National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR)

NIMR NEWSLETTER

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About this Newsletter

This newsletter provides updates on the key activities undertaken by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). Established under the NIMR Act No. 23 of 1979, Cap. 59 (R.E. 2002), the Institute continues to implement its core mandates, which include conducting health research and coordinating, controlling, and monitoring the carrying out of health research in Tanzania. NIMR is also mandated to promote the effective utilization of scientific evidence generated through research by disseminating it to a wide range of audiences using appropriate communication channels. This edition highlights key events and activities undertaken by the Institute from July to September 2026.

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EDITORIAL

Message from the Editorial Board

Turning Research into Health Impact

The July to September 2026 quarter reflects NIMR's continued commitment to turning scientific research and innovation into solutions that improve health and strengthen Tanzania's health system.

During the quarter, NIMR advanced work in genomic surveillance, bioinformatics, clinical research, digital health, traditional medicine and HIV services. Investments in modern equipment and specialised training are strengthening the Institute's capacity to generate timely, high quality evidence and respond to emerging health challenges.

Research also continued to inform policy and practice. From strengthening clinical trial oversight to generating evidence for improved HIV services, NIMR's work demonstrates the value of research that moves beyond the laboratory to address real health needs.

Strong partnerships and community engagement remain central to this progress. Collaboration with national and international partners, alongside direct engagement with communities, is helping ensure that research is relevant, trusted and responsive to Tanzania's priorities.

As we look ahead, NIMR remains focused on one goal: generating evidence, advancing innovation and translating research into meaningful health impact for Tanzania and beyond.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

NIMR Council Calls for Greater Research Output and Innovation During Visit to Mabibo and Muhimbili Centres



NMR Council members pose for a group photo with staff from NIMR Muhimbili Centre.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Council has called on researchers to make effective use of available opportunities, infrastructure and expertise to increase scientific publications and research innovation that generate evidence for improved health outcomes and health policies in Tanzania.

The call was made on 1 September 2026 when the Council visited the NIMR Mabibo and Muhimbili Centres in Dar es Salaam to assess their research activities, infrastructure and equipment utilisation, as well as to hear from staff on their working environment, operational challenges and areas requiring improvement.

Speaking during the visit, NIMR Council Vice Chairperson, Prof. Muhammad Bakari Kambi, who represented the Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, said NIMR has skilled human resources and research infrastructure that provide significant opportunities to increase knowledge production, scientific publications and the Institute's contribution nationally and internationally.

Prof. Kambi also emphasised the importance of strengthening innovation in research and developing traditional medicine products, alongside expanding markets for products with scientific and regulatory potential. He urged staff to safeguard and make effective use of Government investments in research infrastructure and equipment, including laboratories and the traditional medicine production



NIMR Council members tour the traditional medicine production facility at NIMR Mabibo Centre

facility at Mabibo, valued at more than TZS 2.4 billion.

During the visit, the Council toured various research facilities and infrastructure at the two Centres. These included laboratories at NIMR Mabibo; tuberculosis and HIV research activities at NIMR Muhimbili; the NIMR-managed tuberculosis laboratory at Muhimbili National Hospital, operated in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) and the Ministry of Health; and the Malaria Genomics Laboratory at the NIMR Dar es Salaam sub-Office.

NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, said NIMR Mabibo has three laboratories equipped with more than 80 machines used for research and quality monitoring of traditional medicines. The Centre also has approximately 15 production machines, of which nine are operational and six are at different stages of installation.

Prof. Aboud further noted that NIMR Mabibo has identified six traditional medicine products currently at early stages of development, with research and testing ongoing.



NIMR Council members pose for a group photo with NIMR Mabibo Centre staff following their visit to the Centre.



NIMR Council members receive a briefing during a visit to the Tuberculosis Laboratory at the NIMR Muhimbili Centre.



Prof. Muhammad Bakari Kambi, NIMR Council Vice Chairperson,





NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, addresses staff during the NIMR Council's visit to the Mabibo and Muhimbili Centres.

