Local Implementation Science Network (LISN)

The Tanzania Adolescent and Young Adult Network Regarding Implementation Science (TAYARI): A learning collaborative to advance HIV evidence to practice

Prof. Blandina Mmbaga March 2025

Introduction

- TAYARI is a Swahili word meaning ready.

- The TAYARI network is ready and well positioned to intentionally build and sustain IS capacity to catalyze targeted and evidence-based HIV youth interventions.

- The program is NIH funded - 50,000 (if funds will be released)

Aims

- Create a youth-focused HIV agenda with key stakeholders

- Deliver short-course trainings in implementation science to increase knowledge for key actors

- Create a roadmap for network sustainability by synergizing with our many partners to advance our mission through additional funding streams and government buy-in and support.

KCRI Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute
Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
An Institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

Leadership

- **Blandina T. Mmbaga**
- Associate Professor, Pediatrics and Child Health, KCMC, Moshi Tanzania
- Adjunct Professor, Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI)
- Director, Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute, Moshi, Tanzania
- Co-site leader, KCMC-Duke Collaboration, Moshi, Tanzania
- Public Health Epidemiologist

- **Oscar E. Rwabiyago**
- HIV Prevention Branch Chief Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Embassy of the United States of America, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

KCRI Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute
Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
An Institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

Leadership

- **Redempta J. Mbatia**
- Executive Director of Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) (PEPFAR implementing partner organization)
- Clinical Epidemiologist, Public health specialist and researcher
- PI of past and current PEPFAR CDC and USAID, Global Fund funded HIV grants

- **Dorothy E. Dow**
- Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases, Duke University
- Associate Research Professor, Duke Global Health Institute
- Co-director, Duke Center for AIDS Research Clinical Core
- Co-site leader, KCMC-Duke Collaboration, Moshi, Tanzania

KCRI Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute
Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
An Institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

Leadership

- **Evangelina C. Chihoma**
- Strategic Information Specialist, PEPFAR coordination Office Tanzania
- Youth Task Team lead, PEPFAR Tanzania
- Clinical researcher and evidence-based medicine, University of Antwerp
- Project management, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
- Medical Doctor, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences

TAYARI Focus

The TAYARI Network will focus on <u>youth interventions</u> based on our expertise and our multisector discussions on how the network can be of greatest value.

- In Tanzania, a country of over 65 million,
  - 20% of the population is between 15-24 years of age.
  - Significant increase in HIV incidence among aged 15 to 35 years
  - 50% of new infections arising from adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) age 15-24 years.
  - Youth living with HIV (aged 15-24) had the lowest viral load suppression

(https://www.nbs.go.tz/nbs/takwimu/THIS2022-2023/THIS2022-2023_Summary_Sheet.pdf).

KCRI Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute
Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
An Institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

TAYARI focus

Ensuring accurate knowledge dissemination, demand creation, and accessibility of <u>long-acting injectable medication</u> will be a top priority of the network.

- The THIS revealed alarmingly low levels of HIV preventive services knowledge and actual uptake low and unsustained
  - ➡56% AGYW having heard of PrEP
  - ➡64% adolescent boys and young men (ABYM) – heard of PrEP
  - ➡22% AGYW - condom use during sexual encounter
  - ➡47% ABYM - condom use during sexual encounter

- PURPOSE-1 trial, demonstrating zero new HIV infections with lenacapvir administered every 6 months.

TAYARI focus

The Tanzanian government has a new priority agenda to integrate mental health services into adolescent HIV primary care, yet implementation remains elusive.

- How to effectively screen, refer, and provide effective programming for symptomatic youth is not yet realized.

- The expertise in our multidisciplinary TAYARI network is well positioned to help bring local evidence
  - Example data from Sauti ya Vijana demonstrates trends towards effectiveness with current successful scale-up and plans for integration through PEPFAR implementing partners (grant under review).

- Our data demonstrate addressing mental health challenges is critical to improved adherence, viral suppression, and retention in care.

KCRI
Kilimanjaro Clinical
Research Institute
Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
An Institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

TAYARI milestone

Objective 1: to create a youth-focused and youth-led HIV agenda with key stakeholders

- **Activities include:**
  1. Quarterly TAYARI network meetings confirming proposed youth intervention priorities;
  2. Create a clear annual agenda synergized with government priorities and broken down by quarters to ensure progress;
  3. Dissemination of accurate HIV knowledge to a broad youth audience and other key stakeholders

Deliverables objective -1

1. Annual and quarterly prioritized HIV agendas with meeting minutes, attendance, and progress towards milestone;
2. Contact list of key Tanzanian stakeholders working in adolescent and youth HIV programming, and harmonized with T-AHISA alliance;
3. Dissemination plan and TAYARI network website with important public health messages, policy briefs, and resources for youth in Swahili

TAYARI milestone

Objective 2: Deliver short-course implementation science capacity building courses for target populations engaged in HIV research to enhance local researcher and program capacity

Activities include:
1) Work with TAYARI network members to tailor IS short course with relevant examples to the four unique audiences;
2) Each quarter there will be a short course to a different audience with pre/post survey and how to improve;
3) Partner with colleagues in synergizing IS course efforts (GEMINI in KCUMCo; T-AHISA youth; CAPE center at DGHI for government; experts in PopHealth at Duke for research IRB

KCRI Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute
Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
An Institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

Deliverables objective 2

- Deliverables include:
  1. IS short course for youth advocates and civil society engaged in HIV activities (pre and post course survey);
  2. IS short course for government (pre and post course survey);
  3. IS short course for scientists reviewing IRB protocols (KCMUCo, Ifakara Health Center, Bugando, NIMR, etc);
  4. IS short course for central and local government members interested in attending virtually (pre/post course survey);
  5. Summary of short course experience and how to expand and adapt course to better meet needs

TAYARI milestone

Objective 3: Design a clear roadmap for sustainability of the TAYARI network

- **Activities include:**
  1. Genuine engagement with ministry of health for buy in and sustainability
  2. TAYARI network project coordinator and other network members will collate and share ongoing surveillance of grant and funding opportunities
  3. Cross-collaboration with other LISN networks to engage in joint applications to solve similar IS HIV challenges
  4. Cross-collaboration with the T-AHISA alliance focused on IS capacity building with early career investigators to further build the TAYARI network.

Deliverable objective 3

- Deliverables include:

  1. Roadmap and timeline towards sustainability;
  2. List of important and relevant grant opportunities and timeline for applications;
  3. Synergized plan with T-AHISA alliance

Acknowledgement