



Progress Report on the ECSACOG Training Programme in Uganda as of 14th September 2026

About ECSACOG

The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ECSACOG) is a collegiate training institution with a mandate to train specialist obstetricians and gynecologists within the East, Central and Southern Africa. It incorporates the East, Central and Southern Africa association of Gynecological Societies. It is an affiliate College of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Health Sciences.

ECSACOG was established on 27th September 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda following the resolution of the ECSA Health Community Conference of Health Ministers to localize the training of health specialists in the region. ECSACOG aims at building regional capacity for obstetrics and gynecology workforce, improve the quality of care and increase number of well-trained health professionals to serve the population in need of specialized reproductive and sexual health care including CAC and contraception services.

ECSACOG currently operates in twelve (12) countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region including: Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Lesotho, and Eswatini.

The ECSACOG headquarters is at the ECSA Health Community, Olorien Road Njiriro, Arusha, Tanzania.

Vision

To be a reference body for reproductive, maternal, newborn health (RMNH) in the region of East, Central and Southern Africa and beyond.

Mission

To be a lead organization for clinical excellence in reproductive health in the region of East, Central and Southern Africa and beyond, and a platform for shared experiences and skills transfer.

ECSACOG Membership from Uganda

ECSACOG has 112 registered members out of which only about 30 members have been paying their subscription in the past 3 years to date.

Membership Fees:

- Membership/Fellowship by Election Registration: USD 300
- Annual Subscription Fee: USD 100

ECSACOG Training Programme

ECSACOG offers a four-year membership training programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Admission to the programme is open to all qualified, registered Medical Doctors who fulfil the requisite professional requirements. Call for applications to join the 4-year training program opens in **November** of every year and closes around end of May, the following year. The academic year commences in September every year. Interested and qualified medical doctors can apply to join the programme via <https://academy.ecsacog.org/register> .

In Uganda, we've had four (4) intakes so far since 2023.

Brief Timeline of ECSACOG Training Programme:

Time	Activity
September - August	Academic Year
November - May	Call for applications
January	CAT 1 (60 MCQs done online for 95 minutes)
May	CAT 2 (60 MCQs done online for 95 minutes)
June - July	Online interviews for new applicants
April - September	ECSACOG Trainees Exchange Program Schedule at St Paul's Hospital Millenium Medical College, Addis Ababa. For all Year 2 trainees.
August	End of Year Exam (all Year 1 trainees in Uganda converge at one Training site and are examined)

Lectures are also conducted online on a weekly basis via Zoom. Each trainee is tasked to at least present 1 topic during the semester. Selected Country trainers act as the mentors during that presentation.

[ECSACOG Curriculum](https://ecsacog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Membership-Training-Curriculum.pdf) is found here: <https://ecsacog.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Membership-Training-Curriculum.pdf>

ECSACOG has implemented a new and more secure ECSACOG Examination Platform (**USEP**), which automatically records attendance from residents, and tracks the entire examination session through biometric verification. This system was first used in CAT 2, on 29/05/2026.

ECSACOG's structure in Uganda:

Country Representatives:

1. Dr. Susan Atuhairwe
2. Dr. Peter Ntuyo

Country Coordinator: Muyinda Samuel Grace

Program Directors:

- Gulu Regional Referral Hospital – Dr. Baifa Arwinyo (was transferred to Mbale RRH)
- Lubaga Hospital – Dr. Mundaka John
- Mbale Regional Referral Hospital – Dr. Assen Kamwesigye
- Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital – Dr. Kato Kalyebara Paul
- Mengo Hospital – Dr. Moses Nassim
- Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal Hospital – Dr. Peter Ntuyo (to be replaced)
- St. Mary's Hospital Lacor – Dr. Ojara Sande

Master Trainers (Trainers of Trainers) in Uganda:

1. Prof. Justus Barageine
2. Sr. Dr. Priscilla Busingye
3. Dr. Othiniel Musana
4. Dr. Peter Ntuyo

Trainers:

Uganda currently has over 20 Trainers distributed across the 6 training sites. See list of Trainers here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SKtiAqtAXw8h6JUuNhnd59lj8FqyzF2w/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112090843415849558380&rtpof=true&sd=true> .

Note that it's a requirement by ECSACOG that the Country Representatives, Program Directors and Trainers should be Fellows of ECSACOG.

