



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH [NIMR]**



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About this Newsletter

This NEWSLETTER provides updates on the key activities conducted by NIMR. NIMR was established by NIMR Act No. 23 of 1979 (CAP. 59 (R.E. 2002) and continues to implement its core functions, which include conduct of health research, coordination, control and monitoring the carryout of research in the country. NIMR is also mandated to ensure the effective utilization of the generated scientific evidence to wide range of audiences through proper dissemination channels. The following events took place from January to March 2026.

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Editorial

Message from the Editorial Board

As we conclude the third quarter of 2026, we proud to highlight the remarkable progress made by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in advancing health research, strengthening community engagement, and building institutional capacity.

This quarter, NIMR achieved historic milestones, including expanding paediatric praziquantel delivery through the STEPPS project and advancing integrated HIV and non-communicable disease care, providing evidence that informs policies across Tanzania and the region. Our early career scientists from Mbeya Centre earned the prestigious DZiF Grant, reflecting our commitment to nurturing future research leaders.

We also focused on ethics, integrity, and wellbeing through nationwide training on public service values, workplace corruption, and mental health. Community engagement remained central, with women researchers in Tanga and Mbeya supporting vulnerable groups, including orphans, showing that science and social responsibility go hand in hand.

These achievements demonstrate the dedication of our researchers, staff, and partners. As we move forward, we encourage everyone to continue pursuing excellence, uphold ethical standards, and remain responsive to Tanzania's evolving health needs.

Together, we are building a healthier, more resilient nation.



Institutional Milestones

NIMR Research Shapes Africa's Approach to Integrated HIV and NCD Care

New evidence from a decade of research led by Tanzania's National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) on integrated HIV and non-communicable disease (NCD) care is shaping efforts across Africa to reform health systems. This comes ahead of the launch of the SPARK-NCD initiative, which aims to strengthen data and service integration across the continent.

At a high-level dissemination event in Zanzibar, Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Suleiman Hemed Abdulla, representing President

Hussein Ali Mwinyi, called for stronger collaboration among health experts to improve care for patients across Africa. He highlighted that people living with HIV increasingly face NCDs such as cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, cancer, and mental health disorders, stressing the need for coordinated, integrated care.

The event recognized the leadership of both the United Republic of Tanzania and the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government in addressing HIV and non-communicable diseases. Evidence from NIMR-led

studies, including the INTE-COMM trial in Tanzania and Uganda, shows that integrated, community-based care expands access to treatment while maintaining outcomes similar to traditional facility-based services.

Findings also indicate that bringing care closer to communities reduces transportation costs, waiting times, and stigma, while easing pressure on health facilities. This evidence informs policy discussions across Africa on integrated HIV and NCD services.

Representing the Chief Medical Officer from Tanzania's Ministry of Health, NIMR Director General Prof. Said About emphasized that the initiative ensures research translates into tangible benefits for communities.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said About, speaking during a dissemination meeting in Zanzibar where key findings from a decade of research on integrated HIV and non-communicable disease (NCD) care were presented.



Participants pose for a group photo with the Guest of Honour, Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Suleiman Hemed Abdulla, seated at the centre during the high-level dissemination event in Zanzibar that highlighted a decade of research led by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) on integrating HIV and non-communicable disease (NCD) care across Africa.

“Integrated service delivery allows patients with multiple conditions to receive care more efficiently, lowering hospital visits and healthcare costs, while reducing deaths and the burden of HIV and non-communicable diseases, particularly among vulnerable populations,” he said.

The SPARK-NCD initiative, led by Africa CDC, aims to strengthen disease surveillance and support data-driven decision-making across African countries. Discussions at the two-day continental meeting, held March 27–28, 2026, at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Zanzibar, highlighted the need to improve NCD surveillance, integrate services, and expand Africa-led, evidence-based health solutions.

With strong political commitment and robust locally generated evidence from institutions such as NIMR, experts say that integrating HIV and NCD services has the potential to transform healthcare systems across Africa, improving access, reducing costs, and saving lives.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said Aboud, speaking during a dissemination meeting in Zanzibar where key findings from a decade of research on integrated HIV and non-communicable disease (NCD) care were presented,



Participants attentively following proceedings during a dissemination meeting in Zanzibar where evidence from a decade of research on integrated HIV and non-communicable disease (NCD) care was being presented to inform health system strengthening across Africa.

Director General's Highlights

NIMR Director General Strengthens Research Direction at Tanga Centre to Address National Health Priorities

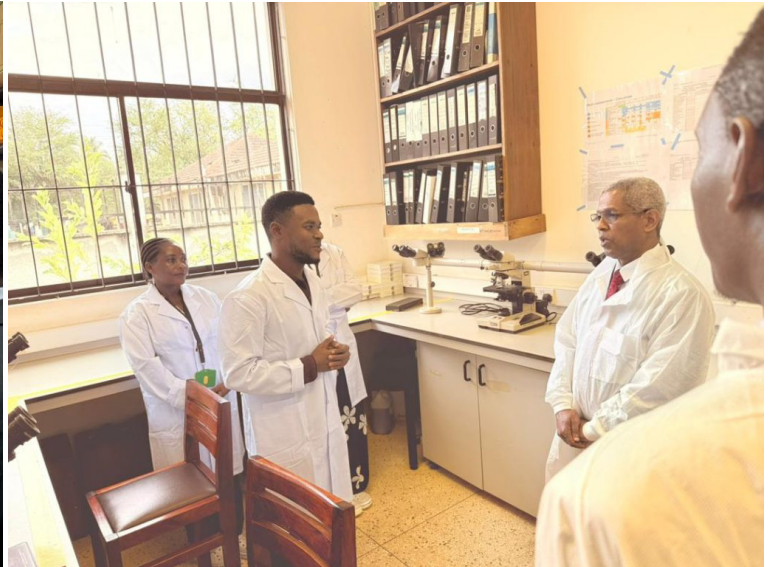
The Tanga Medical Research Centre welcomed Prof. Said Aboud, Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), on 24th February 2026 during an official working visit aimed at strengthening research direction and institutional collaboration. As one of NIMR's leading hubs for clinical trials and biomedical research, the Centre continues to play a pivotal role in addressing neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and other

