**Minutes of the Meeting between ECSA-HC (Thanzi Team) and MUHAS**

**Date:** 28th May 2025  
**Location:** Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**1. Attendance**

**ECSA-HC (Thanzi Team):**

* Mr. Edward Kataika
* Mr. Emmanuel Mjowe
* Mr. Joel Kumwenda

**MUHAS Team:**

* Prof. Enica Richard
* Dr. Malale Tungu
* Dr. Alphoncina Kagaigai

**2. Meeting Objective**

To introduce the **Thanzi-All Disease Model** to MUHAS and explore opportunities for collaboration in health economics research, modeling, and policy translation.

**3. Presentations and Key Discussions**

**ECSA-HC Presentation**

* Overview of the **ECSA-HC** organization, its regional mandate, and focus areas.
* Introduction to the **Thanzi Project**, aimed at strengthening evidence-based health policy through disease modeling.
* Demonstration and discussion of the **Thanzi-All Disease Model**, a computer-based, open-source tool designed to support integrated disease modeling across multiple conditions.
* Case studies presented:
  + **Contraceptive analysis** in **Kenya** at the **African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)**.
  + **Policy impact** and progress made using the model in **Malawi**.

**MUHAS Presentation**

* **Prof. Enica Richard** provided an institutional background on MUHAS, highlighting its academic, research, and policy roles.
* **Dr. Malale Tungu and Dr. Alphoncina Kagaigai** elaborated on the activities done at the School of Public Health and Social Sciences (SPHSS), Department of Development Studies (DS). They explained that:
* DS has a Masters of Science in Health Economics and Policy (MSc. HEP) Program where they teach **various courses related to health Economics.**
* The department also conducts research related to health economics in collaboration with both national and international research.
* The department has a number of experts in health economics specializing in different aspects such as healthcare financing, economic evaluation, equity and fairness and priority settings
* As an example of collaborations from the DS department, Dr. Kagaigai highlighted an ongoing project funded by NORAD, implemented by Bergen and MUHAS in collaboration with MoH and PORALG in supporting the ministry in establishing essential benefit package for NCD in Tanzania.
  + The project uses a fairchoice modeling tools to determine the cost-effective benefit package for NCDs.
  + Currently, the model is being modified to be used to model different interventions.
  + Ongoing research, publications, and collaboration with government and development partners.
  + MUHAS is also part of the HEPI project of which ECSA is part of it as well.

**4. Key Questions and Discussions**

* **Collaboration Opportunities with ECSA-HC**  
  *Q: How best can MUHAS collaborate with ECSA-HC?*  
  *A: ECSA-HC supports a “****community of practice****” approach, promoting continuous dialogue between policymakers and researchers. ECSA-HC also expressed intent to facilitate further engagement by arranging a joint meeting with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to solidify collaboration.*
* **Policy Translation Support**  
  *Q: What support can ECSA-HC provide to help translate research into policy?*  
  *A: ECSA-HC fosters networks between academia and policymakers and offers technical assistance in communicating findings for policy uptake through community of practice forums etc.*
* **Comparison with Other Modeling Tools**  
  *Q: How is the Thanzi Model different from other tools?*  
  *A: The Thanzi Model is an* ***individual-based, all-disease model*** *built for Sub-Saharan contexts. It is* ***open-source*** *and designed to enable robust, comparative analysis across diseases and populations.*
* **Applicability to Tanzania and Other Countries**  
  *Q: Can the model be applied in Tanzania and similar health systems?*  
  *A: Yes. The model was developed for Sub-Saharan Africa, and although systems differ slightly, it is adaptable to each setting. ECSA-HC offers* ***technical support*** *to assist with customization and integration.*
* **Access and Usability**  
  *Q: Who can use the model?*  
  *A: The model is* ***free and open-source****. It is accessible to researchers, students, academicians, government officials, and others. The ECSA-HC team provides capacity building and technical support.*

**5. Way Forward**

* **MUHAS** appointed **Dr. Alphoncina Kagaigai** as the focal point of contact.
* **ECSA-HC and MUHAS** to jointly plan a **week-long workshop** at MUHAS to provide detailed, hands-on training on the Thanzi-All Disease Model.
* ECSA-HC to initiate engagement with **Tanzania's Ministry of Health** to support collaborative modeling efforts and foster integration of model outputs into national policy in collaboration with MUHAS.

**6. Closing Remarks**

Both institutions expressed commitment to continued engagement and collaboration in the area of health economics and policy modeling. The meeting concluded with optimism for stronger regional academic and policy linkages.

**Prepared by:** Joel Kumwenda  
**Organization:** ECSA-HC  
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