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### **Ifakara Health Institute Receives Grand Challenges Explorations Grant For Groundbreaking Research in Global Health and Development**

Dar es Salaam – Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) announced today that it is a [Grand Challenges Explorations](#) winner, an initiative funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). **Ms. Zawadi Mageni, a Research Scientist at IHI**, will pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled “**Engaging local shopkeepers to enhance last-mile delivery of essential medical supplies in hard-to-reach areas.**”

Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) supports innovative thinkers worldwide to explore ideas that can break the mold in how we solve persistent global health and development challenges. Ms. Mageni’s project is one of 51 Grand Challenges Explorations Round 19 grants announced today by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To receive funding, Ms. Mageni and other Grand Challenges Explorations winners demonstrated in a two-page online application a bold idea in one of [four critical global health and development topic areas](#). The foundation will be accepting applications for the next GCE round in February 2018.

The project will assess the last point of delivery by the Medical Stores Department (MSD) where stock is delayed before delivery to remotely located health centers, update a map of health centers and inventory of medical supplies respectively; create a database of reputable local shopkeepers for the last-mile delivery and determine the potential of using local shopkeepers to deliver essential medical supplies in hard-to-reach health centers. Using the web-based GIS database, the project will monitor the timely delivery of the essential medical supplies in hard-to-reach health centers.

[Ms. Mageni](#) has served as a researcher at IHI since June 2011, and currently she’s an affiliate of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in the UK. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Geography and Earth Science from Carthage College, U.S.A, and a Master’s degree in Infectious and Tropical Diseases from the LSHTM. Ms. Mageni is enrolled as a PhD student at LSHTM, where she is undertaking a project focusing on malaria bed-net interventions.

#### **About Grand Challenges Explorations**

[Grand Challenges Explorations](#) is a US\$100 million initiative funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). Launched in 2008, over 1365 projects in more than 65 countries have received Grand Challenges Explorations grants. The grant program is open to anyone from any discipline and from any organization. The initiative uses an agile, accelerated grant-making process with short two-page online applications and no preliminary data required. Initial grants of US\$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to US\$1 million.

**About Ifakara Health Institute**

Ifakara Health Institute is a world-class research organization in Africa, with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health that save lives. The Institute's work aims to improve people's health and wellbeing through research, training and services. IHI is committed to excellence and high technical standards. Scientists at IHI work across biomedical & ecological sciences, interventions & clinical trials, health-systems and policy.

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