

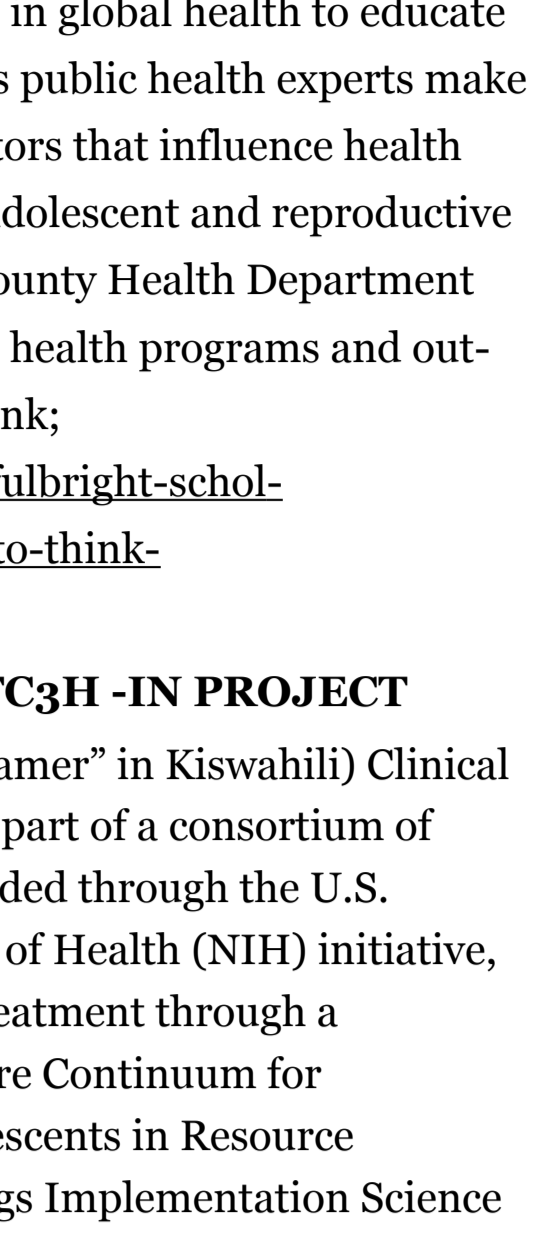


Tanzanian Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance

Research Activities

Dr. Lusajo Kajula Fullbright Scholar in Residence at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

One of our team members Dr. Lusajo Kajula, PhD, has become a Tanzanian international scholar in health behavior and psychology for adolescents and families. She has joined the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health as the school's first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence.



In her role, Dr. Kajula will use her experiences in global health to educate students on an "ecological model," which helps public health experts make sense of the social, political and individual factors that influence health behaviors. She will also continue her work in adolescent and reproductive health while collaborating with the Durham County Health Department on ways to engage local communities in public health programs and outreach. For more information please visit this link;

<https://sph.unc.edu/sph-news/lusajo-kajula-fulbright-scholar-in-residence-encourages-gillings-students-to-think->



MWOTAJI - PATC³H -IN PROJECT

The Mwotaji ("Dreamer" in Kiswahili) Clinical Research Center is part of a consortium of research teams funded through the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative, Prevention And Treatment through a Comprehensive Care Continuum for HIV-affected Adolescents in Resource Constrained Settings Implementation Science Network (PATC³H-IN). The network aims to conduct clinical and implementation research and evaluations of a variety of combination interventions to improve health outcomes among adolescents with or at risk for HIV. The research component of the project focuses on the pharmacy-based delivery of HIV prevention to adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Additionally, the CRC will offer an Implementation Science Certificate program at Mzumbe University to build Tanzania's capacity to lead policy-relevant Implementation science research to benefit AGYW and beyond.

