



BMF NEWS

BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA FOUNDATION Newsletter | Issue 02 | January 2020



**Mkapa Foundation
Pledges More Support to
Tanzania's Health Sector**

**Tanzania Set
to Launch
National NCD's**



Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and BMF Settlor, H.E Benjamin William Mkapa

About us



OUR VISION

Healthy lives and well-being for all in Tanzania and the rest of Africa



OUR MISSION

To contribute towards the attainment of better health outcomes through innovative health and related systems solution.

The Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation is a Trust and non-profit making Institution, established and incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Ordinance, CAP 375.

Officially registered on 13th April 2006, the Foundation aims to supplement and complement the development efforts of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Historical Background

The Foundation was established after the launching of its first initiative known as the “Mkapa Fellows Programme” in July 2005. The Programme of Mkapa Fellows was initiated by the Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Benjamin William Mkapa and the Former President of the United States of America, H.E. William Jefferson Clinton in July 2005, through the financial support of the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Norway. The Fellows Programme aim was to accelerate HIV/AIDS services, through addressing the shortage of skilled health professionals in rural underserved settings.

As the Foundation grows its shifted its focus from implementing initiatives that a focused on strengthening HIV/AIDS service delivery and Health System, particular Human Resource for Health (HRH) to focusing on implementing beyond HIV/AIDS. Therefore resulted into the change of name to “The Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation (BMF)”



Dr. Ellen Mkondya Senkoro - BMF CEO

WORD FROM THE CEO

Happy new year to you all. I hope you celebrated the start of 2020 in good spirits with family and friends, an eventful year has passed and a new one has begun

Welcoming this New Year, The Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation is still embarking on the journey to improve people's health and well-being in Tanzania and the rest of Africa

As we remain steadfast in our endeavors to serve communities, the success of our interventions largely depends on the continuing support of development partners, well-wishers, friends and the unwavering commitment of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (GOT).

Since the launch of our 3rd strategic business plan in October 2019 We are tirelessly working to sustain efforts towards ensuring availability of equipment and human resource in rural health facilities with the goal of saving lives and improving health but above all, building a productive society that can steer the nation to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BMF's partnership with the Japan Embassy is one of the key expressions of how we are strategically positioned, with major stakeholders to work hand-in-glove with the GOT to achieve national targets of having at least 50% of Health Centers in the country providing life-saving services to pregnant mothers.

However through close collaboration with the GOT, BMF has completed the processes of filling the vacant posts under RSSH project. A total of one hundred and ninety (190) i.e. 70% of 271 recruited Health Care Workers were mainstreamed into the government system during the year 2018/2019.

Never the less, for health facilities to achieve the set targets, innovative approaches are a prerequisite. That's why, through Mkapa Fellows Program III, BMF in collaboration with President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), undertook a refresher training on health facility annual planning, budgeting and reporting system at the facility level.

At least five out of 12 members of the health facility committee from 10 facilities (5 facilities in Chemba and 5 facilities in Misungwi) were refreshed. We are looking forward to improving and scaling up Human Resource for Health and CHWs deployment and planning from the national level to district level by December 2020.

Thankfully, under the 5th phase government, led by His Excellency President John Joseph Pombe Magufuli, more than 237 health centers have been upgraded, with newly constructed operating theatres countrywide. This also puts the rural health centers at a better position to benefit from improved anesthesia services, such as the use of Universal Anesthesia Machines (UAMs) which does not necessarily require electricity to operate, thus being more suitable for rural settings. The UAMs are supported through BMF and Gadian Health Systems.

BMF will continuously work with partners to support initiatives that aim at saving lives—especially to cut down maternal and newborn mortality in the most needy areas of the country, as guided by the National Health Sector Strategic Plan IV, as well as in the National One Plan II to Improve Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health in Tanzania (2016 - 2020).

Together, we shall accomplish these aims.

Contents



04

A Word from the CEO



06

Government Embarks on Strategy to Reduce Out-Of-Pocket Expenses in Healthcare



08

Mkapa Foundation Pledges More Support to Tanzania's Health Sector



10

Tanzania Set to Launch National NCD's



12

Tanzania Faces Alarming Shortage of Health Workers



13

Benjamin Mkapa Foundation Provides Training for New Employees in the Health Sector



16

Maternal and Newborn Services Significantly Improved in Nkasi



18

Japan Embassy through Mkapa Foundation Donate Medical Equipment to Health Facilities in Rukwa



20

News in Pictures

Government Embarks on Strategy to Reduce Out-Of-Pocket Expenses in Healthcare



Tanzania like many other countries is embarking on health financing and Primary Health Care (PHC) reforms that will have important implications for progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

To begin with, the Government of Tanzania is developing a new health financing strategy to enable access to financial protection, as well as affordable and cost-effective quality health care.

