REHABILITATION SUMMIT 2025

PANEL DISCUSSION TOPICS

Date: September 10th-12th, 2025
Venue: Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC), Dar es Salaam
Organized by: Rehab Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Tanzania and East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC)

1. REHABILITATION ADVOCACY

Session Summary:

Effective advocacy is key to ensuring rehabilitation is prioritized in national policies, budgets, and public discourse. This panel will explore how advocacy can mobilize communities, influence decision-makers, and create systemic change. It will highlight strategies for rights-based advocacy, working with the media, building coalitions, and engaging civil society to strengthen rehabilitation visibility and accountability across sectors.

Key words;

Policy Advocacy | Rights-Based Approach | Stakeholder Engagement | Civil Society | Media Influence | Strategic Communication | Cross-Sector Collaboration | Accountability | Community Mobilization

2. SUSTAINABILITY OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Session Summary:

Sustainable rehabilitation programs are essential for long-term health outcomes and system resilience. This panel will explore strategies to develop, maintain, and scale rehabilitation services programme that are contextually appropriate and resilient to funding or resource fluctuations. The session will cover policy integration, community engagement, funding strategies, workforce retention, and climate-conscious rehabilitation models.

Key words;

Program Longevity | Sustainable Funding | Grants | Budget Prioritization | Public-Private Partnerships | Donor Engagement | Policy Integration | Workforce Retention | Community Ownership | Cost-effectiveness | Climate-Resilient Models

3. EARLY DETECTION AND REHABILITATION REFERRAL

Session Summary:

Early detection combined with timely referral is essential for optimal recovery. This panel will discuss strengthening early screening at primary care level, community-based detection, building effective referral pathways, and training healthcare workers. It will also focus on raising public awareness about the importance of seeking rehabilitation services early.

Key words;

Early Screening | Community-Based Detection | Referral Pathways | Timely Referral | Integrated Care | Health Worker Training | Public Awareness

4. DIGITAL REHABILITATION

Session Summary:

The integration of digital tools into rehabilitation is expanding access and efficiency. This panel will explore how digital innovations such as tele-rehab, mobile health applications, and AI tools are transforming rehabilitation delivery. It will also address digital literacy, equity in access, and implementation challenges.

Key words;

Digi-rehab | Mobile Tools | Artificial Intelligence | Digital Literacy | Implementation Challenges | Access Equity

5. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AS MAIN CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Session Summary:

Women often serve as primary caregivers for children with disabilities, yet face social and economic barriers. This panel will focus on experience of supporting these women through targeted support, economic empowerment, and inclusion in policy design. The discussion will also explore mental health support and caregiver training.

Key words;

Caregiver Support | Economic Empowerment | Gender-Sensitive Policy | Mental Health | Education & Training

6. REHABILITATION RESEARCH

Session Summary:

Robust research underpins innovation in rehabilitation. This panel will explore current research gaps, priorities for Tanzania and the region, and the need for collaboration across institutions. It will highlight pathways for translating research into policy and practice and capacity building for local researchers.

Key words;

Research Priorities | Collaboration | Local Research Capacity | Translating Evidence | Policy Impact

7. UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) AND EXPANDING REHABILITATION SERVICES

Session Summary:

Achieving UHC means making rehabilitation an essential part of the health system and expanding its reach nationwide. This panel will explore policy integration, insurance models, benefit packages, decentralizing services, strengthening referral pathways, and community engagement to ensure no one is left behind.

Key words;

Policy Integration | Health Insurance | Essential Benefits | Rehab Scaling | Referral Systems | Community Engagement | Workforce Scaling | Service Coverage | Equity in Access | Marginalized Populations

8. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION

Session Summary:

Education and rehabilitation must be inclusive to ensure children with disabilities achieve their full potential. This session will examine inclusive education models, integration of rehabilitation services in schools, teacher training, and intersectoral collaboration between education and health systems.

Key words;

Inclusive Classrooms | School-Based Therapy | Teacher Training | Cross-Sector Collaboration | Accessibility in Education

9. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY

Session Summary:

Assistive technology helps people with disabilities live independently, but access remains limited. This panel will discuss strengthening supply chains, boosting local production, tackling affordability, and developing supportive policies and partnerships to make assistive technology more available and affordable.

Key words;

Supply Chains | Local Production | Affordability | Policy & Regulation | Innovation