



## MEETINGS

### T-AHISA ANNUAL MEETING

The Tanzanian Adolescent HIV Implementation Science Alliance (T-AHISA) conducted its annual meeting on the 17th - 18th of March 2025 at Weruweru River Lodge in Moshi Kilimanjaro. The guest of honor was the Regional Medical Officer Dr. Jairy Khanga. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), National AIDS, STIs and Hepatitis Control Programme (NASHCoP), implementing partners, Non - Governmental Organizations (e.g. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS), academic researchers featuring presentations from early career investigators and two implementation research experts, Joy Noel Baumgartner of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Lusajo Kajula from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and four liaisons of the respective youth community advisory boards in Moshi, Mbeya, Mwanza and Ifakara. The meeting focused on adolescent HIV government priorities from both the health and education sector, sustainability of HIV programs, and incorporating implementation science to improve PrEP uptake, advocate for procurement of long-acting injectable antiretroviral medications, and integration of mental health into adolescent HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. A special session highlighted two perspectives on the continuation of PEPFAR published in the Journal of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (PMID: 37804251 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37804251/>) and PMID 38118004 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38118004/>). The conversation was to stimulate conversation from all stakeholders to consider innovative ways to sustainability and bolster domestic and non-US-based funding. The session encouraged transparent government communication and concluded with optimism for a locally driven HIV response. The second day ended with team priority setting and action items to strengthen our alliance and improve local accountability for HIV prevention and care; build a database of implementation research expertise; and write a recommendation from T-AHISA to reform HIV prevention and care programming towards more domestic reliance.



**Think Global: Lives on Pause: Implications of a U.S. Retreat from Global Health and Humanitarian Aid** The abrupt halt to thousands of U.S. global health and humanitarian aid programs puts lives at risk. Please see the think global discussion from Duke Global Health Institute which aired February 5, 2025

<https://globalhealth.duke.edu/news/experts-discuss-impact-us-foreign-aid-freeze>

## Experts Discuss Impact of U.S. Foreign Aid Freeze

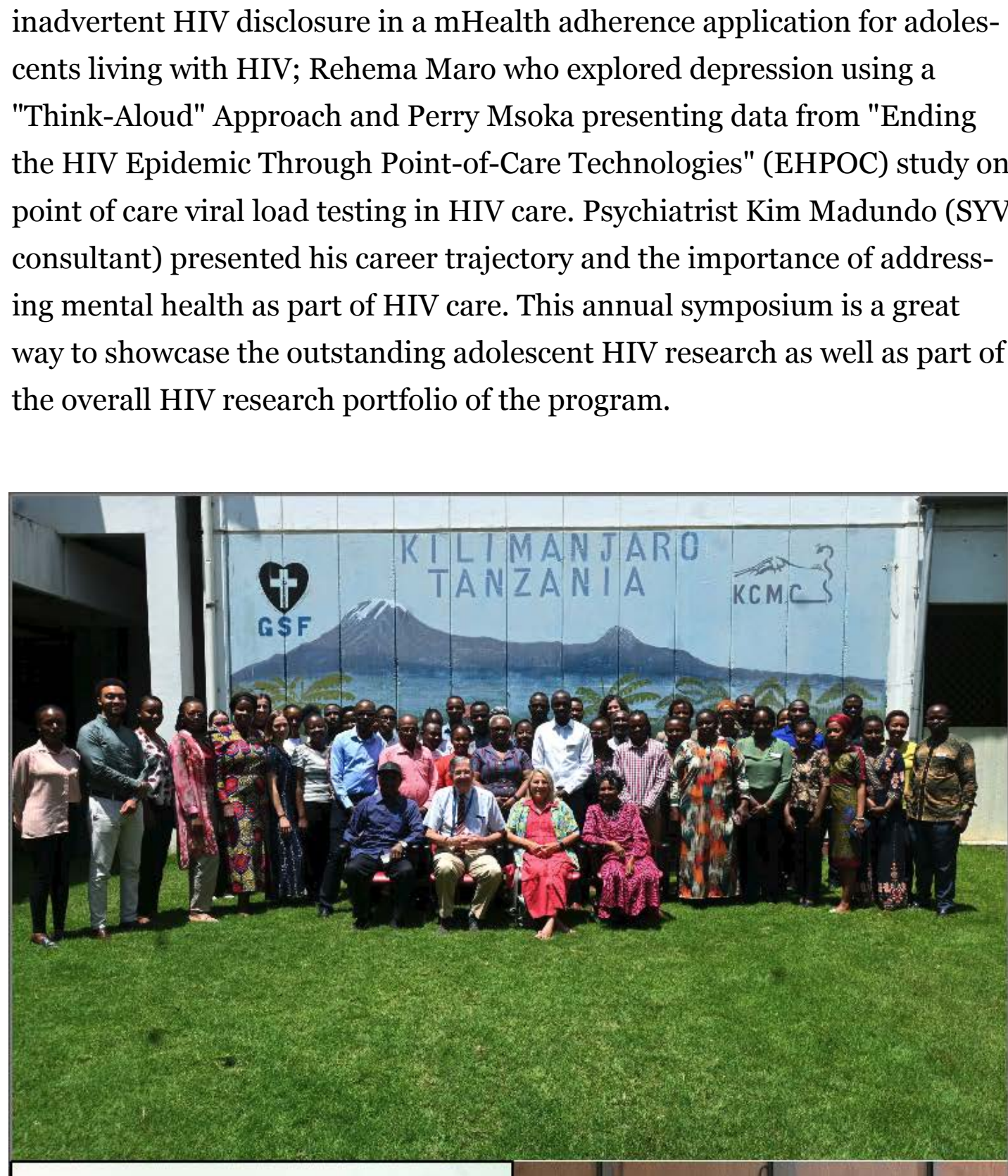
The abrupt halt to thousands of U.S. global health and humanitarian aid programs puts lives at risk, researchers say.



