

# Real-time monitoring of COVID-19 impacts among adolescents and young people, their families, and communities in Southern Highlands regions in Tanzania

**Lusajo Kajula, Ph.D.**

UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti

**Tia Palermo, Ph.D.**

University at Buffalo

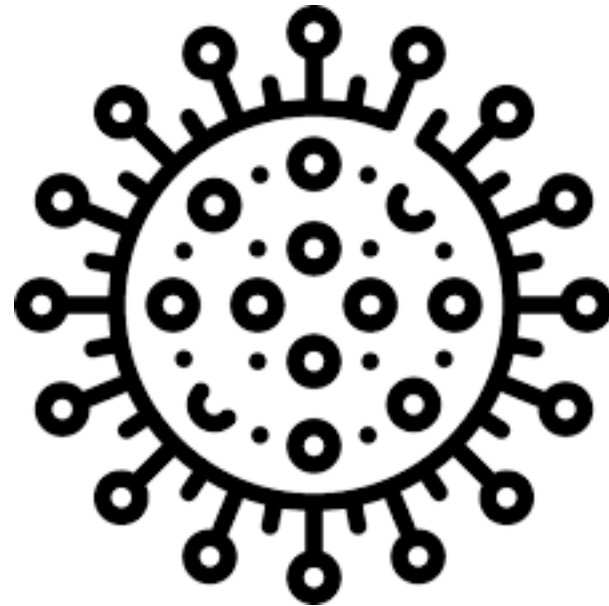
LINEA annual project meeting, LSHTM

October 14, 2020



# COVID-19 pandemic

- 35,874,626 cases & >1 million deaths globally
- Economic consequences
  - social distancing
  - reduced demand for exports
  - dramatic reduction in tourism
- Predicted to increase poverty and inequalities



# COVID-19 and gender

## Exacerbating gender inequalities

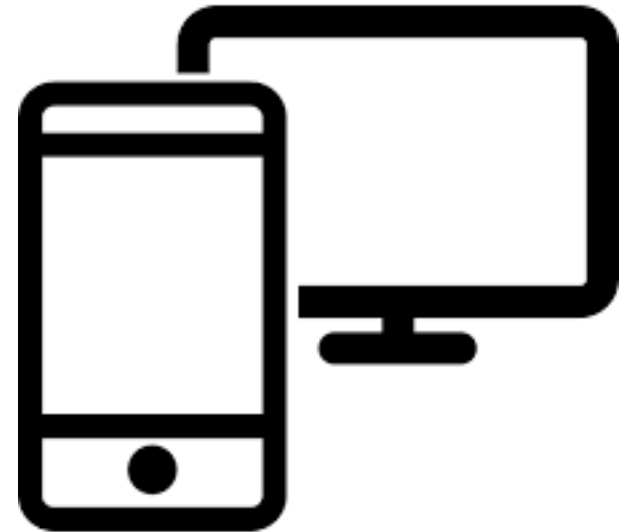
- Infection risk: more women in health workforce
- Reproductive health risks & maternal mortality in overburdened health systems
- Early pregnancy & early marriage
- Increased care burden (children, sick family members)
- Women more likely to be laid off or in informal sector (less access to social protection/ unemployment)



For more info see: Hidrobo M, Kumar N, Palermo T, Peterman A, Roy S. (2020). Why gender-sensitive social protection is critical to the COVID-19 response in low- and middle-income countries. Washington, DC, International Food Policy Research Institute.  
<https://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/133762/file/name/133971.pdf#page=91>

# Mobile study: impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods, health & well-being

- Leveraging on-going longitudinal study in Tanzania
- Data collection: Households, health facilities, communities, youth (quant & qual)
- Timeline: Sept-Dec 2020



# Tanzania Adolescent Cash Plus Evaluation Team

**University at Buffalo:** Tia Palermo (co-Principal Investigator);

**EDI Group:** Johanna Choumert Nkolo (co-Principal Investigator), Respichius Mitti (co-Principal Investigator), Bhoke Munanka;

