



Tanzanian Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance

World's AIDS Day

HIV/ AIDS is still a major world health issue. Children, adolescents and young adults are highly affected and require quality service and more information about HIV prevention and treatment to control the spread of infection. As we commemorate the World's AIDS Day 2023, the slogan for this year being "Jamii inongoze kutokomeza UKIMWI" "Let the Community Lead to eradicate AIDS". In our newsletter we are sharing updates from T-AHISA as well as the Tanzanian Youth CAB activities that took place in celebration of World AIDS Day.

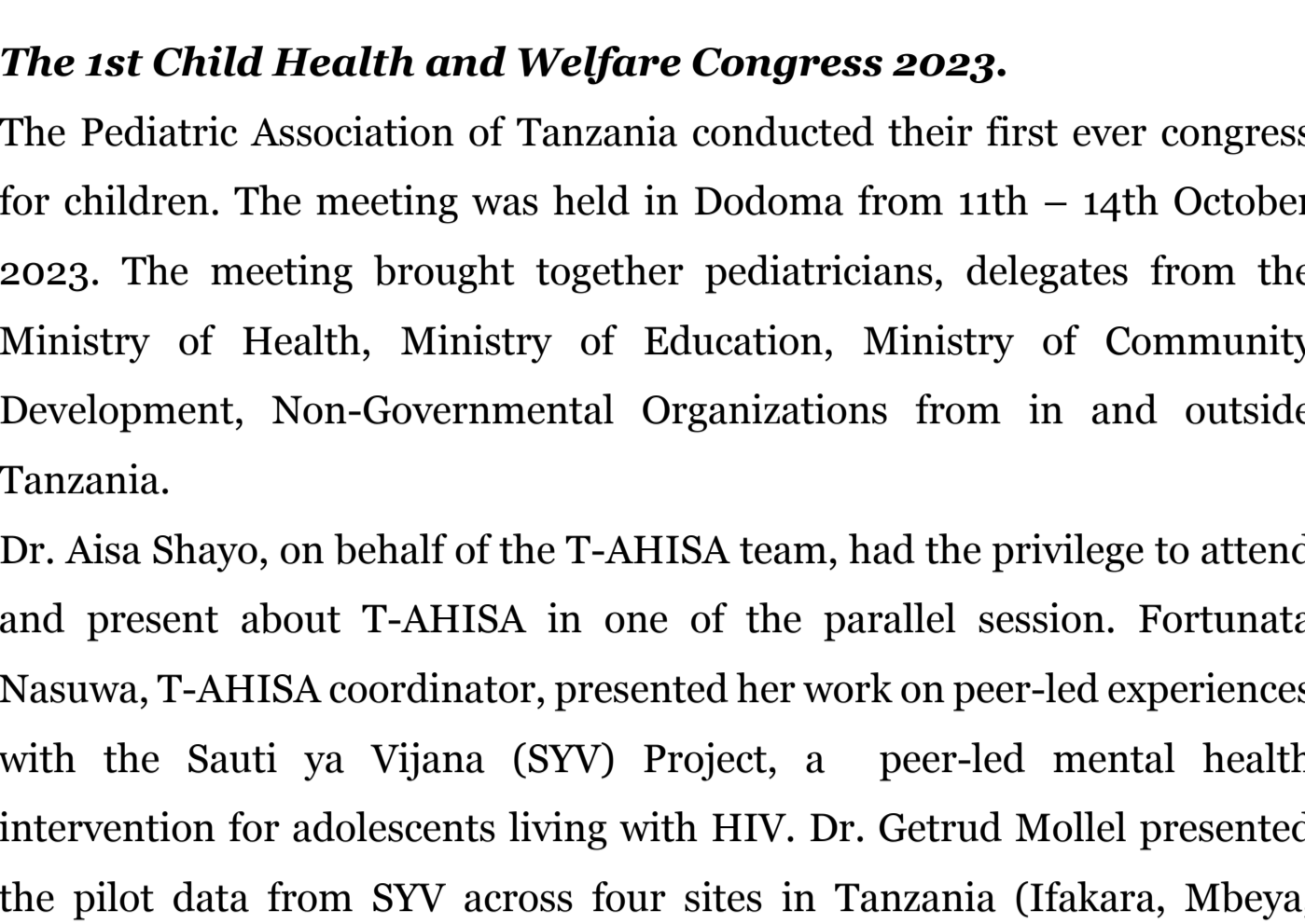


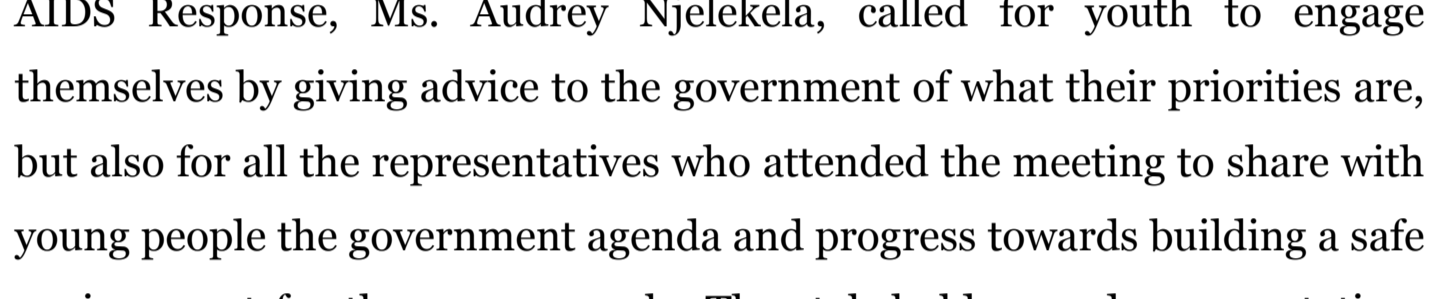
Photo on the left is a group photo for Youth CAB representatives from Ifakara, Mwanza, and Mbeya sites who participates in the World's AIDS Day which took place in Morogoro - Tanzania. Photos on the right; Moshi Youth CAB participated in the commemoration of World's AIDS Day, which took place at Moshi Co-operative University (Ushirika Grounds) in Moshi.

MEETINGS

The 1st Child Health and Welfare Congress 2023.

The Pediatric Association of Tanzania conducted their first ever congress for children. The meeting was held in Dodoma from 11th – 14th October 2023. The meeting brought together pediatricians, delegates from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Development, Non-Governmental Organizations from in and outside Tanzania.

Dr. Aisa Shayo, on behalf of the T-AHISA team, had the privilege to attend and present about T-AHISA in one of the parallel session. Fortunata Nasuwa, T-AHISA coordinator, presented her work on peer-led experiences with the Sauti ya Vijana (SYV) Project, a peer-led mental health intervention for adolescents living with HIV. Dr. Getrud Mollel presented the pilot data from SYV across four sites in Tanzania (Ifakara, Mbeya, Moshi, Mwanza).



