

RESULTS BULLETIN

CASPR NEWSLETTER

Tracking Progress, Maximizing Impact!



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About the Results Bulletin

The Results Bulletin is a Monitoring, Evaluation, Results, and Learning (MERL) newsletter that provides updates, news, and insights on results from CASPR activities, practices, trends, and tools on a quarterly basis.

The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and engage CASPR partners and other stakeholders about the progress, challenges, achievements, and lessons learned from CASPR initiatives. The newsletter also serves as a platform for sharing best practices, success stories, case studies, and resources related to MERL.

[Read More about CASPR on our website](#)

Appreciation Note

As we close out the year, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the extraordinary achievements and collaborations that have driven our MERL efforts forward.

Through unwavering dedication, innovative approaches, and shared commitment, you have helped us collect, analyze, and utilize data to amplify our impact. CASPR advocacy coalition partners played a crucial role in making MERL not just a process, but a powerful tool for change. These efforts have enabled CASPR to make data-driven decisions with confidence, bolstering the impact of our advocacy efforts!

These SPARC stories were all developed during the MERL Roadshow in Naivasha, Kenya in August. A huge thanks to all the participants, and to all the Roadshow participants in Lusaka who engaged fully and meaningfully with the MERL team.

Here's to another year of growth, collaboration, and shared success. Thank you for all that you do, and we look forward to continuing this important work next year!



Celebrating CASPR Partners: A Year of Success through MERL

From helping shape data collection methods to driving evidence-based recommendations, each partner contributed unique expertise that added immense value. Here are some standout achievements from this year:

- CASPR products are now indispensable! From policy briefs to educational toolkits, these resources are shaping the way advocates approach and communicate HIV prevention.
- CASPR's participation at conferences has expanded our advocacy network and maximized visibility. By sharing insights and collaborating with peers, CASPR is pushing HIV prevention objectives to the forefront.
- With their credibility and expertise, CASPR partners are at the forefront of policy discussions. Their advocacy is making waves, advancing critical HIV prevention policy goals worldwide.
- CASPR partners are go-to sources for making complex research digestible and relatable. Their focus on research literacy has positioned them as reliable voices for communities seeking to stay informed about HIV prevention. CASPR has streamlined communication, ensuring that key audiences receive up-to-date, clear, and actionable information on HIV prevention breakthroughs.



MESHA's Science Cafe Trainings: A Game-Changer for Health and Science Reporting

By MESHA

A notable increase in the publication of high-quality health and science stories has been observed across Kenyan print and digital media. Before the implementation of science cafe trainings through the Media Science Cafe program, the frequency of such articles was limited to approximately eight per month. However, subsequent to these training initiatives, journalists in MESHA's network have demonstrated substantial improvement, consistently publishing up to twenty well-crafted stories on a bi-monthly basis.



Figure 1: Antony Mwangi, MOJO Trainer, & Tabitha Munyiri showing how to record using Mobile phones.

This development marks a notable advancement in the quality and quantity of science journalism within the country. This change is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it demonstrates a considerable improvement in the output of science journalism, reflecting the impact of targeted capacity-building efforts. *"The media cafes have made me gain more knowledge, especially on interventions and responses to HIV, both at the community and the research level. They also provided me with a wider network of expert sources, as well as linkages to news sources in the communities,"* Kevine Omollo, Health Reporter and Editor Lake Region Bulletin, Kisumu County. Thanks to these efforts, important science stories are getting the attention they deserve."

This aligns with CASPR's outcomes, which focus on strengthening communication channels for sharing HIV prevention research with key audiences, enhancing the impact of media cafés and journalist engagement on research reporting, and increasing the visibility and influence of CASPR partners as trusted experts in research literacy and translation.

