

2026

AWHEC ZANZIBAR

5th African Women's Health Conference



Save the Date

January 16-17, 2026

Madinat Al Bahr Business &
Spa Hotel Zanzibar - Tanzania

"Chasing Zero Harm Approach"



CONFERENCE BOOKLET

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WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,

It is with immense joy and heartfelt pride that I welcome each and every one of you to the 5th African Women's Health Conference (AWHEC).

As the founder of this empowering initiative, I am deeply honored by your presence and your continued commitment to advancing women's health—not only across Africa but around the world. Since our inaugural conference, your dedication, passion, and expertise have fueled the momentum behind this vital movement.

To reflect on our journey so far, here are the AWHEC events to date, including the upcoming conference:

- 1st AWHEC: 5th – 6th December 2019, Kigali, Rwanda
- 2nd AWHEC: 16th – 17th January 2023, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- 3rd AWHEC: 19th – 20th January 2024, Kampala, Uganda
- 4th AWHEC: 10th – 11th January 2025, Kampala, Uganda
- 5th AWHEC: 16th – 17th January 2026, Zanzibar, Tanzania

I am truly grateful to share this space with such inspiring changemakers.

AWHEC is more than just a conference. It is a community, a platform, and a call to action. It is where ideas are born, where partnerships take root, and where we collectively rise to meet the complex challenges women face in healthcare. Together, we are shaping a future where every woman—regardless of geography—has access to equitable, respectful, and high-quality care.

Over the course of this gathering, I encourage you to connect, collaborate, and challenge conventional thinking. Share your stories. Ask bold questions. Celebrate progress—and confront the barriers that still exist. Let's listen deeply, learn continuously, and lead with courage and compassion.

Your voice matters. Your insights matter. And your participation is what makes this conference impactful. I am confident that the conversations and commitments we cultivate here will spark real, sustainable change—within our communities, our health systems, and far beyond.

Thank you for standing with us in this noble mission. Let's make this a time of inspiration, innovation, and collective transformation.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Nellie Shuri Boma, MD, MPH, CPHQ, CMQ, CPPS, CPHRM
Founder & Conference Chairwoman

ABOUT US

In 2010, I created a forum within the United Arab Emirates with the primary objective of cultivating an inclusive and supportive environment.

This platform was specifically designed to facilitate the convergence of women, healthcare experts, and advocates, fostering the exchange of valuable insights, personal experiences, and pertinent discussions pertaining to the field of women's health. Over the course of an additional six successful years, these conferences continued to thrive and focus on the diseases/conditions that women experience. Thanks to the invaluable contributions of highly esteemed Emirati and non-Emirati female speakers who are renowned experts in their respective medical domains.

We expanded our horizons by taking the initiative to host the 1st African Women's Health Conference was held on December 5th – 6th, 2019 in Kigali

Rwanda and the 2nd African Women's Health Conference was held on January 16th -17th, 2023 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Both conferences led by an all-female faculty, addressing the top diseases/conditions affecting their respective countries.

More than 2000 physicians, allied health professionals, nurses, health care administrators, quality and safety officers, residents and students gathered to interact and engage in important discussions on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies based on evidence-based practices. Each year over two-days, the conference focus on diseases/conditions affecting women in the UAE. The conference was not sustainable due to funding constraints.

It is also our hope to resuscitate these conferences.

This 5th African Women's Health Conference provides a unique platform to understand and manage prevalent and high-risk pathologies affecting women. This acknowledge transfer that benefits all attendees, is consistent with the adage that "There are no bad students, only bad teachers"



OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES



OUR MISSION

To improve all dimensions of women's health in Africa.



OUR VISION

Our Diverse and Unique all female faculty, who are experts in their respective fields of medicine, are committed to knowledge transfer. This will be achieved through onsite interactions with healthcare professionals across Africa.



