

**From Research to Action:
Communicating more effectively with
decision makers in Tanzania**

**Leonard E.G. Mboera, PhD, DIC
National Institute for Medical
Research**

Effective communication of research findings?

Challya et al. 2010

Motorcycle injuries as an emerging public health problem in Mwanza City, north-western Tanzania.

- (i) protective gear to include a helmet, eye and face protection, long pants, gloves, boots and a durable long-sleeved jacket;
- (ii) restriction of alcohol consumption before operating a motorcycle;
- (iii) strict enforcement of traffic laws and regulations;
- (iv) headlights to be kept on all the time during motorcycle riding; and
- (v) all motorcycle riders' should undertake course before being licensed as motorcyclists.



Motorcycle injuries accounts for 37.5% of road accidents.....

Tanzania Experience

- ACT No. 23 of 1979 mandates NIMR to
- establish a system of the registration of, and to register the findings of medical research carried out within Tanzania, and promote the practical application of those findings for the purpose of improving or advancing the health and general welfare of the people
- establish and operate systems of documentation and dissemination of information on any aspect of the medical research carried out by or on behalf of the institute;

Communication Mechanisms

Major Mechanisms:

- Programme Advisory Board



Submission of technical reports to MoHSW

MALARIA AND AGRICULTURE IN TANZANIA

**Impact of land-use and agricultural practices on malaria
burden in Mvomero District**

Technical Report



L.E.G. Mboera, M.R.S. Mlozi, K.P. Senkoro, R. T. Rwegoshora, S.F. Rumisha, B.K. Mayala, E.H. Shayo, E. Senkondo, B. Mutayoba, V. Mwingira & A. Maerere

April 2007

Conduct seminars and workshops



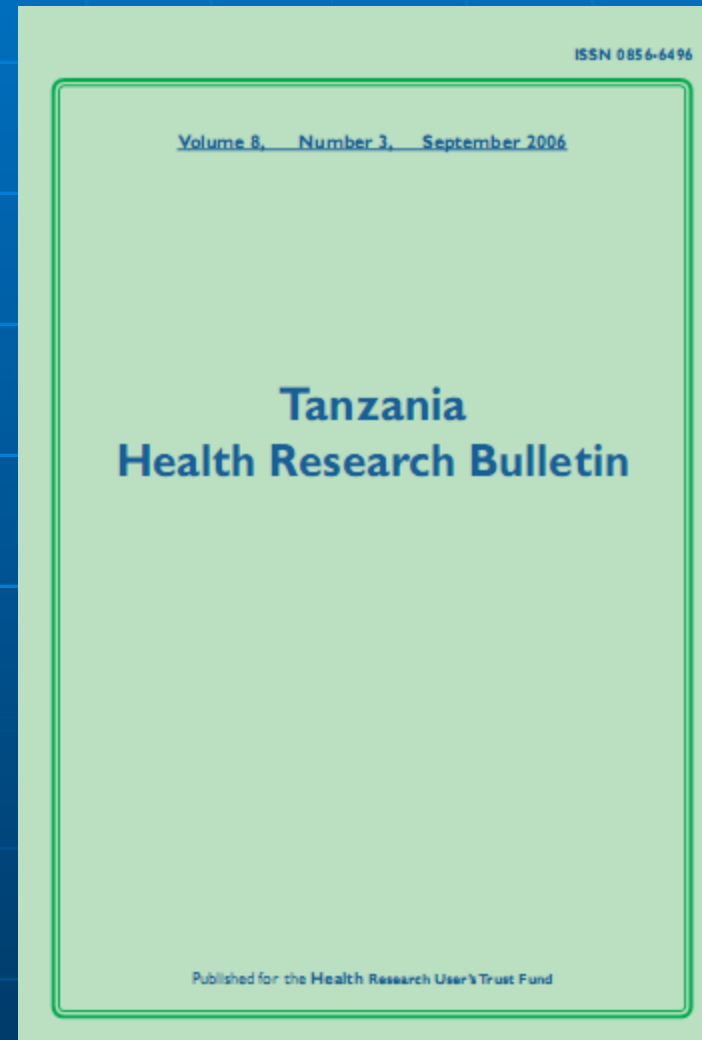
Annual Joint Scientific Conferences



Feed back meetings to study district and community



Journal publications



Communication Mechanisms, cont..

