

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2022:

The Importance of Rehabilitation and Reintegration in Holistic Fistula Care



Event Agenda & Speaker Biographies

Event Agenda

	Topic	Speaker
1	Introduction & Welcome Address	Renae Stafford & Traci L. Baird
2	Goodwill Messages from USAID & UNFPA	Erin Mielke & Bridget Asiamah
3	Recognition of Country Participants	Iyeme Efem
4	Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation	Jessica L. McKinney
5	Social Immersion	Moustapha Diallo
6	Economic Empowerment	Brenda Msangi
7	Counseling & Follow-Up for Community-Based Prevention of Fistula Recurrence	Oluwayemisi Obashoro-John
8	Safe Motherhood Ambassadors: Personal Experience	Meselech Seyoum
9	Commentary: Implications for MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning & Obstetrics	Vandana Tripathi
10	Questions & Answers	Renae Stafford
11	Rehabilitation & Reintegration Working Group in the Global Fistula Community of Practice	Iyeme Efem
12	Thanks & Closing	Renae Stafford

Thursday, May 19, 2022
8:00 to 10:00 AM EDT
12:00 to 2:00 PM GMT



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Speaker Biographies (listed alphabetically)



Alima Aba Milki, Healing Hands of Joy

Alima Aba Milki is a safe motherhood ambassador graduate of Healing Hands of Joy's first round of training at the new Jimma center. She lived with obstetric fistula for 25 years before she came to Healing Hands of Joy. Like many fellow safe motherhood ambassadors, Alima developed fistula after prolonged labor at home. Three days after her graduation, she organized a speaking engagement to share her testimony. Nearly 300 women came to hear her speak about her experience with fistula and to learn about the causes of this condition.



Bridget Asiamah, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Bridget Asiamah joined UNFPA headquarters in 2017 and is currently the acting lead of UNFPA's global fistula program and a technical analyst. She is a health development professional and a women's rights advocate. Bridget previously led the obstetric fistula and humanitarian assistance programs in UNFPA Ghana. She has played a significant role in supporting countries to develop and implement rights-based programs to end fistula through evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogues with governments and strategic partners. She has contributed to global efforts to restore the dignity of fistula survivors. She has been instrumental in developing national policies and strategies, global guidance, and UN reports and resolutions on obstetric fistula. Bridget holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a masters in environmental sciences. She says, "The joy I see on the face of a repaired fistula survivor, coupled with even more joy and confidence when she receives the social reintegration that she needs, gives me satisfaction and a push to do more towards ending fistula."



Traci L. Baird, EngenderHealth

Traci L. Baird, an experienced leader in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, joined EngenderHealth in October 2018 as President and CEO. She brings proven leadership experience, from having served as the CEO of SHIFT NC, a nonprofit adolescent and young adult sexual health organization working across North Carolina, prior to joining EngenderHealth, and before that as the Executive Vice President of Programs for Ipas, a global reproductive health organization, where she worked for more than 20 years. She also brings proven global health technical expertise and has published articles in multiple public health and medical journals. Traci earned a master of public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor of arts in human biology with a concentration in women's health from Stanford University.



Moustapha Diallo, Consultant

Moustapha Diallo is a seasoned manager whose experience cuts across many fields of endeavors. He started his management career in bauxite mining before joining USAID/Guinea where he worked on human capacity development. He then moved to EngenderHealth where he led the Guinea country team in implementing reproductive health interventions, including the social immersion program for women recovering from fistula. Moustapha earned a master of business administration from the University of Louvain and is currently a management consultant in Guinea.



Iyeme Efem, EngenderHealth

Iyeme Efem is a public health professional, a social worker, and a one-time aviator. Currently, he is EngenderHealth's Senior Global Fistula Manager on the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics project, where he provides obstetric fistula program support. He was formally the Country Project Manager for the USAID/Fistula Care and USAID/Fistula Care Plus projects in Nigeria, where he initiated the mainstreaming of fistula activities in the routine healthcare delivery system in the country. He also led a health supply chain project in Nigeria, which constructed two pharma-grade turnkey warehouses. He has over 30 years of health program management experience across seven countries in Africa and regional interventions in the US. His experience spans maternal, newborn, and child health; family planning and sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, nutrition, advocacy/policy, system strengthening, and sustainable change initiatives. He is a trainer in social works, behavior change communications, and system strengthening strategies.



