

Integrated Health Systems Response to COVID-19 in Tabora, Tanzania

Learnings & Way Forward

Aug 18, 2021



Agenda



- i. Introduction of Participants
- ii. Implementation Highlights & Lessons
- iii. Discussion



A regional mentor providing guidance on infection prevention and control at Nzega Town Hospital in Nzega Town Council, Tabora Region

Participants



- MoHCDGEC
 - IPC Coordinator & Epidemiologist
- Tabora Regional Medical Office
- Tabora Regional Community Development Office
- CARE Tanzania
- CARE USA
- CARE Canada

Mission and Vision



- **Mission:** CARE works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty, and achieve social justice.
- **Vision:** We seek a world of hope, inclusion, and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and all people live with dignity and security.





Implementation: Highlights



Overview of Award



PROJECT LOCATION:	Tabora Region
PROJECT DURATION:	May 15, 2020 – Aug 31, 2021
GRANT AMOUNT:	\$500,000
DONOR:	Bloomberg Philanthropies

GoT Support: Implementation of Key Guidelines



- Tanzania's National COVID-19 Response Plan
- National Guideline on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- National Guideline for Gender and Respectful Maternity Care
- National Plan for Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC)
- National Guideline for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities
- National Guideline for Standard Toilets and Environmental Health
- Comprehensive Council Health Plan Guideline



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

Partnership with GoT



In Tabora, CARE partners with:

- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC)
- President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG)
- This investment leveraged existing funding from the Government of Canada as part of the Tabora Maternal Newborn Health Initiative (TAMANI) from 2017-2021



CARE supported health activities in all 8 districts of Tabora Region

Focus of Activities



- **Objective:** Enhance ability of health systems and communities to respond to pandemics both infectious and non-infectious diseases in Tabora Region.
- The continuity of essential health services and social protection was also a focus

Activities focused on:

1. Health systems strengthening at all levels (Regional and District Health Management Teams (R/CHMTs), Health Facilities, Communities)
2. Capacitating response to Gender-Based-Violence (among Health Care Workers, local partners, Violence Against Women and Children Committees)

Health Systems Strengthening



- Household hygiene training for 446 Community Health Workers (CHWs)
- Capacity building on disease surveillance and risk communication to 54 R/CHMTs and 40 Health Care Workers (HCWs)
- Generation of 20 Regional and District mentors on Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)
 - IPC training to 40 Health Care Workers
 - On-site mentorship & supportive supervision on IPC to 248 health care workers (doctors, nurses and midwives)



*Community health worker training
on household hygiene*

Health Systems Strengthening



- Provision of essential health services:
 - Distribution of 14,804 new RCH clinic cards to 210 health facilities
 - Induction sessions to 308 HCWs
 - Dissemination of Respectful Maternity Care guidelines
- Built capacity on gender sensitivity in planning/budgeting to 32 district health management teams (CHMTs)
- Procurement of 216 handwashing stations for health facilities



Health care workers creating action plans to address GBV



Handwashing stations for health facilities

GBV Response: On the Ground Situation



- In a 2020 CARE digital survey conducted among community members, gendered impacts of COVID-19 was a top concern
- CARE's 2020 Rapid Gender Analysis further revealed gendered impacts (domestic duties, mobility, relations)
- TZ guidelines: National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) & Gender and Respectful Maternity Care
- CARE mapped status of local partners responding to GBV as well as village committees for NPA-VAWC

GBV Response: Community Groups



Village Loans & Savings Groups

- With 852 participants of these groups, CARE facilitated social analysis dialogues.
- These dialogues allowed participants to discuss gender relations and action plans.



*Social Analysis and Action dialogues at Mtakuja
Magharibi village in Kaliua DC*

Violence against Women & Children Committees

- CARE supported activation and capacity building of 32 village committees for response to VAWC



*Violence Against Women and Children committee
members after training at Isenegeja village in Igunga
DC*

GBV Response: Building System Capacity



- Training on GBV response to 40 health care workers and 10 Social Welfare Officers
- CARE also built capacity among 18 local organizations for GBV response.