**TASAF:** Paul Luchemba, Tumpe Mnyawami Lukongo;

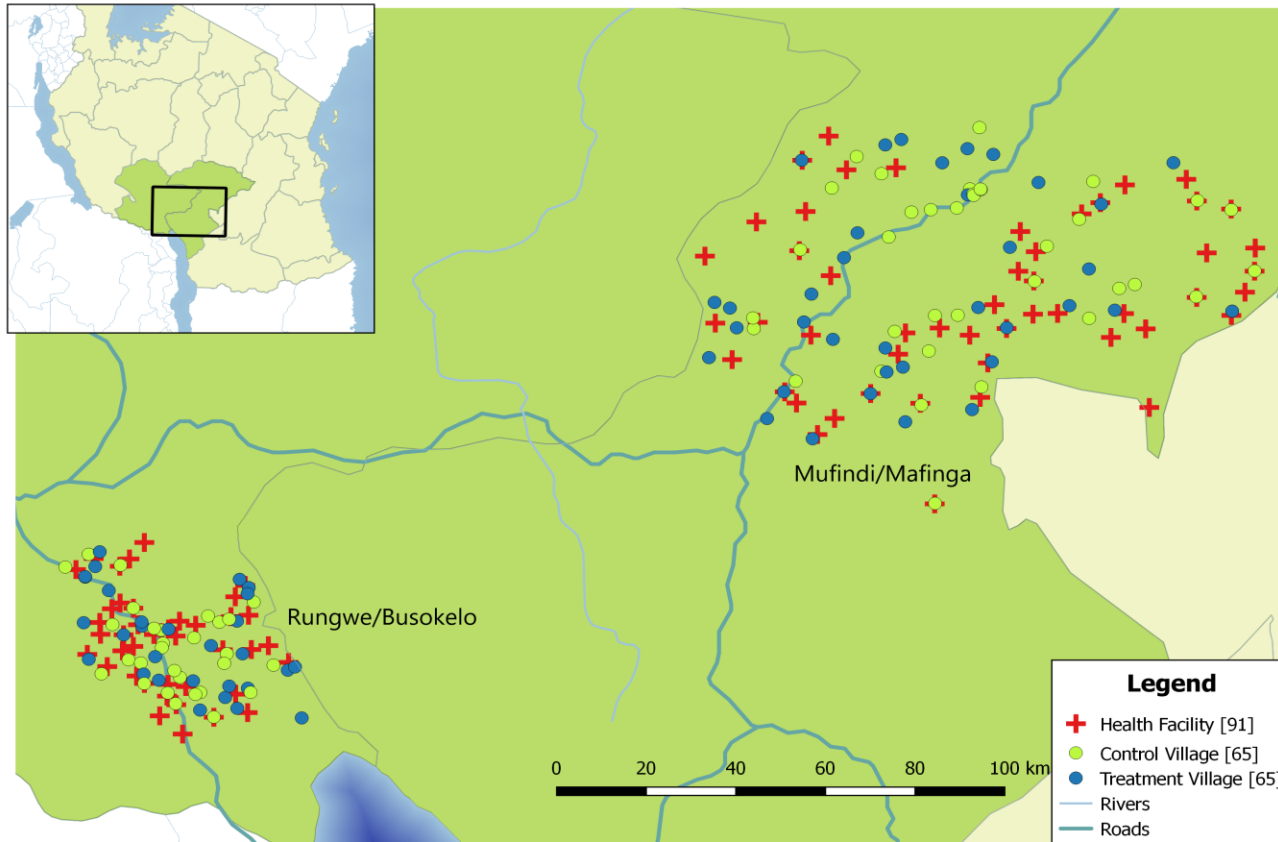
**TACAIDS:** Aroldia Mulokozi;

**UNICEF Tanzania:** Ulrike Gilbert, Paul Quarles van Ufford, Rikke Le Kirkegaard, Frank Eetaama

**UNICEF Office of Research:** Valeria Groppo, Lusajo Kajula (qualitative co-PI), Leah Prencipe, Jennifer Waidler



# Study areas, Iringa & Mbeya



# Research questions

- How is the pandemic affecting livelihoods and health access?
- What are the coping strategies employed by youth & families
- What are the gendered impacts of COVID-19
- What are the barriers to health services utilization (demand and supply-side)?



