

Partnerships and Breast Care in Tanzania

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Association of Tanzania (MEWATA)*

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Summary

- About MEWATA
 - Mission and Vision, Goals, Strategic Plan
- Background
 - Current Situation of Breast Cancer in, EA, Tanzania
- Problems in Breast Cancer Care in Tanzania
- Methodology
 - Sites covered, participants and methods
- Partnership and Partners in the Initiative
- Successes
- Challenges
- Way Forward

9/10/2010



About MEWATA

- Medical Women Association of Tanzania
- Established 1987, Registered 1989
Professional NGO
- Female Medics (MD, DDS, AMOs, ADOs,
Female Medical Students)
- Affiliated with the MWIA
- Comprising of > 300 female doctors
- Based in Dar es Salaam, with zonal branches



MEWATA MEMBERS



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MEWATA Mission and Vision

Vision:

- *Healthy Tanzanian population accessing quality health services that are affordable and sustainable through efficient and effective support systems*

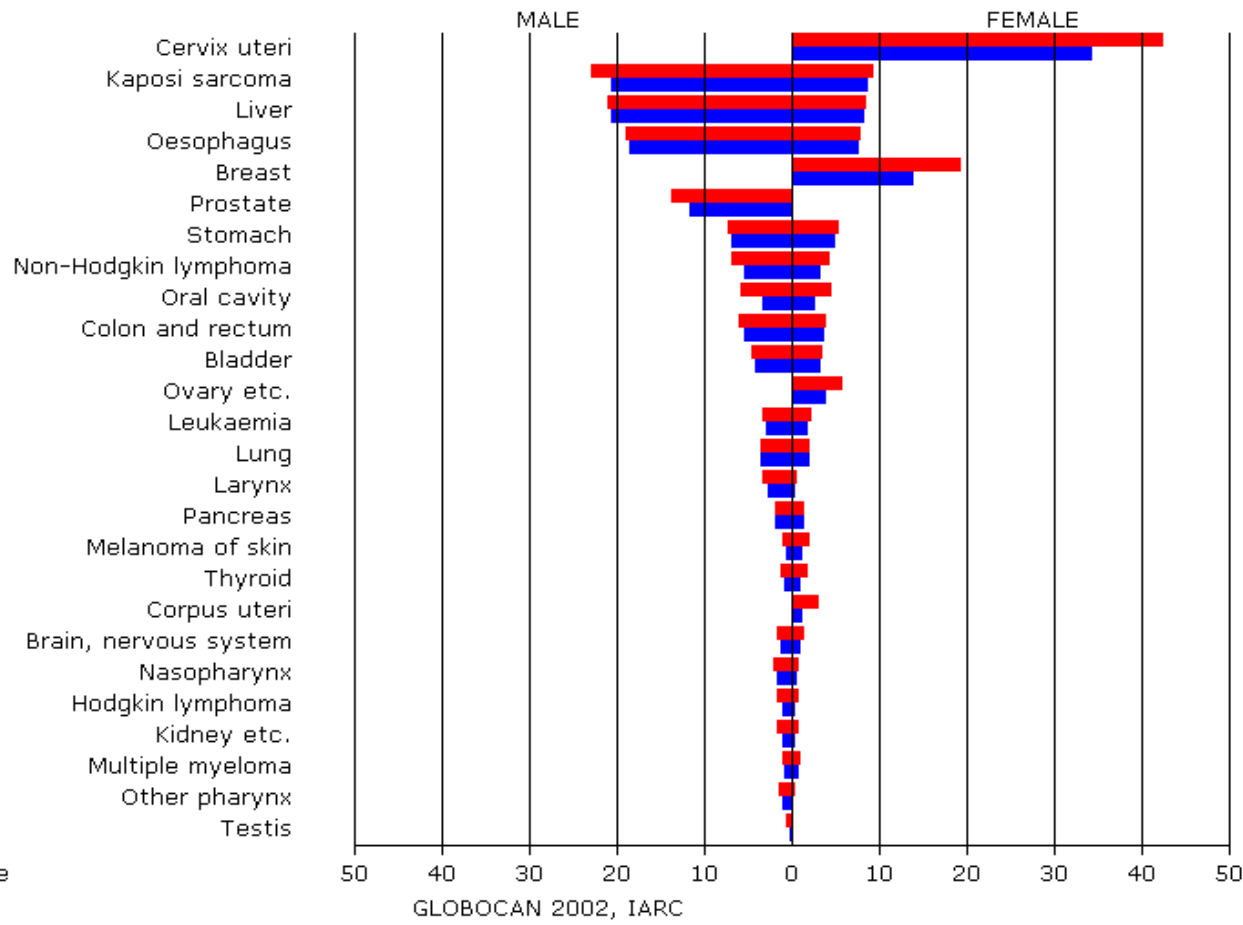
Mission:

