

BACKGROUND

The Government of Tanzania is committed to provide quality health services to all citizens. Many efforts have been made in improving accessibility to health services and reforming the health system to respond to challenges imposed by constraints in the available resources. Along with the reform agenda, the Government is committed to ensure achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Such commitment is evident in the Health Sector Strategic Plan III (2009-2015), in which the need to improve quality in health care features prominently.

Currently, there are multiple quality improvement initiatives being implemented in the country using various approaches and tools. The experiences and challenges from these initiatives have not been well documented and shared amongst different implementers and stakeholders. It is for this reason that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) in collaboration with partners is organizing the first National Quality Improvement Forum that will be held at the Ubungo Plaza from November 16th – 18th, 2011 to enable stakeholders to share their experiences. The forum is built around one thematic area with three subthemes.

THEME AND SUB-THEMES

Theme

Achieving quality health services in resource constrained settings: experiences from Quality Improvement initiatives and lessons learnt.

Sub-themes

Achieving better coordination, harmonization and effective integration of different Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives: challenges to developing countries like Tanzania

- Coordination and integration of QI approaches at different levels
- Lessons from functional coordination mechanisms
- Influence of donor funding and organizations on integration of QI approaches

Institutionalizing quality improvement

- Experience from health facilities: opportunities and challenges
- Innovative approaches to improving sustainability of QI at health facility level
- Role of health care managers at all levels of the health system
- Role of QI implementation structure and operational research at health facility level
- Role of professional associations and research institutions
- Conducive Policy environment

Promoting health facilities as “highly reliable institutions for provision of quality health care services;”

- Ensuring patients and providers safety
- Meeting internal and external client needs
- Effective training of staff in provision of quality health care
- Improving health workers productivity
- Effective monitoring of performance through mentoring and supportive supervision

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The organizing committee invites interested implementers, operational researchers and quality improvement scientists to submit abstracts for either or both oral and poster presentations for the 1st National Quality Improvement Forum to be held in November 16-18, 2011 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Please complete the required abstract application for consideration by the forum review committee.

The official language of the conference is English. All oral presentations will be made in English. Each oral presentation will be assigned 30 minutes, including questions and discussion. Posters will be displayed during the entire forum period.

Application Instructions:

- be submitted electronically, not exceeding 300 words, using Times New Roman 12, to the Conference Secretariat, through **EMAIL :nqif.abstract@pharmaccess.or.tz**
- Include: title, name(s) of the author (s) and detailed address, background, objectives, methodology, results and conclusions/ policy implications/ lessons learned.
- All abstracts will be ‘blinded’ for peer review by a panel of quality improvement specialists with specific experience in health care quality improvement.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

There are two types of conference registration fees: Early Bird registration fee and on-site Registration fee which is paid at **Ubungo Plaza**, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Registration type	Early Registration	On-site Registration
Participants employed with donor- level and international government institutions, international and national NGO's, and private foundations	US \$100.00	US\$ 150.00
Participants employed with Tanzanian government, FBO or private health facilities and other levels of health management and leadership teams	TZS 20,000	TZS 40,000

Bank Account and Registration Information will be available shortly. Please contact the forum secretariat for payment and registration instructions.