



# CHILDBIRTH SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | Volume 1 | December 2014

## Who We Are and What We Do: A note from Childbirth Survival International (CSI)

Childbirth Survival International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit international humanitarian organization based in Baltimore, Maryland. CSI works to address the health needs of women, newborns children, and adolescents with a special focus on strengthening reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services. CSI currently has community-based operations in Tanzania and Uganda. CSI work focuses primarily on improving access and uptake of quality and skilled health care services for women and their families in marginalized settings especially the hard-to-reach areas. Efforts are focused on developing practical evidence-based goals and sustainable interventions through listening to the local people and working with partners, host Government, and the existing health systems to help them find solutions that work in their own communities. By empowering the people with this ownership, CSI ensures support and commitment to reach the common goal of optimum health for all, contributing to MDGs 456.



**CSI in Baltimore:** As part of CSI's outreach work in the United States, CSI has actively and consistently been on the look-out for opportunities to collaborate and to give back to the community. In Baltimore, Maryland, once a month, CSI members collaborate with Rotary International Pikesville Club and read to children from broken families living at the [INNterim House](#) in Pikesville. Children regardless of their backgrounds, deserve an opportunity to build their reading and writing skills. Well-being of children is a priority at CSI and we continue to seek further collaborations and partnerships. Also, CSI is exploring alliances with local NGOs to help raise awareness on topics such as childhood pneumonia and teen pregnancies among a variety of small actions that we hope will go a long way.



**Garnering Support. Meeting with the Tanzanian Ambassador to the USA:** CSI was honored to meet with the Ambassador of Tanzania to the USA; H.E. Mrs. Liberata Mulamula, on two separate planned occasions. The discussion mainly revolved around the common goals of improving reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and decreasing disparities; especially among rural

Tanzanian communities. Tanzania is one of the high-priority countries unlikely to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 456 by 2015 and CSI's efforts are focused on contributing to meeting these MDGs. CSI shared processes that will be taken by the Team to identify key approaches for improvements within health sectors, methods for measuring progress, documentation and channels for dissemination of information to policy makers and stakeholders. CSI expressed the need for partnership and collaboration; both critical for ensuring community embracement, programatic success and sustainability. The Ambassador was very supportive, gave strong feedback, and made a generous donation to support World AIDS Day 2014 activities in Tanzania and Uganda. She also expressed the importance of tackling compelling health challenges and welcomed a continued communication of updates and progress with the Embassy of Tanzania.

---

## CSI Meets Tanzania's First Lady in Washington, DC

The CSI Team recognizes that to truly make an impact at the community level, reduce and prevent needless maternal and newborn deaths, empower adolescents to reduce teenage pregnancies, engage men, boys, and community elders, and strengthen existing health systems, it is necessary to establish long-term relations. On September 26th, 2014 CSI had the honor of meeting with the First Lady of The United Republic of Tanzania, Mrs. Salma Kikwete. During this meeting CSI was able to share what the organization had done thus far in Tanzania and future plans of contributing to Tanzania's "Sharpened One Plan" and the "Deliver Now for Women and Children" advocacy campaign. Both latter initiatives were launched in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, with the aim of accelerating reductions in maternal, newborn, and child deaths in the country.



Some of the issues discussed with the First Lady included:

1. Health of preteen and teenage girls. Examples of issues discussed: menstruation, STIs and pregnancy
  2. Maternal, newborn and child health including prompt access to quality and skilled healthcare
  3. Ensuring timely availability of cultural and age appropriate health information that is up-dated
  4. Culture and tradition related to health and the role they play in decision-making. How they can be adopted/adapted in a positive manner
  5. Engaging men and empowering communities for program acceptance, ownership and sustainability
- Mrs. Kikwete enthusiastically elaborated on local traditions and their impact on health. Mrs. Kikwete went on to say that availability and easy access of quality information to women and girls would be of tremendous help. She was pleased that CSI is willing to share knowledge and skills, and donate much needed medical supplies. Potential collaboration with the First Lady's Tanzania based foundation called Wanawake Na Maendeleo (WAMA) was also discussed.

### Every "Big" Starts "Small"

In Uganda small steps such as community-based activities for improving mother, child and adolescent health highlighted CSI's efforts in the region. CSI collaborated with a community health facility called Profam Royal Domiciliary Clinic and hosted an event that reached out to pregnant women in the Wakiso District on August 27, 2014. The event targeted pregnant women and their partners; however, it was open to all interested community members. The event was well planned, well attended, and the messages were well received. The midwives were very thorough and able to engage the crowd on issues surrounding antenatal care, family planning, newborn care, delivering at a health facility, traditional birth attendants, respectful maternity care, and post natal care. There were contraceptive samples, newborn resuscitating devices, and educational flip-charts on display. CSI provided childbirth kits which were distributed free-of-charge to pregnant women.





