

The 40th Annual Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting, Morogoro, Tanzania, May 15th -17th, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The 40th Annual Scientific Conference (ASC), organized by the Tanzania Public Health Association (TPHA), took place in Morogoro, Tanzania, from May 15th to 17th, 2024. The theme was: **“Optimizing Public Health Interventions and Services in Tanzania: Opportunities and Challenges”**
- ❖ 126 participants from both public and private health sectors, development partners, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions attended the conference.
- ❖ During the two and half days of the conference 38 presentations were done.
- ❖ The Guest of Honor, Hon. Dr. Faustine Ndugulile Member of Parliament for Kigamboni and an Assistant Chairperson to the Parliamentary Social Services Committee, officially opened the conference on 15th May 2024. He strongly advised TPHA to increase its visibility as it is doing a lot of good work in health promotion.
- ❖ Keynote speaker emphasized on the importance of establishing a National Public Health Institute, which will serve as special instrument to advise the government on the management of the health system. TPHA to collaborate with the MOH in establishing a Public Health Institute
- ❖ In honoring the Late Dr. Leonard Mboera, a word of tribute was given by Prof. Gerald Misinzio from SUA and member of SACIDS, who described the contribution of Late Dr. Leonard Mboera in different projects at SACIDS. Till his death he was the leader of various projects including the Community Practice on One Health Socio Ecological System Programme (emerging and vector borne diseases).
- ❖ The importance of systematic quality assessment and continuous improvement measures to ensure the provision of high-quality healthcare services emphasized.
- ❖ Low awareness and knowledge of cervical cancer causes, risk factors, prevention, misconception about vaccination, and lack of communication regarding cervical cancer services between the health care facilities and the communities are contributing factors to underutilization of cervical cancer screening and vaccination services among men and women in urban and rural areas.

- ❖ The importance of evidence-based interventions to improve health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations such as adolescents, pregnant women, and children underscored.
- ❖ There is a growing burden of NCDs but resources to ensure quality NCD services provision are often lacking.
- ❖ Efforts to strengthen NCD services should focus on building institutional capacity for NCD service provision, including skilled human resources and equipping health facilities with diagnostics, equipment and medicines
- ❖ Strong emphasis on the need for collective action to mitigate the impact of alcohol on future generations, involving all stakeholders to address this public health issue effectively.
- ❖ Advocate for enforcement and implementation of the National Alcohol Control Policy and Action Plan on reduction of harmful use of alcohol
- ❖ Significance of NHIF in enhancing healthcare delivery underscored to ensure comprehensive coverage and access to quality healthcare services.
- ❖ Holistic approach is needed to address the HRH and governance gap in Tanzania: from HRH production (pre service training); policies to address inefficiency; quality of the available work force (role of CPD, motivation and retention); planning and implementation of interventions; and innovative strategies for addressing HRH and health system governance inefficiencies.
- ❖ Sexual Health Education (SHE) should be provided at home, school, and in the community by Healthcare workers, parents and religious leaders to capture the greatest number of adolescents
- ❖ Increase awareness on availability of youth friendly Sexual Health Services (SHS) to students, parents, and healthcare workers in order to improve utilization of the services.