national health priorities. Ongoing projects at the Centre include malaria, emerging arboviral infections, Mpox, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and NTDs such as onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, Buruli ulcer, and epilepsy. The Centre is also pioneering research on the intersection of climate change and health. During his visit, Prof. Aboud engaged in discussions on ongoing projects, providing strategic guidance to ensure alignment with

NIMR's overall strategic plan and national health research priorities. His presence highlighted the Tanga Centre's critical role in tackling pressing health challenges affecting local communities. The Director General emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships among NIMR centres, local and international collaborators, and community stakeholders to enhance health systems.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said Aboud, posing for a group photo with staff of the Tanga Medical Research Centre during his official working visit on 24 February 2026 aimed at strengthening research collaboration and institutional coordination.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said Aboud, observing ongoing research activities during his visit to the Tanga Medical Research Centre, where he assessed progress and provided strategic guidance to strengthen scientific work and institutional performance.

“Research should address local needs and priorities head on,” he stated, highlighting the importance of non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. He also encouraged researchers to avoid working in “silos” and to leverage networks, partnerships, and collaborations to navigate today’s dynamic research landscape.

Prof. Aboud further urged staff to

uphold work ethics, rules, regulations, and professional standards, stressing that integrity is key to achieving shared success and sustaining research excellence.

The NIMR Tanga management and staff expressed their gratitude for the visit, noting that it inspired them to continue their work with professionalism, dedication, and innovation. They emphasized that the Director

General’s visit demonstrated NIMR management’s commitment to supporting and strengthening research activities across all centres, while reaffirming their dedication to producing high-quality research that informs evidence-based health policies and services in Tanzania.

NIMR Sets New Focus on Strengthening Research and Staff Welfare at Amani Centre

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has placed renewed emphasis on strengthening the performance of the Amani Research Centre to enhance research productivity and improve staff welfare following a strategic visit by the Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, on 24 February 2026. The visit aimed to review the Centre's progress, listen to staff challenges and recommendations, and outline strategies to increase the contribution of the Amani Centre to

research development and institutional performance. Staff commended the efforts made by NIMR Management to improve the working environment and staff welfare, while also highlighting key challenges such as the need to improve research infrastructure and address staff welfare issues including promotions.

Prof. Aboud provided detailed clarifications on the concerns raised and used the opportunity to issue several directives to the Centre. He encouraged staff to prepare budget priorities that reflect real operational needs, strengthen plans for developing research infrastructure, intensify efforts to promote the Centre's work and achievements, and motivate researchers to increase the production of scientific publications, policy briefs, and strategic research projects.

He also commended staff for maintaining internationally accredited laboratories and for their continued

dedication to their work. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among researchers, other NIMR centres, local institutions, and various stakeholders to advance research that produces results aimed at improving community health.

On behalf of all staff, the Manager of the Amani Centre, Dr. William Kisinza, thanked the Director General for the visit, noting that it had greatly motivated staff and strengthened their commitment to ensuring that the Amani Centre continues to be a model of excellence in research and health services. He added that the guidance and direction provided by the Director General would further enhance the Centre's efficiency and staff development.

The visit forms part of NIMR leadership's broader plan to tour its research centres across the country in order to review progress, listen to staff concerns, improve institutional performance, and strengthen the contribution of research to national health development.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said Aboud, posing for a group photo with staff of the NIMR Amani Hill Research Station during his strategic visit aimed at strengthening research performance and staff welfare.

Director General Satisfied with Progress in Research and Health Services at NIMR Gonja Centre

The Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said S. Aboud, has expressed his satisfaction with the progress of research activities and health service delivery at the NIMR Gonja Centre following his official visit to the centre on 25 February 2026.

The visit was part of the Institute's routine leadership practice of touring its centres across the country to monitor performance, assess infrastructure development, and evaluate the contribution of research activities in improving health services for the community.

During the visit, Prof. Aboud inspected the ongoing building renovations, the development of the Research-Based Diagnostic Centre for human diseases, and the systems used for managing and

storing laboratory-generated data. He was informed that these improvements aim to enhance the quality of diagnostic services and strengthen the environment for conducting research.

Welcoming the Director General to address staff members, the Head of NIMR Gonja Centre, Mr. Said Frank Magogo, thanked Prof. Aboud for his continued technical support, guidance, and provision of resources that have contributed to strengthening the centre's core responsibilities in conducting research and providing services to the public.

