

mnh  
expert  
trainer  
directory

africa region

The Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) Program is committed to saving mothers' lives by increasing the timely use of key maternal and neonatal health and nutrition practices. The MNH Program is jointly implemented by JHPIEGO, the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, the Centre for Development and Population Activities, and the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health.

[www.mnh.jhpiego.org](http://www.mnh.jhpiego.org)

JHPIEGO, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, is a nonprofit corporation working to improve the health of women and families throughout the world.

[www.jhpiego.org](http://www.jhpiego.org)

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## **Dear Colleague:**

The Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) Program is pleased to share with you this directory of expert trainers in maternal and newborn healthcare for the Africa region. These individuals have demonstrated their dedication to assuming this role by actively participating in a series of development activities (described below) over a 10–12 month period. As a result of this training, they are now able to:

- Advocate for changes in maternal and newborn healthcare practices
- Articulate the evidence basis for such changes
- Teach at the preservice level and train at the inservice level
- Provide leadership in an institution, country and region to improve maternal and newborn healthcare

This is an extraordinary group of healthcare experts and trainers. We encourage you to call upon them as you address the healthcare needs of mothers and newborns in your country or region. Contact information for these trainers is included so that you may communicate directly with them. Should you desire more information, please do not hesitate to contact the MNH Program, either through our Baltimore office or one of our country offices. Contact information for these offices is given on pages 25–28.

### **Objectives of Expert Development**

Since its inception, the MNH Program has received requests from many national organizations and international agencies for assistance in establishing maternal and newborn healthcare projects and services. In order to develop a sustainable regional capacity to meet this need, the Program designed a strategy to establish a core group of MNH experts and trainers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The development process has several phases. First, the experts receive an update in evidence-based maternal and newborn healthcare practices and standardization of their clinical skills. Then, they are coached in clinical training and leadership skills. As part of the expert development training, the experts commit to an action plan to change selected maternal and newborn healthcare practices at their respective institutions.

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The individuals in this directory were selected to participate in the expert development process because they met the following criteria:

- Mid-career midwives or physicians
- Clinically proficient in providing maternal and newborn health services
- Currently active in clinical work
- Committed to remaining in clinical practice
- Involved in inservice training or a preservice education system
- Able and motivated to do self-paced, independent learning
- Recognized as, or have the potential to be, leaders in the field of maternal and newborn care

The development process comprised the following activities:

- A 1-week **MNH Technical Update** that included presentations and discussion on normal childbirth and management of complications. Participants had the opportunity to examine and discuss the evidence for suggested changes in MNH practices.
- A 2-week **Basic MNH Clinical Skills Standardization**, that was very practical, hands-on clinical experience covering normal childbirth and nonsurgical management of complications. Participants worked in clinical service areas.
- **Followup visits in their worksites to assess ongoing development and implementation of strengthened clinical skills.** The objectives of the visit included:
  - assessment of the participants' ongoing skill development;
  - assessment and support in implementing their individualized action plan detailing changes to be made in the worksite; and
  - strengthening of skills in areas that need improvement.
- A 2-week **MNH Clinical Training Skills Course**, during which the participants learned how to effectively transfer their updated knowledge and clinical skills to other clinicians using a competency-based training approach.

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- **MNH Clinical Training Skills practica** in which the participants conducted a knowledge update and/or clinical skills standardization for healthcare providers in their own institution or country, with the assistance of an experienced trainer.
  - A 1-week **Advanced Training Skills Course** designed to develop more effective skills for teaching problem solving and clinical decision-making as well as the skills needed to train new trainers. A change leadership component was also included to further prepare the participants for their role as change agents.

Each of these activities was conducted using learning packages developed by JHPIEGO that embody international standards of clinical practice and competency-based training. These packages include *Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth*, which was developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization; draft sections of *Basic Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth*, which is currently under development; *Clinical Training Skills for Reproductive Health Professionals*, second edition; and *Advanced Training Skills for Reproductive Health Professionals*. Should these be of use to you in your programs, they are available from JHPIEGO.

