

# NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014

## MACIS and UNICEF join to train CSOs on surveillance and social mobilization



In November and December 2013, MACIS and UNICEF joined hands to train 139 CSO members on disease surveillance and social mobilization. Seven training sessions were conducted in the whole country, whose objectives included

- orienting participants on Immunization status in Uganda and on effective community disease surveillance and related tools
- training participants on social mobilization and communication strategies
- helping participants to come up with practical solutions to identified challenges in child immunization within their various communities

The expected outcomes of the training included better immunization outreaches, more community sensitization and an increased community demand for immunization services. MACIS highly appreciates the services of [d'Arcy Lunn](#) from UNICEF.

## MACIS bids farewell to Silke Hampson

In August 2013, MACIS bid farewell to Silke Hampson. Silke was a Volunteer from Australian Red Cross serving as the MACIS Communications Advisor. We appreciate Silke for the immense contribution made towards strengthening MACIS for period 2012-2013, such as training of staff in organizational communication and leadership in the development of the MACIS 5-year Strategic Plan.



## Civil Society trained on GAVI HSS Fund Access

On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013, members of the Uganda GAVI Civil Society Platform were trained on how to participate in the GAVI Health System Strengthening (HSS) proposal writing, in order to increase civil societies' chances of accessing GAVI HSS funding.



Results of pre and post tests of this training showed a remarkable improvement in understanding of the GAVI HSS funding processes, with 90% of participants scoring 70% and above in the final test. Participants felt they were comfortable enough, at the end of the training, to write on behalf of Civil Society Organizations a compelling proposal.

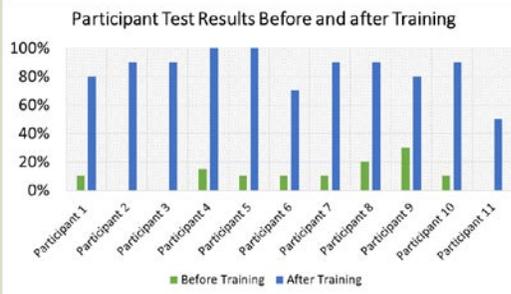
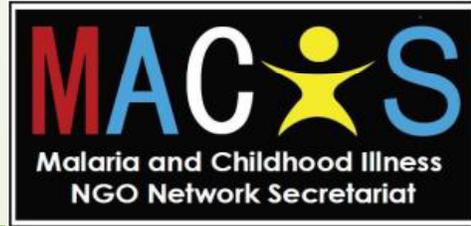


Figure 1: Graph showing test results before and after training



## Communication from the National Coordinator



We are blessed to have yet another year to grow and celebrate milestones and achievements with you! The GAVI CSO Platform has grown in heaps and bounds in 2013 and we hope to keep this trend in 2014. We trained a total of 219 civil society members in 113 districts in periodic data collection and reporting, social mobilization and disease surveillance, as well as strategic advocacy and GAVI proposal writing. We also strengthened ties with UNICEF through a Letter of Agreement and country wide collaborative activities. Thank you for your contribution in 2013, I welcome all of you to our January newsletter edition and wish you all a prosperous 2014.

God bless!

**Dr Patrobas Mufubenga**

**National Coordinator**

[MACIS](#), Together For a Healthy Tomorrow!

## MACIS and UNICEF sign Letter of Cooperation

UNICEF and MACIS have agreed in writing to continue working together in improving the immunization performance of in Uganda. On behalf of UNICEF, this Letter of Agreement was signed in December 2013 by the Chief Head of Child Health, Dr Modibo Kassogue.

## Technical Advisory Group reviews Progress of the GAVI CSO Platform



The Steering Committee of the Uganda GAVI Civil Society Platform, also known as the civil society National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), met twice over the last quarter to discuss the current progress, and the sustainability strategy for the Platform beyond 2014. They also met with the GAVI CRO, Dr Maryse Dugue, to keep her informed of the progress of the Platform. The Group is chaired by Dr Sabrina Bakeera-Kitaka who is also the representative of Uganda on the GAVI CSO Steering Committee at the global level.

## Religious institutions join the Uganda GAVI Civil Society Platform

Dr. Sam Orach, the Executive Director of the Catholic Medical Bureau (CMB) met with the MACIS National Coordinator and Communications Officer on 7th November 2013 to discuss the Bureau's prospective participation on the Uganda GAVI Civil Society Platform. Among the results of the discussion was the definitive commitment of UCMB to bring on board the catholic medical fraternity of 281 members (32 hospitals, 7 HC IVs and 142 health facilities) to bolster the immunization efforts in the country.



At a separate earlier event, held on 5th November 2013, the MACIS National Coordinator and Communications Officer had met with Dr. Said Karama, the Executive Secretary for the Uganda Moslem Medical Bureau to also discuss the Bureau's prospective participation on the Uganda GAVI Civil Society Platform. The Moslem Bureau through its representative, Dr. Said undertook the task of bringing on board its 68 members; 48 of whom are PNFPs, the remainder PFPs.

## MACIS strengthens ties with Melinda & Bill Gates' Foundation

On 29th October 2013, MACIS representatives met with representatives from UNICEF and the Melinda Gates' Foundation to discuss and consolidate the relationship created between them. The MACIS team consisted of Dr. Patrobas Mufubenga the National Coordinator and Ms. Elizabeth Kasujja, the Program & Communication Officer for Immunization. The UNICEF and Gates' Foundation were represented by Mr Lunn d'Arcy and Dr. Gene Bartley respectively. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Sharing of information on the Uganda GAVI Civil Society Platform work with UNICEF, especially on the use of CSO volunteers as District Immunization Champions.
- Development of a partners' advocacy group suitable for the new STOPPERS, spearheaded by the Gates' Foundation representative
- Invitation of Dr. Bartley on the training of District Immunization Champions and immunization CSOs on social mobilization and surveillance in the country.

## MACIS graces the Malaria awareness concert



On 8th November 2013, a Malaria Awareness concert was held at the Uganda National Theatre. Ms. Jackie Nabwire, the MACIS Program and Administrative Assistant, was there to grace the occasion. Keynote speeches were given by the guest of honor, Hon. David Bahati, MP for Ndoorwa West and the Executive Director for UZIMA initiative, Ms Sambia Nadege, among others. The performances and speeches were all geared towards increasing Malaria Awareness in Uganda and raising funds to support malaria treatment throughout the country. The concert helped to maintain the visibility of MACIS, and strengthened the already established relationships between MACIS and the UZIMA initiative.

## Members' Corner

We want to hear from you so we have introduced a "Members' Corner" on the [website](#). It is suited for case studies, success stories, organizational profiles and activity reports. We will also continue to avail you with resources and useful health information. Do not forget to leave a comment!

## Membership Fee Reminder

Sincere appreciation goes out to members who have already paid up their annual membership fees. Members who have not yet paid up their annual membership fees for 2014 are reminded to do so by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. 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 by **bank** deposit at any Stanbic Bank Uganda Ltd. Account Name: MACIS

Account Number: 9030005716860

**Please make any payment in the name of your organization** (not of an individual)

## Annual General Meeting

MACIS Secretariat will hold its Annual General Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.