



COVID-19 Response in Tanzania

Project Brief

CARE's COVID-19 Response in Tanzania

- CARE Tanzania builds on its successful partnership with the **Government of Tanzania's** Regional Health Management Team (RHMT) in Tabora Region. Leveraging funding from the Government of Canada as part of the Tabora Maternal Newborn Health Initiative (TAMANI), CARE's Bloomberg-funded COVID-19 activities builds on efforts to improve access of and quality of health services across health facilities and communities to re-envision harmful gender norms.
- **In partnership with the Government of Tanzania**, activities cover all 8 districts in Tabora Region. CARE provides technical support and training to Community Health Workers, who are supported by the government in their duties.
- With the onset of COVID-19, CARE Tanzania quickly implemented a digital survey to understand the impacts of COVID-19. The majority of female respondents reported increases in gender-based violence and harassment, with COVID-19 restricting women's access to resources and decision-making.

Key Interventions and Activities

CARE Tanzania supports integrated health systems response to COVID-19 through:

Health Facilities:

Training and supportive supervision to health care workers (doctors, nurses, and midwives) on infection prevention and control, surveillance and management of COVID-19 patients, and health care response gender-based violence; as well as procurement and distribution of handwashing stations at health facilities.

Communities:

Within village loans and savings groups, integration of dialogues on the gendered impact of COVID-19 to allow participants to discuss gender relations and action plans to address challenges; training to community health workers on household hygiene (including hand washing, waste management, and safe water); as well as training to local NGOs on gender-based violence response with government authorities aligned with the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women.

Health Systems:

Training to Regional and district health teams on risk communication and gender considerations during COVID-19; procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment for health care workers and use of cloth masks for non-clinical workers; training on community-based surveillance for infectious disease threats.

Male member of community village loans and savings group:

"From the gender dialogues I have learnt importance of male involvement in reproductive health and supporting women during occurrence of pandemics. Gender dialogues informed us on how women were overloaded with domestic duties. I reached my fellow men in village loans savings group for creating awareness on supporting women in performing domestic duties and giving enough time for children to study and play"



Village loans and savings group

Project Name: Bloomberg Philanthropies COVID-19 Response

Country: Tanzania (Tabora Region)

Objective: Enhance ability of health systems and communities to respond to COVID-19 in Tabora

Timeframe: May 2020-May 2021

Budget: \$0.5 million USD

Donor: Bloomberg Foundation

Partners: Government of Tanzania

Participants: Health care workers, community health workers, community leaders, regional and district-level health managers, and local organizations involved in response to gender-based violence in Tabora Region

Notable Results:

- **265** health facilities reached
- **97%** of trained health care workers demonstrated gains in knowledge
- **465** CHWs and 21 village leaders trained on community surveillance and contact tracing
- **60 health care workers** trained on infection prevention and control
- 50 health care workers or govt officials received cascade training on **gender-based violence**
- 54 regional government health managers trained on **risk communication and surveillance** for supportive supervision
- **452** people (50% female) reached through **gender** sessions

“Previously I was unconsciously perpetuating GBV like using harsh language to clients. I’m now avoiding perpetuation of GBV at health care settings due to what I learned from respectful maternity care trainings. I changed seating arrangements to improve privacy and confidentiality. I am now trained in doing no harm.”



Nurse Midwife Elisha Pindua

As part of the dialogues led by CARE, participants and chairpersons from 5 villages pledged to engage village and religious leaders in discussions on **harmful gender norms** driving increased teenage pregnancies during school lockdown and the importance of girls’ health and education along with male engagement in childcare and domestic tasks.

Key Achievements

- CARE supports and partners with the Government of Tanzania at the national, regional, and district levels. CARE’s trainings and supportive supervision activities are co-facilitated by government master trainers and nodal persons in cascade models to achieve scale through government accountability and partnership.
- CARE aligns its technical support with **key government guidelines**, including:
 - Tanzania’s National COVID-19 Response Plan
 - Tanzania’s 2008 National Guideline on Infection Prevention and Control
 - Tanzania’s 2019 National Guideline for Gender & Respectful Maternity Care
 - National Plan for Action to End Violence Against Women and Children
 - National Five-Year Development Plan 2016-2021
- Bloomberg-funded activities build on CARE’s learnings on [community engagement for gender transformation](#) and [frontline health care worker innovations](#) to strengthen [community groups](#) for integrated, sustainable health approaches.
- CARE links local organizations to respond to increased gender-based violence resulting from COVID-19 pandemic in coordination with government authorities tasked with managing GBV response.

What’s Next

- **In the next six months:** CARE will reach all 8 districts in the region with community interventions and mentorship for health care workers building on infection prevention and control training. Community health workers in 5 districts will receive training on household hygiene.
- **What could be done with future funding:** CARE could support health system strengthening for Tanzania’s comprehensive immunization efforts, build on mentoring and supportive supervision for community-based surveillance, and integrate gender-based violence response into primary health care services.
- **Future pilots** could test social venture or public-private partnership models to sustain the holistic engagement of community health workers across household hygiene, COVID-19, immunization, as well as other areas of health.



Decontamination corner at district hospital in accordance with National Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines