

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN TANZANIA

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The health system in Tanzania follows the pattern of government structures of leadership in the form of hierarchy. The national health care system has a pyramidal structure that prioritized primary care at affordable costs to majority of people. It consists of the Village Health Service, District Hospitals, Regional Hospitals, Consultant Hospitals.

The Village Health Service is the lowest level of health care service delivery. Health center, per 50,000 inhabitants, post with two health workers providing preventive service for residents.

Dispensary Service: 1 dispensary per 10,000 inhabitants, medical assistant, nurses, curative and preventive work, release and delivery service, vaccination, mother-and-child services. Private dispensaries can be registered and recognized by the state if they have a doctor.

The District Hospital is designated to be supported by the government for each of the country's 99 districts. They usually have assistant medical officers, and sometimes one or two doctors.

The Regional Hospital is in each of the country's 26 regions, per one million population. There are experienced general doctors, medical assistants, schools for medical assistants, small specialized departments in these hospitals.

The Referral or Consultant Hospital has the best medical facilities not offered in the lower hospitals. The country has four such hospitals. They have special departments, medical specialists, Teaching and University clinics. They are very expensive as they are oriented to the international standards. Their function as referral hospitals are fulfilled with difficulties because of poor infrastructure of the country, poor roads and weak communication with the remote regions.

Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. The government has not enough resources to operate health services. But some projects were begun investigating the incidence and distribution of rheumatic heart diseases in children and young adults, other health problems common in the country.

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