

# Inspiring Change at INCORNTD2025: Journey from Tanzania to Kigali

Published: July 2025



# INCORNTD2025

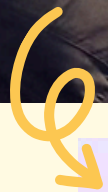


The International Conference on NTD Research (INCORNTD2025) held from January 20–22, 2025 in the vibrant city of Kigali, Rwanda, marked a pivotal moment in the global fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Organized by the African Research Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (ARNTD) and the Coalition for Operational Research on NTDs (COR-NTD), the event brought together researchers, advocates, and innovators to accelerate progress in NTD elimination.

As the NTDs program Lead at the One Health Society, I had the honor of representing our efforts committed to driving change through collaboration, community engagement, evidence to policy translation, and research development

Photo: Yona Yangaza  
NTDs program Lead  
One Health Society

# Opening Plenary: Igniting a New Generation of Change makers



The conference began with palpable energy. During the opening plenary, I presented alongside Prof. Margret Gyapong from UHAS, Ghana, under the coordination of Associate Prof. Alison Krentel from the University of Ottawa. I shared insights on the ICHORD Mentorship Program 2024, a transformative initiative supporting young professionals in the NTD field. Through stories of mentorship and growth, we underscored how guidance and shared knowledge fuel the emergence of empowered youth leaders ready to tackle global health challenges.

# Side Workshop: Reaching the Unreached



At the dynamic side workshop titled “REACH Unreached”, we highlighted the power of youth advocacy in expanding NTD awareness to underserved regions. I presented impactful community-led efforts and real-life examples of young changemakers breaking barriers and creating space for health equity.

Special appreciation goes to the brilliant minds and facilitators who championed these discussions:

- Coordinator: Prof. Alison Krentel
- Moderator: Moussa Sangare (Mali)
- Panelists: Mustapha Immunura (UHAS-Ghana), Joyce Achan (RTI-Uganda), Prof. Margret Gyapong (UHAS), and myself — Yona Yangaza (Tanzania)

## Leading with the One Health Vision

Participating in INCORNTD2025 reaffirmed our commitments in One Health: a unified, multi-sectoral approach to solving complex health issues. The conference was a melting pot of ideas and action—where youth voices, scientific innovation, and policy insights converged.

As an advocate, leader, and learner, I found my voice amplified and our organization's mission echoed across borders.

## Reflections: Renewed Hope, Deeper Purpose

Kigali welcomed us not only with warmth but with momentum. The connections built, the knowledge exchanged, and the inspiration drawn from fellow participants have etched a powerful mark on our journey.

We return empowered with renewed energy to:

- 1 Strengthen our advocacy for youth-led NTD interventions
- 2 Build sustainable partnerships
- 3 Advance the One Health approach
- 4 shaping policies and strategies that include every voice especially the underserved and overlooked.



**One Health Society.**



15 Sinai Close Street, Makongo Juu  
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania



+255 710896052



[www.ohs-health.org](http://www.ohs-health.org)



[ps@ohs-health.org](mailto:ps@ohs-health.org)