



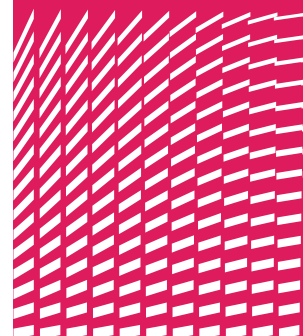
The Legacy Continues

End NTDs

# MWELE MALECELA DAYS OF ACTION

## REPORT 2025





# Table of Contents

<b>02</b>	Foreword	<b>11-12</b>	Youth Mentorship & Leadership Session
<b>03</b>	Acknowledgement	<b>13</b>	Challenge
<b>04</b>	Background	<b>14</b>	Days Of Action in Numbers
<b>05</b>	Introduction	<b>15</b>	Epic Moments, Epic Shots
<b>06-7</b>	Pre-Activity	<b>13</b>	Our partner
<b>08-10</b>	Community Awareness		



# FOREWORD

## YOUTH EFFORT IN COMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL NTDs CONTROL PROGRAM



It is with profound honor and reflection that we present this report documenting the **Mwele Malecela Days of Action**, an inspiring tribute to the life, legacy, and vision of the late Dr. Mwele Ntuli Malecela. As a trailblazing leader in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), Dr. Malecela devoted her life to ensuring that the most vulnerable and underserved communities are not forgotten in the pursuit of health equity. These Days of Action served not only as a remembrance of her impactful work but also as a call to sustain and amplify efforts toward NTD elimination in Tanzania and beyond.

This report captures a series of community-driven activities that took place from **March 24th to 26th, 2025** including the Mbagala Roundtable Health Center outreach, the Ilala Market engagement, and the youth-focused Walkathon and Leadership Session. Each initiative reflects the core principles that Dr. Malecela championed: community participation, health education, behavior change, and youth empowerment. From practical WASH demonstrations to mentorship on advocacy and leadership, these events exemplified how multisectoral collaboration and people-centered strategies can drive impactful, lasting change.

The success stories and lessons contained in these pages are a testament to what is possible when communities, health professionals, and young leaders unite under a shared vision. As we honor **Dr. Malecela's** enduring legacy, let this report be a reminder that the journey to eliminate NTDs is not only a public health imperative it is a moral one. May her dedication continue to inspire bold action, innovation, and inclusion for years to come.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of the 2025 Mwele Malecela Days of Action would not have been possible without the collective efforts, dedication, and collaboration of many individuals and organizations who contributed their time, expertise, and resources.

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the family and legacy of the late Dr. Mwele Ntuli Malecela. Her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) continue to inspire action across Tanzania and the globe. This initiative stands as a living tribute to her remarkable impact.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Health through the NTDs Control Program for their strategic guidance and continued leadership in national NTD elimination efforts. We are equally thankful to the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) for its technical support and long-standing contributions to public health research and policy development in Tanzania.

Special appreciation goes to ECSA-HC, Amplify Health and Development Africa, SAYOF, Choosing Generation and Uniting to Combat NTDs for their generous support, coordination, and commitment to advancing community-level NTD engagement. Their involvement significantly enhanced the reach and impact of this year's activities. We are also grateful to Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and all the dedicated student organizations whose participation brought energy, innovation, and youth leadership to the forefront of this initiative. The Youth Mentorship and Leadership Session was a powerful reminder of the vital role that young people play in sustaining health advocacy and action.

To the healthcare workers, NTD Champions, and volunteers who led the implementation of outreach activities at Mbagala Roundtable Health Centre and Ilala Market—thank you for your dedication, compassion, and hard work. We also recognize the generous contribution from Uji Fasta, Powaful Solar, whose donation improved service delivery at the health center.

Lastly, to the local authorities, market leaders, community elders, and the hundreds of community members who participated with such enthusiasm—your voices, questions, and commitment to learning embody the spirit of this campaign. Your engagement is a testament to the power of grassroots mobilization in driving sustainable change. Together, we honor the legacy of Dr. Mwele Malecela by continuing the fight for equity, dignity, and health for all. As we move forward, we do so united in purpose, guided by shared values, and inspired by the communities we serve.



## BACKGROUND



Dr. Mwele Ntuli Malecela (1963–2022) was a renowned Tanzanian scientist, public health leader, and champion in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) globally. She was one of Africa's most influential female scientists, celebrated for her leadership, passion, and dedication to public health, particularly in the elimination of NTDs. Dr. Mwele's career spanned over 30 years, primarily working in public health research and leadership.

She began her career at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Tanzania in 1987, where she rose through the ranks to become the Director General—the first woman to hold this position. Under her leadership, NIMR became a leading institution in health research and a key player in addressing health challenges such as NTDs, malaria, and HIV/AIDS in Tanzania.

In 2017, she joined the World Health Organization (WHO) as the Director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. In this role, she played a pivotal role in shaping global NTD strategies, including the WHO NTD Roadmap 2021–2030, which aims to eliminate at least 20 NTDs by 2030.

