



Comic Relief and GSK partnership announces grants to selected Organisations fighting malaria in Tanzania

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Three organisations tackling malaria in Tanzania are to receive grants worth TSh 7.6 billion (£2.8 million) from Comic Relief and GSK through their five-year partnership to help fight malaria and improve health in five malaria endemic countries.

The Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA), the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC) will all receive support through the partnership.

Estimates suggest that the incidence of malaria deaths in Tanzania has decreased by 73 percent between 2004 and 2014.¹ However, malaria remains the leading cause of death among children in Tanzania. Tanzania has a National Malaria Strategic Plan which aims to reduce the average prevalence of malaria from 10% in 2012 to less than 1% by 2020.² The work of the three grantees selected through the partnership complements this approach:

- TCDC will use their grant of TSh 2.4 billion (£890,497) to engage and educate communities on malaria and promote positive care-seeking behaviours. Radio, print media and community events will be used to deliver these messages. Networks of community health workers will be trained on malaria prevention and treatment and on skills to facilitate dialogue and increase awareness of the disease in the communities they serve.
- APHFTA will use their grant of TSh 2.7 billion (£995,675) to improve malaria healthcare services in the private and public sector in Geita, and increase malaria knowledge. The project will work to improve the availability and quality of malaria diagnosis, treatment and prevention services through training public and private health providers in national malaria treatment guidelines and the use of diagnostic equipment and appropriate treatment.
- CHAI will use their grant of TSh 2.5 billion (£955,328) to train private providers in Rukwa, Ruvumba and Njombe districts to use rapid diagnostic tests to diagnose for malaria; screen for other common illnesses which cause fever; provide assured medicines to treat the diagnosed illness; refer people with complications to health facilities; and use their mobile phones to collect and use data to better track patients.

¹ WHO World Malaria Report 2015

² http://ihi.eprints.org/3314/1/Malaria_Strategic_Plan_Full_Version_02_27_14.pdf

The grants – which are the first to be given through the Comic Relief and GSK partnership – were announced at an event at the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, attended by stakeholders in the fight against malaria. Representatives from Comic Relief and GSK then visited Kigoma to learn more about malaria’s impact in the region and the work the partnership will be supporting to fight the disease.

Jennie Richmond, Head of International Grants, Comic Relief said:

“We’re excited to start working with organisations in Tanzania, complementing national initiatives and local efforts to help take the fight against malaria to the next level. Malaria is both preventable and treatable and the Comic Relief and GSK partnership believes that by strengthening health systems, malaria endemic countries will be far better placed to control this devastating disease.”

David Ng’ang’a, Country Manager for GSK in Tanzania, said:

“Living and working in Tanzania, we see the impact of malaria on our communities every day. As a business, GSK has long been dedicated to fighting malaria and we are pleased to be collaborating with Comic Relief to build on these efforts. Through our partnership, we are able to support three national organisations which are doing fantastic work to empower health workers and communities to take action against malaria.”

Her Excellency The British High Commissioner for Tanzania, Ms Sarah Cooke, said:

“It is a pleasure to meet the organisations who are the first recipients of funding from this partnership. The collaboration between Comic Relief and GSK represents another example of Britain’s ongoing commitment to catalyse partnerships; complement national efforts; and create change to make a lasting difference in the lives of the poorest. Britain is proud to be at the forefront of the fight against malaria and we are delighted that this partnership will support the tremendous efforts that have been made in Tanzania to tackle this deadly disease.”

The three grants will be awarded through Comic Relief and GSK’s partnership, which was launched in 2015 to fight malaria and improve health in five countries: Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and the Greater Mekong Sub Region. The organisations teamed up in support of global efforts to strengthen health systems’ capabilities to fight malaria – a disease which continues to claim the life of a child every two minutes.

The £22 million partnership fund will provide targeted grants to organisations on the frontline tackling malaria in these countries. The grants, made and managed by Comic Relief, will complement current malaria programmes and help build sustainable ways to ensure people can access diagnosis and prevention at the right time and in the right place.

Comic Relief already focuses its grants on supporting a range of interventions designed to strengthen health systems. The UK charity has used its annual national fundraising campaigns, Red Nose Day and Sport Relief, as a platform to raise awareness of the devastating impact that malaria has on families and communities.

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Notes to editors:

Malaria prevalence

Significant progress has been made since 2000. Deaths have more than halved through increased use of bed nets, scale-up of diagnostic testing and better access to medicines. But the disease continues to take a heavy human and economic toll, straining already fragile health systems. In 2015 alone, there were an estimated 214 million new malaria cases and 438,000 deaths – 90% of which were in Africa.³

About the grantees

Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA) – an umbrella organisation, formed in 1994, for the whole of Tanzania’s private sector. In collaboration with local and international bodies, APHFTA is involved in advocacy, training and capacity building, research, and networking of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania.

Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC) – a not-for-profit organisation with over 20 years of experience in designing, managing and evaluating social behaviour change communication, public health programmes and community mobilisation initiatives. TCDC specialises in malaria, HIV/AIDS, family planning, safe motherhood and nutrition.

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) – CHAI was founded in 2002 with a goal to help save the lives of millions of people living with HIV/AIDS in the developing country by scaling up antiretroviral treatment.

GSK

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Comic Relief

Comic Relief is a UK charity which aims to create a just world, free from poverty - where everyone is safe, healthy, educated and empowered. Since 1985, Comic Relief has raised over £1 billion. That money has helped, and is helping, people living incredibly tough lives, both at home in the UK and across the world. For information about Comic Relief and the work it carries out, please visit www.comicrelief.com

Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales); SC039730 (Scotland)

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³ <http://www.who.int/malaria/media/world-malaria-report-2015/en/>