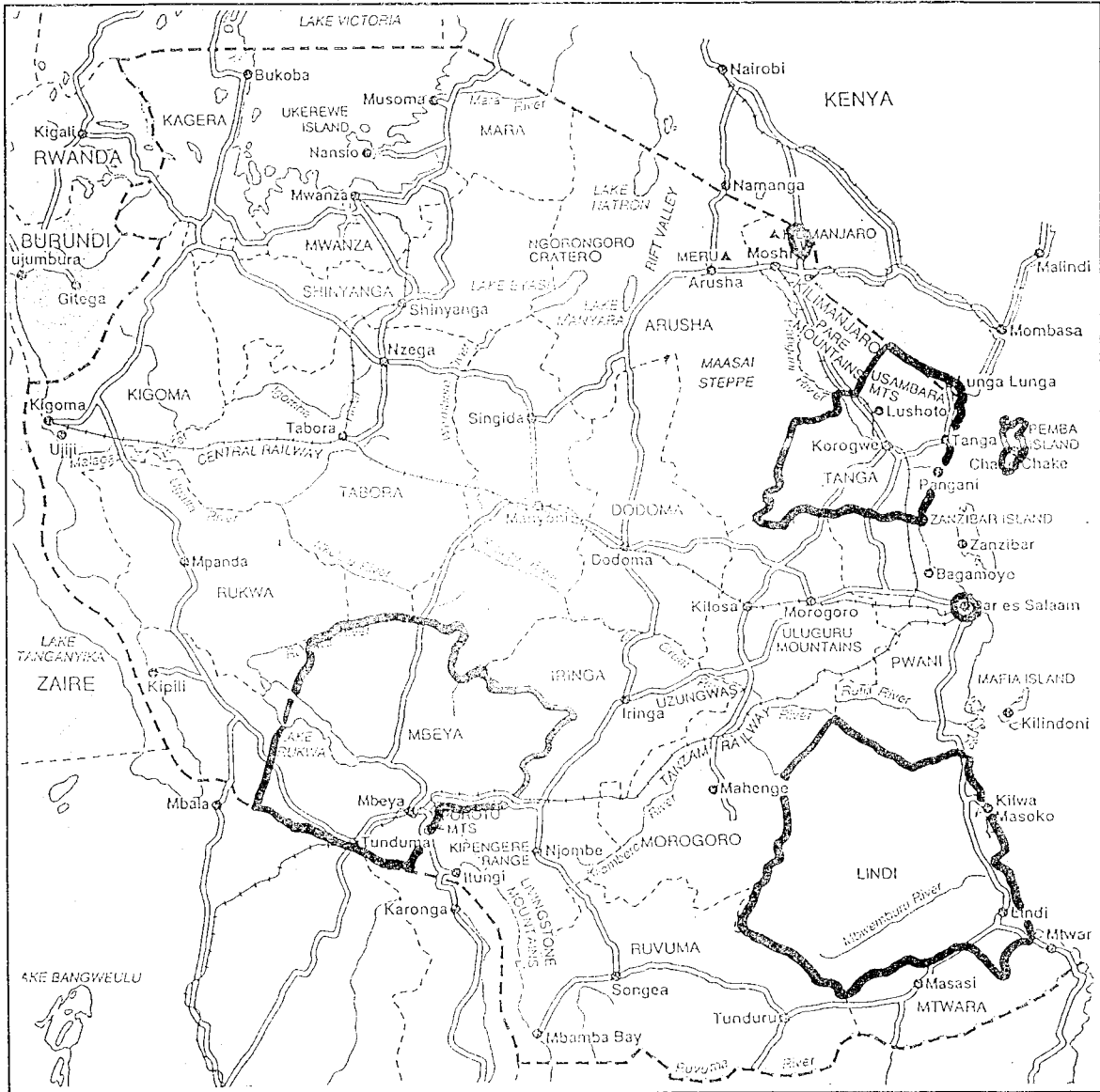


Support to the Health Sector Reform in Tanzania (November 1997)



Family Health Project (FHP) PN. 94.2095.1

Reproductive Health in Tanzania PN. 96.2526.0

Master of Public Health Course PN.95.3577.4

AIDS Control in Mbeeya PN 94.2045.6

Joint Church and Government Social Services PN. 92.2117.7

AIDS Control in Mbeya Region

(PN 94.2045.6)

The first cases of AIDS in the Region were diagnosed 1986. By 1993 a total of 6289 cases were reported cumulatively. Regularly conducted sentinel surveys revealed a rapid increase of the HIV infection in pregnant women. This continuing spread of the infection could be observed in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas.

Project Purpose

To reduce HIV transmission and support the society to cope with the AIDS epidemic.

The project contributes to the overall goal to reduce the negative socio-economic impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Mbeya Region in a comprehensive and integrated way.

Project Development

Since 1988 GTZ has assisted the Ministry of Health and the Mbeya Region in implementing a Regional AIDS Control Programme.

In the first phase (1988-1991) the project concentrated on the establishment of a HIV reference laboratory in Mbeya Referral Hospital and blood safety. Screening of pregnant women for syphilis was also started.