Training Sites:

In Uganda, we currently have six (6) accredited training sites and other two (2) in the pipeline, yet to be accredited by the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council (UMDPC).

Below is a table of showing the Training sites and their corresponding number of trainees.

	Number of Active Trainees as of 9/Sept/2026				
Training Facility	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total of Trainees per training site
Mbale Regional Referral Hospital	0	2	2	1	5
Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital	0	0	1	0	1
Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal Hospital	2	2	2	3	9
St. Mary's Hospital Lacor	0	1	0	0	1
Mengo Hospital	2	0	0	0	2
Lubaga Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	4	5	5	4	18

The UMDPC allows a limited maximum number of trainees that the college can admit per training site per academic year as indicated in the following table:

Training Site	Permitted No. of admissions per year
Lubaga Hospital	2
Mbale Regional Referral Hospital	2
Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital	2
Mengo Hospital	2
Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal Hospital	3
St. Mary's Hospital Lacor	2

For the accreditation of new training sites/hospitals, the **Uganda Medical Practitioners and Dental Practitioners Council (UMDPC)** requires the following:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between ECSACOG and the proposed Training Sites
2. Appointment letters for the trainers/lecturers by ECSACOG
3. Acceptance of appointment by the Trainers/Lecturers
4. Head Count of the above trainers/lecturers hence they MUST be physically present
5. The approved Curriculum for training of Obs/Gyn Fellows by ECSACOG

The team from UMDPC inspects the suitability and readiness of the health facilities to support the establishment and implementation of the ECSACOG Fellowship. The council assesses the human resource, infrastructure, and availability of support services such as radiology and

imaging, laboratories, student lecture rooms, study rooms and accommodation, and the institutional readiness to start the programme.

KEY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

February 2026: Application for Training site Accreditation.

In **February 2026**, 6 hospitals expressed interest in becoming new training sites for the ECSACOG Training programme, namely;

1. Lubaga Hospital
2. Masaka Regional Referral Hospital
3. Mengo Hospital
4. St. Francis Hospital Nsambya
5. Hoima Regional Referral Hospital
6. Jinja Regional Referral Hospital

Out of the above, only the first 4 fully applied to join the ECSACOG training program.

Interested Hospitals can fill in the online application form for accreditation via: <https://academy.ecsacog.org/register/accreditation> . This is followed by ECSACOG Country Representative writing a letter to the UMDPC to seek for accreditation of the hospitals that have expressed their interest.

April to May 2026: Accreditation visits to 4 hospitals

From April to May 2026, accreditation visits were conducted to four (4) hospitals that applied to become ECSACOG Training sites, namely;

1. Lubaga Hospital
2. Masaka Regional Referral Hospital
3. Mengo Hospital
4. St. Francis Hospital Nsambya

So far, out of the above-mentioned 4 facilities, only Mengo and Lubaga Hospitals were issued certificates to be ECSACOG Training sites.



Figure 1: During the Accreditation visits - at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya



Figure 2: During the Accreditation visits - at Lubaga Hospital



Figure 3: During the Accreditation visits - at Mengo Hospital



Figure 4: Group photo during the Accreditation visits - at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya

July 2026: ECSACOG Year 2 residents' clinical attachment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Year II - ECSACOG residents gained valuable hands-on experience during their clinical attachment at St. Paul's Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Strengthening skills in sexual and reproductive health today to deliver high-quality care across the region tomorrow.



1st July 2026

ECSACOG Residents Strengthen Their Sexual and Reproductive Health Skills in Addis Ababa

Gaining hands-on experience and mastering sexual and reproductive health to deliver high-quality care across the region

www.ecsacog.org ecsacog@ecsacog.org East, Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



04th – 05th August 2026: End of Year Exams

End of Year Exams for the academic year 2025/26 were conducted from Mulago SWNH. All trainees passed. The examiners were:

#	Name	Examiner category
1.	Dr. Obore Susan	Internal
2.	Dr. Ntuyo Peter	Internal
3.	Dr. Garang Dakjur Lueth	External



Figure 5: During the End of Year Exams - August 2026, at Mulago SWNH



Figure 6: A group photo of both Examiners and Trainees after the End of Year Exams - August 2026



Figure 7: A group photo of both Examiners and Trainees after the End of Year Exams - August 2026



Figure 8: During Clinical examinations in the End of Year Exams - August 2026

18th August 2026: ECSACOG 8TH AGM

ECSACOG is held its 8th Annual General Meeting on, 18 August 2026, at Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe. The AGM focuses on governance, key reports and priorities guiding the College's continued growth and excellence in OB/GYN training.



