

HEALTH PROMOTION TANZANIA (HDT)



YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH TO ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING FOR MALARIA.



Ten Youth Leaders from Tanzania joins other 15 from Ghana and Sierra Leone to engage African Union in Addis Ababa for healthy Africa. A total of 25 youth will be trained as Health leaders and will be incubated for a period of 12 months to build knowledge and skills and competence to articulate complex public health issues and advocate for better health in communities with a focus on eradicating Malaria. They will to African Union Agenda 2063 which is a vision of “*an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa*”.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the commissioner for Human Resource Science and Technology at African Union Prof. Sara Anyang Agbo who heads three divisions of Youth & Human Resource, Education, Science and Technology said the initiative of training and mentoring youth leaders will contribute to the Africa we want. In welcoming the commissioner, the Executive Director of a regional health advocacy organization WACI Health Ms. Rosemary Mburu noted that investing in youth was shaping the tomorrow we want. Prof. Sara Anyang in the middle.




Speaking at African Union Head Quarters in Addis Ababa while receiving representative of youth leaders and their mentors on 28th January 2020, the Vice chairperson of African Union H.E. Kwesi Quartey said that the program is very relevant to African Union vision. He said that Health is a priority of African Union and investing in youth as leaders will immensely contribute to making the Africa we want. Youth leaders' statement to African Union ahead of head of state meeting, emphasized that youth leaders

will support government and partners to achieve health priorities, urges leaders to support youth lead mechanism and allocate reasonable resources towards achieving Universal Health Access. H.E Kwesi pledged that the issues will be part of AU deliberations.

The Program is funded by Comic Relief and organized by RESULTS UK in partnership with a WACI Health. In Tanzania the program is managed by Health Promotion Tanzania-an evidence- based advocacy organization. Health Promotion will train, mentor and coach 10 youth leaders as health leaders advocate for health system strengthening to achieve greater health outcome for malaria and attaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

According to the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative 2019; Tanzania is one of the countries with the largest population at risk for malaria with nearly 93% of the population living in areas where malaria is transmitted. About 14% (via malaria rapid diagnostic test) and 6% (via microscopy) tested for Malaria (TDHS 2015 -16). Statistics from the Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey report (THMIS 2017) further indicated that 7.3% of children in the age of 6-59 months tested positive for malaria. The report further showed that percentage of children under age 5 with malaria is highest among those age 36-47 months (10%) and lowest among those age 6-8 months (3%).



With the extensive training on advocacy and leadership, 10 youth from Tanzania are energetically looking forward to represent the voices of million others in advocating for sustainable mechanism, systems and policies that will in the long run contribute to health system strengthening to achieve not just greater health outcomes in malaria but health in general.