Dr. Mwele Malecela passed away on February 10, 2022. Her passing was a huge loss to the global health community, especially the fight against NTDs. To honor her legacy, the Mwele Malecela Mentorship Programme for Women in NTDs was launched by WHO to empower young women in science and public health to continue her work.

# INTRODUCTION

The Mwele Malecela Days of Action is a nationwide initiative dedicated to complementing Government effort in addressing elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases and Empowering generation of youth in NTDs advocacy. This is done through series of activities that targeted to provide equitable access to health education and awareness, community sensitization, collaboration with national neglected tropical diseases control program and youth mentorship and leadership sessions.

Held annually around the dates that honor life and work of Dr. Mwele, the Days of Action mobilize communities, health workers, youth leaders, and policymakers in a united front against NTDs. Through awareness campaigns, health outreaches, capacity-building sessions, and public mobilization events, this initiative amplifies the importance of integrated and sustainable NTD interventions—particularly among grassroot communities and people affected.

The 2025 edition of the Mwele Malecela Days of Action featured three key events: a health outreach at Mbagala Roundtable Health Center, a market-focused WASH intervention at Ilala Market, and a youth empowerment session combined with a public walkathon. Each of these activities was designed not only to educate and engage, but to foster ownership, drive behavior change, and inspire long-term action in the communities most affected by NTDs.

This report presents a detailed account of these activities, highlighting their outcomes, lessons learned, and future implications. It stands as both a reflection of Dr. Mwele’s enduring impact and a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to ending NTDs in Tanzania and across the globe.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND  
AWARENESS



YOUTH MENTORSHIP



WALKATHON



# PRE-ACTIVITY

## CHARITY EVENT AT MBAGALA ROUNDTABLE HEALTH CENTER

The Mwele Malecela Days of Action community outreach at Mbagala Roundtable Health Centre held on 24th March 2025, commenced with success to honor the legacy of Maxmillian Kilipamwambu by advancing NTDs awareness and prevention efforts. The event educated over **70 parents** and community members about neglected tropical diseases, with particular focus on soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis. Volunteers and health workers provided crucial information about correct deworming dosages for children and emphasized the importance of deworming medication during antenatal visits for pregnant mothers. Interactive sessions addressed disease symptoms, prevention methods, and post-deworming nutritional support to boost immunity, while a lively Q&A session helped clarify treatment schedules and proper hygiene practices.

The outreach incorporated practical WASH demonstrations to reinforce healthy behaviors, with trainers showing proper handwashing techniques following WHO guidelines. Participants received hygiene kits containing soap and sanitation materials to promote cleanliness in their households. The event also distributed essential donations including Uji Fasta nutritional supplements for children, toys, and learning materials to encourage family participation. A special contribution of 10 solar lights from Powaful Solar significantly improved the health center's capacity to provide nighttime services, demonstrating the program's dual focus on education and infrastructure improvement.



The initiative achieved measurable success in raising awareness, with participants showing improved understanding of deworming schedules and hygiene practices. The combination of educational sessions and material distributions strengthened collaboration between health workers and NTD advocates, creating a model for future community engagement. One particularly touching moment came when a father joyfully exclaimed his children would see him as a "hero" after receiving toys, illustrating how the program's holistic approach resonated with families. The quiz competition with solar light prizes further enhanced engagement while reinforcing key health messages.

While the outreach yielded positive results, it also revealed important challenges and lessons. Some parents initially held misconceptions about deworming frequency, requiring health workers to adapt their messaging for clearer communication. This experience highlighted the effectiveness of interactive, demonstration-based learning over traditional lecture formats in changing community health behaviors.

The event underscored the need for ongoing follow-up to sustain behavioral changes and the value of combining education with practical support. These insights will inform planning for future NTD awareness campaigns, ensuring continued progress toward disease elimination goals while honoring Maxmillian's advocacy legacy.



70

Parents reached with education and donation during the Pre-activity



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SENSITIZATION

## ILALA MARKET, DAR ES SALAAM

As part of the Mwele Malecela Days of Action, a targeted community engagement activity was held at Ilala Market on March 26, 2025, reaching over **200+ food vendors and market users**. The event focused on the critical role of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in preventing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), particularly soil-transmitted helminths. Through interactive education, practical demonstrations, and the distribution of hygiene tools, the initiative aimed to instill sustainable behavioral changes to reduce NTD transmission risks in high-traffic market environments.

The outreach achieved its objectives by sensitizing vendors on their pivotal role in maintaining food safety and preventing NTDs through proper hygiene. A team of **20 NTDs Champions** conducted engaging sessions, highlighting the link between poor hygiene and disease spread while emphasizing clean food preparation and safe handling practices. Hand-washing demonstration, following WHO guidelines, allowed vendors and customers to practice proper techniques, reinforcing the importance of this simple yet effective preventive measure. Additionally, essential WASH kits including soap, buckets, gloves, boots, and dustbins were distributed to equip vendors with the tools needed to uphold hygiene standards in their daily operations.

Key outcomes from the event included significantly improved awareness among vendors, with over **200 participants** gaining knowledge on NTD prevention and proper handwashing methods. The open dialogue session provided a platform for vendors to voice challenges, such as limited access to clean water and waste disposal, leading to collaborative solutions like scheduled market clean-ups and partnerships with local health officers. The distribution of WASH tools not only addressed immediate needs but also fostered a sense of ownership and commitment to long-term hygiene practices among the market community.