At NIMR Muhimbili, he said the Centre continues to contribute to the development and improvement of health policies and guidelines nationally and internationally, particularly in HIV, tuberculosis and related health areas. The Centre is also increasing scientific publications through collaboration with hospitals, the use of health research databases and systematic reviews that bring together evidence from different studies.

The Council also met with staff from the two Centres to hear their views on work performance, challenges and areas requiring improvement. Prof. Kambi assured staff that the issues raised would be followed up, while commending them for their work and expressing satisfaction with the progress made by the Centres.

The visit provided the Council with first-hand insight into the activities, achievements, opportunities and challenges of the NIMR Mabibo and Muhimbili Centres, while identifying areas requiring greater support and momentum to further strengthen the Institute's performance.



NIMR Council members receive a briefing from Mr. Rashid Madebe, a laboratory expert, at the Malaria Genomics Laboratory located at the NIMR Dar es Salaam Sub-Office



A Researcher from NIMR Muhimbili explains the Centre's research activities and contributions to health policy to members of the NIMR Council.

Prof. Mdoe Calls for Completion of NIMR Tukuyu Research Centre Rehabilitation

NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, has reaffirmed his commitment to working with NIMR Management to ensure the remaining rehabilitation works at the NIMR Tukuyu Research Station are completed.

Prof. Mdoe made the remarks on 27 August 2026 during a visit to the NIMR Mbeya Research Centre and NIMR Tukuyu Research Station to review ongoing research activities, infrastructure and working conditions.

At Tukuyu, the NIMR Mbeya Centre management briefed Prof. Mdoe on the rehabilitation works being undertaken using internally generated institutional revenue. He stressed the importance of completing the remaining works to improve the research environment.

The visit also covered tuberculosis and HIV research at NIMR Mbeya and research on onchocerciasis at Tukuyu. At NIMR Mbeya, Prof. Mdoe toured research laboratories, modern equipment, sample storage facilities and other infrastructure supporting the Centre's work.



NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, poses for a group photo with staff of the NIMR Mbeya Research Centre.

Prof. Mdoe encouraged staff to continue performing their duties with professionalism and dedication and emphasised the importance of improving infrastructure and working environments. He also called on communities to participate in NIMR research, noting that their involvement is essential for generating evidence that responds to health challenges facing the population.

NIMR Mbeya Research Centre Head, Dr. Bariki Mtafya, thanked Prof. Mdoe for the visit and reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to working with NIMR Management to address operational challenges and sustain research activities.





NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, is briefed on the progress of construction and rehabilitation works at the NIMR Tukuyu Research Station.



NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, addresses staff of the NIMR Tukuyu Research Station.



NIMR Mbeya Research Centre Manager, Dr. Bariki Mtafya, briefs NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, on the progress and activities of the Centre.



NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, visit to the Biosafety Laboratory at NIMR Mbeya Research Centre.



Prof. James E. Mdoe
NIMR Council Chairperson



A view of the NIMR Tukuyu Research Station

NIMR Receives Bioinformatics Equipment to Strengthen Genomic Data Analysis and Health Research

NIMR has received bioinformatics equipment and systems from AMREF Health Africa Tanzania to strengthen genomic data analysis, disease surveillance, outbreak preparedness and evidence generation for public health decision-making.

The equipment was handed over on 14 September 2026 at the NIMR Dar es Salaam sub-Office and includes genomic analysis software, information technology equipment and office furniture for the NIMR Bioinformatics Laboratory.

Speaking at the handover, NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, said the contribution represents an investment in scientific capacity and innovation and will strengthen NIMR's ability to generate high-quality evidence to improve health in Tanzania and beyond.

Prof. Aboud said the equipment will support advanced bioinformatics analysis and the application of genomic technologies in health research, disease surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response, and public health decision-making.

