



Executive Directors Remarks

Dear Partners and Friends,

As we reflect on the first quarter of the year, I am proud to highlight the remarkable strides we've made through collaboration and shared purpose. At UMATI, we believe that lasting change in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) can only be achieved when we work hand in hand with communities, partners, and policy makers alike.

This quarter, we focused on advocacy through meeting with Members of Parliament, capacity building, expanding our services in Katavi Region and institutional strengthening.

Our partnerships continue to be the backbone of our success. Whether through community engagement, health system strengthening, or advocacy, each milestone we reach is made possible by the commitment of our stakeholders. We are inspired by your support and encouraged to keep pushing boundaries to ensure no one is left behind.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we are not just making progress we are transforming lives.



UMATI Temeke Youth Centre Hosts the African Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

In a significant move towards advocating for youth sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in Tanzania, UMATI Temeke Youth Centre had the honor of hosting the African Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). This visit marked a critical moment in the ongoing efforts to address the SRH challenges faced by young people, particularly in marginalized communities. The forum brought together key parliamentarians from across the continent, underscoring the importance of political involvement in shaping policies that impact the youth, especially regarding SRH.

are prevalent, and where young people often lack the support and resources needed to navigate their health choices.

The parliamentarians visit at the center revealed the importance of stronger political will to address SRH challenges as it was a platform for these voices to be heard by decision makers, reinforcing the importance of youth participation in policy discussions and the need for evidence-based policies that reflect the lived experiences of young people.



The visit provided parliamentarians with a firsthand look at the innovative initiatives implemented at the Temeke Youth Centre. The center, a beacon of hope for many young individuals in the district, serving as a vital space where youth can access critical SRH services and information. During their visit, the parliamentarians engaged with young people to gain insights into their experiences and understand the challenges they face in accessing quality SRH services.

Tanzania, like many countries in Africa, faces a growing demand for comprehensive SRH education and services for young people. The Temeke Youth Centre plays a crucial role in addressing this gap, offering services that include counseling, contraception access, HIV prevention, and safe space discussions around sexual reproductive. These services are particularly vital in a society where taboos and misconceptions around SRH

The engagement also highlighted the role that parliamentarians can play in advocating for better access to SRH services, political will to address challenges reinforcing the importance of youth participation in policy discussions thus pushing for legislative changes.

The visit from the African Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development is a testament to the growing recognition of the importance of SRH in the political and development agendas across Africa. UMATI's continued commitment to advocating for the sexual and reproductive rights of young people, particularly in underserved communities, is helping drive a wider conversation about the role of youth in shaping their health futures.



UMATI & Girl Effect Join Forces to Expand HPV Vaccine Access in Katavi



UMATI has partnered with Girl Effect to increase access to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for girls in rural and hard-to-reach areas of Katavi region through the *Mwanzo Mwema Project*.

This collaboration aims to reduce the burden of cervical cancer, which remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths among women in Tanzania, by ensuring that young girls from the age of 9 receive timely and life-saving vaccinations.

Cervical cancer is preventable, yet it remains a major public health challenge. According to the World Cancer Research Fund, Tanzania recorded 10,800 new cases and 6,800 deaths in 2022 alone. This makes HPV vaccination a vital intervention, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas where stigma and misinformation hinder access to life-saving vaccines.

UMATI and Girl Effect efforts are geared towards scaling up efforts to reach adolescent girls, parents, and community leaders with accurate information and improved vaccine accessibility.

Speaking about the partnership, UMATI's Executive Director Suzana Mkanzabi emphasized: *"Partnership is the way to go and through this collaboration, we will ensure that no girl is left behind in the fight against cervical cancer"*

Girl Effect, known for empowering adolescent girls through media and technology, echoed this commitment. Girl Effect's Country Director Rita Mbeba stated: *"with its extensive experience in sexual reproductive health, we believe by working with UMATI, we aim to break barriers, ensuring more girls receive the HPV vaccine without fear or hesitation and no girl is left unprotected from preventable diseases"*

Through this initiative, UMATI and Girl Effect aim to increase demand for the HPV vaccine among girls aged 9-14 in hard-to-reach areas of Katavi Region. By addressing gender-related barriers that hinder vaccine access, this partnership will contribute to improving the health and well-being of girls, adolescents, and young women ensuring they are protected from cervical cancer and empowered to lead healthier, brighter futures



Strengthening Health Systems and Youth Support for Improved SRHR Access in Tanzania

UMATI under the Improving Access to SRH/FP For Young Women project supported by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was able to support government efforts through the ministry of health by strengthening service provision in health facilities ensuring reproductive choices remains a fundamental right for all.