This was said by the Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile when he delivered his speech during the Health Symposium organized by Benjamin

Mkapa Foundation (BMF) on October 1, 2019 in Dar es Salaam whereby the stakeholders discussed various issues related to health sector.

“Despite all the successes that Tanzania as a nation has so far achieved, there are challenges that need to be addressed include increasing Out-Of-Pocket expenses in healthcare,” said the minister.

The minister acknowledged that the expenses are attributable to low health insurance coverage in Tanzania, however, he noted that the government is developing a new single National Health Insurance scheme with the goal of reducing Out-Of-Pocket expenditure.

Furthermore, in improving financial management as an avenue towards greater efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare service delivery, the Direct Health Facility Financing (DHFF) system has been rolled out nationwide across the Primary Health care facilities, according to the Minister.

The minister also disclosed that rural-urban migration is another challenge facing the sector, citing that the situation has impact on the health systems and structures.

With a population of estimated 55.9 million, Tanzania total expenditure on health per capital is estimated at 7 percent of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



Dr Faustine Ndugulile speaking during the Health Symposium

The increased population estimated to be 89 million in 2035, economic transitioning and rural-urban migration has impact on the health systems and will continue to exhaust the health system.



***Mr. Bernard Konga
NHIF Director General***

According to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), 65 per cent of the Tanzanian population doesn't have access to the quality health services in the country because they have are not enrolled on health insurance schemes.

NHIF's Director General Dr Bernard Konga during the panel sessions held at the Symposium asserted that people remain uncovered because the current system doesn't declare the health insurance as mandatory.

"It is high time to make health insurance mandatory rather than optional for Tanzania to achieve the UHC," said Dr Bernard.

However, the DG said NHIF has embarked on comprehensive strategies to improve the health insurance coverage in Tanzania, targeting both formal and informal sector players.

BMF's Chief Executive Officer Dr Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro during the Symposium reiterated BMF's commitment to apply strategic interventions to address programmatic dimensions including the limitation in financing and technical support that hinders access and quality of health services and functionality of health facilities.

Mkapa Foundation Pledges More Support to Health Sector

Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) has pledged to continue supporting the Tanzania Government towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Universe Health Coverage (UHC) targets and the country National Development Frameworks.

BMF's Chief Executive Officer Dr Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro issued the commitment when she delivered her speech during the Health Symposium which was organized by BMF took

place on October 1, 2019 in Dar es Salaam whereby the stakeholders discussed various issues related to the health sector.

"We are committed to complement and support Governments' efforts to deliver health care services reaching all people equitably, in both Tanzania Mainland and Isles, as well as other neighboring Africa regions through strategic partnerships," said the CEO.

She added: "We understand that we cannot bring change on our



own. Therefore, we plan to cement our trusted cooperation with the Government of Tanzania, at the same time sustain the mutual partnership with existing and new traditional and non-traditional partners, including donors, civil societies, professional bodies, private sector, researchers, media, and other interested parties."

The Symposium was accompanied by the launch of BMF's 5 years Strategic Business Plan (termed as SBPIII) extending from 2019-2024 which is in place to build upon the success of the previous two Strategic Plans since BMF's inception.

Referring to the newly launched business plan, Dr Ellen disclosed that



Caption:



HE Benjamin William Mkapa Former President of Tanzania and BMF Settlor Handing over a Brief Copy of the New Strategic Business Plan to Amref Tanzania CEO Dr. Florence Temu During the symposium

the plan is estimated to cost Tsh156 billion, further noting that BMF under the new plan, among others, it is dedicated to continue investing on health systems in efforts to combat maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health situation, especially in rural settings.

In recognizing the contribution of BMF in the health sector in Tanzania, the Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile who was the Chief Guest of the Symposium commended BMF for being a good partner to the Government of Tanzania

in improving access and quality of health services to all.

"Your work in areas of Human Resources for Health, HIV/AIDS and many others have contributed significantly to the gains we have attained in the health sector," said the Deputy Minister.

He added: "Let me assure you that the Government is working closely with its development partners on specific interventions to address some of the challenges."

The minister further highlighted that Tanzania has made substantial gains

in improving access and quality of health services such as increased availability of essential medicines to over 95 percent coupled with increased Government budget towards medicines and other commodities.