It will also provide researchers, bioinformaticians, laboratory scientists and trainees with improved access to infrastructure for modern genomic research and analysis.

The equipment was acquired through AMREF Health Africa Tanzania's Global Health Security Agenda II (GHSA II) Project, funded by the U.S. Government through CDC Tanzania, to strengthen genomic data analysis infrastructure and national health security capacity.

AMREF Health Africa Tanzania Country Director, Dr. Florence Temu, said the equipment will support genomic data analysis and research on infectious and non-communicable diseases, as well as contribute to early detection of emerging pathogens. She added that stronger genomic analysis can support Precision Medicine through improved understanding of genetic information to inform treatment approaches.

The equipment includes a Geneious genomic analysis software licence, two Lenovo laptops, an HP ProLiant Server, an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), two office desks and two office chairs, with a total value of TZS 108,051,419.

The handover underscores the value of collaboration between NIMR, AMREF Health Africa Tanzania and the U.S. Government through CDC Tanzania in strengthening scientific infrastructure and expertise for detecting, monitoring and responding to health threats.



NIMR Director General Prof. Said S. Aboud and team receive a briefing on bioinformatics equipment donated by AMREF Health Africa Tanzania.





NIMR and AMREF Health Africa Tanzania representatives sign the handover documents for bioinformatics equipment and systems to strengthen genomic data analysis and disease surveillance.



NIMR and AMREF Health Africa Tanzania representatives pose for a group photo following the handover of bioinformatics equipment and systems.



NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, and AMREF Health Africa Tanzania Country Director, Dr. Florence Temu, exchange the signed handover documents.



NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud,



AMREF Health Africa Tanzania Country Director, Dr. Florence Temu.



Bioinformatics equipment and systems handed over to NIMR by AMREF Health Africa Tanzania

EVENTS

NIMR Mbeya Strengthens Community Engagement by Providing Health Services at Nanenane Exhibitions

The NIMR Mbeya Research Centre used the 2026 Nanenane agricultural exhibition in the Southern Zone to strengthen direct engagement with communities, particularly farmers who form a large proportion of participants in the Centre's research.

The exhibition, which culminated on 8 August 2026, provided an opportunity for NIMR to deliver health education, screening services and information on health research to communities and stakeholders. Approximately 90 percent of participants in studies conducted by the Centre are farmers, making Nanenane an important platform for engaging current and prospective research participants.

Through the NIMR exhibition stand, community members received free screening services for tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis, alongside health education and counselling from health professionals. The activities also promoted disease prevention, early testing and the importance of community participation in health research.

Community Engagement Officer Simeon Mwanyonga emphasised the importance of providing communities with accurate information on diseases and encouraging people to seek health screening early.

The outreach was implemented through collaboration between the Community Engagement Unit, Community Advisory Board (CAB), MKUTA and tuberculosis specialists. The initiative strengthened links between research and communities by bringing information and selected health services closer to people in their own environment.

The engagement was aligned with the 2026 Nanenane theme, "Tambua Soko, Ongeza Tija Kutekeleza Dira 2050."





NIMR Mbeya Research Centre staff pose for a group photo during the 2026 Nanenane agricultural exhibition in the Southern Zone.





NIMR staff provide health screening services to community members visiting the Institute's exhibition booth during the 2026 Nanenane agricultural exhibition.

RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

NIMR and Partners Advance Efforts to Strengthen Tanzania's Clinical Trial Oversight Framework

NIMR in collaboration with the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) and other local and international partners, convened a stakeholders' consultative meeting on 28 July 2026 to discuss strategies for strengthening Tanzania's clinical trial oversight policy and legal framework.

Held at the CEEMI Hall at the NIMR Headquarters sub-Office in Dar es Salaam, the meeting brought together representatives from regulatory authorities, Government institutions, research institutions, universities, ethics committees, clinical trial investigators, patient associations and development partners.

