West African Time (WAT) Covers: Nigeria

	TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTERS/ RESPONSIBLE PERSONS
1.	8:00am EAT 7:00am CAT 6:00am WAT	Preliminary registration (continuing through the day)	Secretariat/ Local Organizing committee: University of Kisubi (UNIK)
2.	8:30am EAT 7:30am CAT 6:30am WAT	Welcome remarks from the host planning committee	University of Kisubi (UniK) and organizing committee: Fr. Zachary Yaya, Head of Psychology Department, University of Kisubi
3.	8:45am EAT 7:45am 6:45am	Opening Prayers	Prayers shared by various denominations (Ecumenical format)
4.	8:55am EAT 7:55am CAT 6:55am WAT	Official opening Remarks from UniK	Br. Dr. Deogratias Mugema Vice-Chancellor, University of Kisubi
5.	9:20am EAT 8:20am CAT 7:20am WAT	Remarks from UBHA Board and Partners- Global Mental Health Activities for 2025	UBHA Board Representatives: Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja

6.	9:45am – 10:30am EAT 8:45am – 9:30am CAT 7:45am – 8:30am WAT	**Panel Discussions:** Site leaders to report on 2025 activities 1. UniK report (10 mins) *2.* AYINET report (10 mins) *3.* Nairobi report (10 mins)	- Sr. Osara Florence - Mr. Okello Stephen - Mr. Peter Mwangi
7.	10:30am – 11:10am EAT 9:30am - 10:10am CAT 8:30am - 9:10am WAT	**Keynote:** - *Reflections on Family and Community from Roles at the United Nations and African Union* (20 mins) - *Public Health Perspectives on Family and Community Wellbeing* (20 mins)	- Mr. Victor Ochen, Founder and Executive Director for African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) - Dr. Hafsa Lukwata, Head of Division Mental Health, Ministry of Health, Uganda
8.	11:10am - 11:30am EAT 10:10am - 10:30am CAT 9:10am - 9:30am WAT	**Q&A Response to Keynote**	Guided by MC or moderator
9.	11:30am - 11:40am EAT 10:30am - 10:40am CAT 9:30am - 9:40am WAT	*Creative Empowerment- A Mindful Reflection*	- Kathi Barkam
10.	11:40am – 12:35pm EAT 10:40am - 11:35am CAT 9:40am - 10:35am WAT	**Lead Presentations:** **1.** *Truth and Fact, and how they Impact Family Life* (15 mins)	- Dr. Fred Coleman & Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja

		2. *Involving Intersections of HIV/Aids Family Protection and risk factors with community* (15 mins) 3. *The Role of Family in the Mirembe Words of Wisdom Programs, Grandmothers Beyond Borders, and CARITAS* (15 mins)	- Dr. Godfrey Ddungu - Mrs. Yvonne Ssempijja and Mr. Alon Wangi
11.	12:35pm - 12:40pm EAT 11:35am - 11:40am CAT 10:35am - 10:40am WAT	**Q&A Response to Presentations**	Guided by MC or Moderator
12.	12:40pm – 12:50pm EAT 11:40am - 11:50am CAT 10:40am - 10:50am WAT	*Digital Tools for Healthy Sleep and Family Wellbeing*	- Nina Wegener
13.	12:50pm - 1:00pm 11:50am - 12:00pm CAT 10:50am - 11:00am WAT	**Q&A**	Guided by MC or Moderator
14.	1:00pm - 1:50pm 12:00pm - 12:50pm CAT 11:00am - 11:50am WAT	**LUNCH BREAK** - Indications of areas for prayer - Seating arrangements based on interest groups	- Acknowledge hosts: Sisters of Mary Reparatrix - Acknowledge key sponsors

15.	2:00pm-2:40pm 1:00pm - 1:40pm CAT 12:00pm - 12:40pm WAT	**<u>Panel:</u>** - *Truth and Trust in Land Use: Bethany Land Institute on Conservation, Climate, and Intergenerational Family Traditions*(20 mins) - *Celebrating Land-Based Generational Wealth and Innovative Approaches to Family Land Conflicts* (20 mins)	- Rev. Dr. John Ssebaana & Dr. Godfrey Ddungu - Representatives from Grandmothers Beyond Borders
16.	2:40pm - 3:00pm 1:40pm - 2:00pm CAT 12:40pm - 1:00pm WAT	**<u>Q&A</u>**	Guided by MC or Moderator
17.	3:10pm – 3:50pm EAT 2:10pm - 2:50pm CAT 1:10pm - 1:50pm WAT	**<u>Breakout Sessions:</u>** 1. Panels of two presenters, 10-minute presentations each (total of 20min). Followed by 10 mins for Discussion. 2. Ask attendees to separate into groups of 15-25 people **<u>Presentations:</u>** **MAIN ROOM:** 1. *The Role of Family Functioning in Improving Population Level Mental Health Amongst Children and Adolescents in Refugee Settings in Uganda.* 2. *Youth Perspectives from Refugee Communities in Uganda*	**Moderators and Secretaries assigned to each breakout room:** - Ms. Sharon Dosset - Mr. Saleem El-Amin - Fr. Dr. Augustine Kalemeera - Mr. Alon Wangi **Moderator:** Sr Dr Celestine Lindrio - Presenter: Sandra Agondeze (virtual) - Presenters: Youth From Dr. Mpindu's Uganda team