In the photo above, T-AHISA and Sauti Ya Vijana team members stand before the meeting banner. From Left Dr. Getrud Mollel (Ifakara site PI-SYV), Dr. Lilian Komba (Mbeya site PI-SYV), Ms. Fortunata Nasuwa (T-AHISA Coordinator Moshi), Dr. Aisa Shayo (T-AHISA member Moshi) and Dr. Eunice Ketang'enyi (Mwanza site PI-SYV). In the other photos, Top: Dr. Aisa Shayo Paediatrician, introducing T-AHISA; Middle Ms. Fortunata Nasuwa presented peer-leader experiences as part of Sauti ya Vijana (SYV); Bottom photo Dr. Getrud Mollel presented the pilot data from SYV.

TACAIDS Meeting

The meeting was held on 6 October 2023 in Dodoma region. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and share the progress of implementation of AGYW intervention in the country by bringing together all key stakeholders for AGYW. Ms. Angelina Goi (T-AHISA) and Ms. Leonia Rugalabamu (SYV) were invited to attend and present their work. Ms Rugalabamu shared updates on Sauti ya Vijana (The Voice of Youth), a peer-led, group-based mental health intervention for adolescents living with HIV/AIDS. Other presentations and delegates included representation from AMREF, FHI360-EPIC, Columbia University's International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS), Tanzania Youth Alliance (TAYOA), Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania (NYP+), Management, Development Health of Tanzania (MDH), Key and Vulnerable Populations (KVP-FORUM), Higher Learning Institution Charge Group, Tanzania Marketing and Communication Project (T-MARC), RESTLESS, AMREF, and Tanzania PACT World. At end of the meeting the Director of National AIDS Response, Ms. Audrey Njelekela, called for youth to engage themselves by giving advice to the government of what their priorities are, but also for all the representatives who attended the meeting to share with young people the government agenda and progress towards building a safe environment for the young people. The stakeholders and representatives were given an assignment to bring the feedback from the youth on their comments and advice to the government to the next quarterly meeting.



