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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Health System initiatives towards infection prevention and control measures during COVID-19, Bugando, Mwanza, Tanzania
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Systems and Community Based Responses for COVID 19</i>
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Content	<p>Background: The COVID-19 pandemic is an international public health emergency declared by the WHO in March 2020. Globally, 5.8 million people have been infected with a loss of almost 360000 people worldwide. Strengthening health system response towards COVID-19 is important in slowing transmission. Currently there is no vaccine to treat the disease and it is challenging to recognize infection at early stages. Objective: Hospital initiatives towards standard infection prevention and control (IPC) strategies during COVID 19 era helps to improve measures in protecting health workers, hospital patients and community from contracting the disease. Methodology: Physical demonstrations and practical sessions were implemented to train HCWs in COVID-19 infection prevention. Participatory approach using the Scan, Orient, Plan, Equip, Train, Evaluate, Act and Reflect (SOPETAR) framework was used to enhance full engagement of HCWs during training. Findings: 350 out of 1,250 clinical/non clinical staffs at Bugando Medical Centre were trained on various IPC measures. This included the correct technique of hand washing, and proper use/removal of personal protective equipment (PPE). HCWs trained to improve accountability to protect themselves, patients, and the community. Also other initiatives for infection prevention by making face mask and sanitizes under TMDA standards (Tanzania Medicine and Medical devices Authority) to accommodate the need and reduces cost. Conclusion: Training is mandatory to help prevent COVID-19 transmission in the hospital and the community. Locally made face mask and sanitizers help to accommodate the need with low cost. Key words; COVID 19, Health care workers, PPE, IPC</p>