		ROOM 2: 3. *Human Health Support Systems* *A New Mathematics for Psychologists Based on Transformatics* **ROOM 3:** 4. *School Quality of Life for Visually Impaired Students in Inclusive Classrooms* 5. *Sustainable Support Systems for Displaced Vulnerable Families*	**Moderator:** - Presenter: Joseph Willrich Lutalo **Moderator:** - Presenter: Niyonkuru Sopatra - Presenter: Patient Katuka (DRC)
18.	3:20pm – 3:50pm EAT 2:20pm – 2:50pm CAT 1:20pm – 1:50pm WAT	**<u>General Discussion</u>** - Continue discussion in the main room related to previous presentations	MC and Moderators from breakout groups
19.	4:00pm – 5:50pm EAT 3:00pm – 4:50pm CAT 2:00pm – 3:50pm WAT	**Virtual Synchronous Session**	*See Agenda for this session below*
20.	5:50pm - 6:00pm EAT 4:50pm - 5:00pm CAT 3:50pm - 4:00pm WAT	Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer	

DAY 1: VIRTUAL SYNCHRONOUS SESSION

Times Across the Globe:

Wisconsin	8:00am - 10:00am CST
New York	9:00am - 11:00am EST
Nigeria	2:00pm - 4:00pm WAT
Burundi, Beni & Goma DRC	3:00pm – 5:00pm CAT
Uganda, Kenya Somaliland	4:00pm – 6:00pm EAT

Duration	Topic/ Report	Presenter (s)
15 mins	Intro Message	
10 mins	Review Happenings of the University of Kisubi and the Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance	Dr. Frederick Coleman and Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja
10 mins	Presentation from Wisconsin, USA	Dr. Timothy Ehlinger
5-10 mins	Reporting from Nairobi, Kenya	Mr. Peter Durito and Mr. Elijah Munovi
5-10 mins	Reporting from Meru, Kenya	Dr. Karambu Ringera
5-10 mins	Reporting from Eastern Congo	Mr. Noe Kasali
5-10 mins	Reporting From Aro Abeokuta, Nigeria	Mrs. Salako Larry Olawunmi
5-10 mins	Muni University, Arua, Uganda	Dr. Joyce Rebecca Bukirwa
5-10 mins	Reporting from Lira, Uganda	AYINET team
5-10 mins	Reporting from Gulu, Uganda	The Almond Foundation Representative

End of Day 1: Delegates and attendees, we invite you to enjoy the evening and rejuvenate for the next day.

DAY 2: FRIDAY OCTOBER 3rd, 2025

	TIME ZONES	ACTIVITY	PRESENTERS/ RESPONSIBLE PERSONS
21.	8:00am- 8:10am EAT 7:00am - 7:10am CAT 6:00am - 6:10am WAT	Opening Prayers / registration	Prayers shared by various denominations
22.	8:10am – 8:20am EAT 7:10am - 7:20am CAT 6:10am - 6:20am WAT	Official opening Remarks from UNIK	Fr. Zachary Yaya
23.	8:20am – 9:00am EAT 7:20am - 8:00am CAT 6:20am - 7:00am WAT	**Recap of Previous Day** - General recap - Feedback from the breakout rooms on Day 1: Each room has its own representative	Moderated by MC and breakout room secretariats
24.	9:00am - 9:45am EAT 8:00am - 8:45am CAT 7:00am - 7:45am WAT	**Panel Discussion** - *Role of a Family in Promoting Efficient Mental Health Care to Children/ Loved Ones* (10 mins) - *Planetary Flourishing and Mental Health Nexus: Exploring the Connection Between Mental Wellbeing, Practising 'Community of Life' in Uganda, and SDGs* (10 mins) - *AI-Powered Speech Assistance for Autistic Individuals: Evaluating the Efficacy of Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Enhancing Communication* (10 mins) - Discussion (15 mins)	- Kisubi Hospital - Dr. Augustine Kalemeera - Charles Senteza - Moderator

25.	9:45am – 10:45am EAT 8:45am - 9:45am CAT 7:45am - 8:45am WAT	**<u>Panel Discussion</u>** - Minister of Gender presentation (15 mins) - Minister of Health presentation (15 mins) - Minister of Education presentation (15 mins) - 15 mins discussion	- Ms. Lucy Otto, Minister of Gender, Assistant Commissioner of Family Affairs - Dr. Hafsa Lukwata, Head of Division Mental Health, Ministry of Health, Uganda - Mr. Nsamba Saidi, Head of department counseling ministry of education
26.	10:45am - 10:55am EAT 9:45am - 9:55am CAT 8:45am - 8:55am WAT	**Break**	
27.	10:55am - 11:55am EAT 9:55am - 10:55am CAT 8:55am - 9:55am WAT	**<u>Whole Group Discussion:</u>** - *The Human Survival of the African American Family: The Spirit Never Dies* (20 mins) - *Highlights of Humor and Resilience to Sustain Family Life Through Hardships* (20 mins) - *How Families Work Together* (20 mins)	- Mr. Saleem El Amin and Mrs. Olivia El Amin - Sharon Dosset & Kayla Murphy - Representatives from Grandmothers Beyond Borders
28.	12:00pm - 1:00pm EAT 11:00am - 12:00pm CAT 10:00am - 11:00am WAT	- *UniK Counsellors' Association: A Report on Our Work and Milestones 2025*	- Association Representative

