

NEWSLETTER

Q3 2026 / Issue 7



MEASLES
ANALYTICS HUB

www.measles-analytics.org

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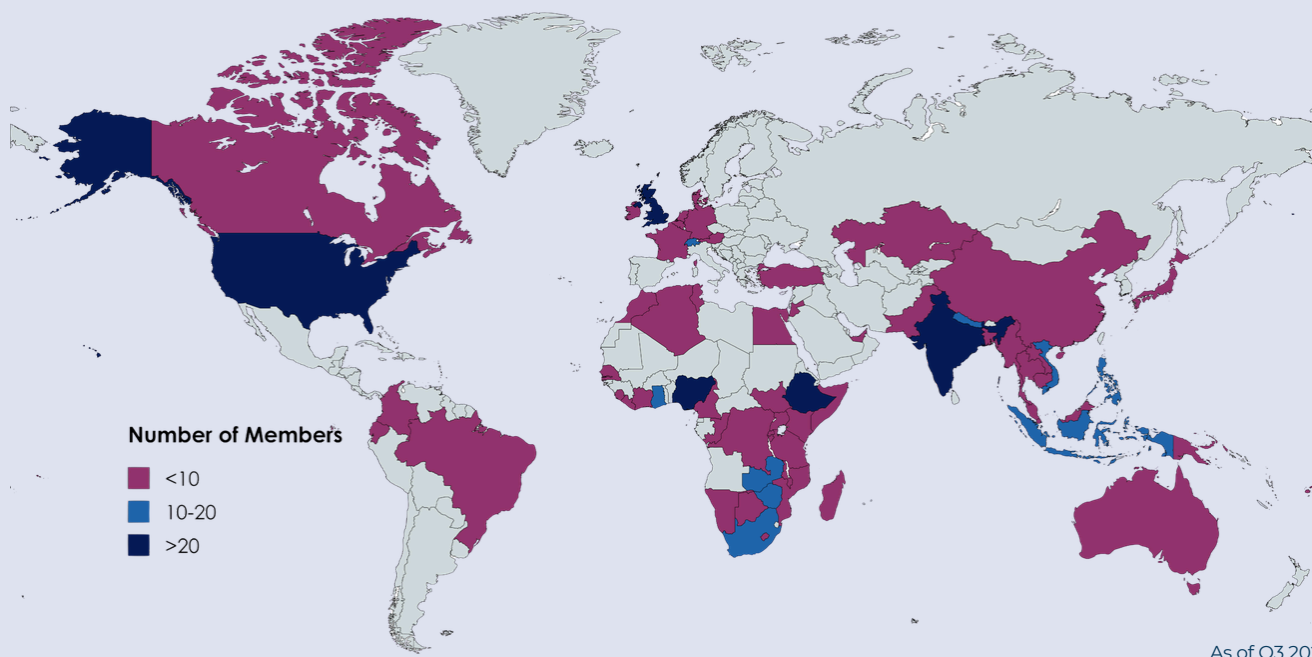


Welcome to the Q3 MAH Newsletter

This issue of the newsletter marks the close of another busy and productive quarter for the Measles Analytics Hub (MAH). Over the past three months, MAH members have contributed to a range of activities, including engagement at the Eastern and Southern Africa EPI Managers' Meeting, the launch of a new project tracking system to support collaboration and visibility across MAH activities, planning for a series of upcoming in-country workshops, and the opening of the first submission round for the Technical Review Committee (TRC) model review process. Together, these activities reflect MAH's continued commitment to strengthening collaboration between modellers and stakeholders, supporting country-led priorities, and ensuring that analytics remain responsive to programmatic needs. We are delighted to share highlights and updates from across the community in this edition.

Current Membership

The MAH currently has 530 members from 68 countries.