The connection between the context and the change is evident: the training has equipped journalists with the necessary skills to produce quality science and health stories that were previously limited in scope and quality. For example, Betty Muindi, Health and Environment Editor, People Daily Newspaper, affirms this, *"MESHA has been helping editors and media professionals in general to bring science stories to life through hands-on training and funding."*

Therefore, this is not just a small adjustment, but a systemic change within the journalism landscape in Kenya. The outcomes are long-lasting, as evidenced by the growing recognition and awards received by MESHA members. Up until three years ago, only 2 MESHA members were acknowledged for their work. However, after engaging in these trainings, more members have been recognized and awarded for their outstanding contributions to science and health journalism. For example, 5 MESHA members were honored at the 2024 Annual Journalism Excellence Awards Ceremony for excellence in various categories namely: *Podcast of the Year digital category Award-No 1; Digital Superhighway and innovation reporting, print category Award-No 1; Best investigative story, print category Award-No 1; Health and Medical reporting Award-No 1; Gender Reporting Award-No 1.*

CASPR has provided the financial support necessary to facilitate both virtual and in-person activities. The café convenings are informal gatherings where subject matter experts engage with journalists, allowing for open dialogue and in-depth interaction with the information. The cross-border cafés, which are held virtually, expand access to a wider network of journalists by eliminating geographical barriers. Through CASPR, MESHA has gained access to a network of experts contributing to training efforts. Advocates, researchers, scientists, and government officials, are regularly invited to participate in these convenings.



Figure 2: MESHA Annual Editors Meeting & Science Café on HIV Prevention Research and development in Kenya.

Being a part of the CASPR's network has made it easier for the conveners to make connections and invite these people to attend the cafés. CASPR has also provided literacy tools and resources which have been useful to achieve the reported results. CASPR, being a coalition focused on research and research literacy, capacitates its advocates with regular resources that assist with understanding science. For example, the Lens on Len focusing on the Purpose 1 Trial, an advocates' primer providing further background on the product and trials, raises key questions, and explores next steps. Webinars were also convened across multiple media cafés such as Health Communications Forum and HIFC (Zimbabwe), HEJNU (Uganda) and Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) who were part of the Reporting the African Science Story: Decoding Scientific Research to Support Public Health in Africa webinar.

The Translation Index has been helpful for health journalists to understand medical terms in different languages such as Bemba, Cichewa, Dholuo, Kiswahili, Luganda, Ndebele, Runyankore, Shona, Tonga, and Tumbuka. This helps bridge the gap between scientific research and community understanding.

MESHA's Science Café Trainings have greatly enhanced the quality of health and science reporting in Kenyan media. By providing journalists with the skills and knowledge they need, these programs have contributed to a more informed and engaged public. The success of this initiative offers valuable lessons for other countries aiming to strengthen their science journalism landscape.

A Co-Created Approach to Champion Local Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa is Catalyzed by CASPR-led Premier Regional Advocacy Forum

By IAVI

A co-created advocacy agenda to prioritize local manufacturing of vaccines by low- and middle-income countries has been launched in Africa, converging on priority action points identified by regional policymakers, industry partners, global health agencies, and civil society advocates. The forum serves as a premier, Africa-led platform where both global and regional stakeholders come together to discuss and assess progress toward achieving self-sufficiency and sustainability in addressing Africa's health and disease R&D needs, including local manufacturing and vaccine production. Before this forum was established, advocacy for local vaccine manufacturing in Africa had been fragmented and lacked a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder consultation process to ensure broad consensus and support for key actions.

Vaccines are regarded as one of the most cost-effective and successful public health interventions, saving millions endangered by various forms of communicable diseases to contain epidemics and pandemics. Self-reliance in vaccine development and manufacturing is a key continental objective as spelled out in the Framework for Action of Africa CDC's Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM).