29.	1:00pm - 1:50pm EAT 12:00pm - 12:50pm CAT 11:00am - 11:50am WAT	**LUNCH BREAK:** - Indication of areas for prayer - Tables be organized according to 5 subthemes	- Acknowledge hosts: Sisters of Mary Reparatrix - Acknowledge key sponsors
30.	2:00pm – 2:50pm EAT 1:00pm - 1:50pm CAT 12:00pm - 12:50pm WAT	**Group panel discussion** - Further Updates from Site leaders and representatives present at the conference (5-10 mins each)	
31.	2:50pm – 3:50 pm EAT 1:50pm -2:50pm CAT 12:50pm - 1:50pm WAT	**Evaluation together** - Reflections and Dialogue: Learning from the Past, Shaping the Future - Discussion on the notion of family traditions - Gather Suggestions for the coming year's themes	- Moderated open mic discussions with all participants.
32.	4:00pm – 5:30pm EAT 3:00pm - 4:30pm CST 2:00pm - 3:30pm WAT	**Virtual Synchronous Session**	*See Agenda for this session below*

DAY 2: VIRTUAL SYNCHRONOUS SESSION

Times Across the Globe:

Wisconsin	8:00am - 10:00am CST
New York	9:00am - 11:00am EST
Nigeria	2:00pm - 4:00pm WAT
Burundi, Beni & Goma DRC	3:00pm – 5:00pm CAT
Uganda, Kenya Somaliland	4:00pm – 6:00pm EAT

Agenda:

1. **Welcome to Global Audience**
    - Moderation by Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja and the Master of Ceremonies

2. **Site discussions led by Dr. Sebastian along with Assigned MCs**
    - Ensure that sites are heard between 4pm and 5pm

3. **Continued Discussion on Suggestions on the Coming Year's Themes**

4. **Concluding Remarks** (5:30pm – 5:45pm)
    - Led by reflections from Dr. Hafsa (Ministry of Health) if present, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Sebastian, and Dr. Gerald Makumbi.
    - Sharing appreciation for sponsors and donors

5. **Concluding Prayer** (5:45pm – 5:55pm)
    - Led in a communique manner i.e. Christian, Moslem and Buddhist. Note that the task here is to underscore the role of spirituality in our care, across all sectors of life.

End of Day 2: End with a group photo, and possible entertainment, encouraging all to be present

Our Partners

University of Kisubi
unik.ac.ug

The University of Kisubi (UniK) is a private, chartered university owned by the Registered Trustees of the Uganda Brothers of Christian Instruction. Its forerunner, Kisubi Brothers University College (KBUC), was founded on 15th August 2004 when the Brothers signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Uganda Martyrs University to establish Kisubi Brothers Centre of Uganda Martyrs University (KBUMU). On 27th March 2009, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) granted KBUMU constituent college status, renaming it Kisubi Brothers University College (KBUC), a Constituent College of Uganda Martyrs University. On 29th June 2015, NCHE issued an independent operational license under the name University of Kisubi (UniK).

UniK is a private chartered university rooted in Catholic ethos but open to all who qualify for its programs. It is located 24 km from Kampala along the Kampala–Entebbe Highway. Blessed with a conducive learning environment, UniK is committed to remaining a hallmark of quality education in Uganda and the broader East African region.

Vision, Mission, Philosophy and Core Values

The Vision:
A Leading Catholic-Based University Responsive to National and Global Needs.

The Mission:
To Provide Evidence-based Holistic Education for Social Transformation Grounded in the Catholic Ethos.

Philosophy:
The University College attaches great importance to the integral nature and development of the human person. We strive to empower its graduates to be capable of achieving self-realization and to improve the human condition through holistic education and innovation holding on and imparting all such values, acts and knowledge that ennoble the human person.

The Core Values:
UniK's values are practiced by all staff and students as part of the institution's commitment to excellence. Stakeholders are expected to model and uphold these principles: Service, Creativity, Responsibility, Integrity, Professionalism, and Teamwork (SCRIPT), as outlined in the University Charter.

Since 2012, UniK has been home to collaborative conferences on mental health through its Community Counseling Department. Thanks to the early leadership of Ms. Helen Ndagire and Mr. Kizito Muwonge, under the late Rev. Dr. Evarist Ankwasiize, UniK welcomed UBHA's partnership in hosting the inaugural conference. The collaboration has since expanded, and UniK has continued to host co-sponsored mental health conferences from 2014 to 2025. Please see the key leaders of this site who have made these ongoing conferences possible.

Sebastian Family Psychology Practice, LLC
www.sebastianfp.com

Sebastian Family Psychology Practice (SFPP), under the leadership of Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja as CEO and Clinical Director, together with Mrs. Yvonne Ssempijja as Director of Operations, has long held a deep interest in the needs of mental and behavioral health services in Uganda.

From around 1997 through 2008, SFPP actively engaged with various parties in Uganda delivering mental health services, with the aim of building lasting collaborations and partnerships. These relationships led to several workshops and consultations with hospitals, universities, primary and secondary schools, religious institutions, and employers. Together, they explored how psychological awareness can enhance personal wellness and improve productivity.

Through this work, a gap became clear: there was no entity specifically positioned to facilitate broad collaboration across alliances. In response, SFPP founders Sebastian and Yvonne Ssempijja invited close colleagues to help form a new nonprofit—now known as the Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance (UBHA).

