Dear HABARI readers,

It has been both an exciting and a learning rollercoaster this second quarter of the year for Amref! Most importantly, I take refuge in the hard work, commitment, and contributions of Amref Health Africa Tanzania staff, our donors, the Tanzanian Government, Communities and our Partners who have been the cornerstone to all our successes.

As an organization, we will continue to invest in strengthening institutional systems as well as the software (people, culture, quality and processes), and develop partnerships that help meet community needs. We therefore welcome partners from both public and private sectors to join our efforts in creating a “Lasting Health Change in Tanzania”.

Our values (Integrity, Quality and Ubuntu) are fundamental and essential in creating an enduring organisation that meets the needs of our beneficiaries, stakeholders and employees. They symbolise our collective commitment to moral and ethical standards that we believe in.

Having said this, I welcome our readers to enjoy our stories, photo gallery and media sneak peek from our programme portfolios. We highly value your feedback and we will be privileged to learn from you on how we can improve our work.

Thank you for your continued support.

From the Director’s Desk

Dr. Florence Temu
Country Director

Success Story

“Fight Against Teenage Marriage” Narrating Leah Maziku

By looking at her, I understood that she was fearful of something so I asked to attend to her privately. The young girl bursted out in to tears and told me that she needs help; she said her uncle and relatives, who were outside waiting for her to be tested, wanted to marry her off. She said, she had just completed grade seven but her relatives had received a bride price for her so she would be married whether she was tested for HIV or not.

I decided to call a police gender desk officer outside the facility (after efforts to contact a paralegal had gone in vain) and we confronted the uncle and relatives. The uncle yelled at us and said he MUST marry her off despite the fact that we refused to test the young girl. We then called the police, who came in immediately and arrested the uncle while the rest of the relatives ran away.

I have been following up on the girl ever since; she is now safe and is living near the gender desk officer that was also involved in helping her escape from being married off,” Leah Maziku, 29, a health care worker at Luguru Dispensary

Leah Maziku a Health Care Worker at Luguru Dispensary

“On a normal working day at Luguru Dispensary in Itilima District in Tanzania, a young girl of 13 years, escorted by her uncle and relatives, came in for HIV testing. As the uncle was asking the nurses to test the girl for HIV, the little girl, who looked afraid, sad and desperate for help, secretly alerted me.

Recognizing signs of early childhood marriage and gender-based violence is one of the components of youth-friendly services taught to health workers. Youth-friendly services training is an activity of the four-year Uzazi Uzima (Kiswahili for “Safe Deliveries”) project, a partnership between Amref Health Africa and Marie Stopes, with Deloitte as a service partner, with support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.
From Our Beneficiaries

“No more long Walks; Now we Work”  
Explains Sabina Nyawancho

Before implementation of Rain project in Serengeti District, people especially women had to walk for a long distance to search water. Sabina Nyawancho, a resident in Merenga village, said: “It was a burden to get water, especially during summer time, but now with the implementation of RAIN, this has made our lives easier instead of walking we now working to generate income”.

Before RAIN Project Sabina and her fellow resident had to walk for more than eight to 10 km to get a single bucket of water. Apart from helping residents having access to water, RAIN has made water accessible to various schools in the Serengeti district.

Peter Mayaga, the headmaster at Makundusi Secondary School at Serengeti DC, said that students from his school have faced many challenges because of the lack of water accessibility to the school. He said, “Our school is situated near a reserve, there are many dangers of wild animals attacking students such as lions and elephants when fetching buckets of water, now with the access of water in the school, the dangers of being in proximity with such wild animals have been reduced in school grounds”.

Catherine D. Richard a student at Makundusi secondary school said that, “RAIN project has helped students in a number of ways, not only by having access to water, but saving time; instead of having to walk long distances and spend time filling the bucket of water with a pump system; this time can be spent doing school activities”.

