

CHILDBIRTH SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL (CSI)

CSI affirms: PASSION + TEAMWORK = IMPACT



Welcome to
Childbirth Survival
International's first
FY 2015 newsletter.
CSI has amazing
updates to share and
hope you enjoy
reading the
newsletter.
Best wishes in 2015!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

World AIDS Day 2014	1
What's new in 2015	1
Planting seeds	2
Girl Talk, Girl Power	2
What's free at CSI?	2
International Women's Day	3
The BIG picture	3
What keeps CSI going	4

CSI rallies communities on World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day 2014, Childbirth Survival International Teams in Tanzania and Uganda pulled off great community-based events focusing on children and youth. Activities in both countries involved and engaged boys and men.

In **Uganda**, CSI collaborated with [Mildmay Uganda](#) and CSI-partner Profam Royal Domiciliary Clinic and reached out to over 200 community members in the Wakiso District. The guest of honor, Wakiso District Chairman, Mr. Matiya Lwanga Bwanika, acknowledged the combined efforts to aid in bringing down HIV infection rates in the District, with a prevalence rate higher than the national average. The all-day event included provision of free health services such as HIV Counseling and Testing, Cervical Cancer Screening, distribution of condoms, together with great and informative presentations from health providers. Village Health Teams instrumental in community outreach, were very much involved.

In **Tanzania**, CSI team joined Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and many NGOs at Vingunguti Grounds. CSI provided free health services, information and key messages.



CSI Uganda, 2014. Photo credit: Baker Luttaguzi

Fight against HIV/AIDS is everyone's battle! CSI is in this fight because an HIV-free generation is possible.



CSI Tanzania, 2014. Photo credit: Esther Adams

Happy New Year from the CSI Team

Capturing more of CSI's history, mission, values, goals, activities (upcoming and past), a great picture gallery and links to CSI's YouTube videos; Childbirth Survival International launched its fresh looking website on January 1, 2015. Besides launching of the new website, 2015 is going to be a great year for CSI to touch even more lives – women, newborns, children, and adolescents/youth. Visit www.childbirthsurvivalinternational.org for more information.

Did you know CSI is a member of the World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health? Find CSI [here](#).



“Tomorrow’s wise leaders and responsible parents, have to come from somewhere!”

Planting seeds of promise & success

CSI Tanzania kicked off the year with their first **school outreach program** which falls under the organization’s core area: **Adolescent Reproductive Care (ARC)**.

Reaching out to children and youth in and out of school is very important for countries like Tanzania with high teenage pregnancy and birth rates, high cases of diagnosed

STI and HIV cases, high drop-out rates among girls in school, unreported sexual and physical abuse, among many other concerns. Tomorrow’s wise leaders and responsible parents, have to come from somewhere!

With approval and support from the Government of Tanzania and school authorities, CSI-trained facilitators began with primary schools in the

Ukonga area, outskirts of Dar es Salaam and delivered age-appropriate reproductive and general health information. Teachers were encouraged to be present so they may continue reminding and educating other children.

Through this program, CSI is planting seeds of promise and success, and will take the lessons beyond Ukonga.



Girl Talk, Girl Power – time for the girl-child!

The girl-child in many low- and middle-income countries faces threats from early marriage, lack of education, gender-based violence, poor nutrition; denying this vulnerable sector of the community numerous opportunities to excel in life.

Girls are more comfortable to speak up about “their issues” with others they can relate to, and for many girls unfortunately, that person might not necessarily be

present in their lives to give them the correct and appropriate information.

CSI recognizes this challenge for many adolescent girls and developed a discrete program called “**Girl Talk Girl Power**”. This exciting program targets girls between the ages of 12-16 years old in secondary schools.

Girls dropping out of school due to menstruation should not be acceptable!

On 7th February CSI reached out to 150 girls (from 27 girls in 2014) at Unambwe Secondary School in Arusha Tanzania with key messages on reproductive health, menstruation, menstrual hygiene and education/life-skills.

We also distributed free sanitary towels purchased in country and CSI branded gifts—the highlight of the two hour CSI presentation – girls were extremely excited! View pictures [here](#).

Who gives out things for free? – CSI does!

In this day and age where there’s a price tag for practically everything, it is hard to believe when you hear for example, “children’s clothes for free.”

Last summer, CSI’s USA team in Baltimore collected gently used children’s clothes and shipped across the ocean to Tanzania.

