



**THE 5TH ANNUAL EAST AFRICAN HEALTH & SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE & INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION AND
TRADE FAIR**

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



25TH TO 27TH MARCH 2015, KAMPALA SERENA HOTEL, UGANDA

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❑ Highlights from the opening session
- ❑ Summary points from each sub-theme
- ❑ Highlights from the 2 symposia
- ❑ Cross-cutting issues
- ❑ Recommendations

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 140 abstracts were accepted for presentation: 62 for posters and 78 oral presentation

- 61 of these abstracts were presented, representing **78.2%** of accepted abstracts

- **Of the 61:**
 - Uganda: 20 (32.8%)
 - Kenya: 15 (24.6%)
 - Tanzania: 9 (14.7%)
 - Rwanda: 5 (8.2%)
 - Burundi: 3 (4.9%)
 - Zanzibar: 1 (1.6%)

HIGH LIGHTS FROM THE OPENING SESSION

- Prof. Gerald Yoga highlighted that NCDs are on the rise; so there is a need to emphasize prevention strategies and develop an NCD policy in the East African Community
- Dr. Winyi Kaboyo highlighted the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach for better outcomes in the management of zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases
- The Minister from Zanzibar highlighted that good health means a stronger economy and there is a need to prioritise PHC

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM OPENING SESSION

- Key note speaker – Prof Bazira – emphasized the need to translate research knowledge into policy and practice
- The Minister of Public Health from Burundi highlighted the need to prioritise Maternal and Child Health
- The Minister of Health from Uganda also emphasized the need to use research findings to inform policy and practice

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OPENING SESSION

- The Minister from Tanzania emphasized the need for practical solutions to deal with current challenges
- The Guest of Honour emphasized the need for stronger regional cooperation that will reduce health costs, improve MCH and strengthen community systems

SUB THEME: 1 HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

KEY FINDINGS

- Hospital-acquired infection surveys identified major infections such as UTIs, IV line infections, RTIs and surgical wounds
- ART program sustainment has been realized within a multi-factorial model
- Health information technology systems can improve timely HIV PCR testing rates and retention

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING...

- Key populations along transport corridors in East Africa are at high risk of infectious disease amid inadequate access to health and social services

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for integrated training of health personnel on the control of hospital acquired infections
- Task sharing within staff of health facilities can improve sustainability of ART interventions
- There's need for comprehensive health programming targeting key populations and vulnerable communities along transport corridors

Sub theme: 2 Approaches to Disease Prevention, Control, Management and Health Promotion

KEY FINDINGS

- Lack of TB diagnostic tools at the facility and insufficient training were reported as operational challenges in TB intensified case finding (ICF) by most of the providers
- Training of people from diverse professional disciplines led to an immediate shift in the level of knowledge and appreciation of the One Health approaches (65%-75%)

APPROACHES TO DISEASE PREVENTION...

- Laboratory test results sometimes do not match the patients' symptoms
- High prevalence of schistosomiasis among school children (11%)
- Communities lack knowledge on brucellosis vaccination among humans and animals

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for more efforts to reach national and international targets regarding TB screening among PLWH
- Need for One Health leadership trainings
- Need for community integration of animal vaccination and health education in the management of brucellosis
- Need for simplified testing systems for influenza that will enable providers to perform quick and easy diagnosis
- Need to emphasis community health education in the prevention of schistosomiasis

Sub-theme 3: Social Determinants of Health

KEY FINDINGS

- Building women's skills has positive implications at household and community level in promoting gender equity and leadership
- Community-based financial accountability empowers community actors to protect collective interests in healthcare prioritizing and spending
- Vasectomy uptake was low (17%)
- Second or higher-order marriages among women and age 25-34 years among men are risk factors for HIV infection while longer marital duration is protective against HIV infection

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Peer-led programs are vital in the fight against stigma among adolescent populations living with HIV&AIDS
- Social media is capable of accelerating HIV awareness and provide HIV related information, support and testing among sexual minority groups in Uganda as it led increased access to services

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need to empower women with leadership skills for to promote gender equity
- There is a need to empower community actors on community-based financial accountability empowers community actors

RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT'D)

- Need to prioritise vasectomy health education in order to increase acceptability
- Need to enhance couple HCT prior to marital formation and promote marital stability among already married couples.

Sub-theme 4: Diseases and Conditions of Public Health Importance

FINDINGS

- HIV prevalence among injection drug users (IDUs) is 3 times higher than that in the general population
- There is a positive correlation between adiponectin levels and viral load in HIV-1/TB co-infected ART-naive non-IDUs
- Both artemether lumefantrine and dihydro-artemisinin piperazine are efficacious in the treatment of uncomplicated malaria
- High incidence of influenza among children diagnosed with malaria

DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE...

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is high need for specific interventions to address high transmission among PWIDs
- There is a need for further insight into the effect of HIV-1/TB and substance use on adiponectin products so as to understand disease progression which may lead to novel treatment approaches
- RT-PCR test is more effective than microscopy in the detection of low levels of gametocytes and so should be used
- Further research should be done to establish the relationship between co-infection of malaria and influenza

HIGH LIGHTS FROM SYMPOSIA

Symposium 1:

The 2nd EAC Health Ministers and Parliamentarians Forum and Symposium on Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health – “Accelerating and Sustaining Progress in Women and Children’s Health Post 2015”

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Financing of women and child health in an accountable and sustainable manner
- Need to harness all possible mechanisms for ensuring commodity security
- Strengthening of community health services
- Adoption of policies that support harnessing of demographic dividend and family planning
- Rights based approach to health services
- The health of adolescent and young people
- Enhancing access to life saving vaccines and sustainability of immunization programs

Symposium 2:

Accelerating Integrated Health and HIV&AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections responses

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Urgent need for sustainable domestic sources of funding for Health and HIV and AIDS programming in the region.
- Need for all countries to fast-track implementation of high impact interventions based on the investment approach
- Include women and girls in all programmes and strengthen Social Health Protection systems in the Partner states

SYMPOSIUM 3

- **Symposium 3: Promoting Access to Safe, Efficacious Quality Medicines, Medical Devices, Health Products and Health Technologies in the EAC Region**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The EAC Partner States should conduct operational research in regulatory systems and quality of products in the market and processes to provide evidence based decision making process
- The EAC Secretariat to develop an EAC Regional Plan of Action for aimed at combating Substandard/Falsified/Falsely Labeled/Counterfeit SFFC medicines based on WHO AFRO Plan of Action (Prevention, Detection and Response)

RECOMMENDATIONS...

- Partner States to continue to invest in regulation of Medical Devices and In-Vitro Diagnostics and create a regional platform for sharing information and best practices
- Partner States should take practical steps to utilise flexibilities under international IP instruments that are implemented under domestic laws to promote local production and other means to improving access to safe, efficacious and quality medicine