While speaking to staff, Prof. Aboud commended them for their dedication and commitment to their duties. He expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved, particularly in the provision of laboratory

services to the community and the use of research data to identify new areas of study aimed at addressing health challenges in the country.

He emphasized the importance of strengthening the proper use of data generated through research and laboratory services to increase scientific evidence that can support the planning and improvement of health interventions for Tanzanians. The Director General's visit to NIMR Gonja Centre forms part of the Institute's broader efforts to ensure that its centres continue to strengthen the quality of research, improve the efficiency of diagnostic services, and contribute sustainably to the development of the health sector in the country.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said Aboud, posing for a group photo with staff of the NIMR Gonja Station during his official visit aimed at assessing research progress and strengthening health service delivery.



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said Aboud, inspecting the working environment and ongoing facility improvements during his official visit to the NIMR Gonja Station

Events

NIMR Women Celebrate International Women's Day by Supporting Orphaned Children

In celebration of International Women's Day, women from the NIMR Tanga Research Centre marked the occasion by visiting the FURAHA Orphanage Centre in Raskazone, Tanga, providing essential supplies including flour, rice, cooking oil, laundry and bathing soaps. After receiving the donations, the children expressed their gratitude and joy through songs and games.

The annual celebrations take place every 8th March, and this year's theme was: "Women's and Girls' Rights, the Foundation for Inclusive Development Towards Vision 2050."

Speaking on behalf of the women of NIMR Tanga, Dr. Veneranda Bwana emphasized that it is customary

for NIMR women to participate in community initiatives and highlighted that every day is an opportunity to bring positive change to others' lives.

"International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate women, but it is also a moment to show solidarity with those in difficult circumstances," she stressed.

The orphanage supervisor thanked the NIMR Tanga women for their support and encouraged other stakeholders to continue efforts to provide assistance, noting that the children require ongoing support to sustain their lives.



Women from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Tanga Research Centre sharing a joyful moment together during their visit to Furaha Orphanage Centre as part of activities to mark International Women's Day, where they supported children with essential supplies and community solidarity.

NIMR Mbeya Women Mark International Women's Day with Compassion and Work Life Balance Education

In celebration of International Women's Day, On 8th March, women from the NIMR Mbeya Centre demonstrated solidarity and community commitment through various social initiatives, acts of compassion, and educational activities aimed at improving the wellbeing of women and vulnerable groups. This year's celebrations carried the theme: "Women's and Girls' Rights, the Foundation for Inclusive Development Towards Vision 2050."

The celebrations began with a special visit to the Mountain Glory Orphanage Centre, where NIMR Mbeya staff donated food, clothing, and a washing machine to help improve the daily lives of the children at the centre.

The women also visited the Ruanda Health Centre, delivering bed linens for the maternity ward. The contribution is expected to enhance patient care and improve the environment, particularly for mothers giving birth at the centre.

The main day of the celebration focused on education and training. NIMR Mbeya doctors and researchers provided women from various institutions with insights on the importance of health research and the role of women in actively participating in research. The goal was to raise awareness and inspire women to contribute to science and healthcare development in their communities.

Speaking during the events, Dr. Betrece Ngaraguza guided women on maintaining balance between work, family, and community responsibilities without compromising their health, stressing the importance of careful planning to safeguard physical and mental wellbeing.

Dr. Lucy Mrema delivered a session on the relationship between women's biology and modern life, highlighting how such knowledge helps women effectively manage work, personal life, and family while ensuring their health is maintained.



Women from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Mbeya Centre posing for a group photo during activities to mark International Women's Day, highlighting their commitment to community service, women's empowerment, and support for vulnerable groups.

The women's mentor at NIMR Mbeya, Mwana-harabu Gwato, emphasized that these activities are part of an established culture among NIMR women. She noted that NIMR Mbeya women have a tradition of supporting communities with special needs as a way of giving back. The celebrations reaffirmed that women are not only a driving force in health research and development but also pillars in enhancing community well-being through education, service, and solidarity.



Women from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Mbeya Centre posing for a group photo with donated items alongside representatives of Mountain Glory Orphanage Centre during activities to mark International Women's Day.

Research and Policy Developments

NIMR Convenes Policy Dialogue to Strengthen National Preparedness for Disease Outbreaks



Participants pose for a group photo during a high-level policy dialogue organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) at the CEEMI Hall in Dar es Salaam, bringing together researchers, policymakers, and health sector stakeholders to strengthen the use of scientific evidence in shaping national policies for preparedness, prevention, and response to disease outbreaks.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) on January 8, 2026 convened a high-level policy dialogue bringing together researchers, policymakers, health sector decision-makers, and other stakeholders to strengthen the use of scientific evidence in shaping policies related to national preparedness, prevention, and response to emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks. The meeting was officially opened by Ahmad Mohamed Makuwani, Director of Reproductive, Mater-

nal, Women and Child Health Services at the Ministry of Health Tanzania, who represented the Chief Medical Officer. In his remarks, Dr. Makuwani noted that the dialogue comes at a critical time when the country continues to experience outbreaks of diseases such as Cholera, Dengue fever, COVID-19, and Marburg virus disease. He emphasized that these public health threats place significant pressure on health systems, underscoring the need for policies grounded in strong scientific

evidence.

“This dialogue provides an important platform to reflect on the current landscape of disease outbreaks in the country and to strengthen our collective capacity to prevent, detect early, and respond effectively to present and future public health threats,” said Dr. Makuwani. He added that policy dialogues serve as a vital mechanism for linking research evidence with policy decisions to ensure informed and evidence-based actions.