Medical Outreach Services, Beyond Targeted Beneficiaries

Dr. George Martin (31) has served for four years as a Medical Doctor at Mchukwi Hospital, and is now the in-charge. This is what he had to say:

“Well we have been partnering with Amref Health Africa for more than ten years. Before Amref Health Africa’s outreach services, referrals were very difficult due to low income of our clients in the community. With introduction of the medical specialist outreach program, it has helped to reduce costs, and many patients are attending. On the other hand this has resulted in an increased of income, on cost sharing due to high number of patients. These services are supported by Amref Health Africa are saving many lives. It is more convenient than having to travel to Muhimbili Hospital at Dar es Salaam. The hospital staff have benefited through knowledge imparted the knowledge and skills from specialists and this has helped in sustaining the services.

Residents from neighboring regions like Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara, and Zanzibar have also benefited as they come here for specialist services. The quality of services provided by the specialist is almost the same as that at Muhimbili Referral Hospital. Our hospital has been acknowledged by patients. However, we experience some challenges like insufficient equipment to handle some complicated cases. We recommend Amref to increase more outreach missions”.

Dr. George Martin, In-charge Medical Officer at Mchukwi Hospital at Rufiji District

Sabina Nyawancho, one of the RAIN Project beneficiaries
Amref at the Community

As part of Uhuru Torch (Mwenge) Exhibition in Mwanza City Council, the Right Start Initiative Program, a project funded by Canada through Nutrition International, in collaboration with health stakeholders and government authority managed to conduct a health awareness event at the Council purposely for sensitizing and raising community awareness for practicing regular checking for health and nutrition status.

The event was held at Mirongo Primary School grounds, it provided an opportunity for the community in the area to access the services for free. This platform was useful in addressing childhood malnutrition as the project conducted nutrition education and demonstration to pupils who were deprived of accessing the services due to lack of school health programs in the Council and parents negligence in educating the children at the household level.

Pupils were delighted with the services provided and said, “The appropriate health and nutrition information shared with Amref Health Africa staff and City Council Nutrition Officers will ultimately transform their dietary practices and improving development, as well as informing the family members to help improve their well-being.”

“JIBU App Benefits e-Learning Students”

Joshua Vitus Mnyani is a principle trainer at Ndanda Nursing School Mtwar where Amref has also been supporting the e-learning program through provision of tablet-loaded material, to facilitate the e-learning upgrading program for inservice nurse students. The school was established in 2013, and a year later, the JIBU learning program was integrated in the school system, this program helps access study materials through their mobile phones. Joshua says:

“It has been a journey with JIBU, when it was first introduced; the program was only available to smartphones and tablets, and it was only accessible through internet connectivity;.

We have come a long way with JIBU program; it now meets the demands and requirements of the curriculum, the application can be downloaded through PlayStore; once the application has been installed, students are able to access the material online and offline.

Now, with the availability of smartphones; JIBU program is a great resource for students in school; one can be in Nanyumbu, Masasi, Dodoma or Tandahimba and still be able to download the application. Students can now easily access learning materials on their phones, without having to travel to school, which gives them more time to concentrate on their work.”

Access to Nutrition Information Has Improved Childhood Development

Joshua Mnyami, Principal and Trainer at Ndanda Nursing School in Masasi

Yasinta Bahati, Right Start Initiative Project Officer, explain to the pupils on how to improve their health and well-being
During my mission to Kilimanjaro, one of the intervention areas where our five-year CDC-GHSA funded project on Community-Based Surveillance which has reached and trained 435 Community Health Workers (CHWs); I met a very energetic, charming, motivated and a self-confident gentleman, Amani Minja; whom from the very first encounter his facial expression could tell his contentment and readiness to share a lot about himself and the work he was voluntarily doing in his community at Mkolowonyi village in Moshi DC, Kilimanjaro.

Mr Amani Minja has been a volunteer as a community health worker for more than five years and was able to narrate very well about his routine and experiences out of this special role he is very excited about; on identification of conditions related to disease outbreaks and immediate reporting to the health facility. He calls this "a very special role". Keenly, I sat down with this man, and had a discussion regarding his work, the support and training he received from Amref’s CDC-GHSA supported project on community based surveillance.

"Mkolowonyi village has a total number of 518 households that are under my surveillance catchment as a volunteering community health care worker. I am attached to Mkolowonyi dispensary and among my daily duties includes conducting periodic household visits in my catchment area, submission of household reports, raise an alert of any disease condition or outbreaks detected, provide an advise, process referrals for patients whom I have noticed or come across during my household visits, I also report on any disease outbreak rumor that occurs in my village or nearby places" he explained enthusiastically.

