

Summary report from the Third Annual Public Private Health Forum (PPHF) Conference

Background and context

The Public Private Health Forum (PPHF) is a dialogue structure in the health sector which was inaugurated in April 2014. The main purpose of the PPHF is to elevate public and private dialogue on health issues to a sector wide level and to provide a platform to jointly address policy and technical issues that can help advance PPPs in health in Tanzania.

The PPHF is an important platform where the private and public sectors come together to discuss and agree on healthcare and health market issues. In Tanzania, similar platforms for public-private dialogue are also replicated at regional and council levels and are coordinated by PPP focal persons.

The third Annual PPHF conference

The Board members of Public- Private Health Forum in collaboration with the forum secretariat organised the third Annual PPHF meeting which was held at New Africa Hotel in Dar es Salaam on 31 October and 1 November 2019. About 200 participants attended the meeting from the Ministry of Health, PORALG, and PPP Coordinators from 26 regions, some District PPP Coordinators, RMOs, and DMOs. Other participants were from NGOs, CHF Coordinators, umbrella organisations and representatives from the Private health institutions and Development Partners.

A senior official from the MOH provided the opening remarks on behalf of the Deputy Minister for Health. On behalf of the DPs, Mette Bech Pilgaard, the Deputy Ambassador and Head of Mission for the Royal Danish Embassy presented the remarks in the forum.

Theme for the PPHF Conference; *“The role of Public Private Partnerships in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals”.*

Specific Objectives;

- ✓ Develop a common understanding on Health related SDGs, Primary Health Care (PHC) agenda and progress so far.
- ✓ Develop list of priorities for PPP on the health sector on the road map towards implementation of the SDGs and PHC.
- ✓ Build capacity on operationalization of the PPP concepts through sharing of experiences, best practices and challenges that contribute towards achieving the SDGs and PHC targets.
- ✓ To identify and reach consensus on areas of PPP and collaboration to accelerate SDGs and PHC.
- ✓ To build country road map to achieve SDGs and PHC that defines the roles and responsibilities of public and private in alignment with the Tanzania’s development and health policy context.

Important issues, challenges or concern raised in the meeting:

- 1) Request for the private sector to improve their coverage in the rural and underserved areas. This can be done during registration to encourage the individuals to establish private clinics in the rural areas.
- 2) The Public and private should work together to address the growing double burden of diseases, both communicable and Non-Communicable.
- 3) The Government should take some positive measures to address the shortages of Human Resources for Health.
- 4) The ongoing construction of primary health facilities should avoid duplication of efforts. There is no need to build a new Government facility if there is a nearby voluntary facility of the same standard since they save the same population.
- 5) The renovated or improved health facilities should be operational. Must be equip with necessary equipment and allocated health personnel to operate them.
- 6) There is a need for the Government to establish the mechanism for engaging the health personnel who are graduating ever year but not been employed.
- 7) A number of private health training institutions are facing shortage of candidates since the Ministry of Education are not allocating adequate students as it was done in the past.
- 8) The registrar of private health institutions informed the meeting that with effect from November 2019, the registration of private health facilities can be done on line and the applicant can get the information about the required procedures to follow.
- 9) The new registration of private health institution allows any person even non-Medical specialities to open a hospital as a business, but will require being under supervision of a medical specialist.

Resolutions from the PPHF meeting focusing on the theme:

- i) **On implementation of Improved CHF and NHIF**
 - ✓ The member's contribution to ICHF and NHIF should be based on the individual's ability to pay.
 - ✓ The re-imbusement of NHIF to the health private health Institutions should be based on negotiation between the fund and the provider, and be higher than the government rates since the Government facilities get subsidies.
 - ✓ There is a need to engage more private health facilities to provide health services to the NHIF/ iCHF clients.
- ii) **Reduction of Maternal Mortality**
 - ✓ Increase availability of adequate skilled health personnel.

- ✓ Increase availability of medical equipment in the primary health facilities.
- ✓ Recruitment of community health workers.
- ✓ Improve availability of ambulatory services especially in the rural areas.

iii) Reduction on prevalence of NCDs

- ✓ There is a need to establish mobile clinics to provide Non-Community Diseases services. This will be possible to reach more peoples especially in the rural areas.
- ✓ The government should engage the private sector on the fight on NCDs.
- ✓ Recruitment of Community Health workers to assist on community health awareness campaign.