UBHA agreed to work closely with SFPP to implement its mission and objectives. This partnership remains strong today, and both organizations continue to build collaborations with additional institutions to further advance this important work in Uganda and across East Africa.

Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance:
www.ubha.org

The Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance, Inc. (UBHA) is a registered non-profit based in the United States, founded in 2009 by a committed group of volunteer board members who continue to provide steadfast support to the mission.

For over 14 years, UBHA has remained dedicated to improving the status and outcomes of health, behavioral health, education, and care, operating solely for charitable and educational purposes. The founding members brought together diverse professional backgrounds to form a uniquely interdisciplinary team, grounded in a shared vision.

UBHA was established on the belief that meaningful change requires collaboration. Today, it continues to build partnerships with individuals, organizations, and institutions who share a commitment to advancing the well-being of communities across Uganda, East Africa, and the broader region.

As a public charity, UBHA draws on the strength of collective relationships and expertise to promote holistic and integrated approaches to care. The Board remains committed to this partnership-driven vision as we plan for 2025 and beyond.

UW-Milwaukee, Master of Sustainable Peace Building:

uwm.edu/nursing/academics/masters/msp/

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding (MSP) program offers a transdisciplinary, systems-based approach and new ways of thinking about "solutions" and "fixes" to the complex pressures on the environment, society, and culture that face our world.

The MSP was created to provide the conceptual foundation and instill the practical skills for engaging complex "wicked" problems with methods for building peace. The program's premise is that healthy and sustainable communities lead to long-term positive change.

The MSP has partnered with Sebastian Family Psychology Practice and UBHA, as well as other entities in Uganda, to help strengthen the alliance between Uganda and Milwaukee—offering support and sharing knowledge related to mental health.

Over the past three years, the MSP has sent master's students to the conference, giving them the opportunity to learn, present, and engage with participants in fostering the mental health and peacebuilding network across East Africa (including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda), regionally and globally.

About our Sites and Leaders:

WISCONSIN, USA



Dr. Sebastian Ssempijja is a licensed psychologist, CEO and clinic director of Sebastian Family Psychology Practice LLC (SFPP), in Glendale, Wisconsin. A graduate of Marquette University, and immigrant from Uganda, he has utilized his trans-cultural education and experiences to treat clients of diverse cultural backgrounds. His interest in ethno-psychology expanded his work from solo practice to co-founding SFPP with Yvonne Ssempijja and managing it with a cross-cultural multidisciplinary team. His deep interest in Global Health issues has propelled pioneering of consultations and conferences aimed to increase awareness on Mental Health needs, especially in reference to Uganda and Eastern Africa.



Mrs. Yvonne Ssempijja is a Certified Public Accountant, MBA, CPA. She is the Director of Operations at Sebastian Family Psychology Practice, LLC and a Co-founder of the Agency. Mrs. Yvonne Ssempijja is a Ugandan American and strongly dedicated to the needs and services of both countries. In that capacity, she has deployed her personal and professional talents, to contribute and participate in the following entities.
She is the Co-Founder of the Grandmother's Beyond Borders (GBB) and currently the Chairperson of the Board. She has been a GBB Board member since the beginning in 2006. Since 2015, she's had the privilege of serving as the GBB Board Chairperson. She is the Founder and Director of Mirembe Words of Wisdom (MWOW). A reading capacity building program with much significance now serving over 9000 students and 40 school in Central parts of Uganda. Both GBB and MWOW programs have community-based care and social and health equity.



Frederick W Coleman, MD. Clinical Faculty, University of Wisconsin Department of Psychiatry. Medical Director of KajSiab House, Hmong Refugee Project 1989-2019. Medical Director Cambodian Temple Project, Cambodian Refugee Project 1989-2019. Participant in 3rd – 13th East African Psychology Conferences in Uganda (for Rift Valley Countries). Member of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health and International Association for the Study of Forced Migration.



Dr. Timothy Ehlinger, Associate Professor and William Collins Kohler Chair of Systems Change and Peacebuilding at the UW-Milwaukee Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding program. His work focuses on the study of risk-response relationships between natural and anthropogenic stressors and understanding their complex impacts on the integrity and resilience of social-ecological systems. He uses a diverse array of methodologies (e.g. risk propagation and artificial neural networks) to examine human-environmental interactions and to explore the implications of policies/interventions on ecosystem services and their effects on environmental health, human well-being and conflict. His current programs are the result of an evolution in his understanding of the importance of human-environmental systems and their role in promoting peace and sustainability.



Lori DiPrete Brown is distinguished teaching faculty and director of Global Health and Human Ecology in the Department of Civil Society and Community Studies in the School of Human Ecology at the UW-Madison Global Health Institute.

DiPrete Brown works at the interface of public health and human ecology to advance quality of life and environmental sustainability worldwide. Her community-engaged teaching, outreach, and scholarship focus on the health and well-being of women and children around the world.

DiPrete Brown is the lead author and editor of Foundations for Global Health Practice, a text that articulates a broad vision of global health that goes beyond health care systems, to include topics such as human rights, global mental health, water and sanitation, food systems, climate change and urban health.

