





# YOUTH NTDS FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2025

Empowering the next generation for disease elimination

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## **WORD FROM DIRECTOR**



#### MR. HAMISI MSAGAMA

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OHS** 

It is with great honor that I present this report highlighting the remarkable and impactful work accomplished by the One Health Society (OHS) team in empowering youth to become advocates in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). This achievement reflects the vision, dedication, and teamwork that define our organization's commitment to advancing the global health agenda through the One Health approach.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the program coordinators, facilitators, and mentors whose tireless efforts, knowledge, and commitment transformed a simple idea into a fully implemented and impactful program.

As the first NTDs Youth Fellowship of its kind in Tanzania, it has already proven its value serving as a model for youth leadership development presented during the NNN Conference and opening pathways for fellows to apply their skills in wider global health programs.

I also extend heartfelt gratitude to our partners and supporters, whose contributions made this Fellowship possible. In a special way, I acknowledge the Ministry of Health, through the National NTDs Control Program, for providing guidance and endorsement that ensured alignment with national priorities.

To our Fellows, I offer my warmest congratulations for your dedication throughout the sessions, mentorship, and community engagements, you have laid a strong foundation to continue championing NTDs advocacy in Tanzania.

This program has clearly demonstrated that youth focused capacity development initiatives are both necessary and impactful.

Looking ahead, I am confident that with continued support from our donors and partners, this transformative work will expand across Africa, empowering even more youth to advocate, innovate, and lead efforts toward disease elimination. Together, we are building a powerful network of informed, skilled, and passionate young leaders driving change for a healthier future.



When we first envisioned the Youth NTDs Fellowship, it was built on a simple yet powerful belief, that young people, when trusted and empowered, can become the driving force in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). This first cohort has turned that belief into reality. Over just three months, I had the privilege of working alongside 28 passionate young leaders who proved that youth are not only capable of understanding complex health challenges but of designing and delivering community driven solutions that create meaningful change.

The journey of this Fellowship has been truly transformative. Through ten virtual sessions, mentorship, and community projects, fellows turned learning into measurable impact, reaching over 100 children with hearing disabilities through inclusive outreach and engaging more than 345,000 people online through digital advocacy. Behind these numbers lies dedication, creativity, and purpose, driven by young leaders determined to ensure that even the most marginalized voices are included in the pursuit of health equity.



To the One Health Society team, our partners, mentors, and facilitators, thank you for your belief, guidance, and encouragement throughout this journey. As we conclude this inaugural Fellowship, I am deeply inspired by what we have begun. The establishment of the OHS Alumni Network and the year long mentorship of 13 fellows marks the start of a lasting legacy that will grow beyond Tanzania to empower youth across Africa. This Fellowship has proven that "youth are not waiting for the future, they are creating it today".

Dr. Gloria E. Swilla



We proudly celebrate the success of the first ever Youth NTDs Fellowship in Tanzania, an inspiring milestone made possible through the dedication and collaboration of partners, mentors, and youth advocates. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the 28 fellows and our auditing fellow, Dr. Komal Sharma whose passion and resilience made this Fellowship impactful, and to the Ministry of Health (NTDs Control Program) for its leadership and alignment with national priorities.

We are deeply grateful to our partners, DNDi, SaYoF, AfricaPHSN, IIPH Delhi, and COHERD for their mentorship and support, and to our facilitators and mentors, including Dr. Sandul Yasobant, Dr. Ravina Tadvi, Dr. Clara Jones, Mr. Mabenga Peter, Dr. Kuduishe Kisowile, Madam Chihiyo, Mr. Hamisi Msagama, Ms. Vivian Mushi, Linet Otieno, Mr. Shenard Mazengera, Mercy Mumo and Prof. Martin Kollmann, whose expertise shaped the Fellowship's success. Special appreciation goes to NNN 2025 Vice Chair, Dorin Turgeman, for championing our inclusion at the international stage, and to the teachers and students of Mzambarauni Primary School whose participation in the outreach campaign reflected the true power of community driven action. Together, we celebrate three months of transformative learning and impact, united by a shared commitment to amplify youth voices and advance toward an NTDs free future for all.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) remain a major public health challenge affecting the poorest populations in Tanzania and across Africa, where limited resources, stigma, and inequality hinder progress toward elimination. Despite strong national and global commitments under the National NTD Master Plan (2021–2026) and WHO Roadmap (2021–2030), youth participation in NTDs control efforts has remained low, despite youth forming over 60% of Tanzania's population.

