

Group 2: District Hospital Expansion and Rehabilitation

Your sector team or project is adding a major activity to your **Maternal, Child & Rural Health Support Program” (MCRH)**. The purpose of the activity is to rehabilitate and expand a number of older district hospitals. Bagamoyo District Hospital will be one of these hospitals and is typical of the others.

MCRH is a 5-year, \$50mn program intended to better monitor, diagnose and treat HIV/AIDS, TB, Cholera and other infectious “epidemic diseases.” The program leverages the existing network of health posts and clinics which are supervised by and organized under the district hospitals. MCRH is 1 year into implementation.

(In XXX, district hospitals are key “anchors” of the public health system. In addition to providing treatment for more serious cases (and quarantine of potentially epidemic diseases), they serve as supervisory, data-collection, stocking and distribution centers for the clinics and health posts in their districts. District hospitals also provide prevention/education services via the out-district health posts under their direction.)

At the time that MCRH was designed, it was assumed that another donor would be supporting physical rehabilitation of the district hospitals in the MCRH target areas. In these areas, most district hospitals are 35-40 years old, and have undergone no significant expansion or rehabilitation since construction.

However, this expected complementary project did not materialize. Survey of existing facilities has determined that planned MCRH activities such as medical assistant training and equipment provision will fail to achieve the desired results unless hospital facilities themselves are significantly upgraded.

Therefore, a district hospital expansion/rehabilitation component is being added to MCRH. Five District hospitals in MCRH target areas will be chosen according to criteria developed in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

At each hospital, new ward blocks will be constructed and existing blocks rehabilitated. The expected result is a 50% increase in bed capacity at beneficiary hospitals (usually ~ 60 beds), with significant improvements to lighting, ventilation and hygiene over existing conditions.

The pilot will also serve as a mentored capacity-building opportunity for the medical facilities department of the health ministry, who will participate in planning, contracting and oversight. This is intended to build governmental capacity for health facilities upgrades throughout the country.

Bagamoyo District Hospital

The MCRH and its plan to rehabilitate and expand district hospitals is not real, but Bagamoyo District Hospital is.

Located ~2km from Bagamoyo town (coastal Tanzania) and ~200m from the ocean in a settled area, Bagamoyo District Hospital is a 125-bed facility opened in 1972. Initially providing health services largely to fisherman, it now serves tourists and the local community, as well as some patients who travel from Dar es Salaam. Baseline population growth and the development of tourism and other economic activities in Bagamoyo have substantially increased the population the hospital serves, currently estimated at about 300,000 households. The number of patients has grown 1000-fold; however, the hospital facilities have not been expanded.

Facilities include dressing rooms, laboratories, maternity wards, general wards, pediatric wards and the mortuary. Canteen facilities are available for hospital staff and patients. The hospital has 3 doctors, 1 district medical officer and 4 Assistant medical staff. Patients report to the casualty rooms and have their medical complaints registered. Depending on the complaint, they are taken to appropriate unit.

The most common serious diagnoses are Malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS. The hospital generates significant volumes of medical and non-medical wastes. Facilities available to handle medical waste include special bins for sharps and “red bag” (potentially infectious) waste, and incinerators.

In Sept 2007, the incinerator was malfunctioning and unsecured. Children were observed playing 50m from the incinerator. Solid waste is removed to landfill twice/week. The hospital is not connected to a central sewerage system. A set of septic tanks on-grounds must be pumped out regularly. The hospital is 200 meters from the ocean and less than 100 meters from a school.

(Information accurate as of 2008)