# Study innovation

- “Real-time” impacts - leveraging on-going cohort
- Broad range of well-being indicators (health & economic)
- Triangulating data sources: health-facilities, communities households, youth
- Mixed methods
- Reaching a “hard to reach” population
  - Mobile adolescents
  - Extremely poor households
  - rural





# Ethics & mobile data collection

- Difficult to obtain parental consent for minors over phone
- “Safe word” for privacy
- Violence module
  - rapport built over 4 years
  - not asking about sexual violence



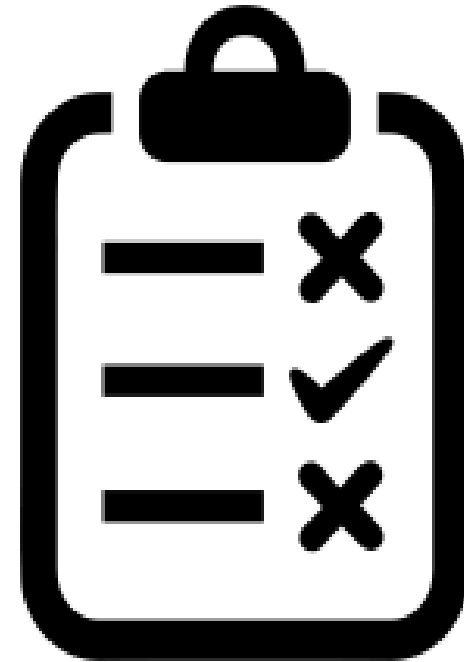
# Other considerations

- Using validated, previously used modules/items
- Timing: shortened questionnaires (max 30 min.)
- Incentives: airtime
- National phone registration; many phones disconnected in 2020
- Elections in October 2020



# Study tools

- Youth quantitative survey
- Youth qualitative guides
- Community qualitative guide
- Household SMS
- Youth SMS
- Health facility SMS



Multidimensional  
outcomes to be  
examined



# Food & water security



# Livelihoods & economic activities



Health-related knowledge,  
attitudes, sickness,  
depressive symptoms



# Health services utilization & barriers





Transactional sex (starting relationship for financial reasons)

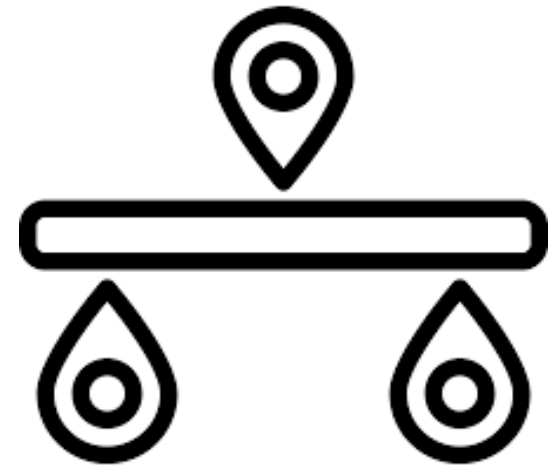


# Emotional & physical violence



# What's next?

- Analysis of data (Oct-Dec 2020)
- Report & briefs write-up (Nov 2020 – Feb 2021)
- Dissemination (2021)
- In-depth analysis for publication (2021-2022)
- Wave 4 in-person data collection (2021?)



# Ahsanteni!

Contact:

[lkajula@unicef.org](mailto:lkajula@unicef.org)

[tiapaler@buffalo.edu](mailto:tiapaler@buffalo.edu)

