Summary: A 2 day obstetric surgical skills training targeting maternal healthcare providers and assessment of immediate impact
Objectives: Provide theoretical and practical training on obstetric surgical skills and evaluate usefulness of this training model

Methods: Training at Kaloleni District hospital that involved a pre-workshop assessment, theoretical and practical sessions as well as a post workshop evaluation. Topics: postpartum hemorrhage, perineal tear repair, pre/post op care and caesarean sections; with an emphasis on use of simple and readily available materials.

Results: A total of 18 participants (Nurses-13, medical officers -3, clinical officer anesthetists -2).

100% of participants found the training useful. 14 said they were able to put into practice what they had learnt and 16 would be interested in being trained as trainers. The postpartum hemorrhage session (abdominal aortic compression and condom balloon tamponade) and perineal tear repair session had the greatest impact. The training had an overall positive impact as analyzed form the anonymously filled pre and post workshop evaluation forms.

Challenges: sustainability of training programs, retention of trained staff, monitoring and evaluation of actual implementation of learnt skills and impact on morbidity and mortally.

Conclusion and recommendations: There is need for ensuring we have skilled attendants in our facilities especially now with the advent of free maternity care. This calls for enhancement of partnerships (private and public), encouragement local trainers of trainees and development of local manuals on obstetric surgical skills for sustainability and continuity.