On January 10th, clothes were distributed to orphans and children in the low income community of Ukonga, Ilala district. Many mothers and guardians were overwhelmed with joy and appreciation.

Nearly 100 children showed up with their mothers at the CSI Tanzania office and each child received three sets of clothing.

The cutest sight was of a little girl about five years old with ragged clothes, no shoes and dusty feet, hugging her new clothes so close to her chest as if she was worried someone might take them away from her.

Lack of basic needs such as children’s clothing shouldn’t be overlooked.



International Women's Day

One of the world's busiest days and CSI made sure not to miss out on the collective efforts that will help to bring women's health and rights to the forefront of international programs and policy-makers' agendas.

Make It Happen was this year's theme, calling on more efforts geared to empowering women (and girls) across the globe with deeper issues such as end child marriages and ending violence against women priorities on the agenda. CSI undoubtedly finds its space at the community level to contribute in achieving these goals.

In Tanzania, through an invitation from the [White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood Tanzania](#), CSI Staff including the Country Director, Mrs. Stella Mpanda, attended a week-long event in Tanga region and were in the company of the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other invited organizations for a series of Citizens' Hearings across Districts in Tanga and White Ribbon Day. On March 27th the conversation continued in Dar es Salaam on ITV Tanzania News and Radio One (Malumbano ya Hoja) where Mrs. Mpanda re-capped messages from Tanga.

Happy International Women's Day!

What's BIG on CSI's radar?

Biharamulo District



lower tier health centers. The health services and infrastructure are weak especially at the lower tiers where they're mainly dispensaries.

CSI is currently mobilizing resources for Year 1 to conduct a baseline assessment in the District, kick off community sensitization, involve the community from the beginning, and monitor and evaluate Year 1 activities, to strongly inform & support continuation in Year 2.

To contribute to CSI's efforts and save more lives at birth in Biharamulo, visit the CSI [website](#) to make a secure donation online and learn more ways you can make a difference.

The CSI **Tanzania** team has a big project on their radar – to **improve maternal and newborn health** in Biharamulo District, in the Kagera Region.

The agreement to collaborate to make a difference in Biharamulo was a result of CSI Country Director's visit last quarter to the Kagera Region. She also visited the Mara Region for potential collaboration.

Biharamulo is in southeast Kagera, with an estimated population of over 400,000. The population is very diverse with migrants from Rwanda, Burundi, and other districts in Kagera. Biharamulo district is divided into 21 wards. There is one district hospital and



When one pregnant woman and/or newborn develops a disability or dies due to a preventable cause, it is still too many.



Stella Mpanda (left)

Every day, an estimated 800 women die due to preventable pregnancy, childbirth, or post childbirth complications. Now more than ever is the time to make a difference.



CSI considers men pivotal in making an impact. We include men from planning to finish. Men, who attend CSI events, show an increase in their desire to know more and get involved. CSI is gently pushing barriers and recognizing that men can speak about and contribute greatly to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Family Planning, Women empowerment and Children's rights.

What keeps CSI going and beating?

CSI as a growing organization continues to pursue various funding opportunities. With limited funding, the obvious question is "how do you guys do what you do and make an impact?" And the short answer is: **Passion and Teamwork.** Without teamwork, CSI would not exist!

Incredible thanks go to **CSI Tanzania Team:** Mrs. Stella Mpanda (Rotarian), Mrs. Renalda Ndono, Mrs. Mary Kabelele, Esther Miriam, Chibby Petter, Esther Adams, and **CSI Uganda Team:** Rehema Namukose, Sarah Nabwami, Dr. Barrett Sewali (OB/GY),



"Having my fourth child, I was not prepared for a difficult labor and delivery. I thought she would come quick and easy like the others. I am very thankful to the midwives at Zaana Health Facility."

Tinah Nakibuuka (Rotarian), Sarah Najjuka, Baker Luttaguzi, John Bazanye, Yusuf Gitta, and CSI-partner Director of Profam Royal Clinic, Nurse Prossy Nansubuga.

Passion and dedication has mobilized them in their communities to plan and implement actions, building bridges and leading to much needed improvements.

Did you miss CSI's first TV-Radio interview on Impact Africa? View it [here](#).

"In my lifetime, I would like to see all women, regardless of their background have equal access to health services and opportunities to succeed in life. Happy International Women's Day."

Stella M. Mpanda, RNMW
CSI Co-founder
CSI Tanzania Country Director



www.childbirthsurvivalinternational.org

More stories, pictures, and updates here:



CSI is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Maryland