Watch the Full Feb. 5 Think Global event, "Lives on Pause: Implications of a U.S. Retreat from Global Health Funding" above.

### GEMINI IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

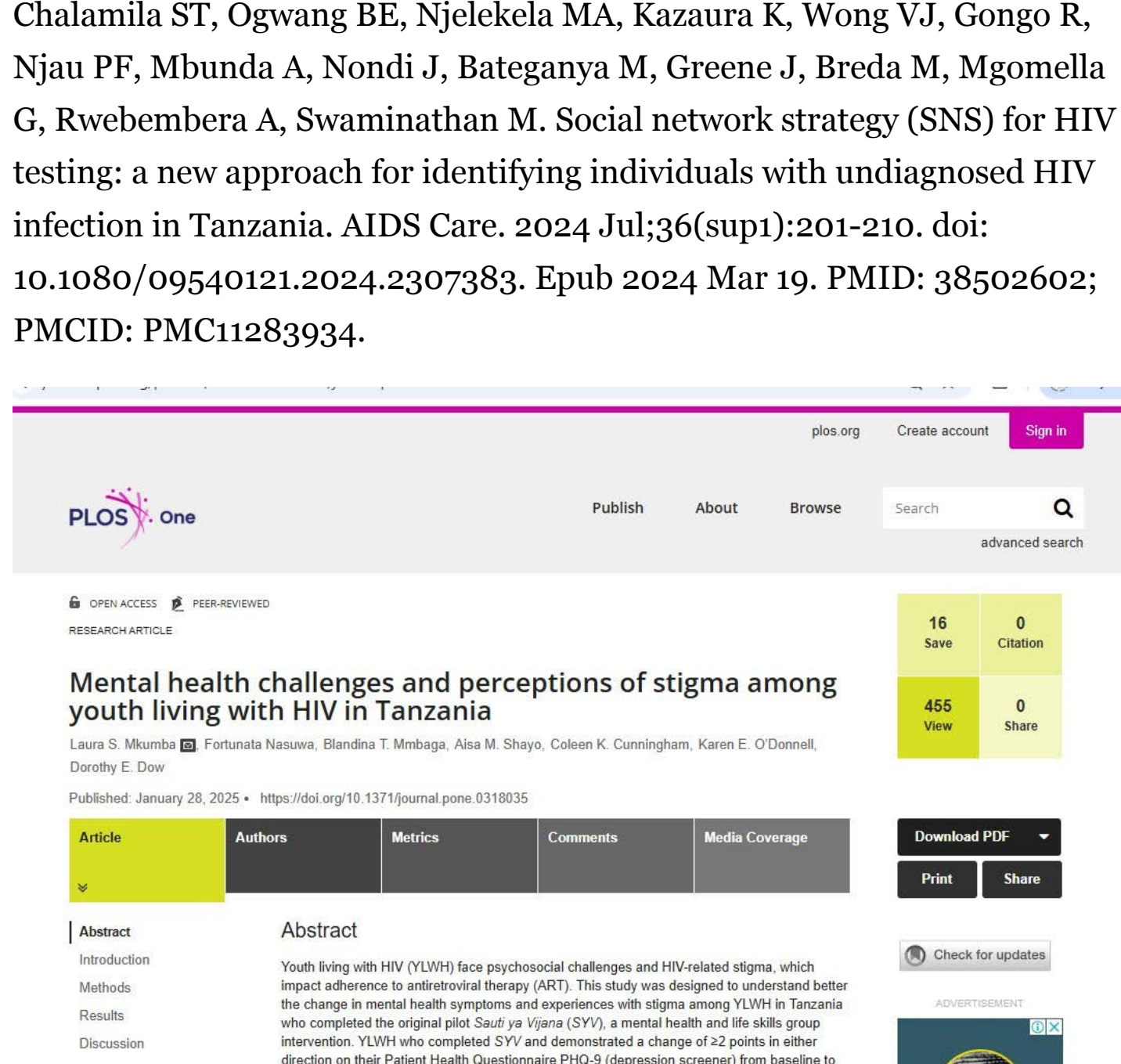
The Global Emergency Medicine Innovation & Implementation Research Center held a training on implementation science from 10th - 14th February 2025 at the CCFC Hall in KCMC. Implementation research training at KCMC allow for additional exposure to frameworks and methodologies for non-emergency medicine researchers as well. Working across disciplines we leverage expertise in implementation research to support capacity building of our early and mid-career investigators.



