**MWANZO BORA – THE BEST BEGINNING**

A Training Program for Child Health Care Workers in Tanzania Mainland to Promote Early Diagnosis of Developmental Delays in Children Aged 0–4 Years

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**Introduction**

- Tanzania is one of the developing countries with the highest prevalence rate of children with various developmental disabilities, estimated at 1,011,024 only in Mainland Tanzania (NBS, 2014).
- Most children with these problems continue to show developmental deficits into late childhood and maturity, consequently affecting their functioning as adults.
- Effective early screening supports early intervention and minimizes developmental gaps in these children, as well as minimizes economic consequences at the national level.
- Currently, early screening is not effectively conducted in Tanzania, mainly due to lack of knowledge among child health care workers (Ministry of Health & Social Welfare et al 2016).

**Our Goal**

- To train child health care workers in Tanzania on effective early screening of developmental delays.

**Hypothesis**

- We hypothesize that, training of child health care workers on effective developmental screening, will improve their knowledge, attitudes and practice towards detection of developmental delays in children.

**Participants**

- 17 Child Health workers
- Chato District Hospital
- 15 Child Health Care Nurses
- 2 Social Workers

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**Introduction of the Training**

- National & District data regarding children with disabilities
- Policy framework

**Importance of early developmental screening**

- Emotionally
- Economically
- Time appropriateness

**Normative Development**

- Developmental milestone age 0–4 yrs

**Screening of Developmental Delays**

- Concept and determinants
- Fine & Gross motor
- Cognitive
- Communication & Language
- Social Emotional
- Screening tools

**Working with Parents**

- Importance
- Principles of working with families
- Considering parents' concerns about children

**Working with other Professionals**

- Initiation of referrals
- Follow up of Referrals

**Conclusion**

- We expect this training program to improve developmental screening practices in the district and latter to be replicated in other districts in Tanzania.