Throughout her career, DiPrete Brown has had the privilege of collaborating with international leaders to strengthen health and social service programs. In Latin America she has lived or worked in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico. In Africa she led capacity-building exchanges in Ethiopia, Cameroon, Malawi, Ghana, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Senegal. She also carried out QI training in India, Nepal, Thailand, and Pakistan. From 2011-2016 she directed UW–Madison's Quality Improvement Leadership Institute, which engaged more than 100 leaders from 24 countries. Many of these leaders have continued collaborations throughout UW–Madison. She enjoys connecting colleagues and students with places that have been part of her life.

UGANDA



Ministry of Health, Uganda
Head of Division of Mental Health

Dr. Hafsa Lukwata Sentogo is a medical doctor (MBChB, Mbarara University of Science and Technology), with a postgraduate diploma in Tropical Medicine from Nagasaki University in Japan and a Master's in Public Health from Makerere University School of Public Health. She currently serves as the Acting Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health and Control of Substance Abuse, Head of the Mental Health Division, and Principal Medical Officer at Uganda's Ministry of Health. She has extensive experience in pediatric care, infectious disease, and public health leadership, with a deep commitment to expanding access to mental health services across Uganda and the East African region.

Kampala, Uganda: University of Kisubi

We are pleased to continue our ongoing partnership with the University of Kisubi for the 2024 conference through the leadership of the following members:

Fr. Yaya Zachary, Head of Department of Psychology at UNIK
Rev. Dr. Nnantamu Jane, Dean of the Community Counseling Programs at UNIK
Mr. Charles Senteza, IT Leader at UniK, and Chair of the 2025 Conference events
Dr. Gerald Makumbi, Retired Medical Practitioner, and Active Mental Health Counselor. He is the original Chair of the Planning Committee for previous Conferences.
Rev. Dr. Augustine Kalemeera, Psychologist, Professor, and Chaplain
Mr. Paul Waluya, Clinical Psychologist
Rev Bro Barigye Vincent, Director of Development and Planning at UNIK

Central Region, Uganda

MIREMBE Words of Wisdom is a community-led initiative promoting literacy, wellness, and resilience in Uganda's Central Region. Through a mobile library, it serves over 10,000 students across 33 schools, nurturing a love for reading and learning.

The program integrates literacy with character development, women's health, nutrition, tree planting, and sports, fostering mental, physical, and environmental well-being. Rooted in self-reliance and sustainability, Mirembe builds strong partnerships with families, schools, and communities to help students thrive.

To Global Mental Health Conference Attendees, Sponsors, and Service Recipients,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mirembe Words of Wisdom, I am pleased to share this message in anticipation of the upcoming Global Mental Health Conference on October 2nd and 3rd, 2025. Since last year's conference, Mirembe Words of Wisdom has continued to grow, adapting our programs while meaningfully engaging communities and our service participants. This year's theme, *Community-Based Participatory Care: Focusing on the Family*, resonates deeply with our mission and vision.

In response to observed gaps in reading access across parts of the country, we launched a literacy program designed to embed reading into early learning, recognizing reading as a fundamental right and essential tool for lifelong knowledge. Over the years, we have proudly served more than 14,000 students across 40 schools in our service regions. Our approach promotes literacy in the broader context of character development, leadership, sports, environmental awareness, and peacebuilding.

Parents have remained key partners in this journey, supporting and guiding our work. Through reading, children better express and reflect on family life, sharing stories of planting trees, growing vegetables, and naming fruits and foods that form the fabric of daily life.

At this conference, we are encouraged to see growing recognition that mental health is nurtured in the home and within family practices. We look forward to the outcomes of this gathering and to continuing our shared work into 2026.

Respectfully yours,
Yvonne Ssempijja, MBA, CPA
Co-Founder and CEO Mirembe Words of Wisdom

Caritas for the Children, USA

Caritas for Children has served children in Uganda for over 18 years, supporting an average of 500 children annually through education and holistic care. Recognizing the importance of mental health, Caritas has partnered with SFPP, UBHA, and others to support children's psychological and emotional well-being. The organization has also promoted literacy programs to strengthen learning and life skills. We thank Mr. Chris Hoar, Mrs. Barbara Hoar, and the entire Caritas team for their dedicated service.

Reflections on Caritas for Children's Activities for CY 2024 and 2025

For close to 20 years, Caritas for Children, USA has partnered with families and communities in Uganda to serve vulnerable children. Over these years, thousands of children have received support through education, child welfare, moral development, and the promotion of a Christ-centered life.

We are grateful for our sponsors and partners who, through Caritas for Children, express their love for Christ by caring for children one at a time and embracing them with compassion and grace.

We congratulate the attendees of the Global Mental Health Conference of 2025 and celebrate its focus on Community-Based Participatory Care and the role of the family. Caritas for Children values family life, through which each child is entitled to a stable, nurturing, and healthy environment.

We encourage all attendees to share their practices from the past year, strengthen their skills, and renew their commitment to the mission. May the outcomes of this year's conference inspire action and growth in CY 2026. We look forward to seeing you again next year as you return to share your work and lessons learned.

Respectfully yours,
Chris Hoar, CEO and Director, On behalf of the Board

Lira, Uganda
African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)

AYINET is a stunning Organization of its own founded by Mr. Victor Ochen, with explicit mission and intent of rehabilitating the community. The AYINET has been involved in providing services of a psychosocial nature along with other Rehabilitative services, following the tragedies related to Kony war. AYINET and UBHA have worked together since 2012 at the launching of the Uganda National Conferences on mental health.