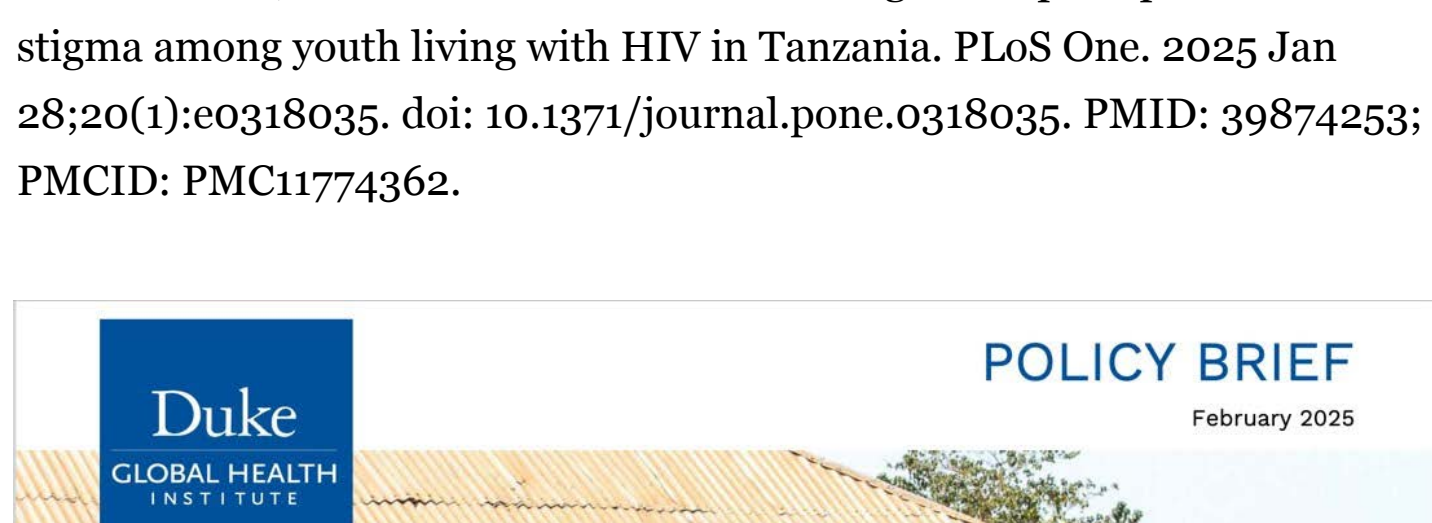
A group photo of attendees to the GEMINI training on Implementation Science at KCMC.

### SOCIAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (SBS) SYMPOSIUM

Members of T-AHISA were invited to present at the SBS symposium. The SBS symposium is the annual showcase of the Fogarty-funded D43 program (D43-TW009595) led by Professor Blandina Mmbaga and John Bartlett which features HIV research in the social and behavioral sciences. We enjoyed adolescent-specific presentations featuring the SYV study coordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Senkoro providing an update on the SYV trial; Dr. Nasreth Fadhilli, co-supervisor of the SYV Ifakara site who is studying post-traumatic stress symptoms among adolescents and young adults living with HIV as part of her training in clinical psychology at the University of Nairobi. Additional adolescent HIV presentations were led by Dr. Carl Mhina, a PhD candidate at Duke University in population health sciences studying PrEP preferences among AGYW; Lydia Masika who presented on inadvertent HIV disclosure in a mHealth adherence application for adolescents living with HIV; Rehema Maro who explored depression using a "Think-Aloud" Approach and Perry Msoka presenting data from "Ending the HIV Epidemic Through Point-of-Care Technologies" (EHPOC) study on point of care viral load testing in HIV care. Psychiatrist Kim Madundo (SYV consultant) presented his career trajectory and the importance of addressing mental health as part of HIV care. This annual symposium is a great way to showcase the outstanding adolescent HIV research as well as part of the overall HIV research portfolio of the program.



KCMC Social Behavioral Sciences (SBS) symposium group photo that was held on the 20th -21st February 2025 at KCMC CCFC Hall. Pictures below are some of the attendees and presenters during the symposium.



## PUBLICATION



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### International Conference on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis, and Prevention Research (INTEREST) 13th - 16th May 2025 Windhoek, Namibia.

For more information visit the link below;

<https://ths.or.tz/conference/>



### International AIDS Conference 2025 Rwanda 13th - 17th July 2025

For more information visit the link below;

<https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/ias2025>

### Social network strategy (SNS) for HIV testing: a new approach for identifying individuals with undiagnosed HIV infection in Tanzania

Oscar Ernest Rwabiyago <sup>1</sup>, Allen Katala <sup>1</sup>, Trista Bingham <sup>2</sup>, Jonathan M Grund <sup>1</sup>, Ona Machangu <sup>3</sup>, Amy Medley <sup>2</sup>, Zeyi M Nkomela <sup>2</sup>, Alick Kayange <sup>4</sup>, Galal Napatil King'ori <sup>1</sup>, James McCollopy Juma <sup>5</sup>, Abbas Ismail <sup>1</sup>, Upendo Kategile <sup>2</sup>, Eniko Akom <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup>, Neema Tabian Mole <sup>8</sup>, Nicolas Schaad <sup>1</sup>, Werner Macokola <sup>3</sup>, Nyagonde Nyagonde <sup>1</sup>, Daniel Mageza <sup>1</sup>, Jaiving C Kazitanga <sup>1</sup>, Haruka Maruyama <sup>9</sup>, Florence Temu <sup>10</sup>, Sajida Kimambo <sup>11</sup>,