JHPIEGO is enthusiastic about the contribution that these experts will make to improving maternal and newborn health globally. Their expertise promises to advance training and leadership in making pregnancy safer throughout the region. We wish you success in your endeavors and look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

Judith Robb-McCord  
Director, Maternal and Neonatal Health Program



# André Jules Bazié

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**André Jules Bazié**, MD, is an obstetrician/gynecologist with 20 years of experience in the field of reproductive health. He heads the Obstetrics/Gynecology Department of Centre Hospitalier National Sanou Souro in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. He trains physicians in emergency surgery, as well as medical students in their preservice courses, and is also a trainer in family planning and postabortion care at the national and regional levels.



Jules received his training at the University of Dakar, Senegal, the University of Togo and the University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. In addition to his work in Burkina Faso, he has played a key role in implementing postabortion care programs in Guinea, Haiti and Senegal, and successfully led needs assessments and infection prevention training activities for JHPIEGO at two Haitian hospitals. Jules is a member of the Society of Burkinabé Gynecologists and Obstetricians.

## contact information

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## Blami Dao

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**Blami Dao, MD**, is an obstetrician and gynecologist and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. He has 12 years of experience as a healthcare provider, trainer and supervisor. For the SAREDO Project in Burkina Faso, Blami designed and implemented a two-phase training program comprising a knowledge update for all 51 health workers in the Houndé district and a skills standardization for 30 healthcare providers from the district

maternities. The training content was based on the Burkina Faso Guidelines in Reproductive Health. As the General Secretary of the Network for Research in Reproductive Health in Francophone Africa, he has met or worked with most of the key individuals in reproductive health in Francophone Africa.

Blami received his medical training at the University of Dakar, Senegal. He was a Fellow-in-Residence at the Center for Biomedical Research at the Population Council in New York, and also studied at Johns Hopkins and Columbia Universities and in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He has worked with Family Health International, the German Technical/Development Assistance Organization, JHPIEGO, the Population Council and the World Health Organization. His main areas of interest are maternal and neonatal health, family planning, adolescent reproductive health and cervical cancer prevention. Fluent in both French and English, Blami is a valuable training resource across regions.

### contact information

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# Sylvia Deganus

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**Sylvia Deganus**, MBChB, MSc, FWACS, is an obstetrician/gynecologist and public health physician with 13 years of experience in Safe Motherhood and other women's health issues. Currently, she is the head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology unit of the Tema General Hospital in Ghana. She is a national reproductive health master trainer for the Ministry of Health, and has assisted in the development of



numerous Safe Motherhood policy documents, service delivery guidelines, and training materials and models. She has facilitated training of various categories of health personnel in reproductive healthcare.

A keen researcher, Sylvia has conducted studies into aspects of maternal morbidity (postpartum and post-cesarean section morbidity) and has managed or participated in other studies on cervical cancer prevention and family planning. She is a member of the editorial review committee of the African Journal of Reproductive Health. As a member of a World Health Organization Technical Group, she assisted in the preparation of guidelines for maternal and child health at the district level. A tireless advocate for quality maternal and neonatal care, Sylvia is now eager to share her skills with colleagues in other countries.

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## Serra Chanachi

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**Serra Chanachi** is a Malawian registered nurse-midwife with 13 years of experience in reproductive health, maternal and child care, and primary care. She has worked with the Ministry of Health since qualifying as a nurse-midwife. As sister-in-charge of the Maternity Department at Thyolo District Hospital, she was responsible for helping to ensure that the best quality of maternity care was provided at the hospital. Serra assisted women with antenatal care,

in labor and childbirth, and during the postpartum period, and also provided newborn care. Serra is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Advanced Midwifery.

In addition to her responsibilities as a healthcare provider and manager, Serra conducts Safe Motherhood training activities for healthcare providers, and has served as coordinator for all Safe Motherhood activities in the Thyolo District. An example of the breadth of her knowledge and experience was her participation in the development of a life-saving skills training manual.