For information on their activities please visit the following sites:

The Mwotaji website is: <https://mwotaji.mzumbe.ac.tz/crc/>

The Patch website is: <https://www.patc3h-in.org/SitePages/Home.aspx>

MEETINGS

SAUTI YA VIJANA MEETING

Sauti ya Vijana (SYV) a mental health intervention and life skills for youth living with HIV conducted an all-team meeting in Dar es Salaam from 15th– 18th Jan 2024. The meeting was held at Mbezi Garden Hotel for group leaders, expert group leaders, research assistants, supervisors, and new PI refresher training.

Sauti ya Vijana program is an intervention to address mental health challenges facing Youth living with HIV, is a client-centered approach, delivered in a group-based setting by trained young adult group leaders. It is also designed to provide an empathic and educational environment to promote new coping strategies, self-efficacy, and resilience without judgment or confrontation. The meeting aimed to bring together SYV teams from all four sites for refresher training on the intervention sessions they deliver to youth living with HIV. It was a way to refresh from busy workdays to chat and share various experiences.



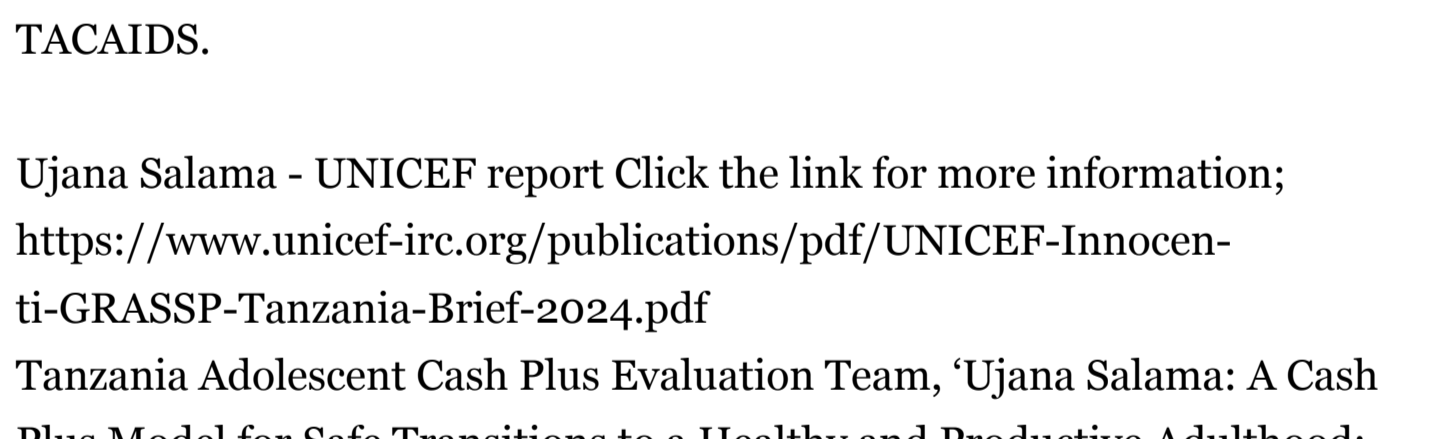
Sauti ya Vijana Group Leader Training January 15-18, 2024
Mbezi Garden Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



On the top left: Refresher training sessions during the group leader meeting in Dar es Salaam.
On the top right: participants enjoyed yoga sessions after a long working day
On the bottom left: Virtual presentation which was delivered by U.S. Collaborators at the end of each day.
On the bottom right: Photo of Certificate handing to the participants who attended the group leaders training in Dar es Salaam.