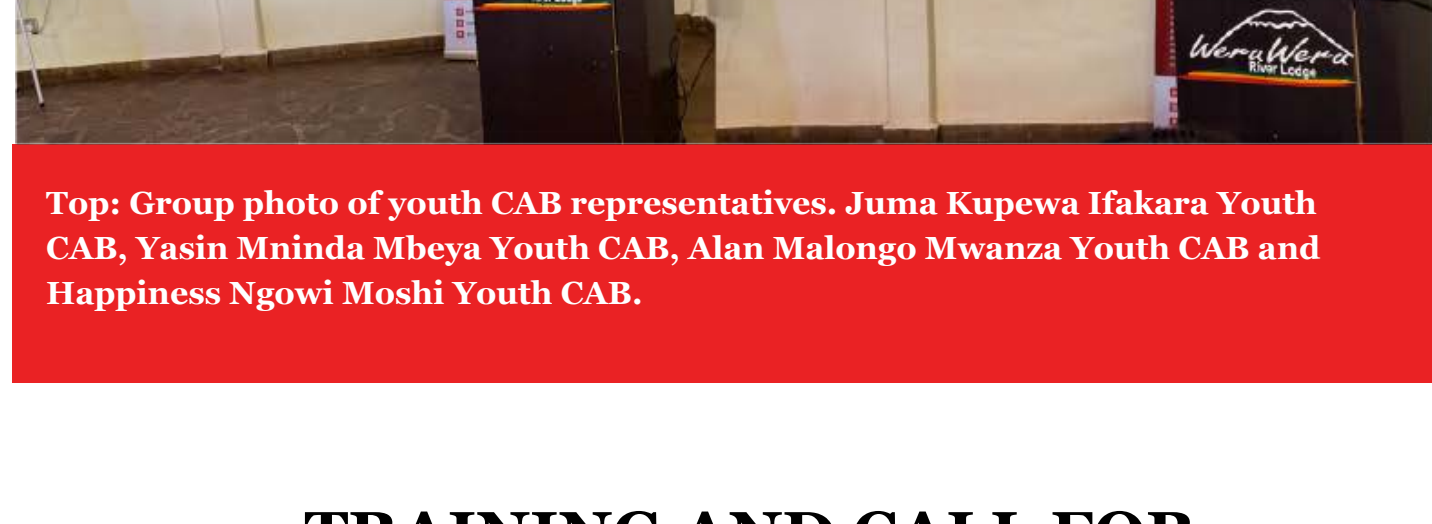
Click the link for more and enjoy the reading:  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38502602/>

**Citation;**  
Rwabiyago OE, Katala A, Bingham T, Grund JM, Machangu O, Medley A, Nkomela ZM, Kayange A, King'ori GN, Juma JM, Ismail A, Kategile U, Akom E, Mole NT, Schaad N, Maokola W, Nyagonde N, Mageza D, Kazitanga JC, Maruyama H, Temu F, Kimambo S, Sando D, Mbatia R, Chalamila ST, Ogwang BE, Njelekela MA, Kazaura K, Wong VJ, Gongo R, Njau PF, Mbunda A, Nondi J, Bateganya M, Greene J, Breda M, Mgomella G, Rwebembera A, Swaminathan M. Social network strategy (SNS) for HIV testing: a new approach for identifying individuals with undiagnosed HIV infection in Tanzania. *AIDS Care*. 2024 Jul;36(sup1):201-210. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2024.2307383. Epub 2024 Mar 19. PMID: 38502602; PMCID: PMC11283934.



Click the link for more and enjoy the reading:  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0318035>

**Citation;**  
Mkumba LS, Nasuwa F, Mmbaga BT, Shayo AM, Cunningham CK, O'Donnell KE, Dow DE. Mental health challenges and perceptions of stigma among youth living with HIV in Tanzania. *PLoS One*. 2025 Jan 28;20(1):e0318035. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0318035. PMID: 39874253; PMCID: PMC11774362.



### Reform and Renewal: Five Recommendations for PEPFAR

By Jirairi Ratsavong, Dorothy Dow, Osondu Ogbuonji, Lance Okeke, Gavin Yamey, and Chris Beyrer

### Envisioning the Future for a Celebrated Global AIDS Program

A group of experts at Duke University's Global Health Institute has released a PEPFAR reform proposal that would accelerate already existing sustainability efforts, including formalizing plans to transition more financial responsibility for HIV services to PEPFAR partner governments.

Click the link for more and enjoy the reading:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0318035>



Top: Group photo of youth CAB representatives. Juma Kupewa Ifakara Youth CAB, Yasin Mwindi Mbeya Youth CAB, Alan Malongo Mwanza Youth CAB and Happiness Ngowi Moshi Youth CAB.

## TRAINING AND CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATION



MUHAS introduces a Master of Public Health in Implementation Science (MPH-IS) through the School of Public Health and Social Sciences. See #70 here.

To apply, visit the MUHAS Online Application System (OAS) at

<https://oas.muhas.ac.tz/login/>.

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