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20.02.2026

THE AMERICAN HEAD AND NECK CANCER SOCIETY (AHNCS).

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**RE: APPLICATION FOR CANCER PREVENTION SERVICE-COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD 2026.**

The captioned title above refers. With due respect and gratefulness, am applying for the 2026 AHNS Cancer Prevention Service-Community Service Award. My project will focus on Community awareness and prevention campaign on Oral Head and Neck Cancers. Oral, head and neck cancers are currently one of the major global problem affecting many countries particularly sub Saharan Africa and Tanzania in general. HNC is the 6th most common cancer diagnosis worldwide. In Tanzania, HNC incidence and mortality rates ranges from 4-7% per annum with a case fatality rate of 69% per annum. A study done at Bugando Medical Centre, (a tertiary regional referral hospital in Mwanza city, serving a population of around 14 million people in the lake and western part of Tanzania) reported an incidence rate of 9.5% for HNC.

Awareness on oral head and neck cancer among the community in Tanzania is low and likely this have contributed to the rise in incidence of HNC over time. Much efforts towards early diagnosis and treatment have been done through the establishments of primary health care centers, capacity building training, and the construction of cancer care institutes in strategic zones in the lake region (Bugando Medical Centre), the northern zone (KCMC), the southern highlands (Mbeya Referral Hospital), the central (Benjamin Mkapa Hospital— Dodoma), and the eastern zone (Ocean Road Cancer Institute— Dar es Salaam). However, the need for awareness and prevention campaigns among the community remain of paramount.

The target population for this campaign are the communities within the Ukerewe Island (known to be the largest island in Lake Victoria and the largest inland island in Africa as well, with an area of approximately 530km square), in the Ukerewe District, Mwanza region (northwestern Tanzania), nearly 50km north of Mwanza city to which it is linked by boats/ships approximately 2-4 hours of travel. Its district hospital have no medical specialists in oral head and neck diseases, this arguably limit their access to specialized health care (underserved). *Majority of the communities in this island are fishermen and*

agriculturalist/peasants, they are at higher risk for HNC due to their lifestyle and lack of knowledge and exposure to risk factors for HNC.

The methods to be used. In collaboration with the District Medical Officer (DMO) of the district hospital, we aim to mobilize communities and to inform them of the upcoming campaign on HNC awareness and prevention services through small flyers, banners and by coordinating with health care providers at the dispensary and health centers. Specific days for this campaign will be sort and arranged to ensure a substantial target population is reached and served. A simple questionnaire assessing knowledge, awareness and preventive measures among the attendees, will be done to ascertain their level of knowledge/awareness prior to starting the awareness sessions. This will be followed by speeches/talks delivered to the gathered community on awareness and prevention of HNC, flyers distributed and screening done for those in need. A post talk assessment questionnaire will be done later to assess the level of knowledge acquired.

The expected outcome. Is to raise awareness and knowledge on oral head and neck cancer among the communities served and in turn this will promote self-awareness, examination and timely hospital visits. We expect that after this campaigns, the served communities will have a commanding knowledge on risk factors, symptoms and signs and more importantly on primary prevention.


The expected impact on community health and/or our knowledge and understanding of HNC prevention and early detection. We expect after this campaigns, the served communities will take care of their health by avoiding exposure to known risk factors, early hospital visit for any suspicious symptoms/signs for medical advice/care. This will be key in reducing the HNC burden in Tanzania.

The estimated/actual cost of the project. We estimate the cost for this campaign to amount to USD870.

There is no any other available fund for this project.

Thank you in advance,

Best regards,



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