Despite its successes, the outreach revealed challenges, including the need for ongoing reinforcement to ensure lasting behavioral change. Lessons learned underscored the effectiveness of participatory approaches, such as hands-on demonstrations and open discussions, in driving engagement.

Moving forward, regular follow-ups and partnerships with local authorities will be essential to sustain the progress made. This initiative exemplifies how targeted WASH interventions in high-risk settings like markets can contribute to broader NTD elimination goals while honoring the legacy of advocates like Dr. Mwele Malecela.





# WALKATHON



The Walkathon marked the closing activity of the Mwele Malecela Days of Action, bringing together over 60 youth, health workers, community leaders, students, and advocates in a symbolic match to raise awareness on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), promote proper sanitation and hygiene, and amplify the voices of young changemakers.

Due to persistent heavy rains that lasted more than 14 hours before the event, the route was adjusted to occur within the premises of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. This also impacted the number of participants, from 120 registered to 60 who showed up for the walkathon. Despite the weather, a dedicated crowd of participants rose in high spirits, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the cause.

This activity increased public awareness of NTDs and their impact on communities, Promoted youth visibility and ownership in advocacy and public health education, and created a platform for intergenerational dialogue and solidarity.



# YOUTH MENTORSHIP

## SESSION

Immediately following the Walkathon, we conducted the Youth Mentorship and Leadership session which convened young professionals and students in health-related fields to engage with established leaders and practitioners. The session focused on mentorship, innovation, leadership, and bold career choices in the realm of health advocacy.

Youth play a central role in ensuring the sustainability of public health gains, highlighting their importance in shaping a healthier future. Effective leadership thrives on mentorship and intergenerational collaboration, fostering an environment where knowledge and experience can be shared. In today's rapidly evolving healthcare system, innovation and digital platforms have emerged as critical tools in health advocacy, enabling a broader reach and impact. Furthermore, true leadership demands courage, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to community values, which are essential qualities for making meaningful changes in public health. These were the values and legacy of Dr. Mwele Malecela and Maxmillian Kilipamwambu and the session sought to impact those values to participants.



### Dr. Julieth Seba

Shared her journey as a medical doctor and digital health advocate, emphasizing the power of media, storytelling, and communication in public health.



### Pharm. Tumaini Makole

Encouraged youth to explore leadership in public health and pharmaceutical advocacy, and to think beyond conventional clinical paths



### Mr. Festo Ngadaya

Delivered an energetic session on bridging science, business, and social media; highlighting entrepreneurship as a tool for health equity.



### Pharm. Mary Kisima

Spoke passionately about breaking traditional career boundaries, leading with authenticity, and empowering the next generation, especially young women.



### Mr. Anodi Kaihula

Underscored the critical role of youth in research and academia and shared Tanzania Health Summit's commitment to nurturing evidence-based leadership.



# SESSION KEY TAKEAWAYS



Youth are central to the sustainability of public health gains.



Mentorship and intergenerational collaboration are essential for effective leadership.



Innovation and digital platforms are critical tools in health advocacy.



Leadership requires courage, creativity, and a strong commitment to community values.

# CHALLENGES

While the Mwele Malecela Days of Action achieved significant impact across all its planned activities, several challenges emerged that provided important learning opportunities for future programming. One of the most notable challenges was the little time for planning the whole project as it was short notice preparation which contributed to slow response from stakeholders and supporters.

Another challenge was logistical in nature. In both the Mbagala and Ilala events, limited access to clean water and sanitation infrastructure posed a constraint for the implementation of WASH demonstrations and hygiene kit usage. While the provision of hygiene tools helped mitigate this, the long-term sustainability of behaviour change depends on consistent access to these essential services an issue that extends beyond the scope of a one-time outreach.

Community engagement, although largely successful, was initially slow, particularly at the Ilala Market where vendors were preoccupied with their daily business. Mobilizing participation required additional efforts from the NTD Champions, who had to negotiate with market leaders and offer flexible engagement formats that respected the vendors' working conditions. This experience underscored the importance of building strong relationships with community gatekeepers and adapting outreach strategies to fit local dynamics.

In the walkathon and youth mentorship session, a key challenge involved bad weather (heavy raining) which prevented almost half of the registered participants to attend the walkathon and session.

Despite these hurdles, the project team remained adaptive and responsive. By identifying challenges in real time and adjusting approaches, the initiative not only overcame obstacles but also strengthened its model for future Days of Action. These experiences emphasize the value of continuous learning, community-centered design, and collaboration in the fight against NTDs.



# DOA 2025

## in Number

100K

Social Media Impression and Engagement



20

Youth Volunteers Involved



70

Parents Reached during Outreach



200+

People Reached during Community outreach



100

People Registered for Walkathon



60

Walkathon Participants

# EPIC MOMENTS, EPIC SHOTS

20  
25





# OUR PARTNER





## CONTACT US

📍 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)

*End NTDs*