



HOSPITALI YA RUFAA YA
MT. FRANSISKO

eHealth solutions for improved access to TB and HIV diagnosis

Treatment for rural population

Partnership between

Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin,
Department of Infectious Diseases
and Respiratory Medicine /
GERMANY

and

St. Francis Referral Hospital
and Ifakara Health Institute, Ifakara /
TANZANIA

UNIVERSITY &
HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS
IN AFRICA





TANZANIA

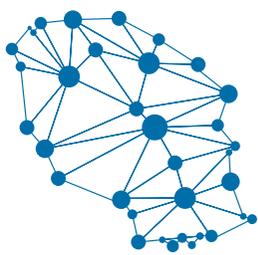
Tanzania is home to 55,572 million people living on 945,087 sq km.

The country was spared the internal strife that blighted many African countries. However, domestic stability has not translated into economic prosperity for Tanzanians. Many citizens still live below the World Bank poverty line.

Tanzania is the home of two renowned tourism destinations - Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, and wildlife-rich national parks, such as the Serengeti, making tourism an important source of income for the country.

Life expectancy at birth in Tanzania is 62 (m) / 66 (f) years.

The probability of dying before the age of five was at 53 for 1,000 births in 2018.



CREATING CHANGE IN HEALTHCARE

The programme "University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa" supports partnerships between hospitals and universities in Germany and in African countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The main effort is focused on capacity strengthening, experience sharing and knowledge exchange through professional dialogue, repeated visits and training.

The difference and advantage compared with other international cooperation initiatives is the collaboration with medical professionals in partner countries which builds a high degree of trust and acceptance. The problem is jointly identified, and the activities collectively developed and always in line with national strategies.

In addition to the medical professionals, IT experts are also involved in the partnerships to discuss and find IT solutions to improve medical care.

TUBERCULOSIS

AND HIV IN TANZANIA



Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide. Over 95% of TB deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Lives saved and infection rates cut through timely diagnosis and continuous uninterrupted treatment. Despite the fact that the number of new HIV infections has been reduced worldwide including the most affected African countries, this disease still represents a tremendous burden for African health systems. Timely HIV and TB diagnosis and uninterrupted treatment are essential to reduce the burden of disease and prevent new infections as well as resistance to available medicines.

Although the number of new HIV infections has been reduced significantly in Tanzania to 72,000 in 2018 bringing the percentage of people aged 15-49 years living with the virus down to 4.6%, the treatment of those infected still causes a major challenge for the health system.

Tanzanian health facilities diagnose 142,000 new TB cases (2018) annually, of whom only 53% are treated.

Distance to health facilities is a barrier to diagnosis and treatment for people living in rural areas.

70% of the population of Tanzania live in rural areas with primary healthcare facilities available to them, but TB and HIV diagnosis and treatment requires tertiary care facilities with laboratory equipment and specialised care. Those facilities are, however, difficult to reach for the poor rural population due to long distances and poor road infrastructure.

Patients suffering from TB need to take their medicine daily for at least half a year, and patients living with HIV for the rest of their lives. Continuous treatment and patient follow-up is therefore a challenge in rural areas. Many patients do not return to health facilities for follow-up visits and monitoring which results in a high dropout rate.

The Tanzanian government has adopted the HIV and TB strategy of UNAIDS and WHO with the aim of providing equal access to TB and HIV diagnosis and treatment for all populations; in order to achieve this goal, the two partner institutions want to introduce an innovative IT solution.

Our eHealth Contribution

The central laboratory will be linked with rural health centres by eHealth technology. Patients do not need to travel to the central laboratory facility; instead, registered and electronically tracked samples taken at the rural health centre will be sent for testing, ensuring low-cost and low-barrier access to modern high-quality and reliable diagnostic methods. The results will be communicated back to the health workers in the rural facility by text message to their smart phones or tablets. This way of communication will also be used to advise health workers on how to proceed with a patient's treatment.

This eHealth technology ensures that those diagnosed with TB or HIV do not fall out of the system until completion of treatment. It also allows to monitor new TB and HIV cases and performance of the health system online in real time and to recognise and to respond to delays/problems in a timely manner. This solution is also applicable for the diagnosis and treatment monitoring of other diseases in Tanzania, and other African countries and will enhance treatment success significantly.

Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Infectious Diseases and Respiratory Medicine / GERMANY

Charité is one of the largest hospitals in Europe. Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin represents a single medical faculty, which serves both Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin. Charité comprises four campuses and has close to 100 different departments and institutes, which make up a total of 17 different Charité Centers.

St. Francis Referral Hospital and Ifakara Institute, Ifakara / TANZANIA

St. Francis Referral is a non-profit organisation belonging to the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Ifakara. It is a 371 bed hospital and was declared a District (Council) Designated Hospital for the Kilombero and Ulanga Districts in 1976 with a catchment population of about 600,000 inhabitants. In 2010, the hospital was upgraded to the level of Referral Hospital at Regional Level which caters for the whole Coast Region of Tanzania.



Implemented by



On behalf of



Imprint

Published by
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn und Eschborn, Germany
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-11 75
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
www.giz.de

Program
Regional Program 'University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa'

Responsible
Claudia Aguirre
hkp@giz.de

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Layout
creative republic, Frankfurt & Nadia Said, HKP (GIZ), Germany

Images: © GIZ/Mulugeta Gebredikan

On behalf of
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division 210

Contact
PD Dr. Thomas Zoller
Medical Department
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin
thomas.zoller@charite.de

and

Dr. Herry Mapesi
St. Francis Regional Referral Hospital, SFRH
Chronic Disease Clinic of Ifakara, Off Mlabani Passage,
P. O. Box 53, Ifakara, Tanzania
hmapesi@gmail.com

More information

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/84939.html>

<https://infektiologie-pneumologie.charite.de>

<https://stfrancisreferralhospital.or.tz>

<http://www.ihl.or.tz>