Dr. Makuwani also highlighted the importance of strengthening local research, including research on traditional medicine. Reflecting on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted that traditional medicine contributed to supporting communities during the crisis. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to continue investing in research, including strengthening national research systems.

Speaking at the event, NIMR Director General Said Aboud explained that the dialogue was organized to address critical issues related to diseases with outbreak potential while ensuring that research findings are translated into policies and national health programs.

Prof. Aboud described the dialogue as a knowledge translation platform that connects researchers, policymakers, and implementers to review available evidence, exchange experiences, and develop recommendations aimed at strengthening the country's preparedness, prevention, and response mechanisms against

disease outbreaks.

"Research shows that effective outbreak preparedness depends on strong disease surveillance systems, a well-equipped health workforce, and reliable supply chains for essential medical commodities," Prof. Aboud noted.

Also speaking during the meeting, James Tumaini Tengia from the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government commended NIMR for organizing the dialogue, noting that it successfully brought together researchers, policymakers, and decision-makers to review research findings and generate recommendations that can improve health policies and service delivery guidelines. NIMR Senior Research Scientist Elizabeth Shayo said the dialogue provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to discuss effective strategies for addressing potential disease outbreaks in the country.

Summarizing the meeting, NIMR researcher and dialogue coordinator Ernest Mazigo noted that policy-

makers and decision-makers had received several recommendations and had begun exploring ways to integrate them into national health policy frameworks and implementation strategies.

The one-day dialogue was held at the CEEMI Hall at NIMR's sub-offices in Dar es Salaam. Discussions focused on how scientific evidence can strengthen national health policies and service delivery guidelines, while also identifying research priorities and implementation gaps. The event was organized in collaboration with experts from NIMR's Directorate of Research Coordination and Promotion, including Emmanuel Makundi, Stellah Kilima, and Elizabeth Shayo, with moderation by Moshi Ntabaye.



Participants engaging in discussions during a high-level policy dialogue organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Dar es Salaam, focusing on strengthening the use of scientific evidence to inform national policies for preparedness, prevention, and response to emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks.

NIMR Recognized Among Top Global Institutions in EDCTP-Supported Health Research

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has emerged as a leading contributor to internationally competitive health research following its strong performance in scientific publications supported by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

Recent analyses show that NIMR ranks 23rd globally among all institutions contributing to publications under the EDCTP2 programme, placing the Institute among the top 25 research institutions worldwide involved in this prestigious research initiative.

Within sub-Saharan Africa, NIMR is ranked among the top ten research institutions, while in East Africa it stands as the second-leading institution, surpassed only by Makerere University in Kampala. The Institute also ranks ahead of several well-established regional research centres.

This recognition reflects NIMR's sustained scientific productivity, high-quality research output, and impactful contributions across EDCTP priority research areas. These include studies on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Lower respiratory infections, and other emerging infectious diseases. Research conducted by NIMR scientists continues to generate evidence that informs policy, strengthens health systems, and advances both continental and global health agendas.

The Institute's strong standing not only reaffirms its position as Tanzania's premier medical research institu-



tion but also highlights the country's growing visibility and leadership in global health research.

NIMR's performance provides a strong foundation for its continued engagement and leadership in the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership's next phase programme, EDCTP3, as well as in large multi-country research consortia and regional capacity-strengthening initiatives.

As the Institute continues to expand its scientific collaborations and research partnerships, this recognition reinforces NIMR's commitment to excellence, innovation, and the generation of evidence that addresses pressing health challenges in Africa and beyond.



Researchers from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) conducting laboratory work as part of studies contributing to internationally recognized scientific publications under the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) programme, supporting research on priority diseases affecting Africa.

NIMR Advances HIV Prevention Science at International HIV Vaccine Science Academy

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) continues to contribute to global HIV research through active engagement in international scientific platforms. Most recently, the institute participated in the 2025 HIV Vaccine Science Academy, organized by the International AIDS Society. Held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from March 10–12, 2026, the academy brought together fellows and leading experts in HIV research to exchange knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and advance scientific efforts toward effective HIV prevention.

The academy opened with a scientific presentation delivered by NIMR titled “HIV Prevention R&D: Where Are We Now and Where Do We Go,” which highlighted key progress in HIV prevention research and outlined emerging regional priorities for research and development aimed at accelerating effective HIV prevention strategies.

The presentation also provided an overview of the evolving landscape of HIV prevention science, underscoring the importance of sustained research, innovation, and

collaboration in advancing efforts toward the development of effective vaccines and other biomedical prevention tools.

The academy served as an important scientific platform bringing together fellows from across Africa. Participants came from Central African Republic, Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, reflecting a growing network of African scientists committed to advancing HIV vaccine science.

NIMR’s contribution to the academy underscores the institute’s continued role in generating high-quality scientific evidence that informs public health action and strengthens global efforts toward effective HIV prevention.

As Tanzania’s premier health research institution, NIMR remains committed to advancing impactful research and working closely with national, regional, and international partners to accelerate scientific innovations that support HIV prevention and improve public health outcomes.