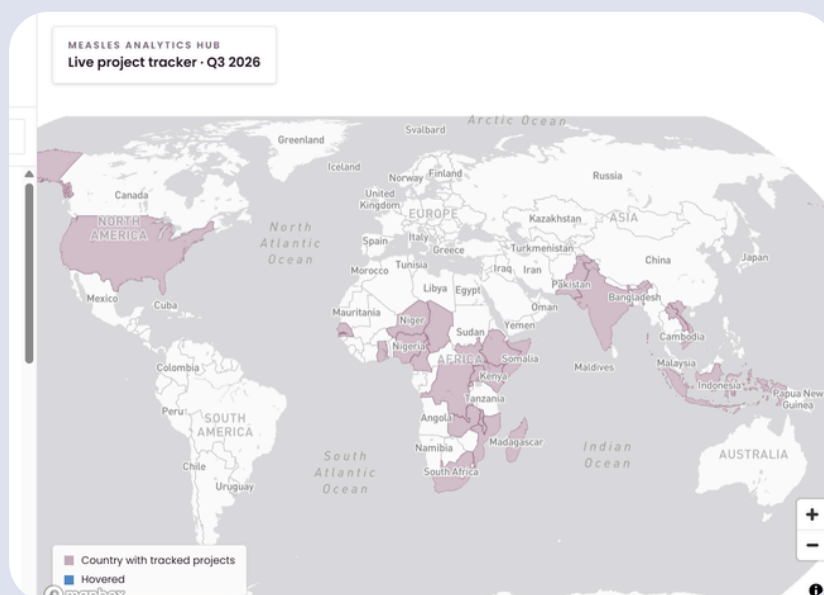


New MAH Project Tracker

This new interactive map showcases active and planned measles and rubella modelling projects across the global MAH network, highlighting project locations, principal investigators, and collaborating study teams to improve visibility, coordination, and opportunities for collaboration. **Explore the tracker [here](#).**

If you have a project that you would like to add to the tracker, please look out for an email from the MAH Secretariat in Q4.

We plan to update the tracker quarterly.



EPI Managers' Meeting for ESA Region

The **Expanded Programme on Immunization** (EPI) Managers' Meeting for the **Eastern and Southern Africa** (ESA) region brings together national immunisation programme managers, representatives from Ministries of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and other immunisation partners to review programme performance, discuss regional priorities, share lessons learned, and identify solutions to common challenges. We were particularly pleased to showcase the work of MAH members **Tonderai Mapako**, **Shakira Babirye**, and **Armand Mutwadi**, whose presentations highlighted how locally led analytical projects can address country priorities and strengthen links between researchers and immunisation programmes.

The meeting reinforced the importance of engaging immunisation programmes from the outset of modelling activities. Key takeaways include:

- **A need for greater visibility of existing analytical work.** There is an opportunity for MAH to act as a convening platform, helping countries understand what work is already underway, who is conducting it, and how results can be incorporated into programmatic decision-making.
- **Strong demand for practical decision-support rather than complex models.** EPI managers were primarily interested in actionable outputs that help answer questions around SIAs, immunity gaps, outbreak risk, and resource allocation.
- **Significant appetite for country-specific analytical support.** Many countries expressed interest in applying modelling approaches but have previously lacked clear pathways to engage with modelling groups or initiate collaborations. Therefore, *MAH country working groups may be one of the most effective MAH mechanisms.*
- **There is growing demand for subnational analyses.** EPI managers consistently raised questions about district-level immunity gaps, outbreak risk, and targeting, reinforcing discussions from the Annual Meeting that national averages are no longer sufficient for elimination planning.



Technical Review Committee (TRC)

As the global measles modelling landscape continues to grow, stakeholders are increasingly faced with a wide range of models, tools, dashboards, and analytical platforms that can inform programme and policy decisions. While this diversity drives innovation, it also raises an important question: ***how can decision-makers determine which models are scientifically robust, appropriate for a given policy question, and trustworthy for operational use?*** The MAH established the Technical Review Committee (TRC) to help address this challenge.

The TRC provides an independent, structured peer-review mechanism for measles and rubella models and tools. Its primary aim is to ensure technical quality, transparency, reproducibility, and scientific rigour before tools are used to support decision-making. The committee also seeks to build confidence in both established and emerging modelling groups, including those based in high-burden settings, by providing expert review and constructive feedback.

Submitted models and tools are reviewed across eight domains:

1. Geographic relevance and applicability
2. Outcomes and policy relevance
3. Data inputs and evidence base
4. Model calibration and validation
5. Uncertainty, sensitivity analysis and robustness
6. Model assumptions and epidemiological validity
7. Documentation and transparency
8. Reproducibility and technical quality.