AYINET continues to be involved in ongoing monthly activities of consultation, and support to staff conducted by UBHA and its partners. AYINET has an extensive presence in the Northern part of Uganda in promoting not only mental health but other social services. We are pleased to have AYINET join us again for the ongoing Conferences. We are grateful for its leader, Mr. Victor Ochen, and his willingness to continue to welcome us and enable his staff to join us in this important work from 2012 to present.

Gulu, Uganda
The Almond Foundation

The Almond Foundation is a Charity/Non-Governmental organization formed in 2005 in Gulu. Operating primarily in remote villages of Gulu, Omoro, Nwoya, Amuru & Agago Districts, they Empower mainly rural Women, Children & Youth. They carry out our activities in the fields of social welfare, Poverty eradication, HIV / AIDs care & Counselling, Public Health and Nutrition. We are happy to have the Gulu team join the 2025 conference under the leadership of Adong Zelinda. Thank you, Gulu team for your continued services and collaboration with UBHA and its partners.

Arua, Uganda
Muni University

The Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance along with Sebastian Family Psychology Practice and their partners, are pleased to Welcome the region of Arua and West Nile, Uganda. This relationship grew out of the work led by Nile Care North America, a Non-profit organization, of friends and supporters within the West Nile communities of North America, looking out for the interest of West Nile region in Uganda. Their work has a long history towards improving educational outcomes for the children of the region.

In their effort they also collaborate with other entities on the ground in West Nile. The overlap in interest and service with Sebastian Family Psychology Practice and Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance is motivated by the realization that the people and communities of West Nile have endured a long history of psychological and physical traumatization for a longtime. In this case, this history is tied up with the history of similar suffering for the nation of Uganda and neighboring countries. West Nile is flanked by Western Congo and Southern Sudan, and this region has its unfortunate share of significant negative health outcomes. Along with that, is the crushing burden of economic poverty, loss of hope, the unfortunate disruption in the protective factors of the social fabric of life.

From this context, the West Nile North America organization has collaborated with Sebastian Family Psychology Practice and Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance and other partners in the intent of promoting trauma informed mental health delivery awareness. In 2020, UBHA welcomed Muni University as a partner, under the leadership of the now late Christine Dranzoa, and now led by Prof Simon Anguma Katrini and assisted by Dr. Joyce Bukirwa Rebecca Sessanga, Dean of the Faculty of Education.

We welcome this strong partnership and look forward to a growing relationship and improved understanding of the needs on the ground and the possibilities of our working together.

Kampala, Uganda
The Nachan Project

Gina de la Chesnaye is the Founder and Director of The Nachan Project, which offers mindfulness-based practices for trauma recovery, humanitarian aid, psycho-social support, and human rights advocacy for Karimojong women and children in Kampala, Uganda. She also leads Mindfulness and Trauma Management Trainings for social workers, therapists, doctors, and aid workers across East Africa and the United States, including Care for Caregiver Workshops.

Gina served over a decade as key faculty for The Lineage Project, bringing mindfulness to youth in incarceration and shelter systems. She is the Mindfulness Course Director for the Surgical PA Residency at Yale Medical School / Norwalk Hospital, a core faculty member of Second Response, and teaches weekly meditation through Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science . A martial artist of 20+ years, she teaches San Da, Muay Thai, K1 kickboxing, Western Boxing, yoga, and Qi Gong to communities worldwide.

Gina holds a Harvard Global Mental Health Trauma & Recovery Certificate and a Master of Global Public Health from NYU. She is also a writer, photographer, and MFA graduate of Hunter College, with work exhibited globally, including photo series documenting Sherpa and migrant communities in Nepal and slum communities in Uganda.

Baliko Martin Stuart also known as Matt B is a Ugandan singer, poet, rapper, actor, film producer, book Co- author, song and movie writer, journalist, businessman, street children ambassador, former boxer and an ex-street boy. He currently serves as a director of Amari Uganda, a project founded in 2011, managing director of Lens Code Media Company and a member of The Nachan Project.

He's a Film producer with his first movie known as Crossroads, street children advocate in Kampala, co-author and producer of a Street boy book which is about the life experience of him as a street boy. He works as a media personnel and producer in Nachan project for Vulnerable women in slums, he works as a program advisor for Forum for Acid victims and is also an entrepreneur through his own film company called Lens code Media.

Kampala, Uganda
Alpha Female Empowerment Initiative
The Nachan Project

Tumwesigye Allan Reigns is the founder and social worker at Alpha Female Empowerment Initiative, which works with homeless teenage mothers and street-connected children in Kampala and other underserved communities across Uganda. Through rehabilitation, family reunification, vocational training, income-generating activities, and education sponsorships, the organization empowers young women to support themselves and send their children to school.

Allan is also the field supervisor and lead social worker for NACHAN Uganda, which provides trauma-informed resiliency training and humanitarian aid to women and children in the Katwe slums. He facilitates trainings that help communities regulate trauma, build self-reliance, and care for their children.

In addition, Allan serves as a Sexual Reproductive Health Counselor at Makerere University Hospital, Chairman of the CRANE Network (supporting 40+ NGOs working with street-connected children), and teaches Psychology and HIV/ART Counseling at YMCA Comprehensive Institute in Kampala. He is also a board member of the KCCA OVC Actors Group, overseeing NGO work with vulnerable populations in Kampala. Allan holds a Bachelor's in Social Work and Administration, a Diploma in Sexual and Reproductive Health Counseling, and a Diploma in Guidance and Counseling. He lives in Kampala with his family.