Through the institutional strengthening, UMATI supported training of over 200 health care providers on post-partum family planning, provision of youth friendly services, family planning and HIV testing and counselling. Enabling the service providers to deliver high quality services to young people in a client friendly manner while equipping them to dispel myths and misconceptions while promoting family planning services among adolescents, youth, and adults.

UMATI trained over 14 deans of students, equipping them with knowledge about youth-friendly services available in health institutions within universities and colleges. This ensures they are well-informed and prepared to support students during emergencies.



Service providers demonstrate family planning method insertion during on-the-job training for government health facility staff in Kahama



A Group photo of dean of students after completion of a successful training on integrated family planning services in health facilities in colleges

Camera, Light, Action! Using Storytelling and Film to Drive Change in SRHR

Storytelling is more than just a method of communication rather a catalyst for change. At UMATI, we believe in the power of real-life stories to spark empathy, challenge stigma, and amplify the voices of young people in the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) space.

Personal narratives help bring clarity to complex issues like contraception, adolescent health, and access to safe services. They humanize the data, break down myths, and foster a sense of shared understanding. When young people are empowered to share their experiences, it not only encourages others to seek services but also builds momentum for stronger advocacy and policy change.

Recognizing the unique influence of visual storytelling, UMATI recently took a bold step in advancing its advocacy approach. In collaboration with the Coalition to Address Maternal Morbidity and Mortality due to Abortion and its Complications (CAMMAC), UMATI conducted a transformative training for 34 coalition members. The training focused on enhancing participants' skills in using film and storytelling as tools to elevate advocacy efforts, facilitate knowledge sharing, and support evidence-based

decision-making.

By equipping CAMMAC members with practical film and storytelling techniques, this initiative aimed to strengthen their ability to spotlight the realities surrounding unsafe abortion and maternal health. Through compelling visual narratives, participants can now better communicate the urgency of addressing abortion-related complications and promote policy and societal change in a relatable, impactful way.

UMATI continues to embrace innovative approaches to amplify marginalized voices, foster meaningful dialogue, and drive collective action toward a future where every individual can exercise their reproductive rights freely and safely



SYV Project Concludes with Impact

UMATI in partnership with WGNRR with support of AmplifyChange has been implementing the Strengthening Young people's Voice (SYV) project in Morogoro and Iringa region, the project aimed at increasing access of Integrated Comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health Services for young people in Tanzania

The project's main objective was to strengthen the capacity of youth-led and women-led CSOs and networks at both regional and national levels to generate knowledge, influence policies, and advocate for improved SRH services. It aimed to address gender inequalities and enhance access to quality, rights-based SRH and cPAC services, particularly for marginalized, hard-to-reach youth and women. Through an innovative mobile outreach model and demand generation strategies, the project sought to expand service availability. Additionally, it focused on equipping government facilities with the necessary skills and resources to deliver integrated, high-quality SRH services using a



structured cluster model.

With the support of the project through conducted youth weekend clinics and outreach programs in hard to reach areas, we have been able to reach 250,889 people with SRH services, information and education through the use of trained community health workers and peer educators in both Iringa and Morogoro region. The project greatest achievement was also being able to contributed to 148,388 couple year protection.

With every effort put up together by SYV the project, the Government through Regional Health Management Teams (RHMTs) both in Iringa and Morogoro has been a great backup in ensuring progress of all activities of the project. Project officers worked hand in hand with Regional Reproductive and Child Health, Social Welfare, and Medical Officer's offices in respective regions in ensuring improvement of youth access to SRH services thus attaining project objectives.

Though the project has reached its closure, the transformation that it has brought in Iringa and Morogoro regions has been invaluable, and to make it sustainable, RHMTs made a commitment to in cooperate these services provided by the SYV project into their daily and monthly routine, "We are fortunate that most local councils are generating good revenue in our regions, as long as we continue to deliver services within our communities, it is important that service providers integrate previously project-supported services into their routine offerings.

Even with limited resources, we can sustain these essential services." Explains Dr.Besta Magoma (in blue suite), Regional Medical Officer from Morogoro during an endline meeting that was conducted in Morogoro Region that brought together district and regional health and development officials and from both Iringa and Morogoro were the project was implemented.



The project phasing out was also marked by the distribution of expendables to health facilities in the implementing as a token of appreciation for their vital role in contributing to the project's success.



Project officer Adafroza Fubusa handing over hospital items to Healthcare workers at Kihonda and Sabasaba health centers in Morogoro.