OUR VALUES

Compassion, Commitment, Collaboration, Courtesy and Creativity



MEET OUR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Dr. Nellie Shuri Boma

Conference Founder and
Chairwoman
Consultant Internal Medicine
MPH, CMQ, CPHQ, CPPS, CPHRM



Dr. Mary Rose Giattas

Conference Co-Chairwoman
GP & Specialist, International
Public Health
Director, Reproductive Cancers
Project – Jhpiego, Tanzania



Dr. Sheilla Rashid

Doctor of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Intensive
Care Unit STMC/TAWAM
Hospitals
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Alison Wade

Event Coordinator
Senior Nurse Case Coordinator –
Tawam Hospital, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Ms. Mungida Izeldin

Event Coordinator
Department of Health Registered
Nurse – Czech Rehabilitation Hospital,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



MEET OUR GUESTS OF HONOR



Dr. Saleh Fares Al-Ali

Consultant Emergency Medicine,
EMS and Disaster Medicine
President, International Federation
For Emergency Medicine, Abu Dhabi,
UAE



Dr. Salim Slim

Director of Preventive Service
and Health Education at the
Ministry of Health Zanzibar,
Tanzania



Dr. Fatma Kabole

Deputy Director, Directorate of
Preventive Services, Ministry of
Health Zanzibar, Tanzania



Dr. Salma Abdi Mahmoud

Consultant, Obstetrics And
Gynecology
Dean, School Of Health And
Medical Sciences, State
University Of Zanzibar,
Tanzania



Dr. Rasha Buhumaid

Consultant in Emergency Medicine &
Assistant Professor, President,
Emirates Society of Emergency
Medicine, Designated Institutional
Official, GME Department, MBRU,
Dubai, UAE



CONFERENCE

OBJECTIVE

The 5th African Women's Health Conference (AWHEC 2026) is committed to advancing women's health across Africa through a bold, inclusive, and solution-driven approach. The central objective of the conference is to promote the “Zero Approach”—a proactive strategy that emphasizes health promotion, early detection, and disease prevention to reduce avoidable illness and mortality among women.

This conference aims to:

- Empower women as leaders in healthcare by highlighting their vital role in transforming health systems and improving outcomes at all levels of care.
- Address the unique health challenges faced by women, including communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), emerging infectious diseases, HPV, and HIV; as well as non-communicable diseases such as type 2 diabetes, chest pain, stroke, hypertension, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- Bring attention to medical emergencies, maternal health crises, and their impact on families and society.
- Explore policy-driven solutions and government roles in strengthening disaster response, violence against women, mental health, tobacco use, health system resilience, and public health preparedness..
- Promote the indispensable contribution of nurses and frontline health workers in sustaining population health and delivering quality care.
- Foster collaboration and advocacy to influence health policy and ensure that no woman is left behind in Africa's health agenda.

Through engaging keynote speeches, scientific sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, AWHEC 2026 will inspire action, share best practices, and mobilize collective efforts to build a healthier future for women in Africa.



CONFERENCE

HIGHLIGHTS & TARGET

AUDIENCE

- Obstetrical /Gynecological Complications
- Cancers in Women
- Communicable Diseases
- Non-Communicable Diseases
- Leadership, Quality and Safety
- Emergencies in Women

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Allied Health Professionals
- Hospital Administrators
- Quality and Safety Professionals
- Residents and Students
- Healthcare Professionals



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DAY ONE
16 JANUARY 2026 | FRIDAY

