



# Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda

## *'A pledge for parity and better Maternal health Services'*

Baylor-Uganda is a national leader in the provision of family-centred paediatric and adolescent family-centred HIV/AIDS in Uganda. We join the rest of the world to celebrate International Women's Day by pledging for parity in helping women and girls achieve their ambitions by ensuring that no woman dies while giving birth or due to pregnancy related complications.



Dr. Adeodata Kekitiinwa receives an award from the First Lady Hon. Janet Museveni in recognition of Baylor- Uganda's efforts in improving maternal services in Rwenzori region.

Working with the Ministry of Health with funds from the US Government through Center for Disease Control and Prevention, together with partners including The ELMA Foundation and Every Mother Counts, Baylor-Uganda piloted and is implementing the Saving Mothers Giving Life program in the districts of Kabarole, Kyenjojo and Kamwenge. In three years, there has been marked reduction in maternal deaths by 45%. This is evidence to the fact that it is indeed possible to rid our society of maternal and neonatal mortality.

The Saving Mothers Giving Life program addressed three critical delays that lead to maternal mortality. These are; delay in seeking care, in reaching care and delay in receiving care at the health facility.

In Uganda, 19 women die every day due to pregnancy related illnesses. Such deaths have been attributed to the country's gap of 2000 midwives who are vital in averting these deaths. Over the last 2 years, Baylor-Uganda – through the Supporting and Improving National Training Systems for health workers (S.A.I.N.T.S) program sponsored 1455 midwives to cover these gaps especially in hard-to-reach areas. Other health workers trained include lab technicians, enrolled midwives, laboratory assistants, technicians and scientists, health tutors and clinical mentors. These health workers form the critical mass that

is much needed in guaranteeing the safety of every pregnant woman and her baby.



Graduating Clinical Mentors from Nkozi University

Baylor Uganda also ensures that all babies born are HIV-Free through integrating HIV and maternal health services. We have reached over 20,000 HIV positive pregnant women over the last 5 years thus making a tremendous contribution to the reduction of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV from the nearly 26,000 new HIV infections annually reported in 2011 to less than 9,000 reported in 2015. This has

been mainly as a result of focused emphasis on antenatal care and health facility delivery, in addition to Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) of HIV among exposed children.

Friendly maternal and child health services are critical in ensuring quality services for both pregnant mothers attending antenatal services or those delivering at health facilities. Baylor Uganda has supported infrastructure development especially in refurbishing and equipping maternity wards, establishing special mother baby care points and putting in place state of the art neonatal intensive care units. Such a comprehensive package and maternal friendly services at the health facilities for mothers and their babies goes a long way in ensuring that no woman and their baby dies due to pregnancy related illnesses.



The new state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bukuku HCIV in Kabarole District.