The importance of leadership and management to support improved quality in maternal and newborn health care

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Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA)

Team members

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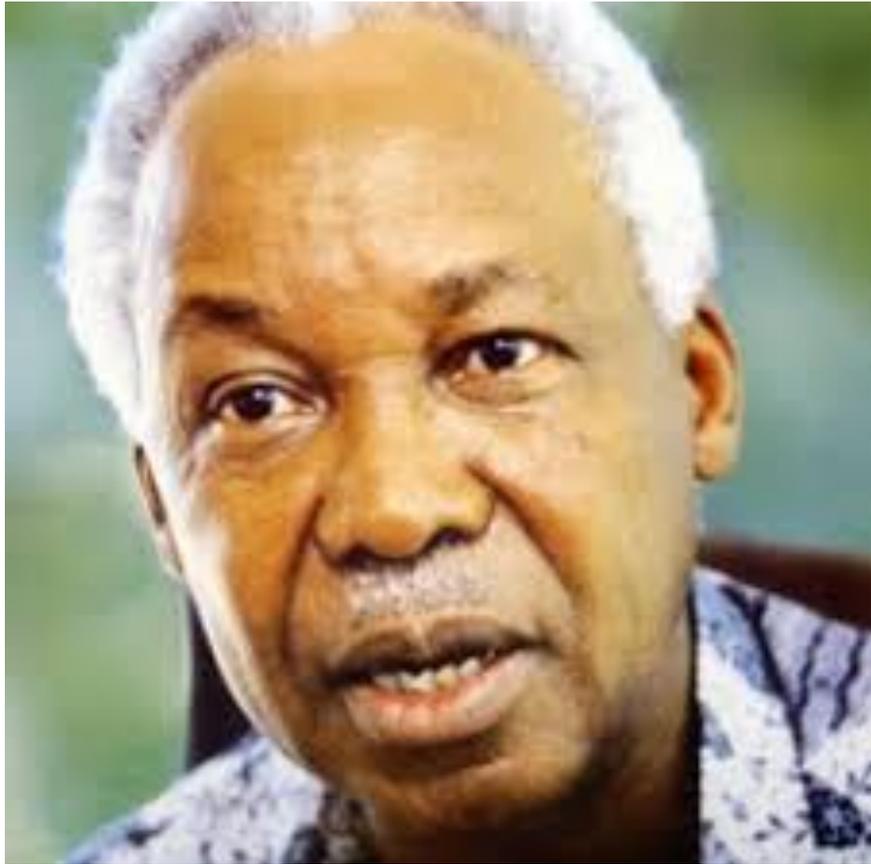Co-Investigators: Abel Z, Njete H, Bulemela J, O'Hearn S, Scott H, Campbell-Yeo M, Aston M

Partner organizations:
- Tanzania Training Centre for International Health (TTCIH),
- President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG)
- Ministry of Health (MoHCDGEC).
- Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University
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1. Significance of Leadership & Management (L&M)

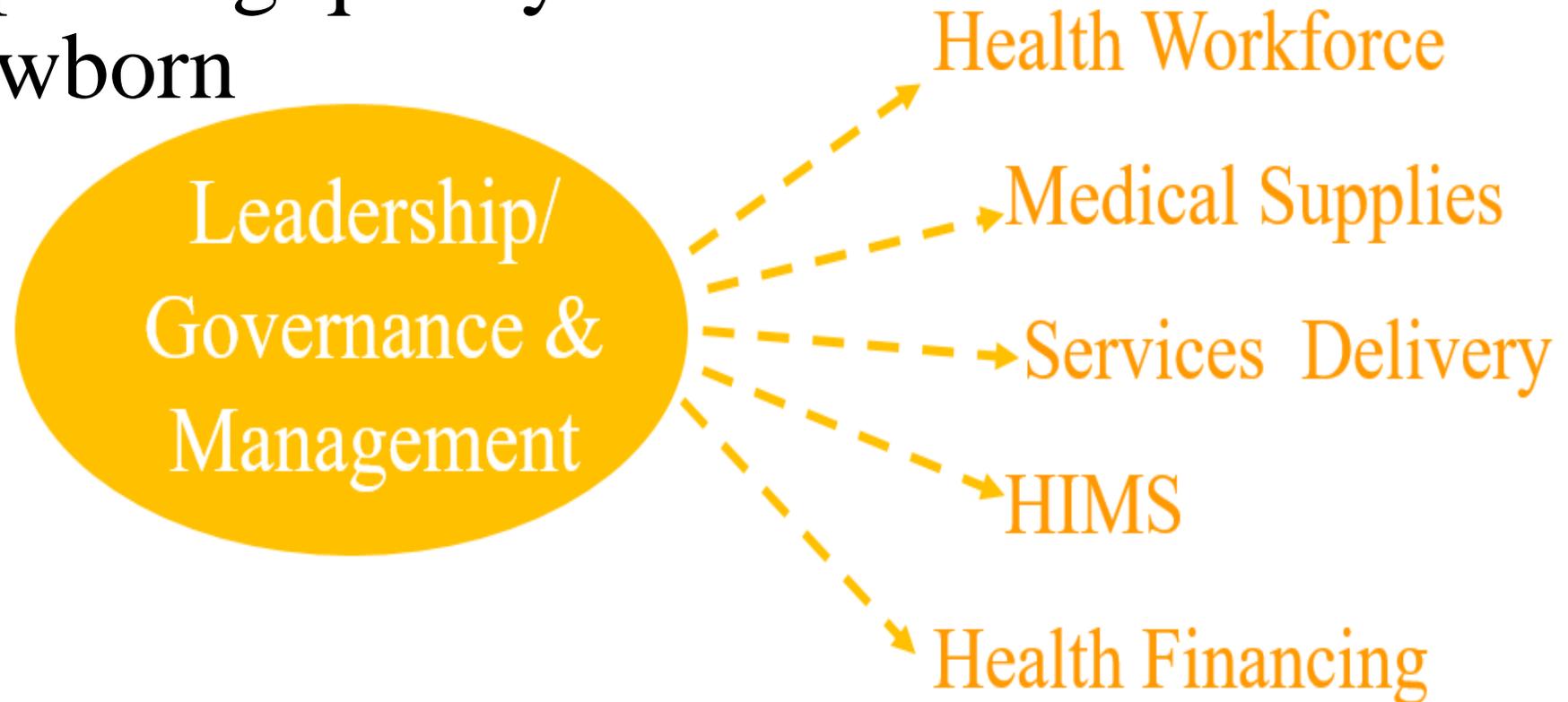*"Good leadership is one of the key success factors for socio-economic development"*