The consultation reviewed findings from an assessment of Tanzania's clinical trial oversight framework conducted using the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT). The meeting was organised under the RER-CTO Project, implemented by NIMR in collaboration with TMDA, the Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), the Ministry of Education of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA), the University of Oslo and Karolinska Institutet.

Opening the meeting, NIMR Director General Prof. Said S. Aboud emphasised that a strong ethical and regulatory framework is essential for protecting the rights, safety, dignity and well-being of research participants while maintaining the credibility and integrity of research outcomes.



Participants pose for a group photo during the stakeholders' consultative meeting on strengthening Tanzania's clinical trial oversight policy and legal framework, held at the NIMR Dar es Salaam Sub-Office.

Prof. Aboud noted that developments in biotechnology, genomics, digital health, artificial intelligence and innovative clinical trial designs are creating new opportunities as well as regulatory challenges. He stressed the need for Tanzania's clinical trial oversight system to remain responsive and aligned with international best practices.

Dr. Mary Mayige, Principal Research Officer and Principal Investigator of the project at NIMR Headquarters, said the consultation provided a platform for stakeholders to review the assessment findings, identify priority gaps and agree on practical actions to strengthen oversight and institutional coordination.

Supported by the European Union through the Global Health EDCTP3 programme, the RER-CTO Project aims to strengthen ethical and regulatory systems for clinical trials in Tanzania, Ethiopia and beyond and support safe, ethical and high-quality clinical research.



NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, addresses participants during the stakeholders' consultative meeting



Dr. Mary Mayige, Principal Research Officer and Director of Research Information and Regulatory Affairs (DRIRA) at NIMR, addresses participants during the stakeholders' consultative meeting.



Ms.Renatha Kato Research Officer at NIMR, addresses participants during the stakeholders' consultative meeting.

NIMR Leads Ethical Oversight in Multicountry Trial Exploring New Approaches to Prevent Childhood Diarrhoeal Diseases



Participants pose for a group photo during the PRoRota Clinical Trial kick-off meeting held in Dar es Salaam to discuss the study's implementation, ethical oversight and research activities.

NIMR is leading ethical oversight in a multicountry clinical trial investigating whether probiotics can enhance the protection provided by rotavirus vaccination and reduce diarrhoeal disease among children.

The PRoRota Clinical Trial was launched in Dar es Salaam on 18 August 2026 by Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), in collaboration with NIMR and partners from Tanzania, Malawi, Côte d'Ivoire and Norway. The two-day kick-off meeting brought together researchers and partners from microbiology, infectious diseases, epidemiology, health economics, social sciences and public health.

Guest of Honour Prof. Tumaini Nagu, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Health, highlighted the importance of research that generates evidence on whether probiotics can strengthen rotavirus vaccination, reduce diarrhoeal disease and potentially reduce antibiotic exposure and antimicrobial resistance.

NIMR is responsible for the Ethics Work Package, supporting ethical conduct and protection of participating infants across the three African countries.

The Institute will also coordinate independent ethics oversight and the Data Safety Monitoring Board.

NIMR will further co-lead formative, acceptability and feasibility research to generate evidence on the perspectives and experiences of caregivers, healthcare providers and other stakeholders. This evidence will inform trial implementation and the potential future integration of probiotics into routine childhood immunisation programmes.

NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to ensuring that the trial is conducted according to high ethical and scientific standards. He noted that the study will generate evidence not only on whether the intervention works, but also on its acceptability and feasibility within participating health systems.

By exploring whether probiotics can strengthen vaccine protection and potentially reduce antibiotic exposure, PRoRota seeks to generate evidence that could inform future approaches to childhood disease prevention and vaccination across participating countries.





NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, addresses participants during the PRoRota Clinical Trial kick-off meeting in Dar es Salaam.







Participants pose for a group photo during the PRoRota Clinical Trial kick-off meeting held in Dar es Salaam to discuss the study's implementation, ethical oversight and research activities.