Ms. Leonia Rugalabamu sharing Sauti Ya Vijana intervention during the meeting.

Research Project

T-AHISA member, Dr. Nina Yamanis, of the American University School of International Service, traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with nine Masters' students to work on a capstone practicum project in June 2023.

The capstone project evaluated an AHISA-funded "bootcamp", or two-day workshop in April 2023, that paired eight financial service providers with thirty-nine out-of-school adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) living in Dar es Salaam. The Masters' students worked with Mrema Kilonzo, Diana Kisamo and Lusajo Kajula and others from Muhimbili University Health and Allied Sciences to conduct post-bootcamp qualitative interviews with AGYW and financial service providers. They found that the bootcamp resulted in:

1. Increased self-confidence, improved financial literacy, and empowered SRH decisions for AGYW participants;
2. AGYW's improved skills in budget creation, marketing and business expansion;
3. New opportunities for financial service providers to connect with out-of-school AGYW.

In addition, the findings revealed some barriers for AGYW in accessing financial services after the bootcamp including lack of time, not having access to financial providers' contact information, the location of the providers' offices, loan rates, and not having reasons to use the services yet. Both AGYW and financial service providers suggested that a longer, more intensive bootcamp could cover more topics and create more connections between financial service providers and out-of-school AGYW.



The students met with Dr. Dorothy Mushi in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at MUHAS in June 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

Out-of-school Adolescent Girls and Young Women at Risk for HIV Through Their Social Networks in Dar es Salaam

Dr. Nina Yamanis, Mrema Kilonzo, and Lusajo Kajula published a paper from their work describing a sequential mixed methods study to identify and understand the social norms of social networks out-of-school adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) living in Dar es Salaam. The PLACE (Priorities for Local AIDS Control Efforts) was used to identify 69 networks of out-of-school AGYW.

Yamanis, T.(J., Mulawa, M.I., Kilonzo, M.N. et al. Reaching Out-of-school Adolescent Girls and Young Women at Risk for HIV Through Their Social Networks. AIDS Behav (2023).

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04168-z>

Who Will Suffer Most if US AIDS Funding Ends

Prof. Blandina Mmbaga and Dorothy Dow shared a perspective from young adults living with HIV, on what would happen if the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief PEPFAR funding is not reauthorized by the United States Congress.

Dorothy Dow, Blandina Mmbaga, Who Will Suffer Most if US AIDS Funding Ends, Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, Volume 12, Issue 11, November 2023, Pages 572–573,

<https://academic.oup.com/jpids/article/12/11/572/7296480>

Since the last newsletter from September 2023, the four Tanzanian Youth CABs have had their monthly meetings covering topics related to mental health, TB & HIV, entrepreneurship, breast cancer, first aid emergency treatment, and on December 1st Youth CABs did outreach to orphanages to bring education, play fun games, and a small treat. As featured earlier, Tanzanian youth CABs participated in WORLD AIDS DAY 2023 and have been working on a manuscript featuring the top five challenges faced by young people in their community and their suggested solutions. As advised by Ms. Audrey Njelekela at the TACAIDS meeting in October, results from this survey will be presented at the next TACAIDS meeting.

On 30/11/2023 Yasin Mninda, Mbeya youth CAB liaison, and the general secretary of youth CAB Stephano Sanga got a chance to meet with MZRH administration (Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital). It was a great honor to have the Director of MZRH, Dr Godlove Mwanji, and other experts. The main aim of the meeting was to find out the current situation of services provided at the CTC and discuss what plans MZRH have to improve services provided to people living with HIV (PLWH).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) meeting visit the link for sign up and more information.

<https://www.croiconference.org/mark-your-calendar-for-croi-2024/>

AIDS 2024 for more information visit:

<https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/aids2024>

- Abstracts due 23 January 2024, 23:59 Central European Time.
- Submissions for Global Village activities also due by 23 January 2024. Contact globalvillage@aids2024.org with any questions.
- International AIDS Society (IAS) scholarship is open visit the link for more information.

<https://www.iasociety.org/scholarships>

- AHISA meeting - Mombasa - Kenya dates coming soon

