

## 6 HEALTH CARE WORKERS from ASALs trained on MicroResearch



Prof walter Mwanda Addressing the participants during the MicroResearch Training workshop

UNITID has trained 6 health workers from the Arid and semi arid lands in an effort to address the myriad health problems affecting the community .The participants came from Isiolo county ,Samburu county and Marsabit county. Potential participant applications were selected for suitability based upon recommendations from the County Medical officer of Health as well as professional expertise to achieve a diverse class to cover most major health-related disciplines. Addressing the Participants the Director UNITID reiterated that MicroResearch is the best avenue to address health challenges in the ASAL community. He urged the graduand to make use of the knowledge gained in order to be champions of MicroResearch in those counties.

This has been anchored in the vision 2030 where by more community based health personnel are trained who will expand community health services and integrate these with community based health care practices to improve the health outcomes

Health indicators in Northern Kenya are very poor, particularly for women and children with high maternal, infant and child mortality, high levels of acute malnutrition and low immunisation coverage .The percentage of children delivered with trained care in north eastern province is less than one third of the national coverage .

The MicroResearch Program uses educational tools, mentors, seed grant support and peer-to-peer multidisciplinary collaboration with the support of Canadian and African research coaches to help local African faculty and health care workers answer their own community focused research questions and then translate their findings to help improve health outcomes.

Improving health for mothers newborns and children is proving to be more difficult than the other millennium development goals

One serious barrier to improving the health outcomes for mothers, new born and children has been inadequate implementation of health knowledge at community level. Although the ASAL health care professionals are excellent clinicians the lack training and skills to identify critical community problems and to use critical research methods to find local sustainable solutions. Research support for health care professionals to develop and carry out their community focussed research has been neglected. since much of the donor funded research has focused on diagnostics/treatment of infectious diseases in these asal.

The health care professionals from ASAL have the greatest potential to impact their own county's health practices and policies. They understand the local culture ,local languages and the local barriers to better health practices .Top down implementation has failed unless it is context and culturally appropriate .ASAL health care professionals embedded in their communities , can identify critical community problems and apply research methods to find solutions and are in best position to then implement change and improve health outcomes .

The UNITID micro Research helps to build local African health care professional capacity to find local solutions for local maternal child community health problems

MicroResearch uses five integrated components to ensure research fits the local context culture and resource is scientifically valid and is shared with local communities and local health care professionals

1. Trains multidisciplinary health care professionals to identify local health health professions needing solution
2. Coach these MR TEAMS TO DEVELOP THESE research questions into scientifically valid internationally peer reviewed proposals
3. Fund the MR teams to undertake these projects that will find solution to local health problem with ongoing coaching
4. Helps to translate the findings into action that will improve community health outcomes for mothers newborns and children with ongoing coaching.
5. Supports sharing of research findings across an e.a mr network through MR forums .

The participants were fully sponsored through personal donations of the Director UNITID , Prof Walter Mwanda and UNITID.



Acting Principal Prof Ndavi Giving certificate of Attendance to Galm Guyo (Marsabit)



Prof Mwanda ,Dr Tobias Kollman and Prof Ndavi During graduation ceremony







Prof Ndavi (Acting Principal CHS), Dr Florence Betty, Deputy Director, Directorate of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, Ministry of Devolution.