"Health systems strengthening is a critical component of the 2030 agenda for SDGs and UHC. With this in mind, we need to look into ways that will ensure quality, equity, efficiency, accountability, resilience and sustainability of health services," added the minister.

Tanzania Set to Launch National NCD's Programme

Tanzanian Government is making progress in prioritizing health prevention and promotion measures as on November 16 this year it will be launching a National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) programme with strong components of health promotion, prevention curative and rehabilitation.

Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile said this when he addressed participants during Health Symposium organized by Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) which took place on October 1, 2019 in Dar es Salaam whereby the stakeholders discussed various issues related to health sector.

"In this regard, we are looking at complementary efforts of community health workers whom we believe will further add value in health promotion and prevention besides curative care at the community level," said the Deputy Minister.



Dr Faustine during the colorful event further acknowledged that for many years, the government has been focusing on curative services, rather than looking into health promotion, prevention and rehabilitation.

"Unlike with the communicable diseases, whereby a patient can graduate from a health system once treated, with NCDs, the patient is tied to the health systems for life," noted the Deputy Minister.



He added: "We need to now focus more on preventing people from getting sick rather treating the sick. Failure to do so, is a failure of the health system."

Backing up the Deputy Minister's arguments, During a Panel session discussion held at the Symposium Dr Mohamed Kambi, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) admitted that the Government lacks enough funds to address the alarming burden of health conditions affecting the society such as NCDs.

Globally there is evidence of the growing burden of NCDs especially



Panel session discussion held during the health symposium

in developing countries including Tanzania.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that deaths from NCDs in the African region will increase by 27 percent by the year 2030, which is 28 million additional deaths.

In Tanzania, at least 31 percent of all deaths have been associated to NCDs, with the main killers identified as Cardiovascular Diseases at 9 percent and Cancers at 5 percent.

The Symposium was accompanied by the launch of BMF's 5 years

Strategic Business Plan (termed as SBPIII) extending from July 2019-June 2024 aiming at contributing to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the Universe Health Coverage (UHC) targets and the country National Development Frameworks.

Referring to the newly launched business plan, BMF's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro said the plan is estimated to cost approximately Tsh156 billion (equivalent to 68million USD).

“Whereas we recognize the encouraging progress at country level in combatting communicable diseases, but yet we are still lagging behind with few indicators of HIV, TB and Malaria, and now the rapid emerging crisis on NCDs,” said the CEO when she delivered her speech.

In attendance, the event brought together representatives of International Organizations, representatives of Government institutions and His Excellency the former President Benjamin William Mkapa who is the Settlor of Mkapa Foundation

Tanzania Faces Alarming Shortage of Health Workers



Health workers during a learning session

Inadequate Human Resources for Health (HRH) has been pronounced as one among key challenges that need to be addressed by the Government of Tanzania to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

This follows the revelation that despite the efforts by the Government and partners to address HRH challenges, the gap is still alarming at a national average of 52 percent particularly in rural settings and dispensary levels where shortage is estimated at 69 percent, according to the available statistics. The statistics further demonstrate that by 2018, the health sector was operating with estimated 99,684 health workers (47.6 percent) out of the required 209,603. However, investing in the education and employment of health workers has been part of national human capital strategies in Tanzania.

“The Government is working closely with its development partners on specific interventions to address some of the challenges including shortage of health workers,” said the Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr. Faustine

Ndugulile during Health Symposium. That was organized by Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) and took place on October 1, 2019, in Dar es Salaam whereby health stakeholders discussed various issues related to health sector. The Deputy Minister further cited that the health sector also faces challenges such as changing patterns of diseases, increasing costs Out-of-Pocket expenditure in healthcare and fast-growing population due to low Family planning uptake and high fertility rate.

The Symposium was accompanied by the launch of BMF’s 5 years Strategic Business Plan (termed as SBPIII) extending from 2019-2024 which is in place to build upon the success of the previous two Strategic Plans since BMF’s inception in Tanzania. The new plan is estimated to cost approximately 156billion (equivalent to 68million USD). Delivering her speech during the launch of the Business Plan, BMF’s Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro reiterated the BMF’s commitment and determination to apply strategic interventions to address programmatic dimensions which

include the shortage and quality of HRH in health facilities in underserved communities.

“BMF is expecting to contribute significantly towards stronger health systems that will steer the success of UHC and SDGs in Tanzania and beyond in the next 5 years,” added the CEO.

