

Communication from the National Coordinator

Dear MACIS Members,
A special welcome goes out to our new members who joined MACIS over the past months. The past quarter has been a particularly busy one for the Secretariat as we launched the network website with interactive capabilities and online member database. We also initiated meetings for the TAG team, developed data collection and reporting templates, as well as trained District Immunization Champions of 41 districts. I welcome you to this August edition of our quarterly online newsletter.



MACIS Online

The new look MACIS website is now online with interactive comment capabilities, interesting news and resources. Visit our page at www.macisuganda.org

Readers can now post comments on the different pages of the website. This is part of enabling CSO participation in health related discussions. As a service to our members we also aim to collate opportunities such as calls for proposals, job openings and partnership opportunities, as we become aware of them.

The secretariat wants you to be part of MACIS' online presence. Send us your logo and/or website address and we will display it on the MACIS website and include a link to your organization's website. If you have neither a logo nor a website, we will still include your details in a searchable database, where readers can find out about the great work that MACIS members are doing throughout Uganda.

To make the page as interactive as possible, we need your help. We welcome your feedback on our new website and encourage you to submit articles for publication. Email the secretariat if you have a story idea that you think might be of interest to other members. Looking for new staff or a CSO partner for your next proposal? We can help you find it by posting a free ad on our website which targets a network of hundreds of CSOs in Uganda.

The network thrives on the enthusiasm of its members. We love to hear from our members and share their successes, challenges and stories. Get in touch with the secretariat to discuss how we can promote your organization and your work.

Uganda Civil Society Immunization Platform

MACIS has assembled a highly competent team of immunization experts to serve as the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to Uganda's Civil Society Immunization Platform (UCSIP). The 12 members comprise of:

- Makerere University, College of Health Sciences
- Uganda Paediatrics Association
- Uganda Red Cross
- AMREF
- WHO
- GAVI Uganda
- UNEPI/MoH
- MACIS National Coordinator

The role of the TAG is to develop evidence-based solutions to immunization challenges in order to maximize the impact of UNEPI and to facilitate access to life-saving vaccines for Uganda's children. The establishment of the TAG is part of the GAVI Civil Society Strengthening Project, which MACIS launched in April 2013. The team had their first meeting in July over Skype and their first face to face meeting in July.

MACIS Competition

MACIS is launching a series of competitions to engage civil society in sharing and documenting their successful work in the community. We want to promote the valuable work done by our members and encourage learning from each other by sharing our success stories.

The competition for August requires you to tell a success story about how your organisation has increased malaria net usage in the community in Uganda. Be creative. You can use print, photos, video, PowerPoint or any medium you like that is suitable for your story. The deadline has been extended to 15th September 2013, more details may be found under upcoming events at www.macisuganda.org.

- One CSO representative from each of Uganda's four regions (Northern, Eastern, Central and Western)



The screenshot shows the MACIS website interface. At the top is the logo and navigation menu (HOME, ABOUT US, MALARIA, IMMUNIZATION, MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH, RESOURCES, NEWSLETTER, MEMBERSHIP, CONTACT US). A main banner features a child and text about malaria net success stories. Below are sections for 'Welcome', 'NEWS', 'UPCOMING EVENTS' (23 August 2013: MACIS Secretariat, online), and 'GALLERY'. A sidebar on the right highlights 'UGANDA CIVIL SOCIETY IMMUNIZATION PLATFORM' and 'OPPORTUNITIES' (Calls for proposals, Jobs, Partnerships, Other opportunities).

Data Collection Workshops



MACIS has so far conducted three training workshops for the newly selected District Immunization Champions (DICs) in the Central, Eastern and Mid-Eastern regions. The workshops

brought together 42 participants to be trained in data collection, reporting and communications. The training prepared the DICs to report quarterly on the progress and challenges of the immunization program in their districts. The training resources may be accessed on the [website](#).



National Coordinator joins Global Fund Board



The MACIS National Coordinator Dr Patrobas Mufubenga has joined the

Developing Countries NGO Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Dr Patrobas will contribute his extensive knowledge on malaria and public health to further the interests of civil society through this global channel. The role is a voluntary one and will add to the network's exposure at the global level. The objectives of the delegation are to represent the opinions of developing country NGOs on the Board as well as to inform and positively affect the governance processes of the Global Fund to better integrate NGO- and community-based efforts into responses to HIV, TB and malaria.

MACIS has previously been represented on the Global Fund Board through the membership of Dr Denis Kintu, who worked as the the Technical Program Officer in the MACIS Team.

PCV Roll out in Uganda - Dr Jane Achan

Pneumococcal infection is a major cause of morbidity and mortality. It is estimated that over 800,000 children under 5 years of age die from pneumococcal disease each year globally. In Uganda, pneumonia is among the leading causes of death among children under-five years of age and 35% of all



pneumonia cases are due to pneumococcal infections. Though there are many, serotypes 1, 5, 6A, 6B, 14, 19F, and 23F are common causes of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease globally in children <5 years of age. Fortunately, these are now immunizable with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV10) which contains serotypes 1, 4, 5, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F and 23F and PCV13, as well as serotypes 3, 6A, and 19A. The PCV10 is safe and effective.

Recently, the UNEPI routine immunization services have been expanded to include Pneumococcal Vaccine (PCV) for children less than one year of age. The official launch of PCV was on 27th April 2013 in Iganga district. Uganda Paediatrics Association, which is a member of the Uganda Civil Society Immunization Platform (UCSIP) was actively involved in the preparations for the launch through the development of the training manuals and participation in the National trainers of trainers (TOT) training. In addition, Uganda Paediatrics Association also organized a symposium with support from GSK to share updates on Immunization and PCV 10 introduction Plan. This symposium took place 1st February 2013 at Imperial Royale Hotel and we had over

130 members of the association in attendance. The target age group for PCV10 is children under 1 year of age; the schedule is the same as OPV and the Pentavalent vaccines with 3 doses given at 6, 10 and 14 weeks. It's administered by IM, given on the right thigh, (the Pentavalent vaccine is given on the left thigh). PCV 10 is packaged in a 2 dose vial and comes in liquid form with no preservative, therefore MDVP does not apply.

The writer is the President of the Uganda Paediatrics' Association and a Member of the TAG for the Uganda Civil Society Immunization Platform

Membership Fee Reminder

Members who have not yet paid up annual membership fees for 2013 are reminded to do so. Fees were due on 31st July 2013 as was indicated in the invoices we sent you. Your membership contribution assists MACIS in providing essential network services such as regular newsletters, representing network members at senior policy forums and maintaining the interactive website.

Membership fees can be conveniently paid in cash to the Secretariat, by MTN Mobile Money to 0787 425 824 or bank deposit to Stanbic Bank Uganda Ltd (Corporate Branch) Account Number: 0140067954101. Please make any payment in the name of your organization (not the individual).

Together For a Healthy Tomorrow!

God bless!



Dr Patrobas Mufubenga

MACIS National Coordinator