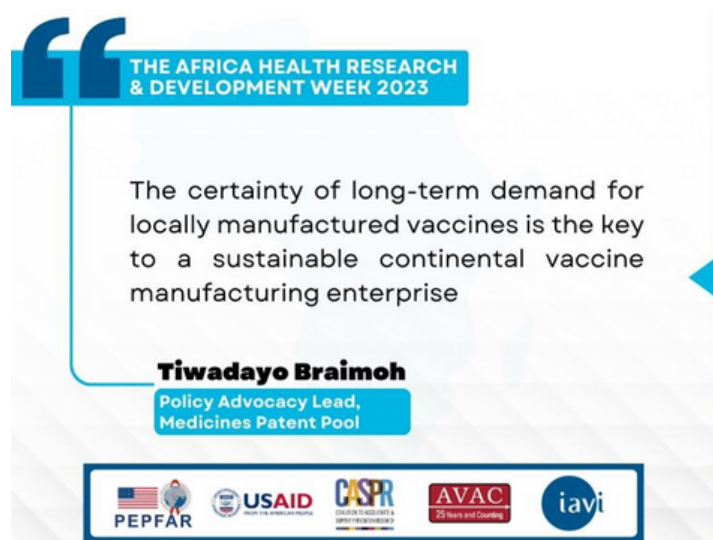


Figure 3: One of the key statements from the Speakers of the 2023 R&D Week.

By collaborating with health research and development coalitions including CHReaD, GHTC, SAHTAC and CASPR partners like WACI Health(AfNHi) and AVAC, the IAVI-led forum brought together eminent speakers from the vaccine manufacturing field including the Africa CDC acting DG; PHAHM coordinator; CEO of Biovac SA; the CEO of Biovax institute Kenya; the Rwanda Biomedical Research Centre director general; CEPI engagement lead; Director of Health Innovation Department Of Science And Innovation in South Africa. This has been achieved through IAVI's establishment and leveraging of the Africa Health R&D Week (AHRDW) platform. AHRDW aims to celebrate achievements and promote sustainable financing of health R&D through domestic resource mobilization in Africa. Launched in 2022, the four-day virtual forum focuses on sustainable support for vaccine development and manufacturing in low- and middle-income countries.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 2023 R&D week, the Program Coordinator for Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), Africa CDC affirmed that *"we need action-oriented public-private partnerships and to expand local manufacturing of vaccines from the current 1% vaccines to 60% in 2040."* Professor Petro Terblanche from Afrigen Biologics & Vaccines in South Africa explained that *"we have seen technology transfer partnerships within the global south to be more visible and deliver better results than with Big Pharma. We need to leverage existing resources and skills in LMICs and emerging economies."* As a result of the forum, IAVI was invited to be a member of the Africa CDC-led technical working group designing the track on sustainable health R&D financing track of the 2024 annual CPHIA conference.

The forum plays a key role in expanding national and Pan-African networks and policy partnerships involving CASPR partners. Global health R&D advocacy organizations such as PATH and CHReaD have shown interest in collaborating on future Africa Health R&D Week conferences. This aligns with the CASPR outcome, which aims to increase the visibility and influence of CASPR partners as trusted advisors in the HIV prevention field, from research through to implementation.

Choice Manifesto: The Global Call for Action Gains Momentum Via Strategic Communications Campaign

By WACI

The Choice Manifesto, which outlines the HIV prevention needs of adolescent girls and young women, has garnered global, regional, and national recognition following its successful launch in Uganda. The Choice Manifesto has garnered significant support, with a growing number of individuals and organizations signing on.

These sign-ons reflect a strong commitment to continue disseminating, implementing, funding, and delivering programs that prioritize choice. This groundbreaking document is expected to drive effective HIV prevention strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by this vulnerable population.



Fig 4: UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima, joined women's coalitions, government officials, development partners and community groups from across East and Southern Africa to launch the HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto.

The process of developing the Choice Manifesto was a collaboration between African women and girls from Eastern and Southern Africa and civil society organizations led by the African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board (AWPCAB). AWPCAB has 3 secretariat organizations: the International Community of Women Living with HIV East Africa (ICW EA), Advocacy for Prevention of HIV and AIDS (APHA), and WACI Health, which leads communication efforts. During the launch of the Manifesto, UNAIDS Director Ms. Winnie Byanyima remarked, "I congratulate you on the HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto. It's about driving everyone toward people-centered, women-centered, and women-led approaches to HIV prevention. You have fought tirelessly to reach this point. You are fearless feminists. Women must lead for themselves."