In the second phase (1991-1994) and third phase (1994-1998) the support has been extended to make the programme a comprehensive AIDS control programme, implemented by using the existing health services and integrated into the PHC-programme.

The programme components

- Preventive IEC
- Epidemiological surveillance
- safety in the health care system
- laboratory services
- Counselling and home-based-care
- operational research

Achievements

- IEC activities were undertaken targeting workers at workplaces, women groups, youth groups, commercial sexworkers and their customers, traditional healers, traditional birth attendants, religious and community leaders and village health workers.
- Regular film shows are performed in villages accompanied by pre-and post-film show discussions. Drama groups are trained and supported to educate the population.
- Health workers of 209 health-facilities are trained to include education on IV/AIDS and STDs in their daily work.
- A peer education programme on reproductive health is introduced in primary schools.
- Condom social marketing is introduced. Outlets are identified and supervised, and the condom distribution monitored
- A qualified STD treatment using the syndromic approach is offered in 77 health facilities by trained personnel, that is closely supervised.
- Counselling services for pre-post-test and supportive counselling is offered in 8 hospitals and 18 health centres. Home-based-care teams from 6 hospitals and 18 health centres support HIV/AIDS patients and their families at home.
- All blood transfusions in the Region are tested.
- Health workers of health facilities are trained and supervised to perform the sterilisation procedure and keep their working place clean in a way, that transmission in the health system is prevented.
- At the reference laboratory testing of patients and volunteers is done for the whole Region.
- Sentinel surveillance for HIV infection and syphilis at 9 sites is supported once per year.

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Master of Public Health (MPH) - Course at Muhimbili College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) Dar es Salaam

The Health Sector Reform aims at more effectiveness and efficiency through decentralisation and integration of health services, health districts with a large degree of financial and administrative autonomy are the corner stone. The success of the HSR depends to a large extent on the human resources capacity in public health. But for the time being, only 6 out of 113 DMO and 3 out of 20 RMO are specialised in Public health. Thus, the Ministry of Health requested support from the German Government to develop a Master of Public Health -Course of one year duration which meets international standards of health sciences and public health.

Project purpose:

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) at Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences carries out a high quality Public Health postgraduate course at a Master degree level that complies with national and international requirements.

The project is expected to produce the following outputs:

A course curriculum including contents and teaching methods, is developed and continuously adjusted

The organisational, infrastructural, material and personal capacities are developed to run a MPH course of the required quality.

Close in-country collaboration and regional and international partnership (e.g. with Universities of Nairobi and Kampala, Heidelberg) is agreed upon and implemented. A financing concept aiming at long-term sustainability is developed and implemented

The course duration will be one year including a field study and examinations.

The main target groups are Tanzanian Medical doctors (mainly DMOs) and other leaders (Non-medicals as well) working in the field of public health. To a limited extent participants of other countries are welcome.

They are to be familiarised with the required skills in planning, management, financing of health systems, control of the most important diseases and scientific methods of solving health problems.

Organisation

Executing Agency will be the Muhimbili College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) in Dar es Salaam.

The IPH will nominate a Course-Coordinator who will be in charge of the technical organisation. He will be assisted by an administrator.

A university partnership is planned from the beginning, to grant the institute a long term support as a teaching and research institution. In this regard, the Institute for Tropical Hygiene and Public Health in Heidelberg (head Prof. Sauerborn) is proposed.

Outlook

The project is expected to start by January 1998 and the first Course is supposed to start in October 1998.

After two years piloting the project support will be continued as an integrated component of the Family Health Project (GTZ).

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enabled to carry out planning, counselling and monitoring of the health services on their own. Four out of six District Medical Officers have graduated from the Master of Public Health Course. Supervision of all FLHS is improving. The HMIS is increasingly used in all health facilities.

- Utilisation rates of curative and preventive services have further increased. Immunisation rates for children under 12 months of age vaccinated three times vary between 77% and 100% in Tanga, and more than 80% of all pregnant women make use of ante-natal clinics. The utilisation rate of modern contraceptives by new clients is increasing permanently and has risen in Tanga Region from 9,2% in 1994 to about 11,1% in 1997.
- Intensive training activities (in Family Planning, Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses, Sexual transmitted diseases and AIDS prevention, Planning and Management) are conceived as contribution to quality improvement of staff performance
- District hospitals are undergoing operational research on performance quality, costs and financial procedures. which is expected to result in concrete actions for improved efficiency. The first steps towards a preventive maintenance concept have been done by establishment

of maintenance workshops and the training of maintenance attendants.

- The implementation of District Health Boards and the new Financial Administration and Management System (FAMS) considered as key concepts of the HSR has been started. They are supposed to become the instruments for autonomous administration of funds and personnel at district level. The project will start in two pilot districts and gradually extend to all districts of the Tanga region.

Outlook

Besides the support to the DHMT and RHMT, in the current project phase the project will concentrate on

- performance quality in health services,
- district hospitals as referral institutions,
- District health boards as instrument of decentralisation of decision power at district level.

An evaluation in March and April 1998 will provide the information and recommendations for the continuation in a next project phase.

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