NIMR Muhimbili Researchers Discuss Implementation of DIMENSION Digital Mental Health Study

Researchers from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Muhimbili Research Centre have reviewed the DIMENSION study protocol and visited prospective participating health facilities as part of preparations for implementing the research.

Implemented by NIMR in collaboration with the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) and the University of Copenhagen, DIMENSION is exploring how digital solutions can help bring mental health services closer to people living with HIV in Tanzania.

The study seeks to strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers and develop approaches that can improve early screening, health education and mental health services, particularly in resource-constrained settings.

The project also aims to develop a digital tool that can be adapted for use in other settings with similar needs, increasing the potential for research findings to be applied beyond the initial study sites.

The researchers' meeting and health facility visits formed part of preparations for implementation, including reviewing the study protocol and assessing the readiness and context of participating facilities.

Overall, DIMENSION links health research with digital innovation to explore practical approaches for strengthening the integration of mental health services within care provided to people living with HIV.



The DIMENSION project team from NIMR, CUHAS and the University of Copenhagen pose for a group photo during preparations for the study's implementation.

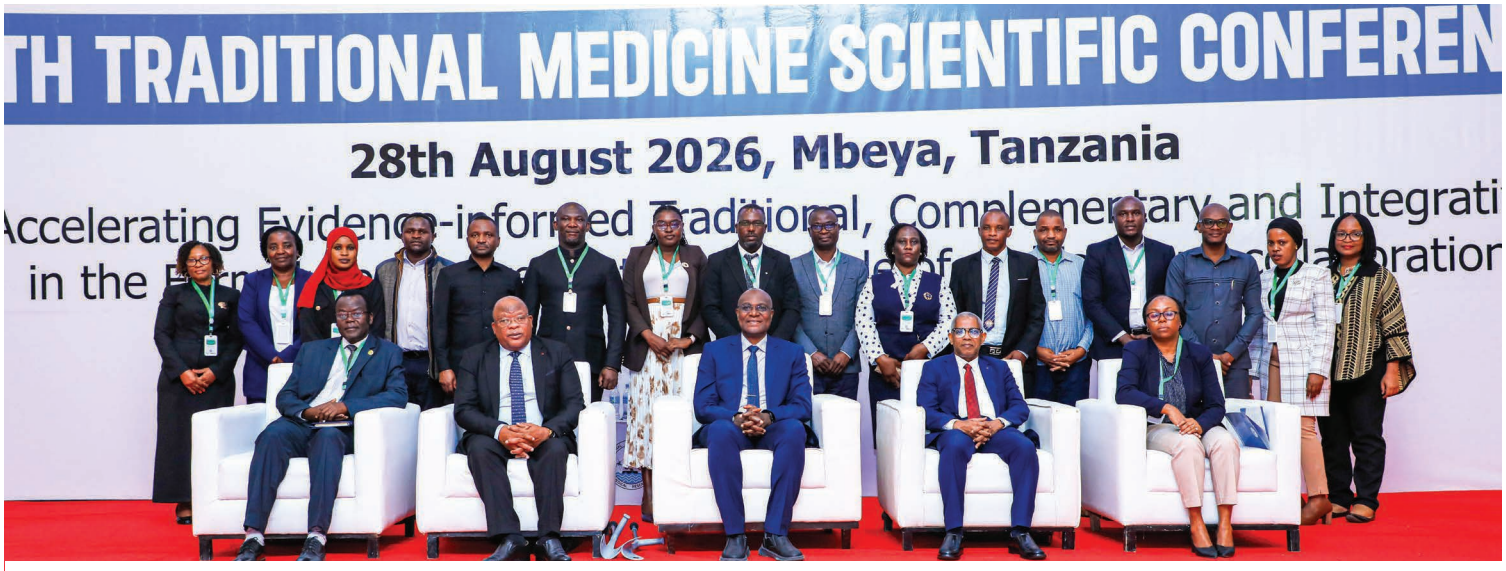


The DIMENSION project team from engage in discussions in preparation for the study's implementation.