Figure 9: ECSACOG 8th AGM, in Harare - Zimbabwe

19th August 2026: ECSACOG INAUGURAL GRADUATION

On 19th August 2026, ECSACOG celebrated its inaugural Graduation Ceremony at the Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe, marking a historic milestone and honouring its first cohort of specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists - the pioneers of clinical excellence in reproductive health across 12 Sub-Saharan countries.

12 Specialist doctors graduated marking a milestone in the efforts to strengthen the region's specialist medical workforce.





Figure 10: ECSACOG graduates standing alongside some of the recently elected Members and Fellows.



Figure 11: The ECSACOG President - Prof Annette Nakimuli (in green gown) with some ECSACOG Fellows and Council Members at the Graduation Ceremony in Harare, Zimbabwe

07th – 11th September 2026: Virtual ToT workshop

Faculty members of the newly accredited training sites in Uganda, and other member countries of the ECSACOG are required to complete a Training of Trainers workshop. This ToT workshop was delivered virtually via Zoom by ECSACOG Master Trainers, from 7–11 September 2026, for approximately 2 hours each day, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EAT.

Facilitator Profile
ECSACOG Trainers of Trainers Course/Workshop

Dr. Musonda Makasa

- Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
- Public Health Specialist and Researcher
- MBBS, MMed (Obstetrics & Gynaecology)
- MPH, MBA
- ECSACOG Fellow and Council Member
- ECSACOG Master Trainer & Clinical Mentor
- Ph.D. in Epidemiology

Passionate about building capacity, improving maternal and newborn health, and developing the next generation of leaders.

Session Perspective
KEY MESSAGES

- Public speaking is a professional skill that improves with practice.
- Training is not only about content but also about communication competence.
- Effective trainers create clarity, engagement, and action.
- The goal is to help participants learn, remember, and apply.

"If the message is not understood, teaching has not yet occurred." — Dennick & Townsend (2020).

Public Speaking and Communication Skills | ECSACOG Trainers of Trainers Course/Workshop

Dr. Musonda Makasa | 2

Figure 12: A screenshot taken during the ECSACOG Virtual ToT

Challenges:

- Very poor membership subscription. Less than 10% of the 112 Members are fully paid up.
- Delayed clearance of tuition and examination fees by the trainees.
- Failure and/or delay by the respective supervisors/trainers to approve certain procedures logged by the trainees on the e-logbook platform, which negatively affects the grades of the trainees.

Conclusion:

The ECSACOG Training Programme in Uganda continues to make steady progress towards strengthening specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and building the region's specialist workforce. As of September 2026, Uganda has six accredited training sites, with two additional facilities having recently been accredited, and 18 active trainees distributed across the different years of training. The successful completion of the 2025/26 End of Year Examinations, in which all trainees passed, demonstrates continued commitment to the quality and progress of the training programme.

The programme has also benefited from regional collaboration and exposure, including the Year 2 clinical attachment at St. Paul's Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa, as well as the continued engagement of Country Representatives, Programme Directors, Master Trainers and Trainers across the training sites. The inaugural ECSACOG graduation in August 2026, which saw 12 specialist doctors graduate, further marks an important milestone in the College's contribution to strengthening the specialist Obstetrics and Gynaecology workforce in the region.

Despite this progress, key challenges remain, particularly low membership subscription rates, delays in payment of tuition and examination fees, and delays in the approval of trainees' procedures on the e-logbook platform. Addressing these challenges will require strengthened engagement with members, trainees, trainers and supervisors, together with timely follow-up and improved accountability at all levels.

Overall, the progress achieved provides a strong foundation for the continued growth and sustainability of the ECSACOG Training Programme in Uganda. Continued expansion of accredited training capacity, strengthening of the trainer and supervisor network, timely management of programme requirements, and effective monitoring of trainee progress will be important in ensuring that the programme continues to produce competent specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists who contribute to improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health in Uganda and the wider region.

Compiled by:

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