Participants pose for a group photo during the HIV Vaccine Science Academy 2025 in Dar es Salaam, where scientists and fellows from across Africa gathered to exchange knowledge and strengthen collaboration on HIV prevention research with participation from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

NIMR Prioritizes Research Addressing Health Challenges in the 2026/2027 Budget Planning

The Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said S. Aboud, has called on the Institute to strengthen its financial capacity and invest more in research aimed at addressing pressing health challenges in the country as part of broader strategies to enhance institutional performance.

Prof. Aboud made the remarks while closing a planning workshop for the preparation of the 2026/2027 financial year plan and budget, held from 2 to 11 March 2026 at Edema Hotel in Morogoro. He commended the strong participation of budget experts from the Institute's directorates, units, and research centres.

"This workshop has practically demonstrated the principle of inclusive participation of key stakeholders in the budget preparation process while adhering to government guidelines on planning and the effective use of institutional resources," he said.

He urged participants to ensure that during the budgeting process they prioritize the Institute's key areas by allocating sufficient resources to strategic activities that will enhance the effective implementation of NIMR's core

mandates.

Prof. Aboud also emphasized the importance of strengthening internal revenue generation to enable the Institute to carry out its responsibilities more effectively. He noted that the time has come for the Institute to explore ways of conducting research that directly addresses national health challenges

using its internally generated resources, thereby reducing dependence on external funding.

He further directed the planning and budgeting team to consider allocating initial funding for research (research seed funds) to support, particularly young researchers, in initiating research projects that will contribute to the development of the country's health sector. In addition, he called on the Institute to establish a research endowment fund to support health research activities.

Furthermore, he underscored the importance of continuing to improve staff welfare and instructed the team to explore the possibility of implementing a meal allowance for staff in accordance with the staff incentive scheme, noting that currently only transport allowances are provided during official work activities.

The workshop brought together budget officers from various NIMR centres, directorates, and units to prepare the Institute's plan and budget for the 2026/2027 financial year in alignment with both government and institutional priorities.



Participants pose for a group photo during the NIMR planning workshop for the 2026/2027 financial year held at Edema Hotel in Morogoro, where budget experts from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) directorates, units, and research centres gathered to strengthen financial planning and align institutional priorities with national health research goals.



Participants engaged in a planning session during the 2026/2027 financial year workshop organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) at Edema Hotel in Morogoro, focusing on strengthening budget planning, resource allocation, and strategic investment in health research priorities.

Stakeholders Engagements and Strategic Initiatives

NIMR and Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital Sign MoU to Strengthen Collaboration in Mental Health Research and Services



Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said About, exchanging the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the representative of Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital at NIMR Headquarters in Dodoma

The National Institute for Medical Research and Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital on February 13, 2026, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing collaboration in research, training, and the application of modern technologies to improve mental health services in Tanzania. Through this partnership, the institutions will strengthen the capacity of mental health professionals via joint trainings and research projects

designed to generate scientific evidence that informs policies, guidelines, and service delivery. The collaboration will also involve joint implementation of research projects, publication of academic papers, preparation of policy briefs, and advocacy to improve mental health services for communities. The MoU seeks to expand the scope of mental health research, integrate expertise, leverage skilled human resources, and ensure research outcomes reach communities, there-

by contributing to positive changes in people's lives.

The signing ceremony took place at the NIMR Headquarters in Dodoma and was led by Prof. Said About, Director General of NIMR, accompanied by Dr. Basiliana Emidi, Manager of NIMR Dodoma Centre. The MNMH delegation was led by Dr. Innocent R. Mwombeki, representing the Executive Director, alongside Veronica Haule and Anewa Saweni.



Representatives from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital (MNMH) engaged in discussions during a collaborative meeting at NIMR Headquarters in Dodoma



Representatives from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital (MNMH) pose for a group photo after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at NIMR Headquarters in Dodoma on 13 February 2026

WRAIR Delegation Visits NIMR Mbeya Centre to Strengthen HIV Research Collaboration

The National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Centre hosted a high-level delegation from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) on February 10, 2026, in a strategic visit aimed at strengthening collaboration in HIV and clinical research.

The delegation was led by Brianna Perata and included senior representatives from WRAIR–USA, WRAIR–Tanzania, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Tanzania, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Tanzania and the Regional Commissioner’s Office in Mbeya.

The visit marked an important milestone in the long-standing partner-

ship between WRAIR and the National Institute for Medical Research, particularly under PEP-FAR-supported HIV research programs. The collaboration continues to play a key role in advancing scientific innovation and strengthening public health research in Tanzania.

The delegation was officially received at the NIMR Mbeya Medical Research Centre by NIMR Director General Said Aboud. During the visit, the Centre was awarded a Medal of Excellence by Col. Perata in recognition of its outstanding contributions to medical research and public health in Tanzania.

In his remarks, Prof. Aboud reaffirmed the Institute’s commitment to

conducting high-quality and impactful research through strong international partnerships.

The delegation was briefed on ongoing clinical trials and collaborative research activities at the Centre. Presentations were delivered by the Centre Manager Bariki Mtafya and the Director of Research Coordination Nyanda Elias Ntinginya, highlighting the Centre’s expanding role in research on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. Key areas of work include cohort and epidemiological studies, vaccine development, research on broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs), therapeutics, biomarkers, diagnostics, and preventive therapies.



Participants pose for a group photo during the high-level visit of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) delegation to the NIMR Mbeya Medical Research Centre on 10 February 2026, highlighting ongoing collaboration in HIV and clinical research between international partners and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).



