

## Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa



### Highlights

#### Engagement with Tanzania's Ministry of Health

**Godfrey Mtey** and **Lynette Kamau** met with Hon. **Zainab Chaula**, Tanzania's Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children on behalf of the Tanzania Research teams on June 14 in Dodoma. The meeting was a follow-up on discussions initiated in June 2018 with the Ministry following the sharing of findings through a national stakeholders' forum in Dar es Salaam.

**Five recommendations** were submitted to the Ministry to facilitate the scale-up of maternal and child health interventions. These included a three-month in-service orientation of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care and anesthesia program; use of m-Health technology by community health workers; clarification of the escort policy for antenatal care attendance to encourage male involvement; strengthening leadership and management skills of health facilities and council health management teams; and setting up of simulation sites to maintain clinical skills. The Permanent Secretary affirmed her commitment to scale-up the interventions since evidence shared demonstrates their feasibility. She further assigned staff to develop action plans on how they can be implemented.

#### IMCHA @ the Women Deliver Conference

About **18 people** from **eight research teams** and the Eastern Africa HPRO from the IMCHA Initiative participated in the [Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#) on June 3-6 in Vancouver, Canada. The participants showcased their work through digital storytelling, digital poster sessions, video screenings, and panel discussions at the IDRC and PRE-EMP booths.

Women Deliver is the largest conference on gender equality, health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women in the 21st century. More than 6,000 world leaders, advocates, academics, activists, influencers, and journalists participated. This year's theme was '**Progress. Power. Change.**'

The logo for the Women Deliver 2019 Conference. It features a stylized orange arrow pointing upwards and to the right, followed by the text "WOMEN DELIVER" in white, and "2019 CONFERENCE" in orange below it.

We appreciate IDRC and each participant for increasing IMCHA's visibility at yet another great event.

## IMCHA Symposium at the AHAIC 2019



*From left: Lynette Kamau, Sherine Athero, Lakew Abebe, Jenipher Twebaze, and Jerusha Momanyi, during the symposium.*

At this year's Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) 2019, the EA-HPRO Consortium convened a symposium titled 'How can health systems engage communities to achieve Universal Health Coverage?' on March 7 in Kigali, Rwanda. At the symposium, **Jenipher Twebaze** of BRAC Uganda, **Lakew Abebe** of Ethiopia's Jimma University, Sherine Athero of APHRC, and Jerusha Momanyi, Member of Parliament from Kenya shared their experiences working with community health workers (CHWs) and the role of legislatures in supporting these efforts to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) sustainably. As a result of the discussions, Hon. Momanyi committed to actively contribute to the dialogue on the CHW Bill currently tabled in the Kenyan national assembly.

It was an excellent opportunity to share best practices from the IMCHA Initiative and also contribute to regional discussions on the implementation of UHC.



## Meetings with Research Teams

The EA-HPRO Consortium convened four meetings with research teams in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda between February and May 2019.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss their project progress, the innovations they consider can be scaled-up as well as knowledge translation. Following the meetings, each team developed a knowledge

translation action plan clearly articulating the activities and documentation to be done in the remaining period of their projects. Jointly with the HPRO teams also identified specific interventions for scale-up. The sessions were productive and will go a long way in guiding the knowledge translation activities in this final phase.

## Stakeholder engagement to map Mozambique's MNCH sector

For researchers to develop policy-relevant recommendations from the evidence they

generate as part of the IMCHA Initiative, they need to understand the MNCH policy environment. As such, the Lúrio University and the EA-HPRO co-convened a meeting with stakeholders in Mozambique to support a mapping exercise of the MNCH policy context on February 5-6 in Maputo. About 20 stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, academia, and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. They identified different actors in the MNCH sector with their roles and also participated in a focus group discussion. The information collected provides a better understanding of Mozambique's financing, health system challenges, and policies and will guide the policy engagement process in the country.



### Video and Article: IMCHA Interventions in Nampula, Mozambique



The EA-HPRO Consortium worked with researchers from Lúrio University and University of Saskatchewan to do a short video showcasing the innovative interventions implemented as part of the IMCHA project in Nampula, Mozambique.

Their work was also recently covered by the Canadian Geographic Charting Change in an article titled: "[How a Mozambican expat in Saskatchewan designed a motorcycle ambulance to help improve maternal health in his homeland.](#)"

Read the article [here](#).

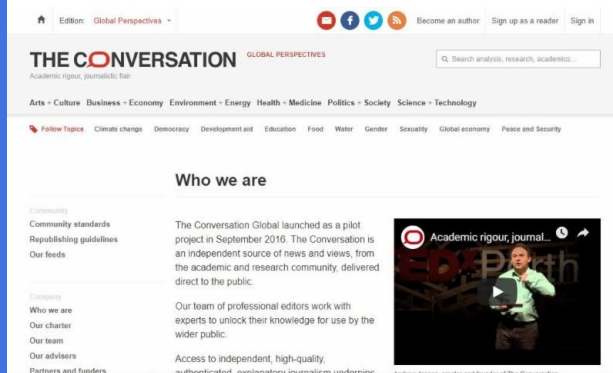
#### IMCHA media coverage and publications

- Video by Deutsche Welle titled: "Women in Iringa teach about reproductive health" ([Wanawake Iringa watoa elimu kuhusu afya ya uzazi](#)). - The Kiswahili video covers the IMCHA project in Iringa, Tanzania led by **Stephen Maluka (PI)** and **Sian Fitzgerald (CoPI)**. Watch the video [here](#).
- Article in the South Sudan Medical Journal Special Issue on PHC. The article is titled: "[Using livelihoods to support primary health care for South Sudanese refugees in Kiryandongo, Uganda.](#)" It talks about the IMCHA project in Uganda led by **Jenipher Twebaze (PI)** and **Kevin Mckague (CoPI)**. Read the article [here](#).
- Article published on the UToday website by Calgary University. The article is titled: "[A different worldview: Caesarean sections and supports for moms-to-be save lives.](#)" The article talks about the IMCHA project in Mwanza, Tanzania led by **Dismas**



## Opportunities

### Write for Conversation Africa



Share your findings through [The Conversation Africa](#).

It is a highly reputable and credible source of information to improve the quality and scope of public discourse.

Want to share your work? Let us know.

### BBC seeks gender balance on expert contributors

Through its #5050project, the BBC is aiming for a 50:50 ratio of male and female expert contributors every month. The project is currently the most significant collective action ever on increasing female representation across BBC content.

Would you like to be one of the contributors? Send your name, email address, twitter handle, one-line description of your expertise, location, nearest BBC studio location, and additional languages spoken to [5050Project@bbc.co.uk](mailto:5050Project@bbc.co.uk).

In your submission include topics you're happy to talk about; provide a detailed description of your experience and expertise; indicate your flexibility outside regular working hours; and give consent to be contacted by BBC outlets - TV, radio, and online, and for your details to be shared with the team.

## Events

- The 2020 Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference on April 18-20, 2020 in Washington DC. Find more details [here](#).
- East African Research in Progress (EARIP), taking place on September 26-28, 2019 in Tanzania. Find more details [here](#).

## Connect with us

Share with us any news and updates such as published papers, policy briefs, community engagement activities, about an upcoming conference you are participating in. We want to feature your work. Share before **August 15** to be included in the next IMCHA News Roundup.

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