



WGH is an organization built on a global movement with the largest network of women and allies working to challenge power and privilege for gender equity in health. It was established in 2015 and has grown to include 41 Chapters in 36 countries, and expects to have 100 by 2023. With around 5,500 members and 70,000 supporters in over 90 countries,

We are the Zambian Chapter of Women in Global Health with over 230 members dedicated to ensuring that we advocate for our vision and mission in this nation.

### We believe

We believe that everyone has the right to attain equal levels of participation in leadership and decision-making regardless of gender.

### **Our Vision**

Gender equality within global health leadership.

#### **Our Mission**

To improve global health through Gender Transformative Leadership by the utilization of: advocacy, training, education, research, policy recommendations, mentorship and networking opportunities

We hope you enjoy reading about what's happening in our local chapter, if you would like to find out what's happening globally please subscribe to the Women in Global Health Weekly bulletin.

Women in Global Health Zambia Leadership



### **Chapter Bulletin**

**EDITORS: DR TEPWANJI MPETEMOYA AND MS** 

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COMMUNICATIONS TEAM WRITER: DR MALITA

**MWALE** 

This bulletin is made available every last Friday of the month and distributed via our mailing list and Whatsapp Group. We are introducing a new quarterly section called 'Zambian Heroine of health' which will highlight the women in our nation who have made a huge impact on health. For more information kindly get in touch with our communications Team via our email address: wghzambia@womeninglobalhealth.org



### BECOME A MEMBER OF WGH ZAMBIA TODAY:

HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/CWT8Y5J8T HLUM3FW6

Keep up with our activities in real-time via social media:









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### Independence Day Commemoration

58 years ago Zambia gained independence. To celebrate our freedoms, we asked female health care workers "As a woman in healthcare, do you think your experience is better than women who were in your field at the time of independence?"



Emergency medical care has never been as evolved as it is today. We have gone from being a country with little to no trained emergency medical service providers to one where males and females alike are being produced by our own, from our own and for our own. I am honored to be a part of the first group of Zambian- qualified paramedics

### <u>Elisa Mwaba</u>

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PARAMEDIC



I believe that despite our healthcare system still facing challenges with age-old biases like gender roles, we have come a long way. Before independence there was an underrepresentation of Women in leadership positions in medicine but today we see more women taking the lead

### Kutemba Malenji

REGISTRAR PEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH



I believe that my experience is far much better than those of my predecessors in the field of mental health care. Today there are more women making their mark on the frontline in the fight against mental health problems in Zambia

### **Mutale Chupa**

REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGYIST/CEO THE COUNSELING CORNER ZAMBIA







### Independence Day Commemoration

58 years ago Zambia gained independence. To celebrate our freedoms, we asked female health care workers "As a woman in healthcare, do you think your experience is better than women who were in your field at the time of independence?"



Yes I think it is because I believe society is more liberal with the kind of careers women can pursue as compared to those times of independence. During those times, there were certain careers which society deemed suitable for Women and not many women were given opportunities to take up leadership opportunities

**Bupe Katongo** 

PHARMACIST



Women have always been the backbone of healthcare and it is great to see how far we have come and all the things we are able to do. We are taking up more space than we did before and taking on leadership roles. I am excited to see how much further we would've gone after the next 58 years!

### Malita Mwale

DOCTOR/PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS OFFICER



Yeah it is

Because now there are more advanced technologies and equipment than before. Also, 58 years after independence the workload is lessening because alot of women are trained to join the workforce now

### **Precious Mungabwa**

REGISTERED NURSE/MIDWIFE







# A Warrior of B R E A S T C A N C E R

By Phindile T. Sakala , 28th Oct 2022

### Mulenga Mwenda

Mulenga describes herself as a fun loving, self-motivated, family oriented individual. Among her hobbies are reading, cooking and knitting. In the professional space, Mulenga holds a Bachelors Degree in Parasitology & Entomology and a Masters degree in Medical Parasitology. She is the lead scientist at PATH Zambia and has over the years slowly moved her specialty from parasitology and entomology to pathogen genomics.

Over the last two years, she has worked with COVID 19 pandemic response in diagnosis and sequencing of SARS COV2. She also works in malaria research, tracking and monitoring antimalarial drug resistance in the malaria parasites. In a nutshell her contribution to Global Health has been understanding the dynamics of organisms that cause disease and reporting any suspicions that could affect the human population to the relevant policy makers. We could call her a "science spy".

Mulenga's breast cancer journey began in the early months of 2022. This was after noticed that she had a lump on her right breast chest area. Weeks later, upon first examination via ultrasound she was informed she had a cyst on her chest but using her science brain she read through her report able and was characterize her lump and decided to seek further medical attention .During the appointment her doctor conducted a physical breast examination and called for a biopsy to be done. It was then that she was diagnosed with non-invasive DCIS breast cancer.

The management plan was to have mastectomy the on affected breast and to conduct another biopsy for the lumps. After further investigation she diagnosed with was invasive stage 2B breast cancer which required her both to start chemotherapy and radiography.

"as nice as it is having someone fluff pillows for you, it starts to take a toll on you like you're unable to do things for yourself and I've been watching life pass me by really..... But being able to wake up every day and face the day, I realized that there is a stronger person in me that I didn't know existed."

#### **Nuggets of advice**

For women diagnosed with breast cancer; "This is a personal journey. Winning or seeing the next day depends on how you feel today. It's okay to cry and feel bad but it's important to pick yourself up afterwards"

For women aspiring to be leaders in global health; "You need to put in the extra work and don't shy away from opportunities"

For all women she says; "Tomorrow is not a given so do what you must today, write goals, have a hobby, take time out and love yourself"



## Chapter News



### YOUNG MIDWIFE LEADERS CONFERENCE: BARTHOLOMEW KAMLEWE

Was invited to facilitate a workshop for young midwife leaders as well as attend a Normal Labour and birth Conference in Aarhus, Denmark (Sep, 2022) which was held under the theme, "Challenging discussions in normal labour and birth".

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP; BARTHOLOMEW KAMLEWE

Participated in the Association elections and was elected Vice President for UNZANA (University of Zambia Nurses Association), for the School of Nursing (Ridgeway Campus). Was the only in-service candidate who participated in the elections and looking forward to working with organisations such as WGHZ to provide mentorship and leadership capacity building programs for students.





#### **WELCOME TO WGH ZAMBIA!**

Following our last update of our chapter membership database on 29th October 2022. Our chapter has grown to include 232 members. We would like to welcome all our new members and urge you to sign up for a Team!

Our teams include advocacy, communications, research and capacity building

FOR MORE VISIT:







## Chapter News

### Women in Global Health Zambia

Gender transformative leadership in Zambia

Seminar series inviting women leaders in Zambia to discuss their leadership journeys.

20th October 2022 18:00 - 19:00 (CAT) Zoom meeting



Event 1: We recently launched the Gender transformative leadership seminar series. Join the next session on the 3rd November 2022 and invite women in your network to join in too



Event 2: #HealthToo is a womeninGH project to document stories of women #HealthWorkers who have experienced Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment (#SEAH) at work. Share anonymously & help drive policy change: https://bit.ly/3xtmkZD









### Upcoming Events

### Women in Global Health Zambia

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3rd November 2022

18:00 - 19:00 (CAT)

Zoom meeting





Capacity building team intends to hold a virtual event focused on building the capacity of its members by sharing information for team therefore would like to call on scholarship/fellowship alumni to be speakers at the said free event.