GEMINI IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE MEETING

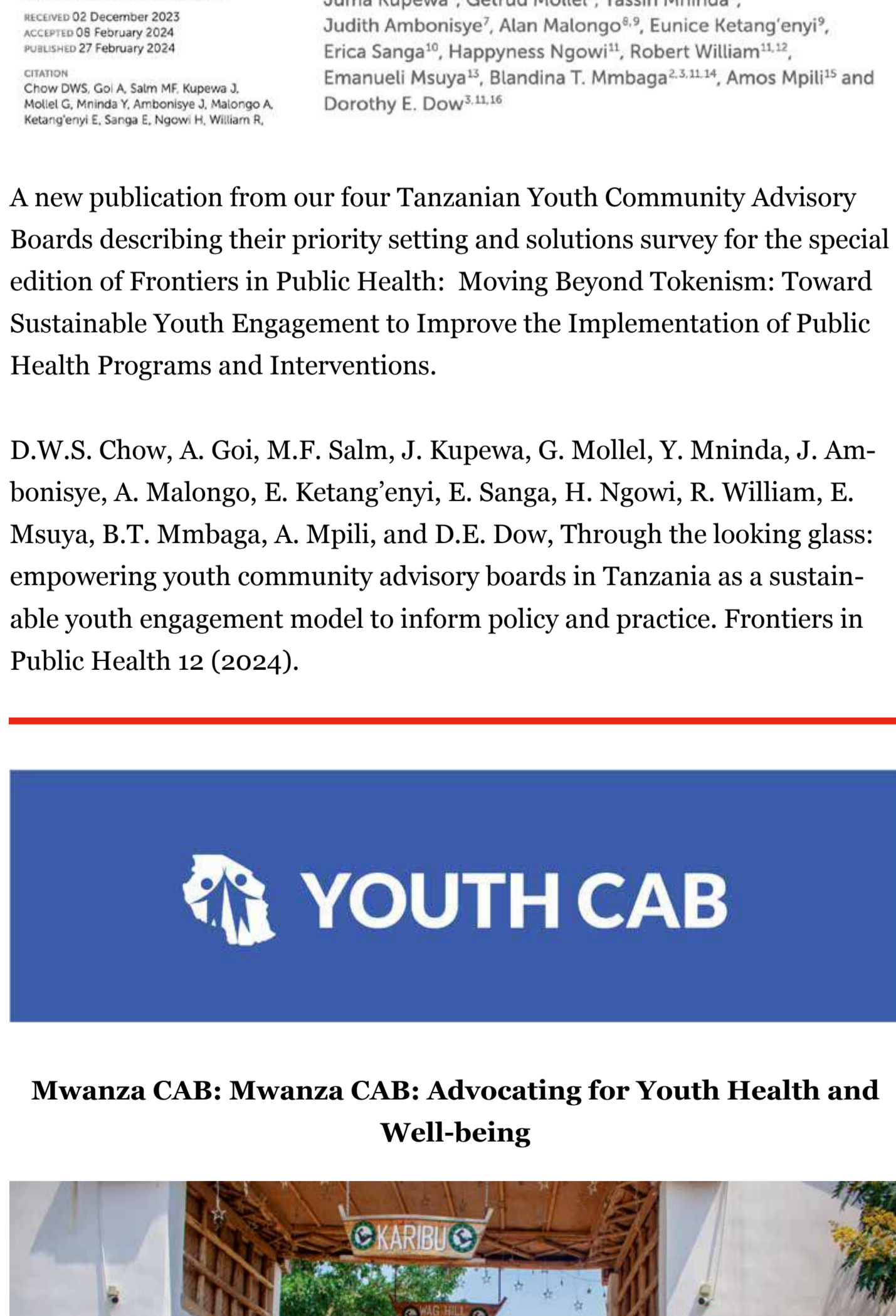
Global Emergency Medicine Innovation and Implementation Research Center (GEMINI) conducted an Implementation science meeting at KCMC - KCCO Hall from 19th – 23rd February 2024. The meeting aimed to empower researchers from different backgrounds on how to apply implementation science to transform research findings into practice. Study teams including the Myocardial Infarction (MI) study, Sauti Ya Vijana, and Telehealth in improving ART adherence among patients living with HIV presented ways in which they use implementation science research in their research study aims.



Sauti ya Vijana Program Manager Dr. Elizabeth Senkoro presented during the meeting.