The review process is intended to generate tangible outputs for both modellers and stakeholders. **For modelling groups**, the TRC provides a detailed technical assessment and expert feedback highlighting strengths, limitations, and opportunities for improvement. **For stakeholders**, the committee will develop concise executive summaries that describe what each reviewed tool can be used for, outline its strengths and weaknesses across the eight review domains, and help users understand which models are most appropriate for addressing different programmatic questions. Through this process, the TRC aims to improve both the quality of modelling outputs and the confidence with which they are interpreted and applied.

The TRC is now accepting its first round of submissions. More information about submission criteria can be found on the [MAH website](#).
Deadline for submission is 14 October 2026.

Best practice showcase

In each newsletter, we feature one best practice example of an ongoing collaboration between MAH members. This quarter, we feature work by a team at the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), Ghana, who are modelling the deployment of measles rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) in Ghana and Senegal. As part of the project, the team conducted a series of stakeholder engagement workshops to better understand how measles cases are identified, reported, diagnosed, and managed within local health systems.

Research Topic

Modeling the Impact of Measles IgM RDT Deployment on Surveillance Sensitivity

MAH Collaborators

- Dr Isaiah Agorinya
- Dr Anthony Dongdem
- Dr Wisdom Takramah
- Dr Benedicta Mensah
- Dr Abdulzeid Anafo
- Prof Justice Aheto

Collaboration details & achievements

This project is evaluating how different deployment strategies could improve surveillance performance, response timeliness, and the operational value of decentralised testing to inform future RDT introduction and scale-up.

To ensure the modelling reflects real-world conditions, the team conducted both district- and regional-level stakeholder consultations in Ghana. These engagements examined case detection and reporting pathways, the role of Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) facilities, diagnostic and referral capacity, supply chain systems, and the practical considerations associated with RDT deployment. **A particularly interesting finding was that stakeholders did not necessarily view community-level facilities as the optimal location for RDT deployment. Instead, discussions highlighted Ghana's Network of Practice Hub-and-Spoke structure as a potentially more effective deployment point, balancing accessibility with diagnostic capacity, supervision, reporting systems, and commodity management.** Stakeholders also emphasised that RDT effectiveness will depend not only on test performance, but on patient pathways through the health system, health worker capacity, referral processes, and consistent test availability.

These insights are now being used to validate assumptions, parameterise the model, and refine realistic deployment scenarios, providing an excellent example of how stakeholder engagement can strengthen the programmatic value of modelling analyses.



News submitted by MAH Members

Publications & opportunities

- **Fu H, Sbarra AN, Russell T, Abbas K, Auzenberg M, Jit M.** *Estimating the basic reproduction number of measles in low-and middle-income settings using 172 seroprevalence studies: A modelling approach.* PLOS Global Public Health. 2026 Jul 17;6(7):e0006731.
- The **Training Initiative for Modelling Epidemic Response in Africa (TIMER)** is now accepting applications for its fellowship programme. Over the next three year period, approximately 50 African fellows will be trained through three sequential cohorts. The fellowship provides a 12-month blended learning program consisting of preparation, two face-to-face training blocks, remote mentoring, group work, thematic workshops, and an evidence-generation phase. **More information can be found [here](#). Deadline to apply is 15 October 2026.**

VIMC News

- Applications are now open for the **2027 VIMC Mathematical Modelling Short Course**. The course will take place in Singapore in February 2027 and is designed for researchers, analysts, public health practitioners, and early-career scientists interested in infectious disease modelling, dengue/ arboviruses and vaccine-preventable diseases in general. **More information can be found [here](#). Deadline to apply is 31 October 2026.**

Secretariat News

Save the Date

The **Q4 MAH meeting** will be online on **7 December 2026** at **14:00 GMT**. All members are welcome to join.

A friendly reminder that you must be a member of the MAH to receive calendar invites, meeting announcements, and other event updates. You can register [here](#).

NDMC & MAH Roundtable

The **National Disease Modelling Consortium** (NDMC) is co-hosting a Roundtable event for measles modelling and decision-making at IIT Bombay **3-4 November 2026**.

Registration is now closed, but if you are interested in learning more about the key takeaways from the meeting, please email the MAH Secretariat for more information.

Please share your news!

- Recent publications or pre-prints
- Upcoming measles related meetings
- Job or training opportunities
- Information to forward to MAH members

For More Information:

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