Who we are!

Amref Health Africa is an International African Organization Founded in 1957 as the flying Doctors of East Africa to provide critical medical assistance to remote communities in East Africa. It has since grown to comprise a full range of medical and health-related services. Amref Health Africa works with the most vulnerable African communities to achieve lasting health change.

Amref Health Africa has been active in Tanzania since 1957 and in 1987 the country office was established in Dar es Salaam. Since then, Amref Health Africa Tanzania has been among the major supporters of the Government of Tanzania’s health care initiatives particularly the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC). Amref has supported the development of a number of national health policies, strategies and guidelines for equitable health service delivery.

Currently, Amref Health Africa Tanzania has more than 25 active projects across different regions in Tanzania (over 45% of the projects are located in the Lake Zone of Tanzania). Amref has projects with national outlook which are community base one such as e-learning program and laboratory strengthening project that are implemented across the regions including Zanzibar.

Amref’s projects are categorized into four main thematic areas: Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH); Disease Control and Prevention (DCP) program which comprises of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), Laboratory Services, Obstetric Fistula and Malaria interventions; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Capacity Training Program.

Amref Health Africa Tanzania’s projects respond to national health priorities and sustainable development goals in addressing the needs of women and children. We work to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of health services by strengthening health systems, improving access to services and advocating stronger community health systems and influencing health policies. With 2018-2022 New strategy, Amref Health Africa in Tanzania remains a strong supporter of universal health coverage agenda.

Vision:
Lasting health change in Africa

Mission:
We are committed to improving the health of people in Africa by partnering and empowering communities and strengthening health systems.

Main Programmes

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Programme

Amref Health Africa Tanzania key focus is centered on improving the health of women and children in the communities, while also engaging and involving men with aim of contributing to the reduction of preventable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent morbidity and mortality in the country. The key focus areas on RMNCAH portfolio are on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for young people and women of reproductive age. The projects focus on increasing number of skilled birth attendants, access to Reproductive Health (RH) services including Antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, as well as youth-friendly services to address or prevent early/unplanned pregnancies among young people including realization of their SRH Rights.

The RMNCH portfolio is one of the largest programmes in Amref. The Projects under RMNCAH programme are in line with One-Plan II and other national health strategies and policies. The projects strengthen health system to deliver quality services such as capacity building to health care workers, renovation and construction of facilities as well as equipping them with Medical supplies and equipment. Amref also works towards improving water, hygiene and sanitation in the health facilities such as incinerators, placenta pits and ensure availability of running water in the maternity wards and theaters.

Other ongoing projects under RMNCAH programme are: Female Genital Mutilation elimination project- “TOKOMEZA UKEKETAJI” to address gender based violence among women, young adolescents and children in Serengeti district, Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth “Afya Kwa Vijana” in Meatu district that aims to improving universal access to comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights amongst youth aged 10–24.

Other projects are, ARP/WASH which addressing Female Genital Cutting and early marriage for girls and young women through alternative rite of passage (ARP) in Handeni and Kilindi districts. The project also focused on advocating for the policy change and law amendment related to child marriage. Lastly is UZAZI UZIMA and CAIA-MNCH projects aims at reducing maternal & newborn mortality & morbidity in five districts in Geita and Simiyu Region.

Disease Control and Prevention (DCP) Programme

Disease Control and Prevention programme aims at ensuring quality implementation of community and individual-based interventions for primary and secondary prevention, to minimize the burden of diseases and associated risk factors. The programme works with targeted communities to improve their health through changing the impact of social and economic determinants on health; the provision of information on behavioral and medical health risks, alongside consultation and measures to decrease them at the personal and community level; nutritional and food supplementation; oral and dental hygiene education; and clinical preventive and curative services. The diagnostic component of the programme ensures that partners have well-equipped laboratories managed by skilled health service providers.
that have the capacity to provide timely, reliable and accurate information for patient management and disease surveillance.

The DCP portfolio has the following ongoing projects; Promoting Safe Motherhood and Fistula Services through Strengthening Health System in Tanzania, Medical Specialist Outreach Program, Right Start Initiative – Weekly Iron and Folic Acid, Global Health Security Agenda(GHSA), Right Start-Maternal Newborn Health and Nutrition, Right Start-Infants and Young Children Nutrition, Sustaining the momentum and improving the gain for HIV and TB in Tanzania (Global Fund), Enhancement of Public, Private and Faith-Based Health Laboratory Capacity to Support HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment in the United Republic of Tanzania and Sensitization of HIV/AIDS, TB, STI and gender issues along road construction sites.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) Programme

Amref’s focus in WASH is to ensure communities have adequate capacity to develop, operate and maintain their water sources as well as improve sanitation and hygiene practices in a sustainable way with a view to preventing and controlling water- and sanitation-related diseases, improving nutrition and livelihoods. In this process Amref facilitates the availability and installation of hardware, and focuses on society mechanisms that ensure hardware remains functional, with optimum use of the water available to ensure maximum health benefits. The aim being to increase access to safe and adequate water; increase access and use of appropriate sanitation facilities; promote safe hygiene practices at household level, health facility level, public spaces in the communities etc, and in schools; contribute to control and prevention of endemic WASH-related diseases; and respond to selected WASH-related disease outbreaks in areas of operation.

Some of ongoing projects under WASH programme are: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene “Usafi kwa Afya” project, which aims at scaling up good practices to improved access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices in Kisangura and Sedecco wards in Serengeti District, Mara Region, RAIN project to Improve Water and Sanitation Services through Community Mobilization in Serengeti district, Dar es Salaam School WASH Project which aims at improving school hygiene and sanitation, this initiative join hands with ongoing National School Sanitation Campaign that is directly implemented by the district under government support and Water of Life project to facilitate the construction of boreholes that enable the target audience to access safe and enough water for domestic and other purposes.

Capacity Building Programme

Amref Health Africa Tanzania through the capacity building program implement a number of projects: MAFUNZO project, Stand Up for African Mothers (SU4AM), e-learning and JENGA UWEZO projects to help develop competencies and skills of people needed to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of these projects. All of these projects aim at enhancing skills while increasing the number of health care workers who contribute to addressing the shortage of human resources for health in the country. Amref health Africa’s efforts towards increasing the number of health care workers includes the annual fundraising events that mobilizes individuals, companies and different institutions to contribute, sponsor or support the Stand up for African Mothers special projects which gives a two-year scholarship to nurse midwives students.

Acknowledgement

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