- *To advocate for and facilitate provision of quality health services among women, young people, children and men through existing social systems and capacity building among health professionals.*

Breast Cancer Epidemiology in Eastern Africa

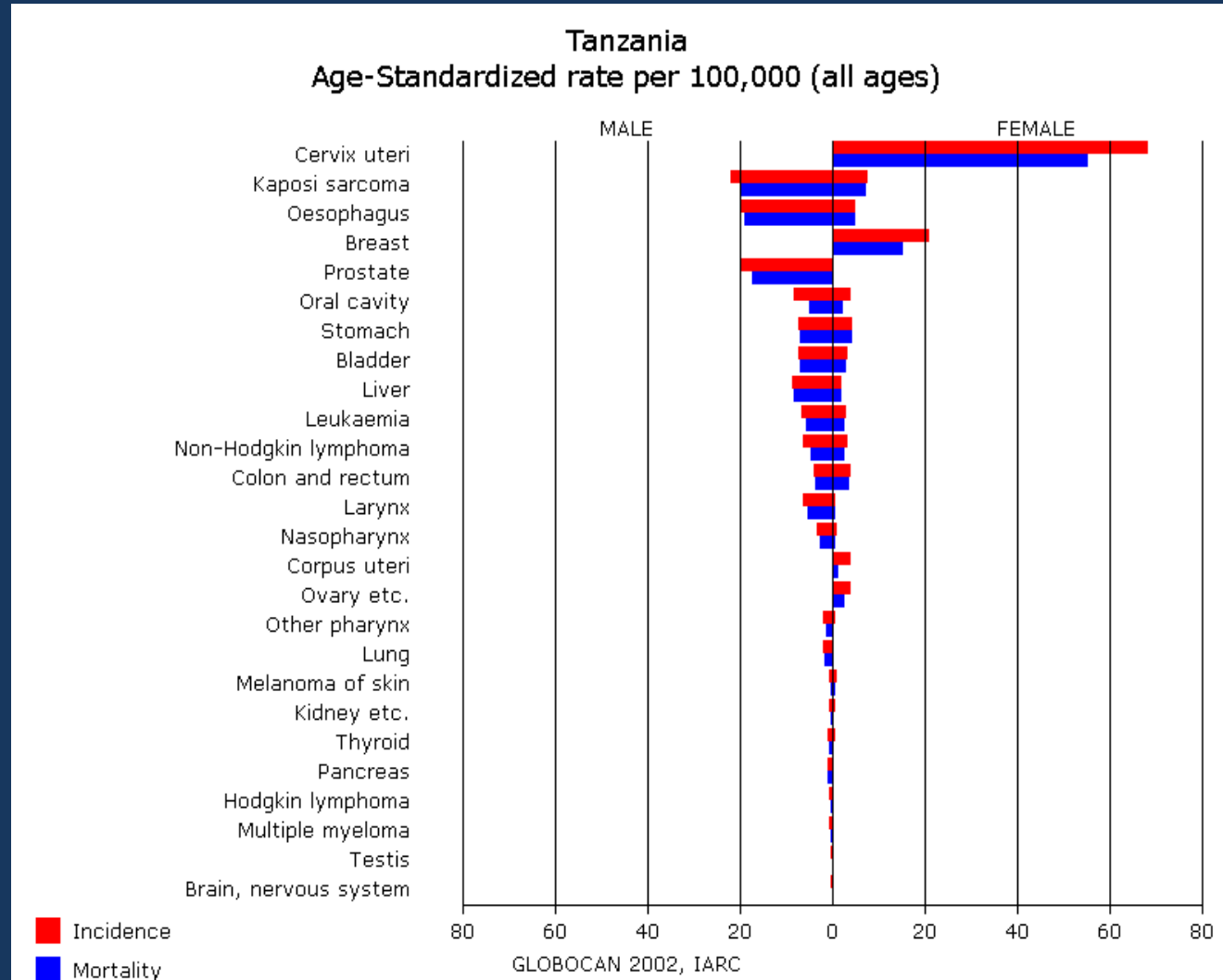


Eastern Africa
Age-Standardized rate per 100,000 (all ages)



Eastern Africa is
19.5/100,000 (15,564)

Breast Cancer Epidemiology in Tanzania



ASR 21.1/100,000 (2288)
AS Mortality R
15.5/100,000 (1626)

Problems – Health System and Socially

- Regular screening for breast cancer was not conducted routinely in PHC
- Bureaucratic referral system which is already broken delays women access to care and treatment of breast cancer
- Women with breast faced an uphill battle to treatment at the only one cancer hospital in the country
- Ocean Road Cancer Institute reported an alarming increase in breast cancer patients at ORCI
- Awareness and understanding of the general population on reproductive system cancers was low
- Myths and misconceptions are high concerning cancer diagnosis (biopsy) and cancer care and treatment

Methodology

- Awareness Campaigns - months
- Capacity Development of Health Workers – one day
- Direct Service Provision two days
- Mobilize and Contribute Resources to Health - on going

Phases of the Campaigns

- Three Phases Campaigns:

Phase I. Awareness and Mass Screening

Phase II. Clinical Diagnosis

Phase III. Treatment and Palliative Care

Partnerships

