

Padua, 16 October 2012

Dear MMI network members

On the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary in 2010 and in the presence of the Italian President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, Doctors with Africa CUAMM affirmed its commitment to the health of mothers and children in Africa. Last year in November, we launched a five-year program called "Mothers and Children First", with the objective of ensuring free access to safe childbirth and newborn care at four hospitals in four African countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania). This initiative achieved a broad consensus and a strong encouragement from many African institutions, the Catholic Church, the Italian government, international health agencies such as WHO and UNICEF, professional bodies and civil society organizations in Italy and Africa.

One year after the beginning of the program, we are delighted to present some preliminary results from the field. We obtained the results through the application of innovative, evidence-based tools and methods, which made it possible to analyze health problems in terms of coverage of health services, equity in access to the services, and the quality of obstetric and neonatal care.

For this reason, we decided to organize, on the 15th of December 2012, a high level event entitled "Mothers and Children; First steps: innovation and research" that will be held in Rome at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart.

This event will be divided into three parts:

In the first part, there will be a number of presentations that highlight the ways in which different actors, African and European, public and religious, academic and professional, have been collaborating in the realization of the program objectives.

We are expecting participation from the Minister of Health of Uganda, Hon. Christine Ondo, the Director General of the Ministry Dr. Jane Aceng, a representative of the Ugandan Catholic Medical Bureau, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Lira Bishop Joseph Franzelli. From Italy, we expect to welcome the Minister of International Cooperation and Integration Prof. Andrea Riccardi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Amb. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, the Minister of Health Prof. Renato Balduzzi, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Peter Turkson, the President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers Archbishop Zygmunt Zimosky, the Chairman of the Committee for Charitable Interventions in favor of the Third World of the Italian Episcopal conference Archbishop Giovanni Battista Gandolfo and representatives of major Italian universities. We are also expecting the Deputy Director for the WHO family cluster, Dr. Flavia Bustreo, Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Special Advisor on HIV and AIDS for Caritas Internationalis, representatives of UNICEF and other international institutions.



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova Italy
tel. 049 8751279
tel.049 8751649
fax 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Codice fiscale
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

Onlus
Ong riconosciuta
Idonea con D. M.
n. 1988/12/004187/2D
del 14/09/01988

In the second part, we will briefly present the preliminary results of quality, equity and coverage surveys carried out, highlighting their innovative and action-oriented focus. The focus of this session will be in particular on Uganda.

In the third part, we will be re-launching the program of giving a voice to new players who are joining the initiative (e.g. medical students, residents, young specialists, university professors and private banking foundations and the general corporate sector). Since the event is focusing on innovation and research, the venue, the Catholic University of Rome, and the collaboration between CUAMM and the Center for Global Health at the same University, will help to convey a strong message to the public, especially to the young people, challenging them to get involved in these programs with a sense of openness and professionalism.

Dear MMI network members, your presence at the December meeting will be highly appreciated and could stimulate the understanding and interest in innovative forms of health financing and partnerships.

See you there! With respect and gratitude,

Don Dante Carraro
Director



Via S. Francesco 126
35121 Padova Italy
tel. 049 8751279
tel.049 8751649
fax 049 8754738

Cuamm Opera
S. Francesco Saverio
Codice fiscale
00677540288
cuamm@cuamm.org

Onlus
Ong riconosciuta
Idonea con D. M.
n. 1988/12/004187/2D
del 14/09/01988