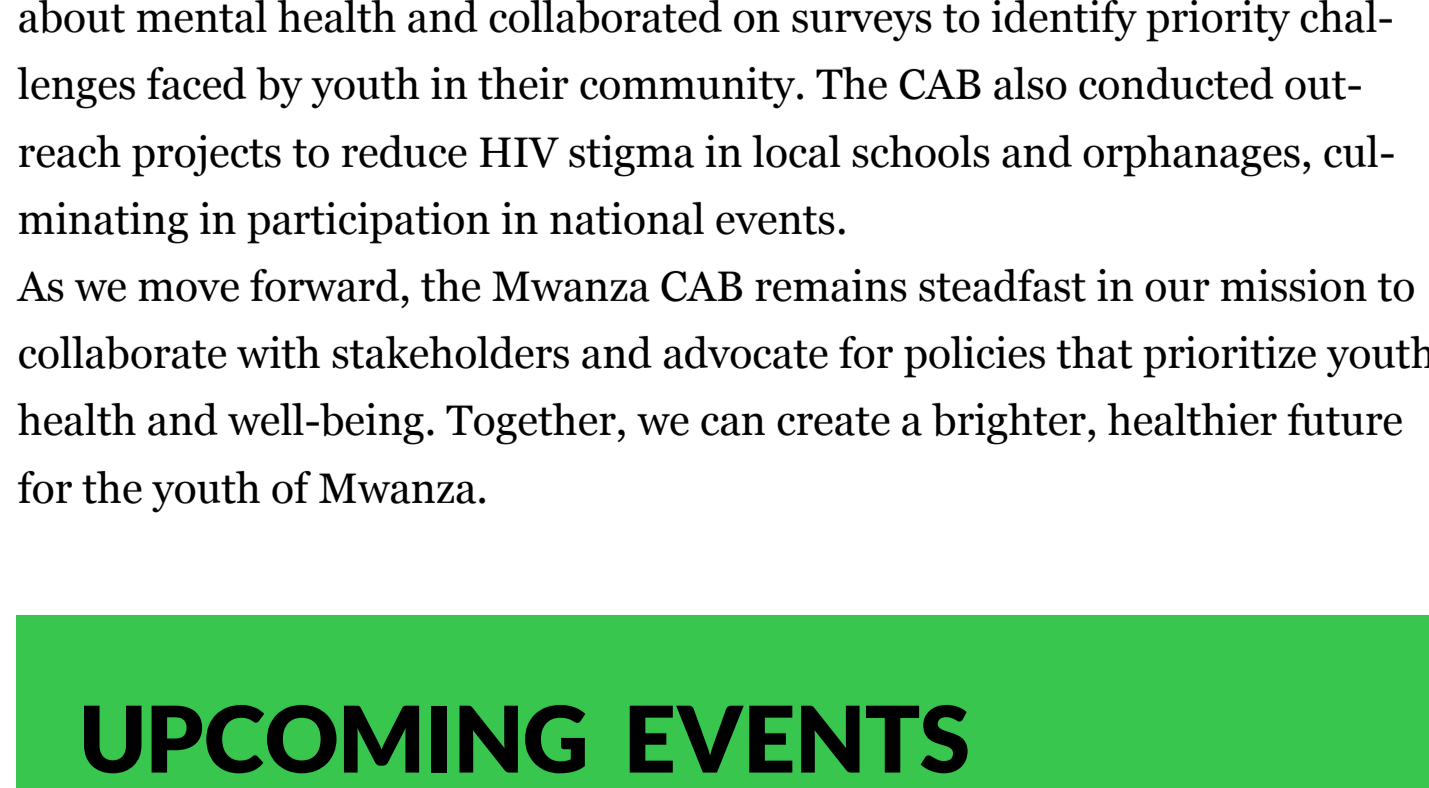
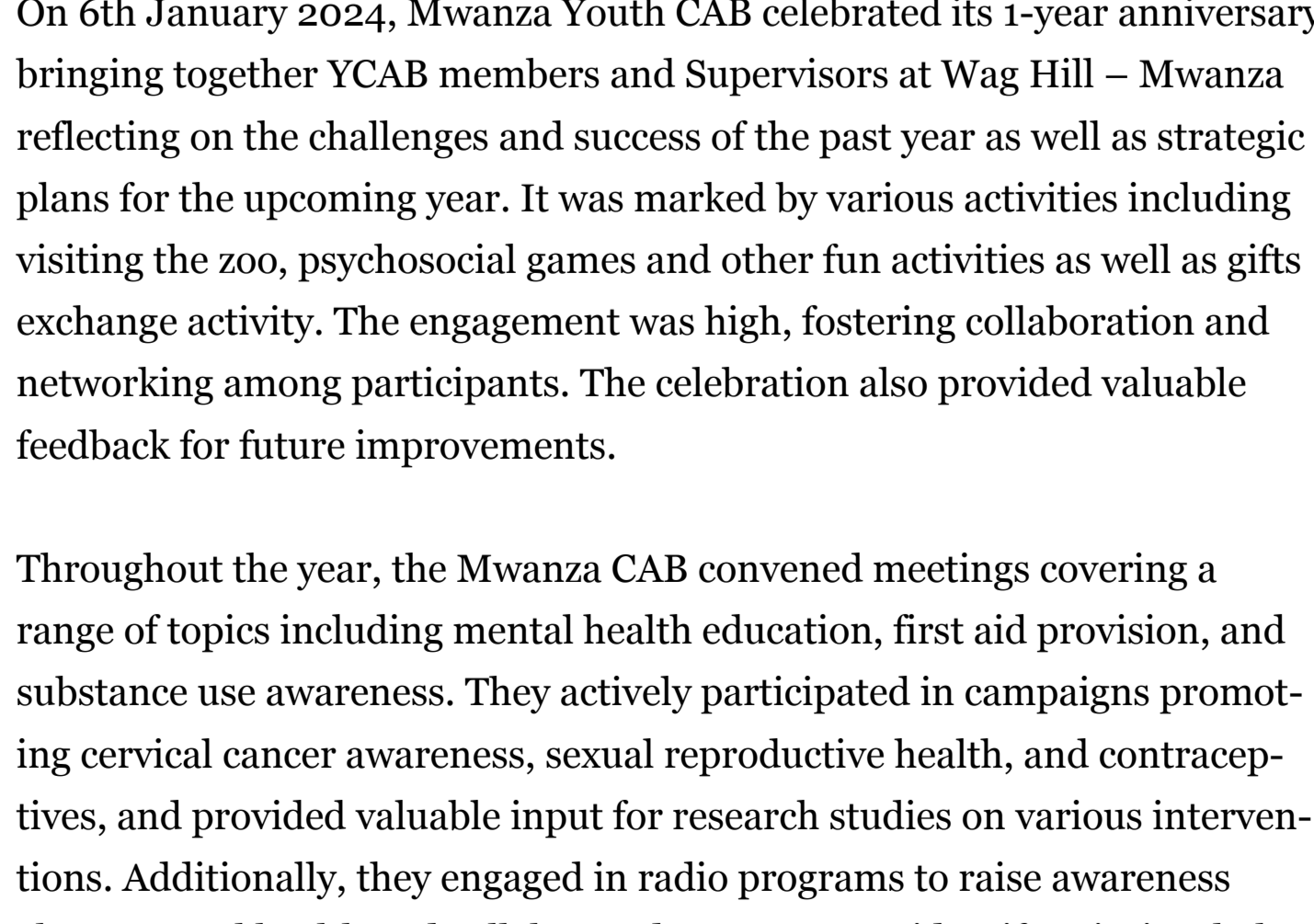
T-AHISA meets with U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania and key implementors of the Adolescent HIV Response