Health care workers and regional and district government officers trained in GBV response with signs reading "Let's fight against GBV, it begins with me"



Training to local NGOs responding to gender-based violence, district NPA-VAWC coordinators & district NGO coordinators in Tabora Region

Digital Survey

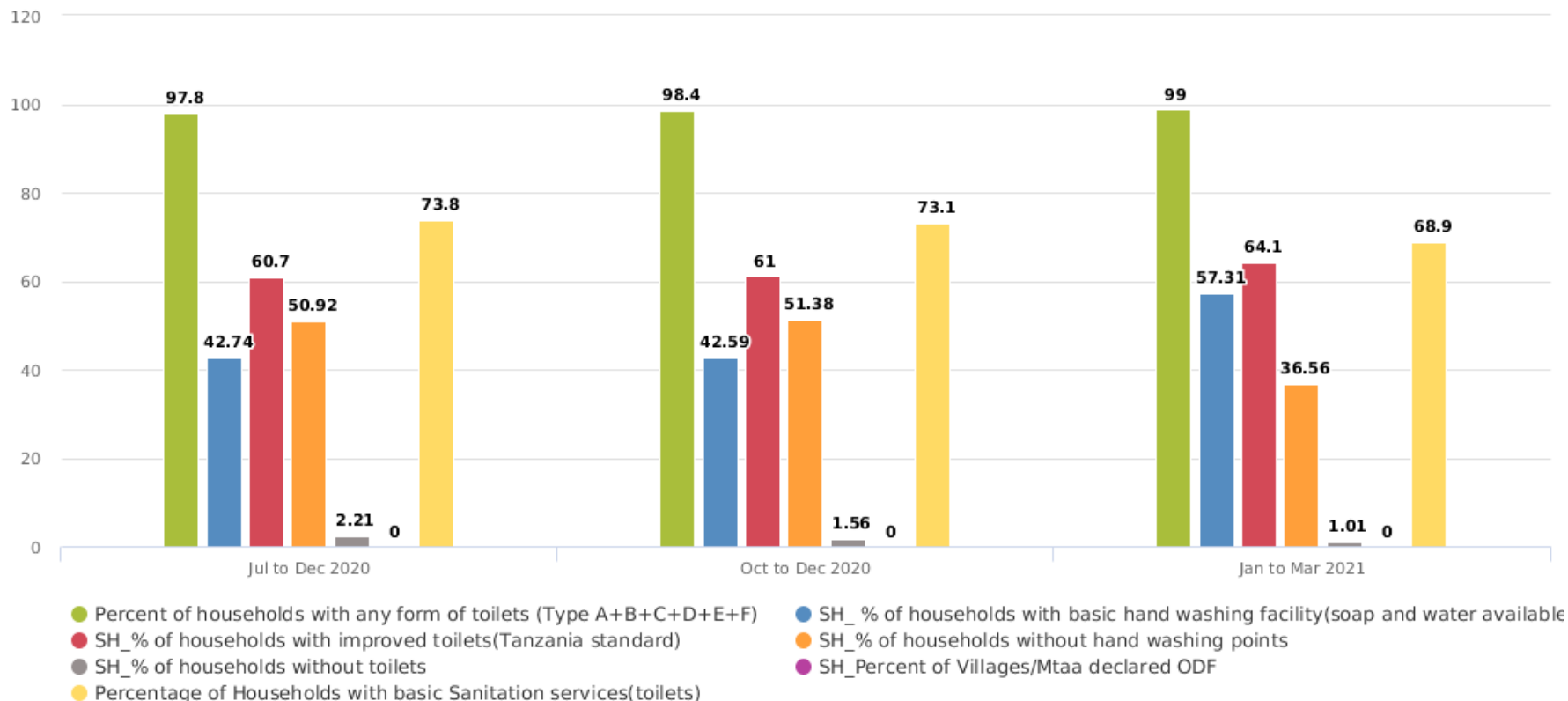


- To collect feedback from community dialogues and VAWC training participants, CARE partnered with Viamo to conduct a digital survey in June 2021
- 421 participants completed the survey on their mobile phones (199 community dialogues & 222 VAWC participants)
- **Community dialogues:** Nearly all respondents 89% (177) have had follow up discussions in their community groups on the gender actions established in community dialogues
- **VAWC:** Nearly all respondents 93% (206) are confident to respond to GBV cases following the VAWC training; majority are developing plans to respond to GBV