J.K Nyerere, former president of Tanzania

Effective leadership and management, across the system, have **a wide range of functions** in improving quality in maternal and newborn health care.

Leadership/ Governance & Management

Health Workforce

Medical Supplies

Services Delivery

HIMS

Health Financing

2.Underlying Context of L&M in Africa

- **Tanzania:** Leadership and managerial capacity strengthening for quality pregnancy and newborn outcomes in Tanzania: 2017 - 2021
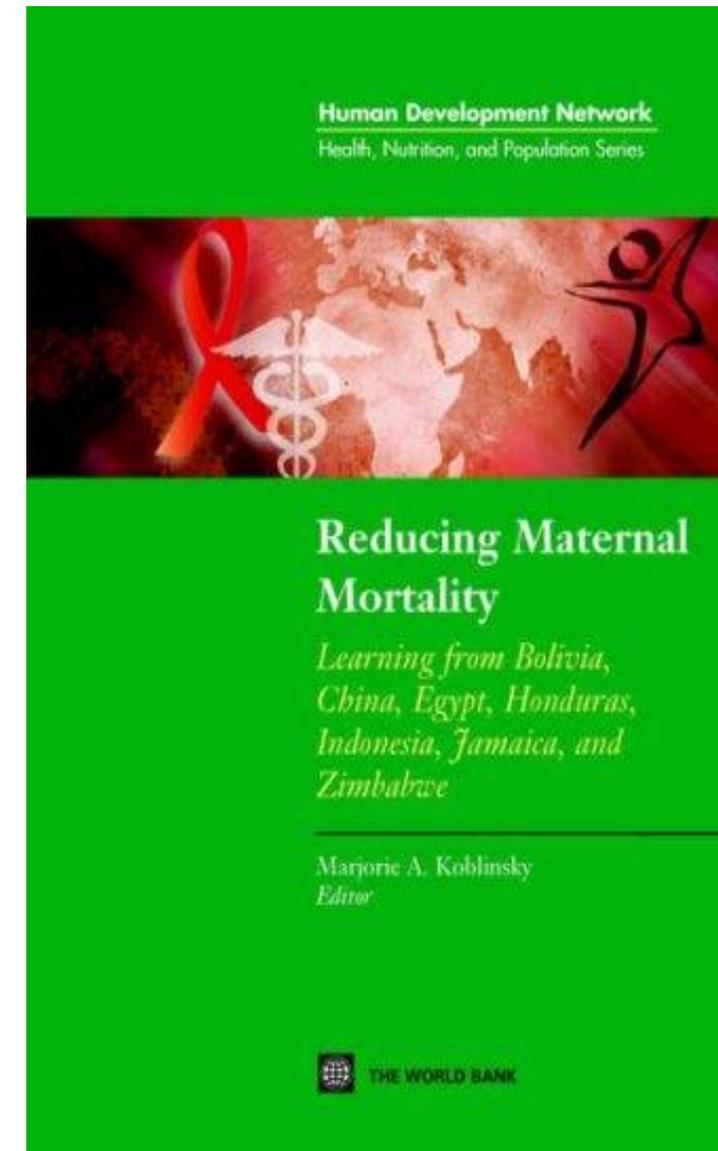
  Findings: Leadership is one of the most needed focus areas for strengthening the weak, resource-constrained health care system.

  – Majority of health managers lack L&M competencies

  – Maternal and perinatal adverse outcomes were attributed to ineffective L&M (ASDIT audits)

The World Bank Report; 2003.

"When maternal and child health interventions lead to improved quality of obstetric and newborn care, **the success has been attributed to strong leadership in reproductive health** and accountability of both health providers, managers and key decision makers to the targeted population of women, children and families, and the presence of enabling policies"

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Marjorie A. Koblinsky
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3. Conclusions

In building an effective and efficient health system, leadership and management represent **a hub of all other building blocks**.