On January 17, 2024, Dr. Dorothy Dow, on behalf of T-AHISA, met with the US Ambassador to Tanzania, along with USAID and CDC colleagues, to discuss the adolescent HIV prevention and treatment strategy and response in Tanzania.



Left to right: Anna Hoffman (USAID Deputy Health Office Director Tanzania); Dorothy Dow (Associate Professor, KCMC-Duke Collaboration co-site leader; SYV PD); Oscar Ruwabyago (Senior Public Health Specialist CDC Tanzania/PEP-FAR); Ambassador Michael A. Battle Sr. (US Ambassador to Tanzania).

PUBLICATIONS



A new publication from T-AHISA Member Lusajo Kajula with UNICEF and TACAIDS.

Ujana Salama - UNICEF report Click the link for more information;

<https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/UNICEF-Innocenti-GRASSP-Tanzania-Brief-2024.pdf>

Tanzania Adolescent Cash Plus Evaluation Team, 'Ujana Salama: A Cash Plus Model for Safe Transitions to a Healthy and Productive Adulthood: Round 4 Findings', UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, Florence, January 2024.



Through the looking glass: empowering youth community advisory boards in Tanzania as a sustainable youth engagement model to inform policy and practice

Dana Wai Shin Chow^{1†}, Angelina Goi^{2*†}, Maeve F. Salm^{3†}, Juma Kupewa⁴, Getrud Mollet⁵, Yassin Mninda⁶, Judith Ambonise⁷, Alan Malongo^{8,9}, Eunice Ketang'enyi⁹, Erica Sanga¹⁰, Happiness Ngowi¹¹, Robert William^{11,12}, Emanueli Msuya¹³, Blandina T. Mmbaga^{2,3,11,14}, Amos Mpili¹⁵ and Dorothy E. Dow^{3,11,16}

A new publication from our four Tanzanian Youth Community Advisory Boards describing their priority setting and solutions survey for the special edition of Frontiers in Public Health: Moving Beyond Tokenism: Toward Sustainable Youth Engagement to Improve the Implementation of Public Health Programs and Interventions.

D.W.S. Chow, A. Goi, M.F. Salm, J. Kupewa, G. Mollet, Y. Mninda, J. Ambonise, A. Malongo, E. Ketang'enyi, E. Sanga, H. Ngowi, R. William, E. Msuya, B.T. Mmbaga, A. Mpili, and D.E. Dow, Through the looking glass: empowering youth community advisory boards in Tanzania as a sustainable youth engagement model to inform policy and practice. Frontiers in Public Health 12 (2024).

Mwanza CAB: Mwanza CAB: Advocating for Youth Health and Well-being

On 6th January 2024, Mwanza Youth CAB celebrated its 1-year anniversary bringing together YCAB members and Supervisors at Wag Hill – Mwanza reflecting on the challenges and success of the past year as well as strategic plans for the upcoming year. It was marked by various activities including visiting the zoo, psychosocial games and other fun activities as well as gifts exchange activity. The engagement was high, fostering collaboration and networking among participants. The celebration also provided valuable feedback for future improvements.

Throughout the year, the Mwanza CAB convened meetings covering a range of topics including mental health education, first aid provision, and substance use awareness. They actively participated in campaigns promoting cervical cancer awareness, sexual reproductive health, and contraceptives, and provided valuable input for research studies on various interventions. Additionally, they engaged in radio programs to raise awareness about mental health and collaborated on surveys to identify priority challenges faced by youth in their community. The CAB also conducted outreach projects to reduce HIV stigma in local schools and orphanages, culminating in participation in national events.

As we move forward, the Mwanza CAB remains steadfast in our mission to collaborate with stakeholders and advocate for policies that prioritize youth health and well-being. Together, we can create a brighter, healthier future for the youth of Mwanza.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AHISA meeting - Mombasa - Kenya from 29th April - 2nd May 2024

International AIDS Conference 2024 visit the link for more information
<https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/aids2024>

HIVR4P 2024, the 5th HIV Research for Prevention Conference in Lima Peru click the link for more information
<https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/hivr4p2024>