Household Hygiene Availability Increased from 2020 to 2021 in Tabora Region



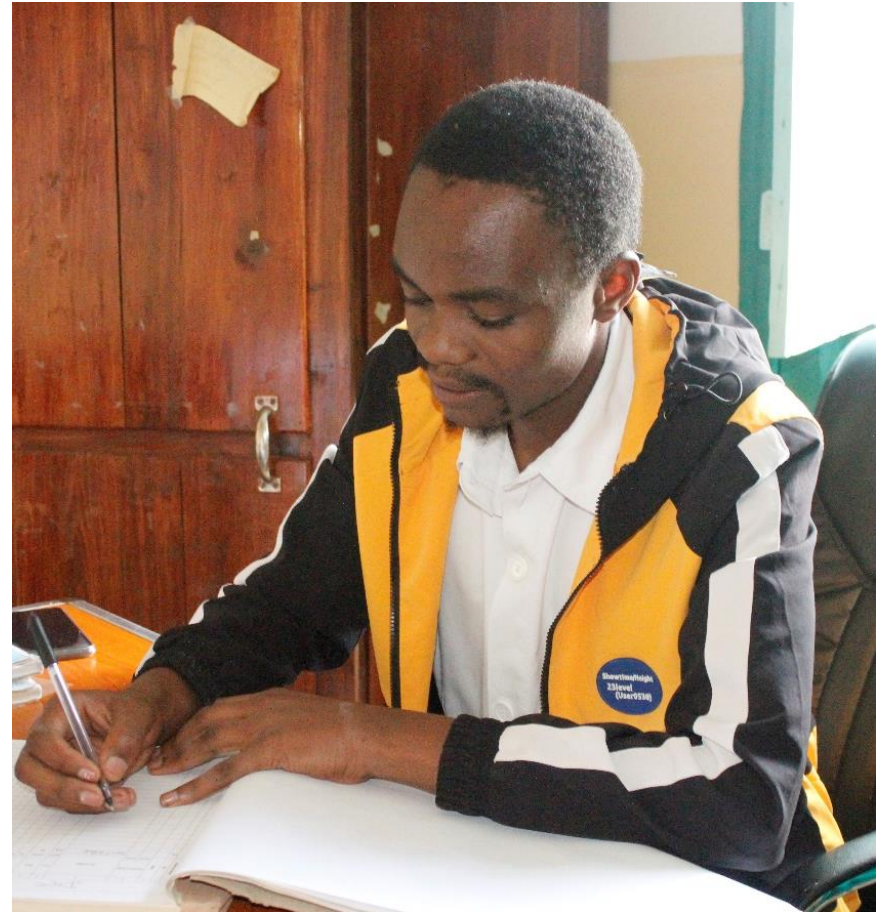
Tabora



Source: National Sanitation Management Information System (NSMIS)

“Previously I was unconsciously perpetrator of GBV like using harsh language to clients. “I’m now avoiding to be perpetrator of GBV at health care settings due to lesson learned from respective maternity care session”.