- In today' s environment most objectives related to health and health care cannot be achieved by any single person or organization working alone

(Gray, 1989; Mattesich & Monsey, 1992;
Zuckerman *et al.*, 1995; Lasker *et al.*, 1997).

Partners in the Initiative

- Media – ITV Radio One
- Government - MOHSW
- Other NGOs:
 - WAMA Foundation
 - UN – Agencies – UNFPA, WHO
 - Tanzania Surgical Association
 - Lions Club Dar es Salaam Central
 - East Africa Breast Cancer Project
 - Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum
 - Ocean Road Cancer Institute
 - Medical Universities – MUHAS
 - Referral Hospitals – BMC, MNH
 - Private sector – Barclays, NMB
 - Friends of MEWATA



Partners Roles and Responsibilities

Name of Organization	Population Represented	Geographical Location	Focus of Organization	The role this organization has in our cancer initiative
ITV and Radio One	Management and staff of ITV/Radio One	Whole Country	Advocacy and education through MEWATA	Facilitate media programs about breast/Cacx cancer
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare	Health professionals, politicians, policy makers	Whole country	Focus on all components of cancer control	Major sponsor, facilities used for screening, surgeries
WAMA Foundation	The First Lady of Tanzania Foundation and Board of Directors	Dar es Salaam	Support construction of MEWATA Well Women Center and support patients and survivors	Supportive role and awareness creation and media involvement
UNFPA	National/International	Dar es Salaam	Reproductive Health and Population	Sponsor role for data analysis