TIME	TOPICS	FACULTY
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration	
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Welcoming Remarks	Dr. Nellie Shuri Boma, Consultant Internal Medicine, Founder/Conference Chairwoman of AWHEC Dubai, UAE
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Official Opening Remarks of Conference	Dr. Salma Abdi Mahmoud, Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dean in School of Health and Medical Sciences, State University of Zanzibar, Tanzania
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Keynote Address	Dr. Fatma Kabole, Deputy Director, Directorate of Preventive Services, Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Tanzania
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Leadership-The Role Women Play in Advancing Healthcare	Dr. Byanyima Rosemary Kusaba, Consultant Radiology, CEO of Mulago National Referral Hospital Kampala ,Uganda
11:30 am – 12:00 am	COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 1 – OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY		
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Pregnancy Complications: A Red Flag in Women	Prof. Andrea Avershima Ornguze, Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology Provost, College of Health Sciences, Rev. Fr Moses Orshio Adasu University, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Breast Cancer Awareness – “The Zero Approach”	Dr. Kamilya Omar, Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Coordinator RMNCAH Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Tanzania
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Cervical Cancer – “Why we should care?”	Dr. Ritu Nambiar, Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Burjeel Medical City Hospital, Abu Dhabi ,UAE
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Infertility in Women – “Does it matter on Africa?”	Dr. Panayota Zarmakoupis, Consultant Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Pittsburgh ,USA
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Trauma in Pregnancy: Two Lives in One	Dr. Salma Al Rajaby, Consultant Emergency Medicine Rashid Hospital, Dubai, UAE
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	LUNCH BREAK	
SESSION 2 – COMMUNICABLE DISEASES		
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Malaria in Women: A Societal Issue	Dr. Maulid Issa Kassim, Specialist Tropical Disease Control, Deputy Program Manager, National Malaria Control Program, Ministry of Health, Zanzibar, Tanzania
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Tuberculosis In Women - Should We Care?	Dr. Akello Susan Adakun, Consultant Pulmonology Mulago National Referral Hospital Kampala, Uganda.
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Sexually Transmitted Infections – Its Impact on Women	Dr. Jessica Nsungwa, Medical Epidemiology, Master in Pediatrics, Commissioner for Maternal and Child Health Uganda
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Emerging Infectious Diseases	Dr. Maryam Amour, Internal Medicine, Senior Lecturer Dept Community Health (MUHAS) Muhimbili University College of Health and Allied Science Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	STI's and HIV Prevention in Women and Girls in Africa - An Overview	Dr. Edith Nakku-Joloba, Clinical Epidemiology Immediate Past President Uganda Medical Association & Senior Lecturer Makerere University Kampala, Uganda
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Antimicrobial Stewardship - African Women at the heart of the crisis	Dr. Sheilla Rashid, Doctor of Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacist, Intensive Care Unit STMC/TAWAM Hospitals Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE
6:00 pm – 6:15 pm	CLOSING REMARKS DAY 1	Dr. Nellie Shuri Boma, Consultant Internal Medicine, Founder/Conference Chairwoman of AWHEC Dubai, UAE



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DAY TWO
17 JANUARY 2026 | SATURDAY

TIME	TOPICS	FACULTY
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration	
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Opening Remarks	Dr. Nellie Shuri Boma, Consultant Internal Medicine, Founder/Conference Chairwoman of AWHEC Dubai, UAE
SESSION 3 – NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES		
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Type 2 Diabetes in Women - Medical and Economic Burdens	Dr. Atukunda Angella, Consultant Endocrinology, Assistant Clinical Head Mulago National Referral Hospital Kampala, Uganda
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Chest Pain in Women – An Enigma	Dr. Salma Al Rajaby, Consultant Emergency Medicine Rashid Hospital, Dubai, UAE
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Stroke in Women – Very Preventable	Dr. Khadija Hafidh, Consultant Diabetology, Head of Diabetes Unit Rashid Hospital Dubai, UAE
11:30 am – 12:00 am	COFFEE BREAK	
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Hypertension in Women	Dr. Khadija Hafidh, Consultant Diabetology, Head of Diabetes Unit Rashid Hospital Dubai, UAE
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	Dr. Akello Susan Adakun, Consultant Pulmonology Mulago National Referral Hospital Kampala, Uganda.
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	HPV Vaccination: Urgent Need for Gender Neutral Programming	Dr Mary Rose Giattas, General Practitioner and Master's of International Public Health, International Public Health Specialist, Reproductive Cancers Project Director Jhpiego Tanzania
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK	
SESSION 4 – WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT		
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Nursing Impact on Patient Care and Outcomes	Dr. Amal Al Haddad, Doctorate in Nursing, Director of Operation, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) Abu Dhabi, UAE
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	The Role of Nursing in Healthcare - An under appreciated role	Kasirye Elizabeth Omagino, Nursing Officer, National Treasurer (UNMU)
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Empowering Health: Coaching for Zero Harm in African Women's Health	Dr. Fatma Ridene, General Practitioner, Deputy CEO and Medical Director, Lotus Group Abu Dhabi, UAE
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Women and Crisis: A Closer Look at Disaster Medicine in Africa	Dr. Salma A. Elmisbah, Specialist Emergency Medicine Rashid Trauma Center Dubai , UAE
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	From Resident to Leader: Navigating Career Progression in Medicine	Dr. Rasha Buhumaid, Consultant in Emergency Medicine & Assistant Professor, President, Emirates Society of Emergency Medicine, DIO, GME Department, MBRU, Dubai, UAE
SESSION 5 – WOMEN'S WELL-BEING		
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Depression and Suicide in Women	Dr. Ester Steven Mzilangwe, Psychiatrist, Lecturer in Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, MUHAS, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Violence in Women: Impact on Society	Ms. Viktoria Slavkova, CEO Lab Intra LLC, Dubai, UAE
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Awards and Recognition	Dr. Saleh Fares Al-Ali, Consultant Emergency Medicine, EMS and Disaster Medicine, President International Federation for Emergency Medicine, Abu Dhabi, UAE
6:30 pm – 6:45 pm	OFFICIAL CLOSING REMARKS OF CONFERENCE	Dr. Nellie Shuri Boma, Consultant Internal Medicine, Founder/Conference Chairwoman of AWHEC Dubai, UAE

MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



Dr. Nellie Shuri Boma

Conference Founder and
Chairwoman
Consultant Internal Medicine
MPH, CMQ, CPHQ, CPPS, CPHRM



Dr. Rasha Bhumaid

Consultant in Emergency Medicine
& Assistant Professor, President,
Emirates Society of Emergency
Medicine, Designated Institutional
Official, GME Department, MBRU,
Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Byanyima Rosemary
Kusaba**

Consultant, Radiology
CEO, Mulago National Referral
Hospital
Kampala, Uganda



Dr. Fatma Ridene

Deputy CEO and Medical Director
Lotus Group Abu Dhabi,
UAE



Prof. Andrea Avershima Ornguze

Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Provost, College of Health Sciences
Rev. Fr Moses Orshio Adasu University,
Makurdi – Benue State, Nigeria



Ms. Viktoria Slavkova

CEO, Lab Intra LLC
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Amal Al Haddad

Doctorate in Nursing, Director of
Operation, Sheikh Shakhboub
Medical City (SSMC)
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Panayota Zarmakoupis

Consultant, Reproductive
Endocrinology and Infertility
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland,
USA



Dr. Ritu Nambiar

Consultant, Obstetrics &
Gynecology
Head, OB-GYN Department –
Burjeel Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE



MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



Dr. Khadija Hafidh

Consultant, Diabetology
Head of Diabetes Unit, Rashid
Hospital
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Salma Al Rajaby

Consultant, Emergency
Medicine
Rashid Hospital
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Salma A. Elmisbah

Specialist, Emergency Medicine
Rashid Trauma Center
Dubai, UAE



Dr. Sheilla Rashid

Doctor of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Intensive Care Unit
STMC/TAWAM Hospitals
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Jesca Nsungwa

Medical Epidemiology, Master's in
Pediatrics
Commissioner for Maternal and Child
Health
Ministry of Health, Uganda



Dr. Edith Nakku-Joloba

Clinical Epidemiology
Immediate Past President,
Uganda Medical Association &
Senior Lecturer, Makerere
University, Kampala, Uganda



Dr. Atukunda Angella

Consultant, Endocrinology
Assistant Clinical Head
Mulago National Referral Hospital
Kampala, Uganda



Dr. Akello Susan Adakun

Consultant, Pulmonology
Mulago National Referral Hospital
Kampala, Uganda.



Kasiry Elizabeth Omagino

Nursing Officer, National
Treasurer (UNMU)



MEET OUR LOCAL FACULTY



Dr. Fatma Kabole

Deputy Director, Directorate of Preventive Services, Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Tanzania



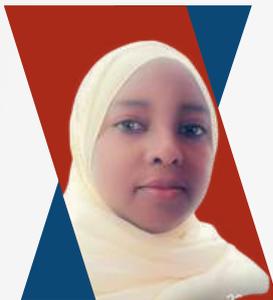
Dr. Salma Abdi Mahmoud

Consultant, Obstetrics And Gynecology
Dean, School Of Health And Medical Sciences, State University Of Zanzibar, Tanzania



Dr. Mary Rose Giattas

Conference Co-Chairwoman
GP & Specialist, International Public Health
Director, Reproductive Cancers Project – Jhpiego, Tanzania



Dr. Kamilya Omar

Specialist, Obstetrics and Gynecology,
National Program Manager, RMNCAH Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Tanzania



Dr. Maulid Issa Kassim

Specialist, Tropical Disease Control, Deputy Program Manager, National Malaria Control Program, Ministry of Health, Zanzibar, Tanzania



Dr. Maryam Amour

Internal Medicine, Senior Lecturer, Dept. Community Health (MUHAS) Muhimbili University College of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania



Dr. Ester Steven Mzilangwe

Psychiatrist, Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, MUHAS, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

OUR **SUPPORTERS/SPONSORS**



CONFERENCE GALLERY

4TH AFRICAN WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

January 10th – 11th 2025
Imperial Royale Hotel - Kampala, Uganda