Jessica L. McKinney, MAMA LLC

Jessica L. McKinney, PT, DScPT, MS has over 20 years of experience as a women's healthcare provider/physical therapist, educator, and advocate with current roles as vice president at Renovia, Inc., adjunct faculty at Andrews University, and global/community women's health consultant with Mama, LLC. Her career has included over 10 years as faculty in a female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery (urogynecology) fellowship program and mentorship of physical therapy students and early-career professionals. Recent relevant work includes peer-reviewed manuscripts addressing female urinary incontinence and pelvic fistula and co-authorship of an open-access training manual on physiotherapy care for reproductive morbidities in low-resource settings, available in English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili.



Erin Mielke, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Erin Mielke is a senior family planning and reproductive health advisor in USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health where she leads the Integrated Service Delivery Team. Since 2007, she has provided technical and management support for USAID's work in family planning service delivery; fistula prevention, treatment, and reintegration; postabortion care; and for USAID/Tanzania's health portfolio. She is the alternate agreement officer's representative for MOMENTUM country and global leadership and a technical advisor to the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics and Research for Scalable Solutions projects. Erin previously spent 10 years at EngenderHealth, leading programs in quality improvement and in Latin America and the Caribbean. She has a master of public health and over 25 years of experience in design, implementation, management, and evaluation of family planning and maternal health programs. She has more than two years of field residence in East Africa and Central America. Erin is recognized for commitment and contribution to quality improvement in clinical reproductive health services, and for mentorship of young professionals.



Brenda Msangi, Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania

Brenda Msangi is the CEO of Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT), a healthcare organization with a vision to empower people with disabilities and ensure access to medical and rehabilitative services. She is a skilled strategic leader with over 15 years' experience in the UK and Tanzania. Brenda sits on different boards and is a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. She is a TEDx speaker and frequent public speaker on national and international stages and is widely known for her inspiring writings. She is the founder of an online mentorship platform and is a long-time mentor of business leaders and aspiring leaders. Brenda has dedicated her journey to bringing along a girl child aiming at coaching them to discover their full potential.



Oluwayemisi Obashoro-John, Institute of Social Work of Nigeria

Oluwayemisi Obashoro-John is an adult education professor at the University of Lagos, Lagos-Nigeria. She holds a bachelors degree from the University of Ife (Obafemi Awolowo University) and masters and doctoral degrees in adult education from the University of Lagos. Her areas of specialization and experience include aging, program evaluation, and language studies. She has served as an advisory board member for the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (2012) and the president/chairman-in-council (2014 to 2016) and fellow for the Institute of Strategic Management, Nigeria. She is currently a fellow and the national president/chairman-in-council at the Institute of Social Work of Nigeria and a board member for the International Society for Comparative Adult Education.



Meselech Seyoum, Healing Hands of Joy

Meselech Seyoum has a master's degree in transformational leadership and change and a bachelor's degree in nursing. She worked in non-governmental organizations for over 25 years. Her areas of experience include preventive health, emergency relief programs, water supply, sanitation and hygiene, and fundraising and communications. Before she joined Healing Hands of Joy in 2016, Meselech worked as the Director of Strategic Support and a member of the senior leadership for Water Aid for eight years.



Renae Stafford, EngenderHealth

Renae Stafford is a surgeon and epidemiologist with over 11 years of experience in the delivery of high-quality maternal and child health services and programs, primarily in Africa. She currently serves as EngenderHealth's Technical Director and Deputy Director for the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics Project, working closely with the Project Director and Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning and country teams, providing overall technical, clinical, and operational leadership and oversight of project strategies and results. Renae is an expert in maternal and child health education and service delivery, health system strengthening, and health workforce development. She has extensive experience designing, managing, implementing, and providing technical assistance to global maternal and child health and reproductive health programs. Prior to joining EngenderHealth, Renae co-designed and implemented the flagship USAID Treat and Train Program in Tanzania and designed and helped implement the USAID-funded Mobilizing Maternal Health Program (now MMAMA) in Tanzania, providing technical input into all clinical and academic programs and partnerships and business development. She has served on the UNC School of Medicine and Medical College of Wisconsin faculty. She earned a medical doctorate at Emory University, a master's degree in healthcare quality and patient safety from Northwestern University, and a master of public health from the University of Minnesota. She has published over 12 peer-reviewed scientific papers on a wide range of clinical and programmatic maternal and child health and safe surgery issues.



Vandana Tripathi, EngenderHealth

Vandana Tripathi is EngenderHealth's Project Director for the USAID-funded MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics program and previously served as the director for its predecessor Fistula Care Plus program. She brings demonstrated expertise and more than 20 years of experience in the fields of maternal and obstetric care (including fistula prevention, care, and treatment) and sexual and reproductive health. Vandana earned a doctor of philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and a master of public health in maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.