

# *Establishing a Surveillance System to Record Drowning Incidence in a Low Income Country*

## *“A Top Down – Bottom Up Approach”*

Msuya, SE <sup>1</sup>; Msuya, EL <sup>2</sup>; Mosha, MV <sup>1</sup>; Uriyo, J <sup>1,3</sup>; Stallman, RK <sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, Tumaini University; <sup>2</sup>Tanzania Ministry of Health; <sup>3</sup>Mt. Meru Hospital; <sup>4</sup>Norwegian Life Saving Society, <sup>5</sup>Norwegian School of Sport Science

## **TANZANIA**

- Estimated 40 mill people
- ~ 1500 km of coast line
- The 3 Great Lakes & rivers
- 1/4 of population live around

water



© Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and ORC Macro, 2005. Tanzania HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey 2003-04. Calverton, Maryland, USA: TACAIDS, NBS, and ORC Macro.

## *Tanzania*

- Like many low income countries, most attention is given to malaria, malnutrition, AIDS.
- Each major disease has its' independent surveillance system.
- Any statistics on drowning?....**NO!!!**

## *Reports from Media*

- BBC – 5000 annual drowning deaths only on Lake Victoria.
- Logically, 1/3 to 1/2 of these are Tanzanians.
- This alone is an incidence of ca 4.4/100,000 pyrs
- 1997 MV Bukoba > 500 lost
- 25 January 2011-17 people drowned in the Indian Ocean-dhow capsized

## *Tanzania*

### **Problem:**

- No drowning surveillance - no statistics
- No statistics – no evidence of need
- No evidence of need – no attention
- No attention – **NO INTERVENTION**
- Single, young organisation **TALISS** – powerless in the face of the magnitude

## *Aim*

- to establish a surveillance system which will provide the information to allow planning and carrying out of intervention strategies.

## *Methods*

- Strategy:
  - top-down & bottom-up
  - i.e starting at the national level and the local level simultaneously

## *National Level*

- Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Youth, Information, Culture & Sports
- National Bureau of Statistics
- (Building into the census system)

## ***Local Level***

- Regional Police
- Regional, Village and Ward leaders
- Health Records in facilities at all levels
- Birth and Death Registries
- Media

## ***What then... ?***

- Use the results to:
  - increase the awareness of stakeholders about the burden of drowning
  - Propose locally appropriate interventions
    - Water safety knowledge in schools
    - Knowledge of local risk factors
    - Use of media, ngoma (traditional dance) & drama



Ahsanteni