During the visit, the delegation toured several key research facilities including the HIV Vaccine Trial Clinics, the state-of-the-art main laboratory accredited by the College of American Pathologists, and the DAIDS/NIH-certified pharmacy. These facilities showcased the Centre’s advanced infrastructure and strong capacity to conduct internationally competitive clinical research.

Prof. Aboud accompanied the visiting delegation

throughout the tour, emphasizing the importance of the collaboration and the role it plays in strengthening Tanzania’s contribution to global health research.

The visit reaffirmed the strong partnership between the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Centre, underscoring a shared commitment to advancing cutting-edge scientific research to improve health outcomes in Tanzania and beyond.



Visitors from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), together with partners and officials, tour the laboratory facilities at the NIMR Mbeya Medical Research Centre to observe ongoing research activities and gain firsthand insight into HIV and clinical research operations supported by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

NIMR and EAHRC Launch Landmark National Workshop on Ethics and Clinical Research

The National Institute for Medical Research, in collaboration with the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), launched the first National Workshop on Ethics and Clinical Research, aimed at strengthening Tanzania's capacity to produce ethical, high-quality research evidence essential for improving healthcare outcomes.

The workshop provided health professionals with key knowledge and practical skills in ethics and clinical research, while also highlighting regional support mechanisms available through EAHRC to foster research excellence.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Said S. Aboud, Director General of NIMR, emphasized the crucial role of research in advancing public health across East Africa and encouraged participants to actively utilize existing health data to generate actionable evidence.

“We already have a wealth of data in our health facilities. What we must

do is to transform the available health data into research evidence. Turning data into actionable knowledge is key to advancing evidence-based healthcare,” he stated.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Nyanda Ntinginya, Director of Research Coordination and Promotion at NIMR. EAHRC, as a regional advisory body, supports knowledge generation, technological advancement, and harmonized research practices across East Africa.

Held from February 17–21, 2026, at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Dar es Salaam, the intensive five-day training brought together health professionals from mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, including clinicians, epidemiologists, researchers, academicians, and other experts from



Participants pose for a group photo during the National Workshop on Ethics and Clinical Research organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) in Dar es Salaam, aimed at strengthening ethical and high-quality health research capacity in Tanzania.

government and private institutions such as research organizations, universities, hospitals, and NGOs. Through formal MoUs with many of these institutions, NIMR fosters structured collaborations that support capacity building, mentorship, and promotion of health research, particularly among early career scientists. The workshop was designed to strengthen research capacity and promote ethical, evidence-based healthcare across the region.



Participants engaged in discussions during the National Workshop on Ethics and Clinical Research organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in collaboration with the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) in Dar es Salaam, focusing on strengthening ethical and high-quality health research in the region.

Training and Workshops

NIMR Muhimbili Strengthens Research Capacity for Amana Regional Referral Hospital Health Workers

National Institute for Medical Research through its NIMR Muhimbili Medical Research Centre has trained 18 health workers from Amana Regional Referral Hospital in research proposal development, as part of efforts to strengthen evidence-based healthcare services in Tanzania.

The four-day training, held from January 26–29, 2026 at the hospital in Dar es Salaam, aimed to equip healthcare providers with practical skills to design, develop, and submit competitive scientific research proposals capable of attracting funding and generating impactful health solutions.

Through hands-on sessions, partici-

pants gained skills in developing high-quality scientific proposals, strengthening academic writing, understanding research ethics, and applying accurate data analysis to address health challenges facing communities.

Opening the training, Bryceson Loti Kiweru, Medical Officer In-Charge at Amana Regional Referral Hospital, emphasized the critical role of research in improving healthcare delivery.

“Research is an indispensable component of the health sector. Strengthening collaboration with research institutions is essential for improving health services in the country,” he noted.

Speaking during the training, Ester Mbutolwe, Acting Head of Research at the NIMR Muhimbili Medical Research Centre, underscored the importance of using accurate data to generate solutions to health challenges.

“When individuals are properly empowered, they can significantly contribute to improving public health. Reliable data forms the foundation of credible research outcomes,” she said, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between NIMR and regional referral hospitals.

The training forms part of NIMR’s broader commitment to strengthening health research capacity across Tanzania by empowering healthcare professionals working at service delivery points. Such initiatives aim to ensure that research conducted within health facilities addresses real community health challenges and contributes to improving the quality of healthcare services nationwide.



Participants pose for a group photo during a four-day training on research proposal development organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Muhimbili Medical Research Centre for health workers from Amana Regional Referral Hospital in Dar es Salaam, aimed at strengthening evidence-based healthcare through improved research skills.



Facilitator delivering training on research proposal development during a capacity-building workshop organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Muhimbili Medical Research Centre, while participants attentively follow the session aimed at strengthening research skills for evidence-based healthcare.

NIMR Staff Trained on Public Service Ethics, Workplace Corruption, and Mental Health

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has reinforced its commitment to building a workforce that embodies professionalism, integrity, accountability, and well-being by conducting specialized training on public service ethics, corruption prevention in the workplace, and the importance of mental health.

The training took place on 18th March 2026 at the Jakaya Kikwete Conference Hall in Dodoma and was facilitated by experts from the President's Office – Public Service Management and Good Governance, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (TAKUKURU), and the National Mental Health Institute, Mirembe.

