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Message from the National Coordinator

Dear MACIS Members,

I hope this message finds you well. It has been a while since you last heard from us. This has been the result of our internal reorganization as the MACIS Secretariat. We will continue to advocate for CSO involvement in health policy in Uganda and to be your representative at health forums across all levels in Uganda and the region.

Below is an update from the MACIS Secretariat, which I hope you find useful and informative.

New MACIS National Coordinator

Mrs. Enid Wamani, the long-time National Coordinator of MACIS, has moved to the Uganda Aids Commission. Dr Patrobas Mufubenga will lead MACIS forward as the new National Coordinator. The MACIS Secretariat would like to thank Mrs Wamani for her commitment, leadership and passion over the years.

New MACIS Staff

Ms Silke Hampson joined MACIS under the auspices of the Australian Red Cross and AusAID. Silke will support the secretariat's communications with its members and assist MACIS in its strategic planning and resource mobilization efforts.

EACSOFF Membership

MACIS is now a member of the East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOFF). This places MACIS members in a strong strategic position to shape decisions in the East African region and the world. MACIS has also been voted to sit on the steering committee of the East African Health Forum (EAHF) for year 2012/2013. More details will be published on the MACIS website (www.macisuganda.org) soon.

Call for presentations at EAHF

MACIS members are invited to propose presentation topics for the next East African Health Forum in Kigali in March 2013. You may wish to present on new innovations, best practice, research findings, promising strategies, etc. of your organisation's work. If you would like to propose a topic, please email a half-page abstract to the National Coordinator (macisuganda@gmail.com) **by 14 December 2012** for forwarding to the East African Community for consideration. If successful, you will be asked to prepare a full presentation. MACIS will be able to provide technical support in preparing the presentation and can link presenters with possible funding sources to attend the Forum in March. The East African Health Forum provides a powerful audience attended by Heads of States of East African countries, Ministers and Members of Parliament of the EAC, delegations and development partners. It is an exceptional opportunity to promote your work.

Your ideas count

In 2013 the MACIS team aims to provide you regular updates and information on health policy and activities in Uganda and beyond. We would like to hear about your ideas and suggestions, what you would like to see in these updates and on the MACIS website. Please email us with your suggestions to admin@macisuganda.org.

Ugandans and MACIS members in particular, let us come out of the cocoon and stand to be counted. This is our time.

God Bless You for now!

Dr Patrobas Mufubenga
National Coordinator, MACIS