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# Mary Jonazi

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**Mary Jonazi** is a registered nurse midwife with 20 years of experience in maternal and neonatal healthcare. She works as a nursing supervisor, healthcare provider and clinical trainer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. She has attended training events in Israel, Kenya, the Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as



Malawi. She has been trained at the national level as a trainer of trainers for Safe Motherhood, infant feeding and HIV/AIDS counseling, maternal and child health and community services, and infection prevention.

One of Mary's most important attributes is her versatility. She has been active in the Malawi Nurses and Midwives Council, serving as an investigator for final examinations for nurse-midwives, and as an Examiner and Moderator for final examinations for student midwives. She was a member of the national research team for a study of factors contributing to maternal mortality in hospitals. She is also a National Assessor for the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, and was acting project manager for the Safe Motherhood Project for 1 year.

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## Esau Munthali

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**Esau Munthali**, Dip Clin Med, has 16 years of professional experience. Since 1991, he has been a Senior Clinical Officer with the Ministry of Health in Lilongwe, Malawi. As the in-charge of the Maternity Department at Nkhota Nota Hospital, he oversees the day-to-day running of the department and is responsible for the management of complicated obstetric emergencies. He also coordinates inservice training at the hospital and is a trainer in

syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections. He is recognized as a highly skilled teacher and coach of student mid-wives during their district attachments.

Esau received his diploma in clinical medicine from the Malawi College for Health Sciences. He previously worked as coordinator of a District Child Lung Health program and headed the Maternal Death Audit Team at Thyolo District Hospital.

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# Kezia M.S. Kapesa

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**Kezia M.S. Kapesa**, RNM, DHPE, is a nurse-midwife and clinical trainer with 12 years of training experience in child health, family planning, and reproductive and maternal health. She has also worked as a clinic manager and been involved in primary healthcare at the community level. Her recent projects have included a Depo-Provera study in Tanzania conducted by the U.K. Department for International Development, a project evaluation addressing HIV/AIDS, and a needs assessment of private midwives in Tanzania and Uganda. She has also worked as a coordinator for CARE/Tanzania on a project focusing on private midwives.



Kezia was instrumental in forming a midwives' professional association, known today as the Private Nurse/Midwives Association of Tanzania (PRINMAT). She now works as a private midwife in Dar es Salaam, while also serving as the General Secretary to PRINMAT. An important resource to the Association, she conducts PRINMAT's training, helps the Board prepare its annual workplans, designs projects and develops proposals. Kezia also participates in a number of Ministry of Health activities, including development of national standards for Safe Motherhood initiatives.

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# Godfrey M. Mbaruku

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**Godfrey M. Mbaruku**, MD, MMed, is a physician with 20 years of experience, 13 as an obstetrician/gynecologist. He is currently the senior obstetrician at the regional hospital in Maweri, Kigoma, Tanzania, and also the regional medical officer there. In this capacity, he oversees the healthcare provision of the whole region, including curative and public health services, supervision of district health services, staff management and maintenance of standards. He is also in charge of all obstetric and gynecologic

services in the region and is a tutor at the adjunct clinical officers' and the Western zone continuing education centers.

Godfrey received most of his training at the University of Dar es Salaam. He has worked in the fields of reproductive health, maternal and neonatal health, primary care and management of health services. As both a clinician and trainer, he has played a key collaborative role with a number of local and international organizations in project development, teaching, monitoring and evaluation. As part of these efforts, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of local populations, as well as a huge number of refugees from neighboring countries. Godfrey is currently participating in several studies of maternal and neonatal health in low-resource settings.

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# Mildred Kabasonga

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**Mildred Kabasonga**, RN, RM, is a nurse midwife with 12 years of clinical preceptorship experience. She has also worked as a healthcare provider, trainer in life-saving skills for Safe Motherhood, Uganda, and trainer in adolescent reproductive health for the Uganda Ministry of Health. She is a member of the community outreach programs for Safe Motherhood and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mulago Hospital.