Speaking at the opening of the training, NIMR Director General, Prof. Said Aboud, emphasized that such initiatives are part of the government's strategy to strengthen good governance through a public service that upholds ethical standards, laws, regulations, and procedural guidelines. He underscored that public service ethics form a foundation for building strong, credible institutions that deliver quality services to citizens.

Prof. Aboud explained that NIMR operates on five key principles: integrity, inclusivity, quality, accountability, and transparency. The training aimed to reinforce these principles in the daily work of NIMR staff. He further highlighted that instilling ethics among public servants fosters patriotism and serves as a deterrent to corruption in the workplace.

In parallel, a specialist from Mirembe Institute provided insights on mental health, stressing that psychological well-being is critical for enhancing productivity and

efficiency at work. He noted that staff with sound mental health are better equipped to perform their duties effectively and handle professional challenges.

NIMR management reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a work environment that prioritizes ethics, does not tolerate corruption, and cares for the welfare of all employees. The one-day training, attended by management and staff from NIMR headquarters and research centres, is expected to contribute significantly to strengthening staff performance and improving service delivery, while supporting government efforts to cultivate an ethical and accountable public service.



Facilitators from the President's Office – Public Service Management and Good Governance, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), and the National Mental Health Institute, Mirembe, delivering training during a capacity-building session organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Dodoma, focusing on public service ethics, corruption prevention, and mental health awareness.



Participants pose for a group photo during a one-day training on public service ethics, corruption prevention, and mental health organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) at the Jakaya Kikwete Conference Hall in Dodoma, aimed at strengthening integrity, accountability, and staff well-being in the public service.



Participants attending a training session organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Dodoma, focusing on public service ethics, corruption prevention, and mental health, aimed at strengthening integrity, accountability, and staff well-being in the workplace.

Dissemination

EPIInA Study Shows Significant Decline in Onchocerciasis-Associated Epilepsy in Mahenge

The National Institute for Medical Research, through the STEPPS Project (Strengthening Health System Capacity for Access and Delivery of Paediatric Praziquantel for Schistosomiasis in Tanzania), officially launched on February 18, 2026, a study on delivering paediatric praziquantel to children under five years old. This initiative expands treatment to a population that had long been excluded from mass drug administration campaigns. The launch took place in Mwanza during a stakeholder workshop marking the start of the drug delivery under STEPPS. During the launch, the Secretary

General of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Seif Shekalaghe described the initiative as historic for Tanzania, noting that the country is among the first in the region, and possibly globally, to register paediatric praziquantel. He emphasized that final results from the project will guide the government in integrating the drug into national health service guidelines. He added that scientific evidence collected over more than a decade shows that children under five living in high-schistosomiasis areas are also at risk, necessitating a specialized drug delivery system for this age group. Prof. Said Aboud, Director General

of NIMR, highlighted that the launch reflects a long journey of research, innovation, and international collaboration initiated in 2020 under STEPPS. Two integrated drug delivery systems—Test and Treat and Mass Drug Administration (MDA)—were tested to determine the most efficient, cost-effective, and community-acceptable approach before national scale-up. Dr. Paul Erasto Kazyoba, Principal Investigator of the project, noted that studies show children under five also carry schistosomiasis infections, although previous drug campaigns targeted school-aged children six years and older. He emphasized that



Participants pose for a group photo during the STEPPS Project stakeholder workshop and launch of paediatric praziquantel delivery for children under five, organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Mwanza on 18 February 2026, marking a major milestone in expanding schistosomiasis treatment and strengthening child health services in Tanzania.

the paediatric formulation has been trialed and demonstrated safety and effectiveness for young children, with significant improvements over previous medications, including reduced discomfort for some users. The project is a collaborative effort between NIMR, the Ministry of Health, and development partners including UNDP, WHO/TDR, PATH, funded by Japan's GHIT Fund and END FUND.

Mr. John Rutere, UNDP Resident Representative and Deputy Resident Representative in Tanzania, acknowledged the importance of collaborating with NIMR, the government, and other stakeholders to ensure children under five receive proper treatment, noting that the partnership will continue to address schistosomiasis and other community health challenges. Grace Bahati, a

resident of Ishayahisho Village, Sengerema District, Mwanza, expressed gratitude to NIMR for the project, saying it will help identify schistosomiasis infections early and provide children with timely treatment, contributing to community health protection.

The workshop brought together national and international stakeholders to discuss strategies for scaling up paediatric praziquantel access in Tanzania and East Africa, strengthening health systems to eliminate neglected diseases by 2030. It included a field visit to Sengerema District Hospital in Mwanza, where stakeholders observed ongoing disease detection and drug administration activities



Participants engaging in discussions during the STEPPS Project stakeholder workshop organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Mwanza, focusing on the rollout of paediatric praziquantel for children under five and strengthening strategies for schistosomiasis control in Tanzania.

NIMR Presents Research Findings Highlighting New Approaches to Build Resilience Against Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases



Participants pose for a group photo during the RAFT (Resilience Against Future Threats through Vector Control) project dissemination meeting organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Dar es Salaam on 26 February 2026, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss research findings on mosquito-borne diseases and insecticide resistance in Tanzania.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), through the RAFT – Resilience Against Future Threats through Vector Control project on 26th February 2026, presented research findings on mosquito-borne infectious diseases and insecticide resistance, aiming to strengthen national resilience against these health threats.

