

## PRESS RELEASE

### Ifakara, partners inaugurate clinic for heart and lung diseases

> New facility targets a population of 1 million people in the Kilombero Valley and surrounding areas

May 6, 2021, Ifakara. Ifakara Health Institute and partners today unveil here a new building that will house a clinic for heart and lung diseases. The new clinic services target a population of one million people mainly in the Kilombero Valley and surrounding areas. Morogoro Regional Medical Officer (RMO), Dr. Kusirye Ukio, is chief guest.

The clinic is located within the St. Francis Referral Hospital (SFRH) in Ifakara and will be part of the hospital's specialized clinics. The facility, sits in a 163.85 meter-square area, comprises of four doctors' rooms for consulting patients, a public reception area, and data center. The clinic building was built at a cost of TZS 97 million.

The clinic, officially known as "The Else Kroner Centre for Heart and Lung Diseases (EKC-HLD)," was built through a project known as "Tackling the hidden epidemic of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa," which is funded by the Else Kroner Fresenius Foundation, Germany, and it is being implemented by Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) – Tanzania in collaboration with Charite University Hospital - Germany, Swiss TPH, Switzerland, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland and St Francis Referral hospital (SFRH) - Tanzania. The project runs for to 27 months, and at the end of the project, the clinic is planned to remain self-sustainable.

The new clinic will offer clinical services, including screening, diagnosis, management, and follow-up of patients with heart and lung diseases; and offer training and educational services, targeting healthcare workers to increase their awareness about prevention diagnosis and management of common heart and lung diseases.

The clinic will also run a community health outreach program that will focus on promoting awareness about prevention diagnosis and management of common heart and lung diseases in the community; and will be used for research by establishing a cohort for patients with heart and lung diseases in order to generate local data on the diseases that can be used to guide interventions.

*Why this project and clinic is important.* It recognizes that heart and lung diseases contribute significantly to the morbidity and mortality burden in sub-Saharan Africa. We therefore want to add efforts to the national political will to fight this rising burden in Tanzania through increasing awareness, screening, diagnosis, training, and conducting research to generate local data that can improve management of non-communicable diseases.

#### **More: About the Project**

The project recognizes that in sub-Saharan Africa, awareness of hypertension, heart failure, and obstructive lung diseases such as asthma and COPD is low. These diseases are diagnosed and treated in a minority of patients only, despite their high morbidity and mortality.

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In order to prevent them, to increase the number of diagnosed patients with hypertension, heart failure, and obstructive lung diseases, and to increase the number of correctly treated patients, the project has built the Else Kröner Center for Heart and Lung Disease (EKC-HLD) in rural Tanzania, targeting a population of 1 million people. [More about this project.](#)

### About Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)

**Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)** is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research and policy translation. [More about Ifakara.](#)

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