Mildred serves as a knowledgeable and skilled resource for both the Safe Motherhood and Ministry of Health (Reproductive Health Division) programs in Uganda. She also participated in the review of the training package for midwifery schools in Uganda. Working closely with her Mulago Hospital colleague Prossy Namatovu (see page 17), Mildred has been an effective change agent for the use of the partograph and the active management of the third stage of labor. In her primary position as a nursing officer in-charge of a maternity ward at Mulago Hospital/Teaching Hospital, she is a dedicated teacher and mentor of both midwifery and medical students.

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# Alice K. Mutungi

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**Alice K. Mutungi**, MBChB, MMed (Obs/Gyn), MSc (Reprod Biol), is an obstetrician/gynecologist and reproductive biologist with a special interest in gender issues. She has 10 years of experience in reproductive healthcare, training and advocacy. As Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) Advisor at the Regional Centre for Quality of Health Care, Uganda, she helps develop strategies and systems for strengthening the quality of MNH care in the Africa region,

participates in policy activities and works to standardize the way services are delivered. She also provides technical assistance in MNH to governments, nongovernmental organizations and collaborating agencies in the region.

One of Alice's strengths is her versatility. She has worked as a medical officer with the Ministry of Health/Kenya, providing clinical care and administrative services; as a consultant obstetrician/gynecologist at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya; as a lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Kenya; and as a trainer, consultant and advocate for high quality sexual and reproductive health with a number of local and international organizations.

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# Prossy Namatovu

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**Prossy Namatovu**, RM, is a midwife with 6 years of experience as a labor ward midwife and clinical preceptor for nursing and midwifery students. She is currently employed at Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Uganda. She has participated in knowledge updates for the midwifery tutors and evaluation of the midwives trained as part of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics “Save the Mothers Fund.” In



March 2001, Prossy attended the Africa Regional Mid-Triennium Conference of the International Confederation of Midwives in Harare, Zimbabwe. More recently, she cotrained in a skills standardization course for tutors, clinical instructors and preceptors at Jinja hospital, and participated in a midwifery leadership and advocacy workshop in Ghana.

In collaboration with her colleague Mildred Kabasonga (see page 15), Prossy has been a successful change agent for the use of the partograph and the active management of the third stage of labor, using oxytocin, for every mother in her unit. She has shown a strong commitment to using every opportunity to transfer and demonstrate maternal and neonatal health knowledge and skills to fellow staff, student midwives and medical students.

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# Pius Okong

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**Pius Okong**, MBChB, Dip Obs, MMed, has 21 years of clinical experience, including 15 years as an obstetrician and gynecologist. He has worked internationally for 12 years, primarily in East Africa. He is a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist in the Ministry of Health, and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya in Kampala, Uganda. Overseeing an obstetrics/gynecology department that assists 5,500 births

annually, he has responsibilities in delivery of clinical services, community outreach, research, training and supervision. He is an important resource for maternal and neonatal healthcare, life-saving skills and reproductive health training throughout the region.

Pius has had five articles published in international journals and has contributed to other publications, including *Life Saving Skills* modules (Uganda), *AIDS Care* (Uganda), *Family Health Care Manual – Uganda, Guidelines and MNH Protocols – Uganda* and *Postpartum Care* by the World Health Organization (WHO). He has been a consultant to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the International Confederation of Midwives, the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, JHPIEGO, MotherCare, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and WHO. Pius is currently studying for his PhD through an extension program of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

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# Wasswa G. M. Ssalongo

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**Wasswa G. M. Ssalongo**, MBChB, MMed (Ob/Gyn), is a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist with 17 years of clinical experience. He heads the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. At the University, he pioneered the Master of Medicine course in Integrated Medicine, was instrumental in developing the course curriculum and is currently working on developing another curriculum for the Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He also serves on the curriculum review committee of the faculty of medicine.