"I am happy that, people around my village are becoming more aware, active and sensitive on how to protect and prevent themselves from diseases like Anthrax which is mostly caused by eating dead animals and unvaccinated animals. The support I am getting from the district health team is amazing and I take this opportunity to thank Amref Health Africa for continuing supporting us especially in training, working gears such as rain coats, reporting tools and other needs. The district health team is very cooperative once informed about outbreaks in our villages. I feel motivated because my reports are valued and whenever an outbreak rumors are detected in my village, the health facility and district respond to it urgently". He concluded.

It was an exciting moment when perused though the report book that Minja is using for data collection and other useful information. I also visited some of the households benefiting from Minja’s visits, advises and support. My call is upon all beneficiaries out of the CDC-GHSA support to continue using the knowledge imparted that includes early detection, rapid response and prevention of outbreaks and other health related information.

Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) training is funded through the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA): partnership Engagement to Increase Public Health Globally (GHSA) project and implemented by Amref Health Africa in collaboration with CDC Tanzania and Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC)-Epidemiology section. Amref Health Africa in partnership with Government particularly MoHCDGEC understands and value importance of awareness raising, training and information circulation, we shall therefore continue supporting towards building a healthier communities in Tanzania.
Amref Health Africa in Tanzania officially launched its new project named Afya Kamilifu, aiming at scaling up HIV care and treatment efforts in Tanga region and Zanzibar Islands, joining the global efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. ‘Afya Kamilifu project’, is a five-year project funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Tanzania, and is being implemented by Amref Health Africa in partnership with University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) and Tanzania Communication and development Center (TCDC). Afya Kamilifu project works in close collaboration and with the guidance from the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC), Zanzibar Ministry of Health and President’s Office, Regional Authorities and Local Government (PO-RALG).

The Canada-Africa Initiative to Address Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality Project has improved access to water, sanitation & hygiene in healthcare facilities in Geita. Mothers no longer have to carry water with them, the environment is clean & staff are happy with their work. This is a component of the Canada-Africa Initiative to Address Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality, a partnership among four Canadian organizations — Amref Health Africa, Christian Children’s Fund of Canada, Centre for Global Child Health at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and WaterAid Canada — with $24.9 million in support from the Government of Canada over four years.

Amref Health Africa in Tanzania has officially launched its clinical laboratory located in Dar es Salaam Country Office. Since May 2019, Amref Health Africa Tanzania clinical Laboratory has strengthened and expanded laboratory capacity to offer high quality and timely diagnostics from the national public health laboratory to peripheral facility laboratory levels and community members for social enterprise in line with national policy frameworks and priorities. Types of services offered in the Clinical Laboratory; include; Haematology, Microbiology/Immunology, Clinical Chemistry, and Parasitology.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, and Tanzania Midwives Association, Amref Health Africa in Tanzania held a CEOs Breakfast Dialogue at Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam on May 4th, 2019. The dialogue was officiated by Dr. Faustine Ndugulile, The Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children was attended by a number of stakeholders, including Government of Tanzania officials, Amref Health Africa Staff, Non-Governmental organizations, Diplomats Officials, Top Corporate leaders, Private sector Companies representatives, development partners, media houses and individuals from the public.
RC, Amref Health Africa
launch ‘afya kamilifu’ project in region to
address HIV scourge

From CHEJI BAKARI in Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner (RC), Martine Shigella on Monday launched a five-year HIV/AIDS project, dubbed ‘Afya Kamilifu’ run by Amref Health Africa through the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and implemented by Amref Health Africa in partnership with University of Maryland Baltimore and Tanzania Communication and Development Centre.

She said the project seeks to increase awareness through various media on the need to use condoms, avoid multiple sexual partners, have the opportunity to be tested and treated, and also to attract resources so that people of all ages can access medical services. The project targets the Tanga, Manyakige and T Ngharama districts.

Amref Tanzania head of communications, Charles Kariuki, said they will play a leading role in sensitizing the public on HIV and AIDS.

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