The DIMENSION project team pose for a group photo during preparations for the study's implementation.

Government Calls for Scientifically Validated Traditional Medicines to be Integrated into the Formal Health System



NIMR Management, the Guest of Honour and other leaders pose for a group photo during the Fifth Scientific Conference on Traditional Medicine held in Mbeya on 28 August 2026.

The Government has called for increased research, scientific validation and investment in the development and production of traditional medicines so that products demonstrated to be safe, quality-assured and effective can be considered for integration into Tanzania's formal health system.

The call was made by Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) Executive Director, Ambassador Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya, on 28 August 2026 at the Fifth Scientific Conference on Traditional Medicine held in Mbeya. He represented the Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for Medicines and Medical Devices at the Ministry of Health, Mr. Emanuel Tayari, who was the Guest of Honour.

Ambassador Dr. Ulisubisya said Tanzania has rich natural resources and traditional knowledge that could contribute to addressing health challenges if supported by adequate research and scientific validation. He called for stronger collaboration among scientists, traditional medicine practitioners, health professionals, regulators, universities, policymakers and other sectors.

NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, said development of traditional medicine requires a bridge between modern science and traditional knowledge passed through generations. He described the conference as an opportunity to examine available evidence, challenges and opportunities for advancing traditional medicine research in Tanzania.



Guest of Honour, Ambassador Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya, representing the Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for Medicines and Medical Devices at the Ministry of Health, addresses participants during the Fifth Scientific Conference on Traditional Medicine held in Mbeya on 28 August 2026.

NIMR Director General, Prof. Said Aboud, said NIMR, through the NIMR Mabibo Traditional Medicine Research Centre, has continued to invest in laboratory infrastructure to strengthen the scientific foundation for traditional medicines. He reported that the laboratories are being used to monitor the quality of 45 medicines available through an integrated service programme that has reached more than 2,000 patients in 14 regional referral hospitals.

Prof. Aboud also said NIMR is completing procedures to officially open the Mabibo Traditional Medicine Production Facility during the 2026/27 financial year.

The conference brought together traditional and complementary medicine practitioners, researchers, health professionals, policymakers, regulatory institutions, universities and development partners under the theme of accelerating the integration of scientifically validated traditional medicines into formal health systems through multisectoral collaboration.





NIMR Council Chairperson, Prof. James E. Mdoe, addresses participants during the Fifth Scientific Conference on Traditional Medicine held in Mbeya on 28 August 2026.





NIMR Director General, Prof. Said Aboud, addresses participants during the Fifth Scientific Conference on Traditional Medicine held in Mbeya on 28 August 2026.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

NIMR Mbeya, University of Bergen Explore Opportunities for Collaborative Research

NIMR Mbeya Medical Research Centre and the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway, are exploring opportunities for collaborative research following an engagement aimed at identifying shared research interests and potential areas of scientific cooperation. The engagement brought together researchers from both institutions to exchange knowledge, discuss research priorities and explore ways to combine their expertise and existing infrastructure to address priority health challenges.

During the visit, the UiB delegation toured NIMR-Mbeya's research facilities, including neonatal intensive care units at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital. The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to gain firsthand insight into the Centre's clinical and laboratory research infrastructure, ongoing activities and capacity to support collaborative studies.

Researchers from NIMR-Mbeya and UiB also held discussions on areas of mutual interest and opportunities to develop future joint research initiatives. The delegation expressed appreciation for NIMR-Mbeya's established clinical and laboratory research infrastructure and its potential to support high-quality scientific collaboration.

The engagement marks a step towards strengthening international research cooperation and provides a basis for further discussions to identify concrete areas of collaboration between the two institutions.



Researchers from NIMR-Mbeya Medical Research Centre and the University of Bergen, Norway, pose for a group photo.





The University of Bergen (UiB) delegation tours laboratory facilities at the NIMR Mbeya Medical Research Centre to learn about ongoing research activities and explore opportunities for scientific collaboration.

