

# ENSURING REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE IN TANZANIA

## OUR 2023 HALF YEAR IMPACT

During the first half of 2023, through our Public Sector Strengthening model, we reached over 148 public facilities where we trained providers on comprehensive family planning and post abortion care services provision, supply chain management, data management, clinical quality assurance and provided them with non-consumable equipment and supplies to be able to deliver services to clients with an emphasis on reaching young people and people with disabilities with quality friendly services.

Through our outreach model which serves high impact clients, particularly adolescents and those living in poverty, in difficult to reach areas, we work closely with the government to improve access to high quality contraception and sexual reproductive health services and information to people in rural and remote communities of Tanzania.



I am proud to be among the team ensuring reproductive choice to clients in under-served communities.



Amina, Kilindi Outreach Team Lead in [Tanga region](#)

Marie Stopes continued to capitalize on its social enterprise approach to expand access to high quality, affordable registered products and ensure client care quality which in turn creates sustainable programmes using commercial sales, marketing and supply best practices. In this period alone, MST continued to distribute Lifeguard condoms and Misoclear tablets for comprehensive post abortion and maternal health care through existing and new distribution channels.

To ensure access to quality sexual reproductive health information and the continuum of care, our toll-free contact centre linked to social media platforms received 10,133 calls and offered referrals to 1,667 clients. Operated by trained centre agents, our call centre has increasingly become beneficial to clients in need as it provides remote access to medical consultation and assistance, improving client experience, safety, and health outcomes.

### MST 2023 Year to Date Impact:

**838K**  
Clients served

**19.3%**  
of all clients are adolescents below 20 years

**1.2M**  
Unintended pregnancies averted

**281K**  
Unsafe abortions averted

**1.5K**  
Maternal deaths averted

**2.5M**  
Couple Years of Protection (CYPs)

# ADVOCATING FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN TANZANIA

MST advocacy contributed to several changes in policies, regulations, guidelines, and laws.

In the first half of 2023, we partnered with likeminded stakeholders and the Ministry of Health to support the review of the National Family Planning Guide with the aim of adopting the recent developments and needs to prioritizing quality and accurate information on family planning to clients for effective method mix.

MST worked with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to review the National Family Planning Outreach Guidelines to include the requirement for consent for long-acting contraception clients. This move will ensure clients are well counselled on method choice and effective management of incidents.

“With time, partnership, and joint investment, we are confident that positive impact can be achieved. We would like to thank our partners and donors for their continued support to ensure delivery of universal and inclusive reproductive healthcare today and in future.”



Nassoro Said Mkwii: A government healthcare provider Kilwa

“I am now confident in providing long-acting family planning contraception”

Nassoro, a public healthcare provider, started his career in 2012 and was first posted at Kinyonga Hospital, a district hospital in Kilwa, Lindi Region. He went back to school and graduated in 2018, and when returned, he shifted to Masoko Health Centre in Kilwa Masoko. Like many other providers, he attests he was never taught anything about family planning service provision while at the nursing school.

“The little knowledge I had on family planning services was the one I got through the clinical practice during my field work attachment. I since then developed passion on family planning services provision and was highly interested in working under the Reproductive Child Health section therefore was eagerly looking for opportunities for self-learning while providing services, mostly short-term methods.

Though I was providing services, I encountered several challenges. The knowledge and information I had did not give me confidence to offer quality information to clients I attended. I knew very little about method mix and





was not able to provide adequate counselling to clients to meet their reproductive choice needs. Our facility was later involved in a programme by Marie Stopes Tanzania, and I was attached to a trained nurse who would visit us for mentorship. This has become a game changer in my career as an FP service provider. I am now providing services with confidence. The nurse provides us with updates on services provision and trains us on quality services provision, documentation as well as reporting.

Since then, the long-acting methods clients flow in our facility has increased. At our facility we provide family planning services to around 30 clients a day. The numbers increase towards the end of harvesting season as most of the people return from farming camps” says Nassoro.

As a mentee, he also builds the capacity of other providers within the reproductive child health section and is expecting to improve his skills in offering Post-Partum Family Planning (PPFP) services.



Plot 421&422 Mwenge, Kijitonyama  
P.O. Box 7072.  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
T: +255 22 227 4991  
Toll-Free No. : 0800753333  
E-Mail: info@mst.or.tz

 mariestopez  
 @MarieStopesTZA  
 @mariestopez  
 marieStopes Tanzania