Speaking on behalf of the NIMR Director General, Dr. Nyanda Elias Ntinginya, Director of Research Coordination and Promotion, emphasized the need for Tanzania to enhance surveillance systems and preparedness to effectively respond to increasing threats from mosquito-borne diseases. He highlighted that scientific research should inform policy decisions, especially at a time

when environmental changes, urban growth, and population interactions increase the risk of outbreaks such as dengue and other mosquito-borne viral diseases.

The RAFT Project Lead, Dr. Alphaxard Manjurano, stated that the meeting aimed to present critical findings on mosquito insecticide resistance and emerging threats of vector-borne diseases, and to discuss them thoroughly with key stakeholders involved in vector control in the country.

Presenting a national assessment of the health system’s readiness to respond to mosquito-borne threats, Dr. Manjurano noted that despite the existence of 34 malaria sentinel surveillance sites, there remains a need to establish a dedicated national program for routine monitoring of

disease-carrying mosquitoes.

“According to the 2024 study, surveillance from larvae to adult mosquitoes has never been conducted systematically at the national level. This highlights the importance of strengthening early warning systems for vector-borne disease outbreaks,” he emphasized.

A representative from the Ministry of Health – National Malaria Control Program, Mr. Winfred Mwafongo, stated that the findings will help improve policies and guidelines for controlling malaria and other vector-borne diseases. Meanwhile, a representative from the World Health Organization – WHO, Dr. Jovin Kitau, congratulated NIMR for conducting the research, noting that it will strengthen community protection against vector-borne diseases

and enhance public health safety.

Additionally, NIMR Senior Researcher, Dr. William Kisinza, reported that stakeholders recommended the strengthening of specialized programs to manage vectors, enhancing the effectiveness of vector control measures. NIMR researcher Ms. Jackeline Martin, who studied the efficacy of insecticides in mosquito nets, noted that the results show increasing mosquito resistance, underscor-

ing the need to improve control strategies to ensure continued effectiveness of bed nets.

The meeting, held at Protea Hotel, Dar es Salaam, brought together key stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, NIMR, WHO, Ifakara Health Institute, and other health sector partners to discuss strategies for strengthening vector control programs in Tanzania.



Participants engaged in discussions during the RAFT project dissemination meeting organized by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Dar es Salaam, focusing on research findings related to mosquito-borne diseases and insecticide resistance to strengthen vector control strategies in Tanzania.

Awards

NIMR Researchers Awarded DZIF Early Career Scientists Grant 2026



Dr Lucy Elauteri Mrema
(MD, MSc, PhD Candidate)

Theme: Overlap of NCD and Infectious Diseases



Dr Daniel Mapamba
(BSc, MSc, PhD)

Theme: Biomarkers for TB diagnosis & treatment



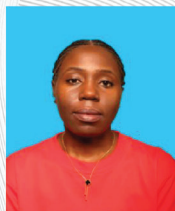
Dr Julieth Lalashowi
(MD, MPH, PhD Candidate)

Theme: CVD comorbidities post TB treatment



Ms. Willyhelmina Olomi
(BSc, MSc, PhD candidate)

Theme: Infectious disease modelling



Ms. Jacklina Mhidze
(BSc, MSc)

Theme: Immunology of (HIV/TB) and Helminths

The program is co-led by Dr. Nyanda Ntinginya and Dr. Bariki Mtafya, and is designed to equip early career scientists with essential research skills through mentorship, targeted training, and opportunities for scientific collaboration.

The five NIMR researchers selected for the 2026 grant are Dr Lucy Elauteri Mrema, Dr Julieth Lalashowi, Dr Daniel Mapamba, Jacklina Mhidze, and Willyhelmina Olomi. Their research addresses critical health priorities, including the intersection of non-communicable and infectious diseases, tuberculosis-related complications, HIV/TB immunology, and infectious disease modelling.

Through this support, the selected researchers will benefit from enhanced training and exposure, particularly in the field of infectious diseases, contributing to the strengthening of Africa's research capacity and nurturing the next generation of scientific leaders.

This achievement marks an important milestone in reinforcing the long-standing collaboration between Tanzania and Germany in health research, while highlighting NIMR's commitment to advancing scientific excellence and innovation.

Researchers from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Mbeya Centre, have earned international recognition after five early career scientists were awarded the prestigious Deutsches Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (DZiF) Early Career Scientists Grant 2026. The grant is awarded annually by the DZiF Academy through its Short-term Training Program, which aims to strengthen scientific skills, support career development, and promote collaboration between Tanzanian researchers and their German counterparts within the DZiF network.



Advancing Health Research, Enhancing Life

Policy Briefs

1. Strengthening Surveillance and Preparedness for Bat-Associated and Rodent-Borne Zoonoses – Focus on Marburgvirus, Hantavirus, and Bombali Virus. By Lwitiho Sudi
2. Social and economic consequences of pulmonary tuberculosis - perspectives of patients, their families, the community, and healthcare providers who care for the tb patients in Mbeya and Songwe Regions, Tanzania By Stella Kilima, Denise Evans, Godfrey Mubyazi & Anesa Moola
3. Marburg Virus Disease Outbreaks in Africa: Response, Lessons Learned and Evidence-Based Pathways to Strengthen Policy, Preparedness, and Community Safety. By Basiliana Emidi

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