WAMA Foundation



Partners Roles and Responsibilities

Name of Organization	Population Represented	Geographical Location	Focus of Organization	The role this organization has in our cancer initiative
Tanzania Surgical Association	Surgeons	National	Specialist care of clients and patients	Involved with diagnosis and surgical treatment of breast cancer patients
Lions Club Dar es Salaam Central	Members of the group from different walks of life	Dar es Salaam	Advocacy and support for screening	Supportive through supply of resources e.g. Mammography
East Africa Breast Cancer Project	Volunteers from USA – Salt Lake City and Mississippi	Lindi, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region, Arusha and Mwanza	Support of equipments	Support screening services by donating Mammography machines (already 8) and US Scans
Ocean Road Cancer Institute	Health professionals – cancer specialists	Dar es Salaam	Treatment and rehabilitation, prevention and awareness	Responsible for treatment and rehabilitation/palliative care

Tanzania Surgical Association



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Partners Roles and Responsibilities

Name of Organization	Population Represented	Geographical Location	Focus of Organization	The role this organization has in our cancer initiative
Medical Universities MUHAS, Dodoma University	The academicians and scientists	Dar es Salaam	Education and research	Scientific meetings, education and research on cancer and prevention strategies, data analysis
Referral Hospitals MNH, Mbeya BMC	Health professionals	Four zones of the country	Diagnosis and treatment	Prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, research, palliative care
Friends of MEWATA	Multi professionals	Dar es Salaam and some few regions	Support good initiatives	Financial and moral support
Tanzania Breast Cancer Foundation	Breast Cancer Survivors	Mainly Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, Lindi and Mtwara	Advocacy, Education, Support to Survivors	Responsible with issues concerning survivors, QOL of survivors and education on how to live positively with breast cancer

Tanzania Breast Cancer Foundation



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Tanzania Breast Cancer Campaigns

SN	Region	Year	Screened	Problems	Breast CA
1	Dar	2005	7,259	751	46
2	Mwanza	2006	11,668	871	25
3	Mbeya	2007	23,102	513	27
4	Lindi	2008	5,005	150	8
5	Mtwara	2008	8,028	220	12
6	Dodoma	2008	6,875	338	25
7	Manyara	2008	2,046	142	9
TOTAL			63,983	2,985	152

Achievements

- MEWATA programme through PARTNERSHIPS and COLLABORATIONS has ensured:
 - Availability of breast care services to the needy
 - Accessibility → Physical Accessibility + Information Accessibility → Economic Accessibility (Affordability)
 - Acceptability - ethically and culturally
 - Quality – good quality services – skilled medical personnel, equipments for breast care

Achievements

- Upsurge of patients in hospitals in seek of breast care
- Policy improvement and restructuring at the MOHSW – gender desk and Reproductive System Cancers Section
- National Cancer Control Strategy developed finalized
- New Zonal Cancer treatment zone at Bugando Medical Center in construction
- The MOH fully sponsored campaign in four regions (Lindi, Mtwara, Manyara & Dodoma);

Challenges

- **Operational challenges:**
 1. Lack of Mammography machine in many hospitals in Tanzania especially in the regions
 2. Geographical locations of regional hospitals where major surgeries takes place
 3. Lost to follow-up in Phase II and III high
- **Society challenges:**
 1. Advanced stages of cancer diagnosis – poverty and the bureaucracy of referral system
 2. The exercise influenced the society on the need of this screening service and many women are currently demanding to be screened in various health facilities
 3. Mass breast cancer campaign is costly – financial constraints



Conclusion

- Despite the challenges MEWATA and Partners have managed to instill political will among top government officials on issues of cancer as a public health problem in Tanzania and
- Have managed to put cancer into top Tanzanian health agenda
- With PARTNERSHIPS we have made a difference in the clients, patients and health personnel understanding of breast and cervical cancer

Way Forward

- MEWATA is still seeking opportunity of extending breast cancer campaign in the country and
- Embark into cervical cancer screening and prevention through strengthening the health system in addressing cancer related illnesses including breast cancer.
- MEWATA Well Women Health Center – screening, diagnosis and non radiation cancer treatment

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



Thank You to Our Partners