WACI Health leads the communication efforts for the Choice Manifesto, driving initiatives to increase its visibility, garner support, and secure public commitments for choice in HIV prevention. WACI launched several social media campaigns targeting young people to raise awareness of the Manifesto, introduced the Wall of Fame—a virtual platform to showcase public commitments from policymakers, HIV response organizations, UN agencies, and advocates—and created a space to elevate the conversation around HIV prevention.

These efforts align with two key CASPR outcomes: enhancing the value and influence of CASPR products within the advocacy field and increasing the visibility and impact of CASPR partners in advancing HIV prevention advocacy. The Choice Manifesto aims to inform policymakers and program implementers about effective HIV prevention strategies, ultimately mobilizing resources and support for initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by vulnerable populations.



Fig 5: Ms. Byanyima signed the Choice Manifesto on behalf of UNAIDS and committed to supporting and amplifying the voices of African women and confirmed that UNAIDS will continue to convene partners and government to find solutions.

By providing a clear framework, the Choice Manifesto is expected to drive the development of effective HIV prevention strategies that are tailored to the specific needs of adolescent girls and young women, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and inclusive approach to HIV prevention.

[Read more about the Choice Manifesto.](#)

5 R4P Lessons CASPR Won't Be Forgetting Anytime Soon: Insights from the MERL Team!

After the unforgettable CASPR presence at the R4P conference, the MERL Team is back, and we're buzzing with lessons learned! From strengthened ways to ensuring visibility to fresh perspectives on documenting impact, this year's conference pushed our thinking and refined our approach!

In our time together, we dug deep into the art of transforming data into stories that drive action, explored ways of telling the story of how valuable CASPR resources have been on the international stage. Here's a look at the top six takeaways that we'll be carrying forward, ready to amplify impact!



Figure 6: Advocates in a session at the Advocates Corner at R4P.

1. Strengthened Visibility

Deliberate reference to the coalition's objectives, resources, and demonstrated impact at the conference attracted greater interest and engagement, positioning it as a key leader in HIV prevention and fostering valuable new partnerships and support. The Advocates Corner, virtual daily debriefs led by the Young Women HIV Prevention Council and advocates respectively facilitated strategic discussions on advocacy, research translation and research Preparedness

2. Promotion of Choice in Programming with Accountability

- Strengthened the "Programming for Choice" approach, supporting the Choice Manifesto & amplifying the voices of youth and communities. CHOICE manifesto amplified throughout presentations and AWPCAB are highlighted in R4P presentations, and included in the post-conference key takeaways and communications shared by the Organizers.

3. Contribution to Global Health System Improvements

- CASPR advocated for a health architecture inspired by the successes of the AIDS movement, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, leadership, and the role of advocates during R4P. AVAC resources such as [PrEPWatch](#), GPP Guidelines and the PrEP tracker were widely referenced and acknowledged during presentations



Figure 7: A CASPR-led session on Pregnant and Lactating Persons (PLP) work.

4. Advancing Product Introduction Standards

- Successfully influenced the pace of product introductions, emphasizing urgency, equity, and scale through CASPR's participation in the Lenacapavir meeting, Gilead meeting and DPP consortium meeting. AVAC's messaging on product roll-out aligned with the HIV Prevention Research field

5. Responsive R&D Agendas

- The conference highlighted the integration of community perspectives in research agendas, enhancing relevance and responsiveness to field needs. For example, People's Research Agenda Launch emphasized the inclusion of community's perspectives on R&D

In the wake of CASPR's standout presence at the R4P conference, the MERL Team returns inspired and invigorated! Our time at the conference not only sharpened our approach but also highlighted new ways to ensure visibility and elevate the story of CASPR's impact on a global scale.

With fresh insights on transforming data into action-driving stories, we're equipped with six powerful takeaways that will help us continue amplifying CASPR's influence. Ready to roll out these lessons, we're excited to bring this momentum back to our work and keep making waves!

[Click here to read more about the 2024 R4P Conference.](#)

Thank You!

It is only through the ongoing support of CASPR partners that we are able to continue and fulfill the MERL purpose.

Coalition to Accelerate and Support Prevention Research (CASPR)



Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-16-00031

HIV Vaccine and Biomedical Prevention Research Project—Objective 3