The Youth NTDs Fellowship was therefore established as a pioneering initiative to bridge this gap by empowering young Tanzanians with the knowledge, skills, and leadership capacity to drive NTDs advocacy, research, and community engagement.



#### **Our Objective**

Through a hybrid learning model that combines mentorship, interactive sessions, and practical outreach, the Fellowship cultivates informed, innovative, and purpose driven young leaders who are transforming from beneficiaries of public health programs into key partners in achieving lasting disease control and social impact. Established to strengthen the role of young Tanzanians in accelerating the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), the Fellowship focuses on knowledge building, innovation, and community engagement. Grounded in both national and global NTDs elimination agendas, it develops youth competencies that promote evidence informed advocacy, leadership, and sustained behavioral change at community and policy levels.

# THE HYBRID LEARNING MODEL



#### Virtual training sessions

Ten virtual training sessions covering One Health, WASH, advocacy, policy, research, and innovation were conducted over three months, totaling about 20 hours of guided learning. Each session was led by expert facilitators and supported by moderators to ensure active participation and smooth coordination.



#### Assignments and group tasks

This encouraged collaboration and applied learning by allowing fellows to explore case studies, conduct peer discussions, and co-develop advocacy ideas tailored to local contexts.



#### **Community Engagement**

At Mzambarauni Primary School in Dar es Salaam, enabled fellows to sensitize over 100 children with hearing disabilities and their teachers on hygiene and disease prevention. This practical exercise demonstrated inclusive health education and youth led advocacy in action.



#### Mentorship sessions

These connected fellows with experienced public health professionals who guided them through research formulation, advocacy planning, and professional development, reinforcing both technical and leadership growth.



The three months program (May to July 2025) brought together 30 fellows from diverse health related disciplines to acquire technical knowledge, leadership capacity, and advocacy skills aligned with Tanzania's NTDs elimination goals.

## **MEET THE FELLOWS**

The Youth NTDs Fellowship 2025 brought together 30 diverse young professionals from across Tanzania and Zanzibar, representing disciplines such as medicine, pharmacy, public health, environmental health, and medical laboratory sciences. Selected from 142 applicants through a competitive, merit based process, the cohort achieved full gender balance, 15 women and 15 men and included participants from major universities such as MUHAS, KCMC University, CUHAS, SUA, St. John's, and UDOM, as well as youth associations like TAMSA, TAPSA, and SOHIC. This inclusivity fostered rich peer learning and collaboration, uniting passionate young leaders committed to advancing NTDs elimination and health equity across Tanzania.



GLORIA ALPHONCE
HEALTH LAB
TECHNOLOGIST
(KCMC UNIVERSITY)



NG'WIPAGI LUGALATA

NURSE
(KCMC UNIVERSITY)



HYASINTA AUGUST
INTERN NURSE
(KCMC UNIVERSITY)



DAVID MREMA
VETERINARY OFFICER
(TVI)



GERRY GERMANUS
MEDICAL STUDENT
(UDOM)



JAMES GODFREY
MICROBIOLOGY RESEARCHER
(UDSM)

## **MEET THE FELLOWS**



**ANNETH MUKOMA PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL** 

(MUHAS)



**BABY J MUSAMBA PHARMACIST** (TAPSA TANZANIA)



**ASIMWE KHAMIS MEDICAL STUDENT** (MUHAS)



**NKUBA CHARLES MEDICAL STUDENT** (AFRICAPHSN TZ)



**WILHELMU MWAKABABU PHARMACY STUDENT** (UDOM)



KABORA E. KABORA **PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER** (UDOM)



