



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH



Date: 1st July, 2026

PhD attachment positions in the RECOVER study

Background:

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a corporate body established by an Act of Parliament No. 23 of 1979 with a mandate to: carry out and coordinate medical research, promote the use of research findings, and support the training of local personnel for carrying out scientific research into health problems, among other things. The Institute is currently collaborating with Rigshospitalet and the School of Global Health, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and the KEMRI-Wellcome Research Programme in Kenya to conduct the study to enhance community-based care of children with severe acute malnutrition (the **RECOVER study**) in the Mwanza region.

The **RECOVER** research project aims to improve community-based care of severe malnutrition in young children. Globally, more than 13 million children are affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with grave consequences for their short- and long-term development. WHO recommends that children be treated at home rather than admitted to a clinic if they do not have medical complications. Community-based care has great potential to increase the accessibility of treatment for families and reduce costs for health care systems in low-resource settings. However, the uptake of community care programs remains low, and even when children do receive treatment, a large proportion of them do not recover fully during treatment or relapse to malnutrition shortly after. The **RECOVER** study will investigate how uptake and success rates of community-based management of SAM could be increased to optimize the implementation of this approach. The **RECOVER** study builds on the work of the ongoing **BRIGHT-SAM** (Brain development, growth, and health in children with Severe Acute Malnutrition) trial, which evaluates the effect of improved ready-to-use therapeutic foods and psychosocial intervention in improving cognitive development and nutritional recovery of children with SAM in Mwanza. As part of its training mandate, the Institute invites interested individuals to apply for the following PhD fellowships, which will be separate but will contribute to the broad aims of the **RECOVER** study.

1. PhD fellowship in the uptake of community-based severe acute malnutrition treatment

Duty Station: NIMR Muhimbili (With full-time attachment at NIMR Mwanza Centre)

Description of planned PhD study

The PhD student will work on a sub-study which will investigate the challenges of uptake of community-based severe acute malnutrition treatment in the East Africa region and beyond. It is expected that the PhD work will produce several publications on the subject and contribute to informing relevant policies and guidelines. The PhD student will be expected to register in any local recognized university and submit their thesis within 36 months. Interested applicants should note that this is only a PhD attachment and not employment with NIMR.

Essential qualifications

- Holding a good master's degree in Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Public Health or a related field from a recognized university.

All official correspondences should be addressed to the Director General

Headquarters: 3 Capital Street, P.O. Box 2016, 41115 Dodoma, Tanzania,
Email: info@nimr.or.tz, dg@nimr.or.tz, Website: www.nimr.or.tz

Headquarters Sub-Office: 3 Barack Obama Drive, P.O. Box 9653, 11101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Phone: +255222121400

- Demonstrated experience of writing and publishing scientific work. It is expected that the suitable candidate will have published as the first author in a peer-reviewed journal at least one qualitative or mixed methods research paper emanating from their master degree or other scientific work.

Desirable qualification/attributes

- Working experience in health research of at least 2 years
- Demonstrated experience with in-depth interviews, focus groups, participant observation, or ethnographic approaches
- Experience using qualitative software such as NVivo, Atlas.ti, Dedoose, or similar tools.
- Experience in conducting fieldwork
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to build trust and rapport with participants
- Strong communication skills and ability to adapt communication styles to different cultural and social contexts
- Cultural and linguistic sensitivity when working across cultural and social contexts
- Passionate, highly motivated and able to meet tight deadlines

2. PhD fellowship in multi-level risk factors for unsuccessful severe acute malnutrition treatment

Duty Station: NIMR Muhimbili (With full-time attachment at NIMR Mwanza Centre)

Description of planned PhD study

The PhD student will work on a multi-disciplinary sub-study which will investigate risk factors for unsuccessful severe acute malnutrition treatment with respect to health system, community and household factors. It is expected that the PhD work will produce several publications on the subject and contribute to inform relevant policies and guidelines. The PhD student will be expected to register in any local recognized university and submit their thesis within 36 months. Interested applicants should note that this is only a PhD attachment and not an employment with NIMR.

Essential qualifications

- Holding a good master's degree in Epidemiology, Public Health, Nutrition Science, Pediatrics and Child Health, Maternal and Child health or related field from a recognized university.
- Demonstrated experience of writing and publishing scientific work. It is expected that the suitable candidate will have published as the first author in a peer-reviewed journal at least one quantitative or mixed methods research paper emanating from their master degree or other scientific work.

Desirable qualification/attributes

- Working experience in health research of at least 2 years in health research
- Good understanding of epidemiological research methods
- Intermediate to advanced quantitative skills, including data management, statistical analysis, interpretation of associations, and use of statistical software like Stata or R
- Experience in social science research methods
- Experience in conducting fieldwork
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to build trust and rapport with participants
- Strong communication skills and ability to adapt communication styles to different cultural and social contexts
- Cultural and linguistic sensitivity when working across cultural and social contexts
- Passionate and highly motivated and able to meet tight deadlines

Remuneration: Stipend will be provided according to institutional guidelines.

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General conditions:

- Application letters should be written in English.
- Applications should be headed- **PhD Fellowship in RECOVER study (expected to specify your interest in one of the two positions)**
- **Should submit a 2-page well-written concept note for PhD research ideas**
- Applicants should indicate two reputable referees who will be contacted before recruitment
- Applicants must attach their detailed relevant certified copies of academic certificates including form four and six certificates.
- Academic certificates obtained outside the country should be approved by Tanzania commission of universities
- All application letters should be written in font size 12 Times New Roman.
- Application letters should be attached with detailed curriculum vitae.
- Closing date for applications: **2 weeks from the date of this advert**
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**Apply to: Centre Manager,
NIMR, Muhimbili Research Centre,
Box 3436,
Dar es Salaam.**

E-mail: muhimbili@nimr.or.tz

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