Grandmothers Beyond Borders

Grandmothers Beyond Borders, Uganda

Grandmothers Beyond Borders (GBB) is an all-volunteer organization founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and now based in Uganda. GBB supports grassroots, community-led initiatives that improve the lives of grandmothers raising grandchildren orphaned by HIV/AIDS. For over 17 years, GBB has partnered with local leaders to provide practical aid, grief counseling, traditional healing, and environmental support, reaching over 500 grandmothers and their families across rural communities.

KENYA



Meru, Kenya
International Peace Initiatives (IPI)

Dr Karambu Ringera is the founder and president of International Peace Initiatives (IPI), an organisation that works to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence in the lives of women and children. She has used her extensive academic background and international experience working in many countries to design and implement models of regeneration that inspire wellbeing and flourishing for people, place and planet. Dr. Karambu is a visionary, a pro-activist, a compassionate, committed, formidable force for change, and an inspiration to all who meet her.

About International Peace Initiatives

International Peace Initiatives, an organisation situated in Meru County, Kenya and has been in operation since 2003. IPI is an international nongovernmental organization (INGO) that works to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDs, poverty and violence in the lives of women and children in Kenya. One of IPI's core programs is the Kithoka Amani Children's Home (KACH), a home that supports vulnerable children from various backgrounds. We use 'regeneration' as a metaphor for creating conditions that inspire people to transform their lives.

A message to conference attendees

This year, we are very excited to once again participate in this critical mental health conference. Mental health is an important facet of everyday life. When this facet of our lives is affected by the stress of living, we all need to come together to look for solutions, so that our communities can flourish. When we talk about community-based mental health care, all levels and contextual elements that impact that community must come to play for a holistic approach to mental health care. The intersections, interconnectedness and interdependence of all these elements inform the health or dis-ease within which any eco-system exists. Mental health is not one particular condition or event moving in a linear line; rather, it is a web of interweaving elements that co-create states-of-being. A holistic approach to addressing mental health in Africa is critically needed in our continent today. This conference is a trail-blazer in this regard.



Nairobi, Kenya
Hope Without Borders (HWB)

Peter Durito Baque is a seasoned governance, peacebuilding & development practitioner with eleven years of post-graduate experience in the design, implementation & management of conflict sensitivity programming. He is currently the Country Director of Hope Without Borders, Kenya overseeing the management and implementation of the organization's activities. In collaboration with Sebastian Psychological Family Practice, he has been pivotal in initiating and leading the annual mental health conference in Kenya since 2020. He has also been a lecturer in the department of peace and international studies at Daystar University.

Peter will be leading the Kenya team in the delivery and facilitation of the 2025 Mental Health Conference at Daystar University slotted for October 2-3, 2025 and will join the global team on a zoom meeting for deliberations on lessons learned. Peter is a PhD candidate in International Studies at the University of Nairobi. He holds a Master of Arts in International Conflict Management from the University of Nairobi and a B.A in Community Development from Daystar University.



Hope Without Borders, USA & global

Lance Parve & Julie Parve are the founding directors of Hope Without Borders, USA and global, which is headquartered in Milwaukee, USA. For over 30 years, HWB committed to providing medical aid, clean water, educational support, and economic empowerment to underserved communities in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Their collaboration with the Sebastian Family Psychology Practice began in 2017 notably in their involvement in Mental Health Conferences and building water projects in Kitongo, Uganda respectively. Since 2020, in partnership with SFPP, UBH, and University of Kisubi, HWB Kenya has led an annual mental health conference in Nairobi. They are set to rejoin the 2024 Conference in Nairobi, expanding collaborative efforts to serve the community.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Beni & Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo
Kivu Care, Bethesda Counseling Center

Noé Kasali received his master's degree in counseling from Wheaton College, USA in 2014. He is known for his gifts and training in trauma and grief, in which he works with individuals, families, children, and groups. Noé strives to use existing local resources such as music, songs, prayers, cultural memorialization rituals, and community support to help people cope with grief, pain, and suffering.

This work led him and his wife Bethany to open Bethesda Counseling Center in the city of Beni in 2016. After preparing and empowering his team, Noé and his family moved to the city of Goma in 2022 where he and Bethany launched Kivu Care, a registered non-profit grassroots initiative with the mission of offering the community with mental healthcare support and holistic recovery service to individuals and families struggling with substance abuse addiction. This work led Noé to further his training and he completed a six-month addiction counseling certification training through NACADA-Nairobi in 2023.

In the region, Noé and his team of volunteers have launched five different substance abuse support groups following the 12 steps model, where over 90 adults participate every week. They also provide psychosocial services to children and adults living in camps for internally displaced refugees, leading mental health conferences in schools, and offering first aid psychological care to NGO and organizational frontline workers in Goma.

Currently, Noé and Bethany are involved in plans to launch a detox and rehab clinic, the first detox in the city of Goma and the entire eastern DRC region. In a city of about 2 million people, with refugees arriving almost daily, and years of conflict seemingly unending, the needs for quality mental health care, detox, and psycho-social support in Goma, and eastern DR Congo, are great.