To remain credible and relevant, Dr. Ellen reiterated BMF’s commitment to reinforce production of rare and highly demanded health professionals from Training institutions to address the existing shortage of health professionals.

“The aim is to have the required health workforce as per workload, at the same time to build the capacity of central to district management teams on effective Human Resource Management,” said Dr Ellen.

Moreover, the CEO reassured the Government that it will adopt technology in most of its work and embark on digital transformation to reach a larger public, improve productivity, efficient use of resources, and improve its programs and services to the beneficiaries.

Benjamin Mkapa Foundation Provides Training for New Employees in the Health Sector

BMF in close collaboration with the Government, particularly the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) & President Office Regional and Local Government Authorities (PORALG), through the implemented Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) Project, has jointly completed the processes of filling the vacant posts under RSSH project. A total of one hundred and ninety (190) i.e. 70% of 271 recruited Health Care Workers were mainstreamed into the government system during the year 2018/2019.

Speaking during the staff orientation and capacity building training for new health workers that was conducted in Dodoma, Tanzania from 28-30th October 2019, Dr Ntuli Kapologwe, Director of the Department of Public Health (PORALG) urged the newly recruited health workers to listen very carefully to what is being directed to them, and to do as it is required at their assigned areas of work. The training aimed at ensuring that the new health workers carry out their work responsibilities in their assigned areas.

"Go and work because the measure of success in the health sector is the public, as you go there go with



Dr Ntuli Kapologwe, Director of the Department of Public Health (PORALG)

the mindset of helping your fellow Tanzanians and leave a mark on the work, including protecting the dignity of the Government," said Dr Kapologwe.

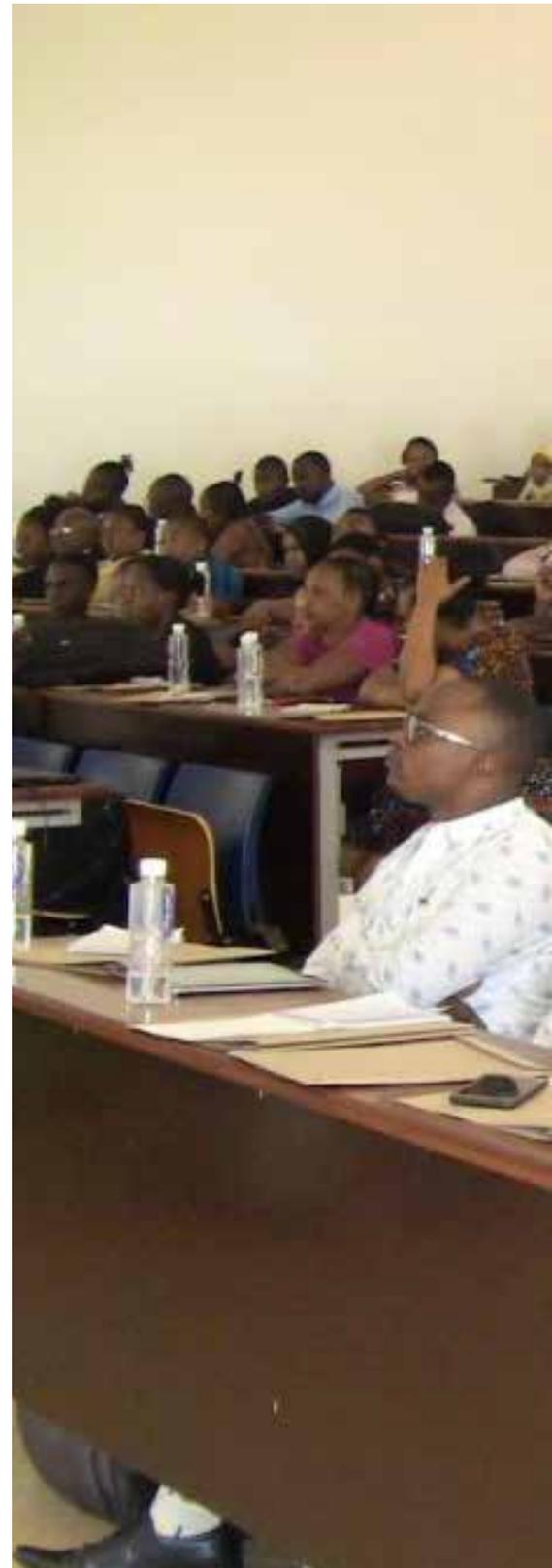
"From June 2018, the Mkapa Foundation (BMF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Social

Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) started implementing the Sustainable and Patient Health System Project i.e. (RSSH) Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health expected to be completed by December 2020.