Elisha Pindua, Nurse,
Miguwa dispensary in Nzega
Town Council



Women's Leadership in GBV Response



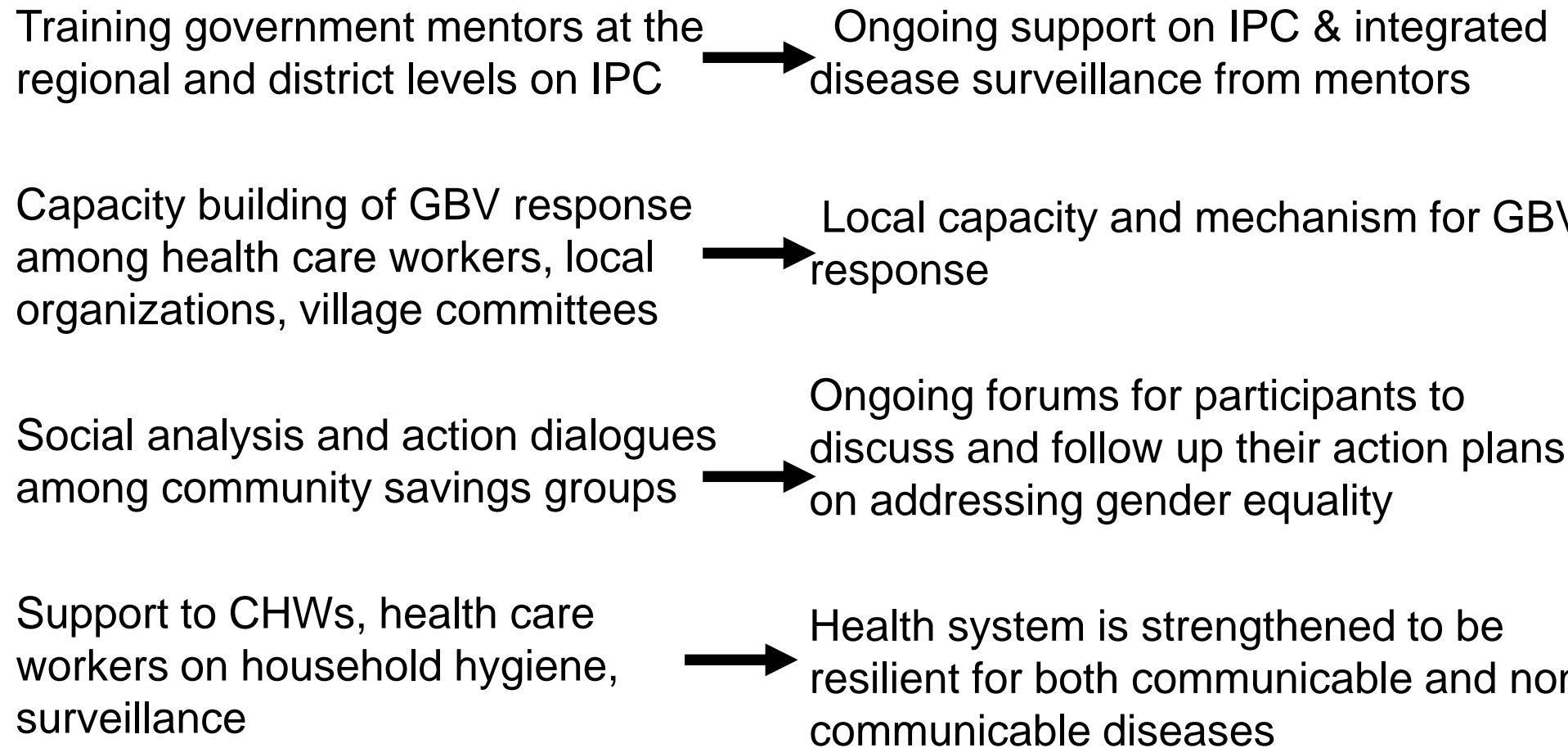
“Women especially those who were not privileged to have been to school are facing many challenges, we own nothing in the family nor even considered to get involved in the family resources, we thanks Government and NGO's like CARE for establishing this VAWC committee. We are ready to send the message to offenders to stop violence immediately”

She insisted that, illiteracy should not be a weapon to sabotage our rights.



Ms. Mericiana Mdelo, an influential leader (Female) at Zogolo Village in Nzega Town Council

Mechanisms for Sustainability



Discussion of Key Issues

- 1. How will essential health functions be carried forward in health facilities (e.g. infection prevention and control, disease surveillance, household hygiene)?
- 2. How can community groups sustain discussion on gender and other issues relevant to health services?
- 3. What opportunities are presented by the government's National COVID-19 Response Plan that can be leveraged in Tabora?



Hon Minister of MoHCDGEC &
Minister of Foreign Affairs during
arrival of COVID-19 vaccine 24 July
2021