NIGERIA



Abuja, Nigeria
Nigeria Ministry of Health, Department of Mental Health
University of Abuja Teaching Hospital

Dr. Ojo Tunde Masseyferguson is currently the Federal Government Mental Health Chair in Nigeria, and the head of the Department of Mental health at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital. He is a psychiatrist trained at the University Ilorin, with further training at the Medical College in Lagos, Nigeria. He received additional training in global mental health at King's College London and has received an early career psychiatrist award from the World Psychiatric Association.

His interests include the intersection of substance use and mental disorders, family support programs, training of Nigerian psychiatrists, and particularly the integration of traditional healing practices in the context of evidence-based psychiatric models of care. In 2021, Dr. Tunde was asked to serve as the role of coordinator of Mental Health for the Government of Nigeria. He has continued his teaching roles and involvement with UBHA since 2018.



Ogun State, Nigeria
Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro Abeokuta, and Community Mental Health

Mrs. Larry Salako is an Assistant Social Worker at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. She holds master's degrees in Social Work (University of Ibadan) and in Drug and Alcohol Studies (Avogadro University, Italy). For the past 17 years, she has worked in community mental health and the rehabilitation of individuals with mental illness.

She is a member of several mental health organizations, including TUNDE AND FRIENDS, the Center for Better Mental Health (CBMH), and **Hope Restoration and Health Initiative,** where she serves as a community liaison focused on preventing homelessness and supporting mental health recovery.

Mrs. Salako's main areas of interest include the treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration of homeless individuals with mental illness. She is the founder and CEO of Olutunu Health and Human Development Initiative, a registered NGO committed to mental health advocacy and education. She and her team have partnered with UBHA since 2018.

SOMALILAND



Somaliland Ministry of Health, Department of Mental Health
Gabiley Mental Hospital

Dr. Muktar Beshir Ahmed is the National Mental Health Program Coordinator for Somaliland and a psychiatrist trained in Ethiopia and Germany. He has served as a lecturer at Madda Walabu University (Ethiopia) and the University of Hargeisa (Somaliland), teaching psychiatric theory, leading practicums, and supervising research across medicine and health science departments.

He is currently the Director of Gabiley Mental Hospital in Somaliland, where he provides both inpatient and outpatient care as the facility's only mental health specialist.

Somaliland's involvement with UBHA and SFPP emerged through connections with the Somali community in Milwaukee. Since first joining the conference in 2017, Dr. Muktar's leadership has helped expand this partnership across Somaliland and neighboring regions of Ethiopia. His contributions are deeply valued as we work together to support mental health in post-conflict settings.

BURUNDI



Bujumbura, Burundi
Friends Women's Association

Parfaite Ntahuba, an executive board member and assistant clerk of the Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC (Africa Section) and a senior pastor in the Quaker community (in her home country – Burundi, in East-Central Africa). For the last 10 years, she has been the national Coordinator of the Friends Women's Association (FWA) through which she has been leading and advocating for various matters in regards to gender-based violence (GBV) through trauma healing workshops, capacity enhancement of local leaders, and dispute resolution mechanisms among couples, as well as advocating for women's rights in Africa as a member of All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) general committee and in her local community.

Parfaite was contracted to rejuvenate FWA's clinic and move it forward. Since she began, the clinic has moved forward in leaps and bounds with 330 people under Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. In addition to the clinical side of the clinic, Parfaite has spearheaded a program for rape survivors/gender abused women. Another program she initiated for both religious leaders and community elected leaders is the "Action on gender-based violence". Moreover, Parfaite has initiated the extension of Ntaseka clinic facilities to avail the maternity ward and the hospitalisation until its completion.

Since March 2023, Parfaite has been a member of the American Friends Service Committee International Programs' Executive Committee. On October 2, 2024 Parfaite Ntahuba was given an award by Faith to Action Network for promoting gender justice.

We were thrilled to have Parfaite and the team from Burundi join the International East Africa Psychology Conference for the first time in 2023, and now once again in 2024.



Bujumbura, Burundi
Friend's Women's Association

Augustin Harushimana is a Midwife and a Christian based in Burundi. He works with health centers such as Misuhuko Medical Center, where he is responsible for mother-child healthcare in rural areas. Augustin also serves as a midwife and Health Information and Data Communication Officer at the Friends Women's Association. He is the President and Founder of *The Midwife in Action's Association* (Vyara Uheke Burundi) and a member of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).

As an ICM Young Midwife Leader (YML) Alumni (2001-2003), Augustin was honored as a *Youth Trailblazer Awardee* at the 2022 International Conference for Family Planning. His is also the co-coordinator of the Twin to Win Project and he is the Twin to Win project Expert with ICM 2023 – 2024. He is a motivator, a sexual and reproduction conference speaker, a mentor for young midwives, and a peace maker.

Known for his honesty, open-mindedness, and excellent time management, Augustin is a hard worker who is friendly to everybody. He is creative and full of innovation in his daily work, he even manages four languages (English, French, Swahili and Kirundi, his mother tongue). Augustin is committed to contribute his best as a Midwife to promote the well-being of women and children in an isolated village, both in rural and urban areas of Burundi.

Thank you for Participating

For more information, please visit the University of Kisubi Conference Website, and the Uganda Behavioral Health Alliance Website

UniK Conference Website: https://ieapc.unik.ac.ug/
UBHA Website: ubha.org