**ESTOM UVAMBE PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT** (MUHAS)



**DENIS MREMA HEALTH INFORMATION** (BUGANDO)



**MEDICAL STUDENT** (KCMC UNIVERSITY)



JAYNES KABUHAYA WINNIE MWENDWA **CLINICAL OFFICER** (MKWAWA UNIVERSITY)



**BYERA KABAIRUKA** (RUBYA HOSPITAL)



**ERICK MSAFIRI BIOTECHNOLOGIST** (NM-AIST)

## **MEET THE FELLOWS**



LOVENESS SINDATO
MEDICAL STUDENT
(MUHAS)



ENGERASIA MALISA
MEDICAL STUDENT
(MUHAS)



MILKA MUTASHOBYA
VICE PRESIDENT
(SOHIC)



NAHIR A. RAJAB
PSYCHIATRIST
(MNAZI MMOJA
HOSPITAL)



TIMOTH MBAGA
PHARMACY STUDENT
(MUHAS)



ADAM MOHAMED

AMR CLUSTER LEAD
(TYHDO)



AGNESS MNZAVA
HEALTH SERVICE
MANAGEMENT (ST JOHN'S

UNIVERSITY)



LEONORA SOGOMBA

MEDICAL STUDENT
(MUHAS)



MOSSES P. SUDY
PHARMACEUTICAL
TECHNICIAN (MWENGE
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY)



MEDICAL DOCTOR (MOSHI)

**JACOB GODWIN** 



HARUNA MOSHI
ENVIRONMENT HEALTH
(MPWAPWA UNIVERSITY)



ANGEL RUZINDANA

MEDICAL STUDENT
(MUHAS)

# FEEDBACK AND REFLECTIONS

from the fellows

#### OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

"The Youth NTDs Fellowship was very transformative, strategic, knowledgeable, and has made me and an effective advocate for health equity and NTDs elimination. This experience equipped me with deeper insights into policy frameworks while promoting valuable partnerships with fellow youth change makers across sectors. I intend to develop innovative, community driven advocacy approaches that address the unique challenges faced by neglected populations, particularly in underserved areas."

# PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

"Being part of the Youth NTDs Fellowship has been a life changing journey that has strengthened my leadership, communication, and networking skills. Through activities like preparing a policy briefs and developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation, I gained practical insights into developing a poster presentation of the presentatio

# DIGITAL AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

"The Youth NTDs Fellowship has greatly enhanced my ability to communicate health messages effectively and reach wider audiences. Through the program, I was privileged to speak on One Health during an international webinar, which expanded my global reach. I also gained confidence to advocate through media platforms such as radio, enabling me confidence with communities I couldn't have reached on my own. Moreover, to engage with communities I couldn't have reached on my own. Moreover, the fellowship connected me with passionate public health advocates, strengthening our collective effort toward creating lasting community impact."

## ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"Bridging the knowledge gap about Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) among marginalized groups is essential. The experience gained from the Youth NTDs Fellowship has helped me build a very strong commitment to raising awareness and effectively communicating about NTDs within communities, especially among People Living with Disabilities (PLWD)"



# GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 09th August 2025, the Youth NTDs Fellowship concluded with a vibrant and inspiring graduation ceremony, marking the successful completion of the three-month journey.

Allowship journey strated the power of ing young leaders with edge, skills, and platforms to meaningful contributions

NTDs elimination. Over

The event provided a platform for fellows to showcase the knowledge, creativity, and leadership skills gained throughout the program through panel discussions and personal reflections. Each presentation reflected innovation, collaboration, and a strong commitment to addressing the

Certificates of completion were proudly awarded to 28 fellows, symbolizing not only personal achievement but also a collective milestone in youth driven advocacy for health equity.

persistent challenges of NTDs in Tanzania and beyond.