[>> page 15](#)



Ms Rahma Musoke BMF Monitoring and Evaluation Manager speaking during the Orientation



<< [page 15](#)

One of the interventions implemented through the RSSH Project – Global Fund is to recruit Health professionals and arrange for them to work on project benefit regions which are Simiyu, Geita, Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara, Dodoma and Mwanza

Among the BMF's implemented interventions under RSSH is recruitment of Health Care Workers. BMF implement HRH recruitment intervention under RSSH. During the first year of the Project a total

271 were recruited and placed in 75 LGA's, whereby a total 190 i.e. 70% of recruited Health Care Workers were mainstreamed into the government system during the year 2018/2019." Stated Dr Ntuli

Ms Rahma Musoke BMF's Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Said "The Management of Benjamin Mkapa Foundation is committed to ensuring that the recruitment and selection of all employees are fair, open and transparent and will comply with all relevant

legislation of the United Republic of Tanzania. BMF will continue to complement Government efforts by being committed to apply strategic interventions to address shortage of Human Resources for Health (HRH)



The newly recruited Health workers during the Orientation

which stand to be 52% that mostly affect primary health facilities in underserved LGA's."

The Ministry of Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and

Children has commissioned the Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation (as a Sub-Recipient) to carry out some of the activities of the RSSH project in two main areas, Human Resources of the Health Sector including the

establishment and coordination of distance learning Platform e-learning for health workers and Responsive Community Systems. Where the total cost of running the project is expected to be 18.9 billion.

Maternal and Newborn Services Significantly Improved in Nkasi

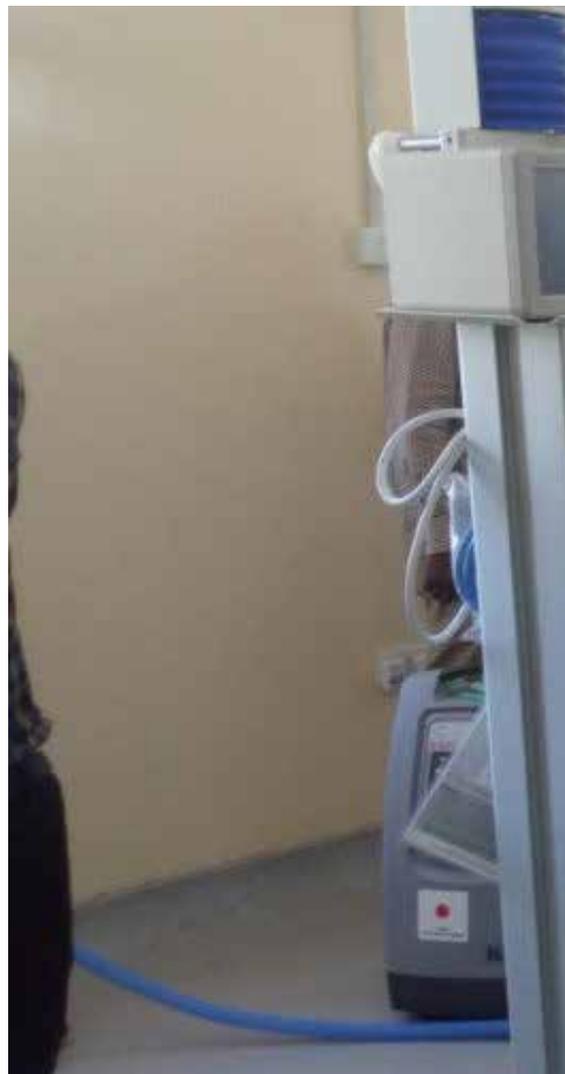
Thanks to BMF and Japan Embassy

The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan Embassy in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi yesterday witnessed a mother at Kirando Health Center along the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika in Nkasi District, Rukwa region delivering through cesarean section being an obstetric emergency case.

Medical surgeons at the health facility during cesarean section were using

all six medical equipment donated by the Government of Japan through Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation (BMF). The same were also donated at Mwimbi Health Center in Kalambo District at a combined cost of over TZS139/= Million.

"I'm deeply touched to witness the cesarean section being done at the health facility here at Kirando being one of the successful obstetric emergency



The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi pictured happy to see the new born baby who was delivered through cesarean section at Kirando Health Center in Nkasi District Rukwa region using equipment donated by Japanese Government through BMF. With him is the acting Regional Medical Officer (RMO) for Rukwa Dr .Emmanuel Mtika who was also present during the cesarean section delivery at the facility.



