NEWSLETTER

Q1 2026 / Vol. 05

MEASLES ANALYTICS HUB

www.measles-analytics.org

In this issue

Welcome to the Q1 MAH Newsletter

Welcome to the Q1 2026 edition of the Measles Analytics Hub (MAH) newsletter. This issue captures a period of strong momentum across the MAH, with multiple new working groups launching, several projects now underway, and growing engagement from our global modelling community.

We announce a new Request for Proposals focused on the future of measles SIA strategies, share a preview of our upcoming Annual Meeting in June in Jakarta, and highlight a timely new publication by MAH Scientific Co-Chair Justice Aheto and colleagues on rebalancing power in infectious disease modelling. Together, these updates reflect an increasingly active and collaborative community, as we continue to strengthen locally led modelling and analytics and generate policy-relevant evidence to support measles control and elimination efforts.

Request for Proposals

We have launched a new Request for Proposals (RfP) focused on the evolution of measles Supplementary Immunisation Activities (SIAs) and alternative delivery modalities under real-world constraints. As countries face changing epidemiology, operational challenges, and constraints on large-scale campaigns, there is a growing need for modelling that can inform how measles vaccination strategies adapt over time.

This call invites MAH members to submit proposals that address high-level, programmatically relevant questions, rather than bespoke country micro-planning, that generate insights applicable across a range of epidemiological contexts. **Funding of up to USD 73,000** for projects lasting **up to 12 months** is available.

Proposals must involve ***collaboration*** between multiple modellers and ***meaningful in-country engagement***, with a strong emphasis on mentorship and capacity strengthening. Applications are open to MAH members based at academic or research institutions, and we strongly encourage submissions from modellers in high measles burden countries.

Proposals should address one or more of the following conceptual areas:

1. Standardised modelling frameworks for non-national or responsive vaccination activities, including sub-national, targeted, or outbreak-responsive approaches.
2. Optimising SIA design under real-world constraints, such as resource limitations, operational feasibility, and imperfect coverage.
3. Assessing how data quality and heterogeneity inform targeted SIA design and decision-making, including the implications of uncertainty and incomplete data.
4. Transition pathways and credible off-ramps from existing SIA approaches, exploring how delivery strategies may evolve over time.

The deadline for submissions is 29th May at 23:59 BST

Full details—including eligibility, scoring criteria, and budget guidance—are available on the MAH website.

A Q&A session is scheduled for 27 April where the MAH Secretariat will be available to answer questions - the Q&A is available at two different times to accommodate multiple time zones (Teams links: 9am and 4pm BST).

Best practice showcase

Each newsletter we feature one best practice example of an ongoing collaboration between MAH members. This quarter, we highlight a recently published PLOS Global Public Health article by MAH Scientific Co-Chair Prof Justice Moses K. Aheto, alongside MAH colleagues and collaborators, titled: "***Rebalancing power in infectious disease modelling: Toward inclusive and contextual approaches***"

Research Topic

Using the MAH as a best practice example of a modelling consortium that recognises the strength in local expertise and co-creation of modelling projects with local stakeholders.

MAH Collaborators

- **Prof Justice Aheto**
- **Dr Edson Utazi**
- **Dr Megan Auzenbergs**
- **Prof Romain Glèlè Kakaï**
- **Prof Ezra Gayawan**
- **Prof Matt Ferrari**
- **Dr James Azam**
- **Dr Allison Portnoy**

Collaboration details & achievements

Published in April 2026, the article reflects on long-standing power imbalances in infectious disease modelling, particularly where analyses intended to inform policy in low- and middle-income countries are primarily developed in high-income settings. The authors argue that the growing use of AI-enabled tools, including large language models (LLMs), makes addressing these inequities more urgent than ever.

Using the MAH as a case study, the paper describes how collaborative, locally owned modelling structures can support more ethical, contextually grounded, and policy-relevant analyses. It highlights the importance of embedding local leadership, sustaining meaningful partnerships, and ensuring that emerging technologies augment rather than displace local expertise.