Wasswa was the founding Medical Superintendent of the University Teaching Hospital and is still the lead clinical trainer of students and interns there. He has been an honorary lecturer in the national nurse tutors' college and an examiner for the national Nurse-Midwife Council. He took an important role in the national program for voluntary surgical contraception and was a leader of one of the regional supervisory teams. He also played an active role in the national quality assurance training workshops. He is currently working on development of the national internship package for Obstetrics and Gynecology. Wasswa represents a valuable healthcare training resource for his district and the entire country.

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# Theresa S. Kafula

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**Theresa S. Kafula**, MBChB, MRCOG, is an obstetrician/gynecologist and clinical trainer with 9 years of experience in reproductive healthcare. As a junior obstetrician and gynecologist she worked in the United Kingdom, but most of her experience has been in Zambia. She is currently a senior consultant and Acting Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka. In this position, she carries out classroom and bedside

teaching of undergraduate, postgraduate and midwifery students. She also has supervisory and administrative responsibilities.

Theresa has conducted a number of workshops and inservice training activities in reproductive health. She has also been actively involved in strengthening the Zambia midwifery curriculum, which is now being implemented. As a JHPIEGO clinical trainer, she has successfully completed two short-term consultancies with USAID. In addition, she successfully coordinated the Norplant implants and AVSC (now EngenderHealth) family planning programs in Zambia. As an expert clinician and trainer, she assists in the planning, implementation and evaluation of national reproductive and maternal and neonatal health programs.

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# Velepi C. Mtonga

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**Velepi C. Mtonga**, BSChB, MBChB, MMed (Ob/Gyn), is a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist with 7 years of experience in providing clinical care in emergency, inpatient, outpatient and elective obstetrical and gynecological care at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. In this capacity, she supervises healthcare providers and participates in reproductive health outreach activities. As an honorary lecturer at the University of Zambia School of Medicine, she teaches and supervises undergraduate medical and postgraduate students.



Velepi is the national coordinator of the expansion of Zambia's postabortion care (PAC) program, and has extensive experience in providing PAC services to clients. She plans and conducts PAC training activities, oversees the organization of PAC training centers and works diligently toward the goal of establishing high quality PAC services throughout the country. She recently initiated PAC on-the-job training in three tertiary hospitals in Zambia. Velepi has also participated in evaluation of two Safe Motherhood programs: in 2000, an evaluation in three rural districts of Ndola, Zambia, implemented by UNICEF/IRISH AID; and in 1999, an ex-post evaluation of maternity services in Lusaka's urban health centers, implemented by IRISH AID.

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## Maureen M. Mzumara

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**Maureen M. Mzumara**, RN, RM, is a registered nurse-midwife with 21 years of clinical experience at University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka. She works with Linkages/Zambia at the Ndola Demonstration Project, which integrates counseling for infant feeding and HIV/AIDS into maternal and neonatal health and community services.

Maureen has played a very important role in Zambia's national health programs by facilitating the training of healthcare providers in reproductive health and lactation management in a number of districts. She has had extensive training in counseling for breastfeeding, HIV and infant feeding, and earned a certificate in lactation management at the University of London. In addition to her clinical and training activities, Maureen serves as a national assessor in the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and has chaired the Breast Feeding Association of Zambia.

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# Rhoda M. Nthani

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**Rhoda M. Nthani**, RN, RM, DNE, BSN, is a registered midwife and tutor with more than 18 years of experience in clinical practice, teaching and administration. As a midwifery tutor, Rhoda has worked in both the classroom and clinical arenas to prepare midwifery students in the areas of community health, antenatal care, intrapartum care and postpartum care, including neonatal intensive care.



Rhoda received her education at the University of Eastern Africa, Kenya, the University of Zambia and Lusaka School of Nursing at University Teaching Hospital, Zambia. Until December 2000, Rhoda worked with the General Nursing Council of Zambia (GNC) as Coordinator for Qualifying Examinations to license nurses and midwives in Zambia, including those trained outside the country. She played an important role with the GNC by working closely with JHPIEGO to plan, coordinate and implement MNH Program activities in Zambia. Rhoda has recently moved to Zimbabwe. She is currently studying for her MPH through an extension program of Loma Linda University in California, USA.

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