A Universal Anaesthesia Machine (UAM) being used during a delivery through cesarean section at Kirando Health Center. Along the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika in Nkasi District Rukwa region, UAM is among the six medical equipment donated by the Government of Japan via Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF). It is the first internationally-certified anesthesia machine that can generate its own medical oxygen and deliver anesthesia's without electricity.

cases being performed here this is my first time in life to observe this undertaking in close proximity.

I have also witnessed the new healthy born baby and had the rare opportunity to witness medical equipment's donated by Japanese Government through BMF being properly and efficiently used. Though the donation is small but its impact is very powerful" added the Japanese envoy.

After witnessing the mother delivering through cesarean section, Dr

Nyamwihura said that the Japanese Envoy, Amb. Katshutoshi was impressed to witness the donated medical equipment being used properly and efficiently.

"We really saw the impact of the support we receive from our donors," she added.

On his welcoming note the Nkasi DMO, Dr Mvogogo briefed the Japanese envoy that since the installation of the medical equipment donated by Japanese Embassy through BMF on

May 28 this year about 130 mothers delivered through cesarean section being obstetric emergency cases and 46 other patients were non-obstetric emergency cases.

"Services of maternal and newborn have significantly been improved as the number of mothers delivering at the health facility has increased from 150 to 180 per month an average of five to seven mothers delivering per day" noted the DMO.

Japan Embassy through Mkapa Foundation **Donate Medical Equipment to Health Facilities in Rukwa**

The Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) has handed over medical equipment valued at US \$ 62,582 equivalent to approximately over TZS138 Million to operating theaters of Kirando Health Centre and Mwimbi Health Centre in Nkasi and Kalambo Districts respectively in Rukwa region.

The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi fixing a sticker on the Universal Anaesthesia Machine (UAM) officiating the handing over celebration for installation of medical equipment which will improve Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) at Mwimbi Health Center in Kalambo District Rukwa region on Monday



The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi in a group photo with the medical staff of Kirando Health Center as well as the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) Program Manager – Service Delivery, Dr. Adeline Saguti Nyamwihura (first on the left), the Acting Regional Medical Officer (RMO) for Rukwa Dr. Emanuel Mtika (second right) and the District Medical Officer (DMO) for Nkasi Dr. Hashim Mvogogo (first on the right).

The handing over ceremony for the project of installing the medical equipment for the operating theaters at both health facilities was witnessed by The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi who cut the ribbon to officiate the occasion.

The colorful events took place separately on November 11 and 12 this year first at Mwimbi health facility in Kalambo District and then at Kirando health facility along the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika in Nkasi District.

“It is always a privilege to witness yet another contribution made from the people of Japan to the people of Tanzania” Said the Ambassador.



The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi fixing a sticker on the Universal Anaesthesia Machine (UAM) officiating the handing over celebration for installation of medical equipment which will improve Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) at Mwimbi Health Center in Kalambo District Rukwa region.



He further noted that on February 18, this year, a grant contract was signed between the Government of Japan and BMF of which the former extended US \$ 62,582 by that time, equivalent to over TZS138 Million for the purpose of installation of medical equipment to enable emergency surgeries at the duo health facilities.

On her part the BMF Program Manager – Service Delivery, Dr Adeline Saguti Nyamwihura, said the installation of medical equipment will improve Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) at both health facilities.

The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Tanzania, Ambassador Takeda Katshutoshi in a group photo with the medical staff of Kirando Health Center as well as the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) Program Manager – Service Delivery, Dr. Adeline Saguti Nyamwihura (first on the left), the Acting Regional Medical Officer (RMO) for Rukwa Dr. Emanuel Mtika (second right) and the

District Medical Officer (DMO) for Nkasi Dr. Hashim Mvogogo (first on the right).

She named the medical equipment supported by Japan’s Embassy being universal anesthesia machine, autoclave, theatre table, oxygen concentrator, suction machine and operation lamp each to both health facilities.

“The uniqueness of the Universal Anaesthesia Machine – UAMis that it’s the first internationally-certified anaesthesia machine that can generate its own medical oxygen and deliver anaesthesia without electricity. UAM has a built-in oxygen concentrator that produces its own oxygen in addition to providing standard connectors for cylinder, pipeline and portable oxygen” she added.

Earlier, the Kalambo District Commissioner (DC) Ms. Juliet Binyura said over TZS10 Million has been allocated so far for preventive maintenance for the installed medical equipment at Mwimbi health facility.

News in Pictures