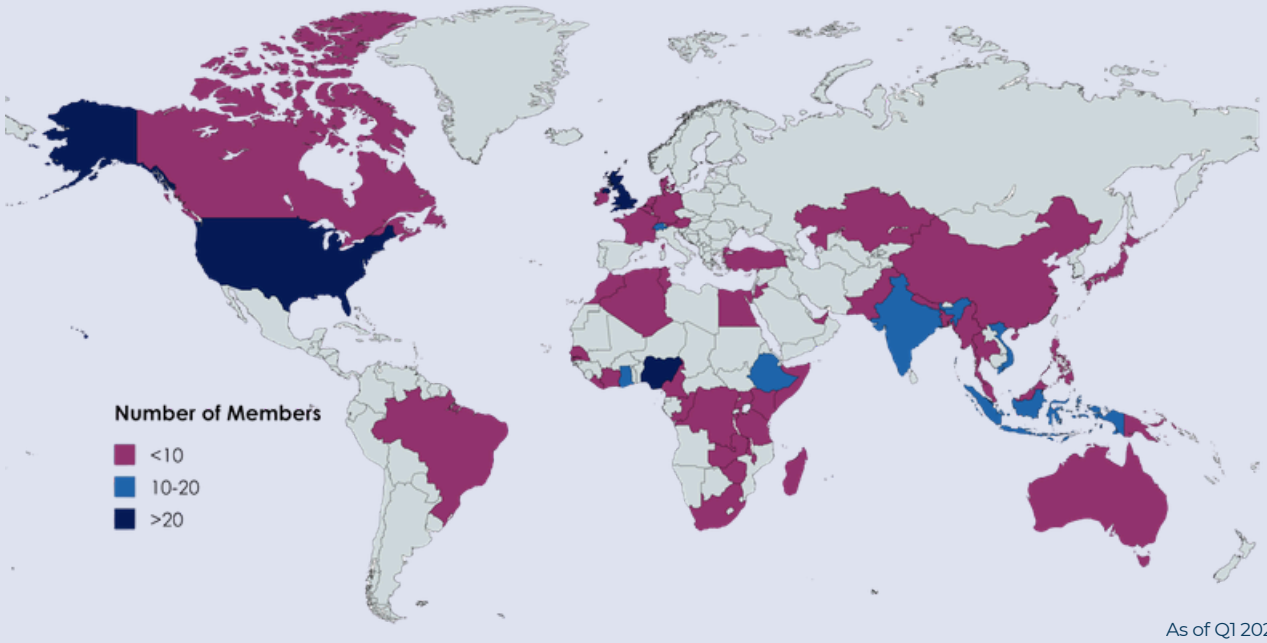
The article provides a timely contribution to ongoing discussions around equity, inclusion, and governance in global health modelling. A call to action urges funders, institutions, and modelling communities to actively reshape how infectious disease models are developed and funded by prioritising local leadership, equitable partnerships, and accountable use of emerging technologies.

Read the full open-access article here

Citation: *Aheto, Justice Moses K., et al. "Rebalancing power in infectious disease modelling: Toward inclusive and contextual approaches." PLOS Global Public Health 6.4 (2026): e0006220.*

Current Membership

The MAH currently has 396 members from 56 countries.



As of Q1 2026

Launching of GSIDD

The Global Society for Infectious Disease Dynamics (GSIDD) is a newly established global organisation designed to unite researchers, practitioners, and educators working in infectious disease dynamics. GSIDD functions as a connective platform, mapping and strengthening existing modelling networks across six continents while fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration.

The Measles Analytics Hub is proud to be listed as a GSIDD Member Organisation, affirming our role in the global infectious disease modelling landscape and reinforcing our commitment to equitable, networked approaches across the modelling community.

For more information, please visit: www.gsidd.org
info@gsidd.org
Bluesky: @gs-idd.bsky.socia

GSIDD

News submitted by MAH Members

Publications & new research

- **WHO guidance on using modelling for immunization decision-making:** developed jointly with the Immunization and Vaccines-related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIR-AC) to better align modelling outputs with policy needs. The guidance supports members of National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) and Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (RITAGs), Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) managers, and partners by linking modelling to Evidence-to-Decision processes and offering practical advice on interpreting, appraising, and co-developing models.
  - **Sim, So Yoon**, et al. "*Advancing the use of vaccine impact modeling for immunization decisions in low- and middle-income countries.*" Vaccine 75 (2026): 128239.
- **VillageReach**: findings now available from a nine-month "touchpoint" (measles drop-out) study examining barriers and enablers to vaccination at the 9-month visit for measles and other vaccines (including TCV, IPV2 and yellow fever). The study spans Nigeria, Pakistan, and DRC, and includes cross-country insights as well as analysis on moving measles vaccination to six months; further findings comparing 10-dose and 5-dose measles vials can also be read here:
  - Read more here; watch here
- New research from **Arifianto et al. 2026** highlights that measles cases in a recent Jakarta outbreak were concentrated among partially vaccinated children aged 1–5 years, with typical clinical presentation and outbreak trends in hospitals closely mirroring provincial surveillance patterns, underscoring persistent urban immunity gaps despite reported high coverage.
  - If you are interested in collaborating on this work or learning more, please email the MAH Secretariat and we can put you in touch with Dr. Arifianto.

Secretariat News

Save the Date

The 2026 Annual Meeting, **10–12 June in Jakarta**, will convene members from international agencies, regional and national stakeholders, and the global measles modelling community.

The meeting provides a space to share new scientific developments, address persistent modelling and data challenges, and shape the MAH priorities for the coming year.

Meeting registration has now closed, but some sessions will be made hybrid. **A calendar invite with an online joining link will be sent out to all MAH members soon.**

New Working Groups

New MAH working groups have been launched in **Nigeria** and **Zimbabwe**, led by in-country MAH members with expertise in measles modelling.

A working group for **Women in Measles Modelling** has also been formed with the intention of bringing female modellers together who are based in high-burden countries.

If you have not already received the calendar invites for these groups, email the MAH Secretariat.

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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