The ceremony was graced by high level guests, including *Dr. Kuduishe Kisowile* and *Mr. Farhan Yusuf*, a Fellow from Results for Development (R4D), who both commended the fellows for their dedication and encouraged them to sustain the momentum beyond the fellowship.

The event was marked by a spirit of celebration, reflection, and renewed determination. Fellows pledged to continue championing NTDs elimination in their communities, academic institutions, and professional spaces. The ceremony served as a fitting conclusion to an impactful program, celebrating the transformation of young leaders into empowered advocates equipped to drive sustainable change in the fight against NTDs.

"The fellowship journey demonstrated the power of equipping young leaders with knowledge, skills, and platforms to make meaningful contributions toward NTDs elimination. Over three months, fellows grew not only as advocates but also as innovators, researchers, and community mobilizers who understand the importance of collaboration in public health."

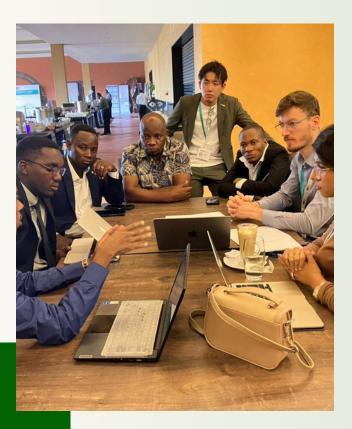
Mr. Hamis Msagama
Executive Director - One Health
Society

This graduation is not the end of our engagement, but the beginning of a new chapter! Through the Alumni platform we have created, we will continue to take action, strengthen partnerships and support innovations that drive us towards a healthier, NTDs free future, with youth as the driving force."

Dr Gloria E Swila Fellowship Coordinator

#### **FELLOWSHIP OUTCOMES**

#### **NNN Conference 2025**



A key milestone for the Fellowship was its recognition at the Neglected Tropical Diseases NGO Network (NNN) Conference 2025 in Kampala, Uganda, where One Health Society supported by Prof. Martin Kollmann and other 7 global NTDs youth led organizations hosted a special youth led international workshop. Informed by a global survey of young advocates and practitioners, the session convened 100+participants from five continents, including NTDs experts, researchers, health specialists, and policymakers, and showcased the Tanzanian Youth NTDs Fellowship as a scalable hybrid model for youth capacity building and youth engagement in the fight against NTDs.

This achievement significantly elevated the Fellowship's global visibility and catalyzed the development of a replicable youth capacity building toolkit, with a joint report and peer reviewed publication currently underway to document lessons and best practices.

#### **Alumni Internship and Mentorship Program**

To sustain capacity beyond the initial training, the Fellowship launched a structured Internship and Mentorship Program, providing one year mentorship and professional placement opportunities for 13 fellows (70% female) within One Health Society. The program is designed to strengthen their career pathways in NTDs, One Health, and public health leadership through ongoing coaching, hands on experience, and guided professional development.

Fellows are placed across four departments based on their skills and interests: Programs & Partnerships (coordination, stakeholder engagement, advocacy), Research Innovation (applied NTDs research and data driven initiatives), Media & Communications (digital advocacy, storytelling, content creation). and Grants & **Business** Development (proposal writing, resource mobilization, and project management.

# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED



#### **Limited Data Bundle Support**

Despite adequate internet coverage in Tanzania, many struggled to afford sufficient data for live sessions and mentorship, limiting engagement, especially among rural and low-income participants. Future cohorts should include structured data bundle support, offline learning options, and localized digital access hubs to promote equitable participation and ensure all fellows can fully engage in program activities.



### **Balancing Academic and Fellowship Commitments**

Balancing academic and fellowship commitments was challenging for many fellows, especially during exams. Aligning future program schedules with academic calendars and offering flexible deadlines will enhance participation, retention, and learning outcomes, allowing fellows to manage both academic and fellowship responsibilities effectively without compromising performance or engagement.



## Limited Resources for Community Engagement

The Outreach at Mzambarauni Primary School in Dar es Salaam reached over 100 children with hearing disabilities and their teachers, showcasing inclusive advocacy. However, financial and material limitations hindered expansion to other high-need communities. Strengthening partnerships with government institutions, universities, and local organizations will be essential to scale such initiatives.



#### Need for Standardized Training Materials and Resources

The fellowship highlighted the need for standardized, adaptable training materials. Although ten modules were effective, codevelopment caused inconsistencies in structure and depth. Future efforts will focus on creating a structured Fellowship Curriculum and Resource Toolkit aligned with the WHO NTD Roadmap, ensuring consistency, inclusivity, quality, and improved monitoring and replication.



Youth NTDs Fellowship 2025 achieved remarkable success in capacity building, advocacy, and community engagement, and these practical challenges that emerged provided valuable lessons for improving future cohorts. The challenges highlight areas where targeted investment and partnership support can further strengthen program delivery, inclusivity, and long term sustainability.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide structured data bundle or connectivity support to promote equitable digital participation.

Mobilize partnerships and funding to expand youth-led community engagement and outreach.

Develop standardized fellowship curricula, mentorship resources, and monitoring toolkits.

Align future fellowship schedules with academic calendars to improve participation and retention.

# **WAY FORWARD**

Building on the success of the inaugural cohort, the next phase of the Youth NTDs Fellowship will focus on scaling its reach, strengthening partnerships, and deepening regional collaboration. Guided by the lessons and achievements of 2025, the program aims to expand beyond Tanzania to include youth from other African countries where NTDs remain a major public health challenge. This continental approach will foster cross learning, cultural exchange, and collective advocacy to accelerate progress toward the 2030 NTDs elimination targets.

The program also seeks to formalize institutional partnerships with regional bodies such as the Africa CDC, WHO AFRO, ECSA HC, and Uniting to Combat NTDs, alongside academic institutions and youth networks. These partnerships will enhance mentorship opportunities, provide funding support, and enable broader dissemination of fellows' advocacy outputs and policy recommendations. By institutionalizing the alumni mentorship model, developing a digital resource hub, and aligning with the African Union's Youth Charter and One Health agenda, the Fellowship is positioned to evolve into a pan African platform for youth-led health leadership, innovation, and policy influence.

#### **FELLOWSHIP IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**



Coordinator

















She is an MPH candidate at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, and a Research Intern at COHERD, where she contributes to multidisciplinary One Health initiatives. Passionate about youth and public health engagement communication, she brings an analytical and systems thinking approach to her work. As the Auditing Fellow for the Youth NTDs Fellowship 2025, she provided independent observations and insights that strengthened programs' quality and learning.

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This Fellowship genuinely creates a supportive environment and helps build young people's confidence and prepares them to advocate meaningfully for NTDs elimination

As the Auditing Fellow for the Youth NTDs Fellowship 2025, Dr. Komal Sharma observed program's structure, the delivery and participant through engagement an independent and analytical She lens. commended the Fellowship's strong youth centered design, which intentionally created space for young professionals to contribute and express themselves throughout the program. She further noted the skilled facilitation and thoughtful sequencing of content, highlighting how the blend of technical practical demonstrations sessions. interactive discussions created a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that supported different learning styles.

In her overall assessment, Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of real time tasks, breakout discussions, and hands-on assignments in building fellows' confidence and deepening their advocacy capabilities. Her reflections reinforced the program's effectiveness, affirming its potential to cultivate a new generation of empowered NTDs champions who are equipped with both the technical understanding and leadership mindset needed to drive change within their communities.

# Fellowship Snapshots

2025















# Fellowship in numbers

**28** Youth Fellows Trained



10

**Virtual Training Sessions** 



02

Mentorship Engagements per Fellow



90%

**Assignments Completed** 



100+

Children reached during community outreach



345K

Social Media impression and Engagement

























in @onehealth\_tz



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