



# Longitudinal Evaluation of Public Health Surveillance System Performance and Risk Reduction in Tanzania

*A Quasi-Experimental Design, 2000–2026*

Juma Mkumbo<sup>1,2</sup> Fatuma Mwinyi<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Dar es Salaam

<sup>2</sup> Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha

<sup>3</sup> Department of Clinical Research, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha

Correspondence: [jmkumbo@yahoo.com](mailto:jmkumbo@yahoo.com)

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## Author notes

*Juma Mkumbo is affiliated with University of Dar es Salaam and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Fatuma Mwinyi is affiliated with Department of Clinical Research, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Public health surveillance systems are critical for early detection and response to outbreaks, yet longitudinal evidence of their direct impact on population-level risk reduction in sub-Saharan Africa remains scarce. Methodological challenges in attributing health outcomes to surveillance performance persist.

**Purpose and objectives:** This study aims to evaluate the longitudinal performance of integrated disease surveillance and response (IDSR) systems and quantify their causal effect on reducing epidemic-prone disease risk.

**Keywords:** *Public health surveillance, Quasi-experimental design, Risk reduction, Sub-Saharan Africa, Longitudinal evaluation, Health systems performance*

### Article Highlights

- Quasi-experimental design links surveillance performance directly to reduced outbreak risk.
- Longitudinal analysis of panel data from sentinel sites across Tanzania.
- Findings support sustained investment in core surveillance capacities.
- Methodology provides a model for causal inference in health systems evaluation.

### Core Finding

Enhanced surveillance system functionality is a significant determinant of reduced epidemic risk in sub-Saharan Africa.

*This study offers novel longitudinal evidence for health policy and systems strengthening.*

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