Minor Mechanisms :

- Television
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Policy briefs
- Research summary
- Fact sheets
- Newsletter



The image shows the cover of the NIMR Highlights newsletter. At the top left is the NIMR logo. To its right, the title "NIMR Highlights" is written in a large, serif font. Below the title, it says "The Newsletter of the National Institute for Medical Research Tanzania". Underneath that, it specifies "Volume 5, Issue 1, June 2012". The main headline reads "Researchers urged to develop evidence-based approaches to disease interventions". Below the headline is a photograph of Dr. Mohamed Bilal, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking at a podium. To the right of the photo is a short article snippet. At the bottom right, there is a box containing the "Editorial Committee" and "Editorial address" information. A dark blue banner at the very bottom of the page contains the text "NIMR Highlights is available at: www.nimr.or.tz".

NIMR Highlights
The Newsletter of the National Institute for Medical Research
Tanzania
Volume 5, Issue 1, June 2012

Researchers urged to develop evidence-based approaches to disease interventions



HE Vice President Dr. Mohamed Bilal

The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal urged health researchers to take the lead in the generation and development of evidence-based approaches to disease interventions. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 26th Annual Joint Scientific Conference held in Arusha recently, Dr. Bilal said that in the era when international and national efforts to fight against poverty, illiteracy and disease have been strengthened, we need seriously to generate local evidence-based approaches in implementing our interventions through rigorous and high quality health research.

The theme of the conference was: "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Health: Count-down to 2015". Dr. Bilal said that of the 8 MDGs, three address health. To achieve these goals, it requires strong mobilization of global and local resources, because the challenges are enormous and their mitigation requires huge investments. In Tanzania, the Millennium Development Goals have been translated into the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Alleviation (MKUKUTA), Health Sector Strategic Plan III (2008-2013) and Primary Health Services Development Programme (2007-2017), reaffirming the country commitments to meet the challenges.

The Vice President said that, like many other Sub-Saharan Africa countries, Tanzania is challenged by the huge burden of poverty-related health problems, many of which could be eliminated if adequate resources were made available, and systems were in place to ensure that target interventions reach those who need

Dr. Bilal informed the conference participants that Tanzania has made great successes as regards to national health statistics. Current statistics indicate that maternal mortality ratio has dropped in 2010 to 484 per 100,000 live births from 578 in 2005, showing that our efforts to address the problem are producing positive effects. "Despite these commendable achievements the current maternal health situation is still challenging. For instance, despite a high coverage of 96% in pregnant women who attend at least one antenatal clinic, only half of them (51%) have access to skilled delivery", Dr. Bilal said.

Dr. Bilal congratulated NIMR for holding its annual scientific conferences consecutively for the past twenty-six years without failure. "I have been informed that, these conferences signify a tradition attracting broad spectrum of audience including both local and international health researchers, practitioners, trainers, development partners, the media and other stakeholders. I firmly believe that these conferences have been very important venues of exchange of new developments in health research and service delivery" Dr. Bilal said.

Editorial Committee
Dr. Leonard E.G. Mbowe, PhD, DDC
Dr. Kijakwi D. Mwakoto, DSc, MPH, PhD
Ms. Vidwani P. Zinyanga, BSc, MPH
Dr. Susan F. Numbwa, BSc, MSc, PhD
Mr. Keshari Senkoro, BSc, MSc
Ms. Nene R. Mwanji, BSc, MSc, Cand

Editorial address
National Institute for Medical Research,
P.O. Box 2653, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: 255 22 2130770; Fax: 255 22 2130660
Email: comhighlights@nimr.or.tz

NIMR Highlights is available at: www.nimr.or.tz

Challenges

- Currently weak capacity to link up health research, health policy and health problems
- Lack of facilitated fora for interaction among researchers, policy makers and implementers
- Poor capacity in policy analysis
- Inadequate resources for research communication
- Lack of culture to utilize evidence among policy and decision makers

Asanteni Sana