Biography
Dr Janneth Maridadi Mghamba
Assistant Director,
Epidemiology and Disease control section
&
Program Director, Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program

Dr Mghamba is the current Assistant Director for Epidemiology and Disease Control section, a section which oversees extensive communicable disease programs portfolio ranging from Avian Influenza, Rift Valley, Dengue, Ebola to diseases like HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Neglected Tropical diseases. Her section is responsible for overseeing the development, formulation as well as reviewing policy guidelines for communicable epidemic diseases as well as coordinating the control and response activities from the national to lower level. She also oversee major communicable diseases and Global Health Security projects under CDC/PEPFAR initiatives, USAID-PMI, World Bank and US Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which all are geared in enhancing communicable preparedness and response activities within and outside Tanzania.

Due to her position, Dr. Mghamba serves as one of the key advisors to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Government on emerging diseases and re emerging diseases, and also as a focal person representing the Government on communicable diseases cross border activities in regional bodies namely East and Central Africa Community, SADC and AU.

Dr Mghamba is trained as medical doctor with two Master degrees major in Applied Epidemiology obtained in Witswaterand University in South Africa and Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya. Understanding the demand of public health specialists within the country, she pioneered the development of Masters course in Applied Epidemiology in 2008, whose main mission is to ensure that the critical mass required of epidemiologists and laboratory managers at national and sub national is met, so as to meet the challenges of current, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health problems in Tanzania and beyond.

Since establishment, the Masters Program under her leadership has bolster public health preparedness against emerging infectious disease threats of over 50 outbreak investigations within the country with major ones under her leadership role being Rift Valley Fever, Cholera, Pandemic Influenza H1N1, Malaria, Dengue Fever, Measles and Rotavirus.

At national level, Dr. Mghamba is the IHR 2005 Focal person, a Co chair –of the National Task force for Preparedness and Response for Communicable diseases, and member of the in country Polio Committee and Vaccine Adverse Effects. She represents Tanzania as a member of the Program Subcommittee, WHO Afro region. Dr Mghamba is also an honorary lecturer in Muhimbili University College of Allied Health Sciences and has also given lectures in Copenhagen University, Denmark on Disease Control Programs setup in Africa.