## CSI in the News!

News of CSI's event in Uganda's Wakiso District was published in the local newspaper called "Bukedde" and also aired on Bukedde television

## CSI's Health Panel Debut

CSI was approached by the Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America (DICOTA) to sit on the health panel of speakers and share insight and activities undertaken in Tanzania. This was CSI's first panel appearance and CSI welcomed the invitation. We took the opportunity to introduce CSI's organizational efforts to improve quality of maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health care at both community and facility levels in Tanzania. Other panelists included the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Jenga Tanzania Foundation, and TANO Ladies.



## CHANGING LIVES: LOW-RESOURCE AND THE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES

The leading cause of maternal mortality is postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) which caused about 35% of all maternal deaths. Between 1990 and 2010, there was a global reduction in maternal deaths rates and the maternal mortality ratio (MMR); however, developing countries continue to experience higher numbers of maternal deaths in comparison to developed countries. Almost 99% of deaths attributed to PPH occur in low and middle-income countries while only 1% occurs in industrialized nations.

With these unacceptable statistics associated with a preventable cause of maternal mortality, CSI is committed to working with hospitals and health centers to prevent such needless deaths.

Through CSI's outreach work in Tanzania, oxytocin vials were donated to nurses and midwives who were extremely grateful as they were in dire need of this medication in order to provide better quality services in these resource constrained regions. Follow the YouTube link to watch and listen to the [Head Nurse at Amana](#).

## You can also make a difference

With your help CSI can transform the lives of women and children by bringing immediate relief and building lasting solution for communities. No help is too small as every little helps. Your involvement enables a brighter and happier future. You can:

1. Donate medical equipment and supplies
2. Send a tax deductible financial contribution to:

Childbirth Survival International  
 P.O. Box 32154  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21282  
 Make checks payable to: CSI

3. Volunteer your time
4. Spread the word (Facebook, Twitter, Website, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Pinterest)
5. Make contributions online via [PayPal](#) (We ensure the safety and security of your personal information).

## A peek at CSI's radar

### Tanzania

\*CSI Tanzania World AIDS Day activities targeting Youth successfully completed.

\*CSI Tanzania Country Director, Mrs. Stella Mpanda travelled to Mara and Kagera regions (Lake Zone, Northwest Tanzania), and met with Regional Medical Officers (RMOs) and Health Teams. She discussed how CSI can play a major role in improving the health services in the region. CSI is finalizing work plans for proposed maternal and newborn health interventions in the Biharamulo District in Kagera Region. This target area was chosen based on identified gaps in services and health indicator inadequacies.

\*The Local Government of Ukonga has invited CSI to be part of the Ukonga Division Network of organizations and to hit the ground running by take the lead in community initiatives.

\*In the hope of future collaborations and partnerships, the CSI Tanzania Country Director has had productive and promising meetings with international organizations such as Jhpiego, EngenderHealth, White Ribbon Alliance TZ, UNFPA, Tanzania Midwives Association, and Mama Ye.

\*Letters in the local language; Kiswahili, were sent out to regional schools to explore means through which CSI can collaborate to address Adolescent Reproductive Health Care. Schools are emerging as very receptive and CSI is working on tailored outreach materials.

\*CSI visited orphanages to help caregivers meet the needs of children. Most recently, CSI visited Kurasini National Children Center Orphanage and the dire conditions and misery that loomed in the eyes of the many young children was extremely unrelenting. What we saw in our brief visit was clearly just the tip of the iceberg of a multitude of deficiencies. The center is home to 85 children aged 2 to 18 years. CSI was able to donate flour, rice and some clothing. In reality our humble donation was like a "drop in the ocean" as there was a great need for a more sustainable, uninterrupted supply of food, clothing, and medication. CSI is collaborate with the center to research possibility of a more sustainable supply of essential items.



### Uganda

\*CSI Uganda Team joined Kajjansi Rotary Club District 9211 to mark World Polio Day and provide other community-based health services such as breast cancer screening.

\*CSI Uganda joined forces with communities in Wakiso District for a very well attended World AIDS Day event.

\*Stay tuned for more information in CSI's upcoming newsletter!\*

Childbirth Survival International  
P.O. Box 32154  
Baltimore, Maryland 21282  
U.S.A  
Tel: +1 202 763 2100

Childbirth Survival International  
P.O. Box 25326, Ilala  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 689 132 503 or  
+255 754 432 584

Childbirth Survival International  
P.O. Box 8119  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 775 860 761 or  
+256 701 636 109

