

## Abstract Published in Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ) – IPHC 2024

**Title:** Holistic healing: Faith Partnerships for Primary Health and Well-being

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- **Background:** Despite not being a religious state, over 90% of Tanzanians identify as members of two largest religious communities, Muslims and Christians. Religious establishments have contributed significantly to the nation's supply of social services including healthcare and education. Religious platforms provide religious leaders with opportunities to easily access community resources and influence changes in all aspects of life.
- **Methods:** ELCT run different health programs in areas of HIV/AIDS, palliative care (PC), sexual reproductive health and rights, and humanitarian emergency response (HER). ELCT utilized interfaith dialogue and collaborations, grassroots and high-level advocacy, community outreaches for service provision, and asset-based community development. Developed reference materials and guided religious leaders while quoting scriptures on matters of communicable diseases, SRHR, and gender-based violence.
- **Results:** Improved access to information and education on health hence increased health-seeking behaviour among communities. Contribution to achieving 95-95-95 UNAIDS goals through awareness creation, promotion of HIV testing, ART adherence, reduction of stigma and discrimination, GBV, and prevention of violence against children (VAC). Improved linkages with health facilities for health and related services. Strengthened community engagement to support interventions that improve health and wellbeing of people, such as outreach activities, community dialogues (Time Travel Method), Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) interventions, and school engagements.
- **Conclusion:** The scriptures are full of information, and can be referred when providing education on different concepts of health and related services. Limited understanding of scriptures among many has produced misconceptions and contributed to the increase of disease burden, both communicable and non-communicable.