NIMR and HJF Strengthen Strategic Collaboration in Health Research

NIMR and the U.S.-based Henry M. Jackson Foundation (HJF) have discussed strategies to strengthen the existing collaboration in health research including joint research, capacity building for researchers, and making better use of existing infrastructure to expand the scope of health research in Tanzania.

The discussions took place on 13th August 2026 at the NIMR Mbeya Research Centre, during a visit by HJF President and Chief Executive Officer, retired U.S. Army Major General Dr. Joseph Caravalho, and his delegation.

Speaking during the visit, NIMR Director General Prof. Said Aboud said the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Governments of Tanzania and the United States provides an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in health research, particularly at a time when the global health research funding landscape is changing.

Prof. Aboud noted that NIMR has invested in research infrastructure at the Mbeya Research Centre and its other centres, including laboratories and equipment that support a range of health research activities.

The discussions also covered changes in U.S. research funding. Prof. Aboud expressed appreciation to the U.S. Government for its support through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has contributed to Tanzania's efforts to address HIV and other public health challenges.



NIMR and HJF leadership pose for a group photo during the visit by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation (HJF) delegation to NIMR Mbeya Research Centre on 13 August 2026.

NIMR and HJF also discussed areas for future collaboration, including joint research, researcher capacity building and identifying new areas of scientific cooperation.

Following the discussions, the HJF delegation visited the Safety and Immunology Laboratory at the NIMR Mbeya Research Centre, where they observed ongoing research activities. The delegation was also briefed on investments made by the Government in collaboration with various partners, including HJF, to strengthen the Centre's research infrastructure.

The visit concluded with both sides expressing their commitment to continuing the existing partnership and making use of available infrastructure and research capacity to expand health research in Tanzania.





The Henry M. Jackson Foundation (HJF) delegation receives a briefing on ongoing research activities at the Safety and Immunology Laboratory during a visit to the NIMR Mbeya Research Centre on 13 August 2026.

NIMR and Museen Stade Strengthen Strategic Partnership in Research, Heritage and Research-Based Tourism at Amani Hill



NIMR and Museen Stade of Germany have formalised their partnership through a collaboration agreement under the WAYS – Towards Fair and Sustainable International Partnerships Programme.

The agreement was signed on 13 August 2026 at the NIMR Headquarters sub-Office in Dar es Salaam following approval of funding by the German Federal Cultural Foundation for the four-year programme, jointly implemented by NIMR and Museen Stade.

The partnership will be implemented at the NIMR Amani Centre and focuses on strengthening the historical, scientific, educational and tourism value of the Amani Hill Research Station. Key activities include establishing a Museum of Medical History, promoting research tourism, enhancing the Botanical Garden, and preserving and developing medicinal and herbal plantations for research and traditional medicine production.

The partners will also implement a touring exhibition programme in Tanzania, supported by an educational programme to increase public awareness of the historical and scientific significance of Amani Hill Station. The exhibition is expected to be presented at four locations associated with the Amani Stade Project.

Museen Stade Director Dr. Sebastian Möllers reaffirmed his institution's commitment to broadening collaboration with NIMR, including opportunities involving German research and higher education institutions, student exchanges and academic initiatives.

NIMR Director General Prof. Said Aboud reaffirmed NIMR's commitment to the partnership and highlighted its strategic importance for research, education, heritage conservation, institutional development and knowledge exchange. He noted that the collaboration could provide a foundation for additional partnerships with national and international institutions.

The agreement marks an important milestone in the longstanding relationship between NIMR and Museen Stade and establishes a framework for continued cooperation in science, education, cultural heritage and research-based tourism.





NIMR Director General, Prof. Said Aboud, and Museen Stade Director, Dr. Sebastian Möllers, sign a collaboration agreement to strengthen research, education and heritage conservation at Amani Hill Research Station.

DISSEMINATION

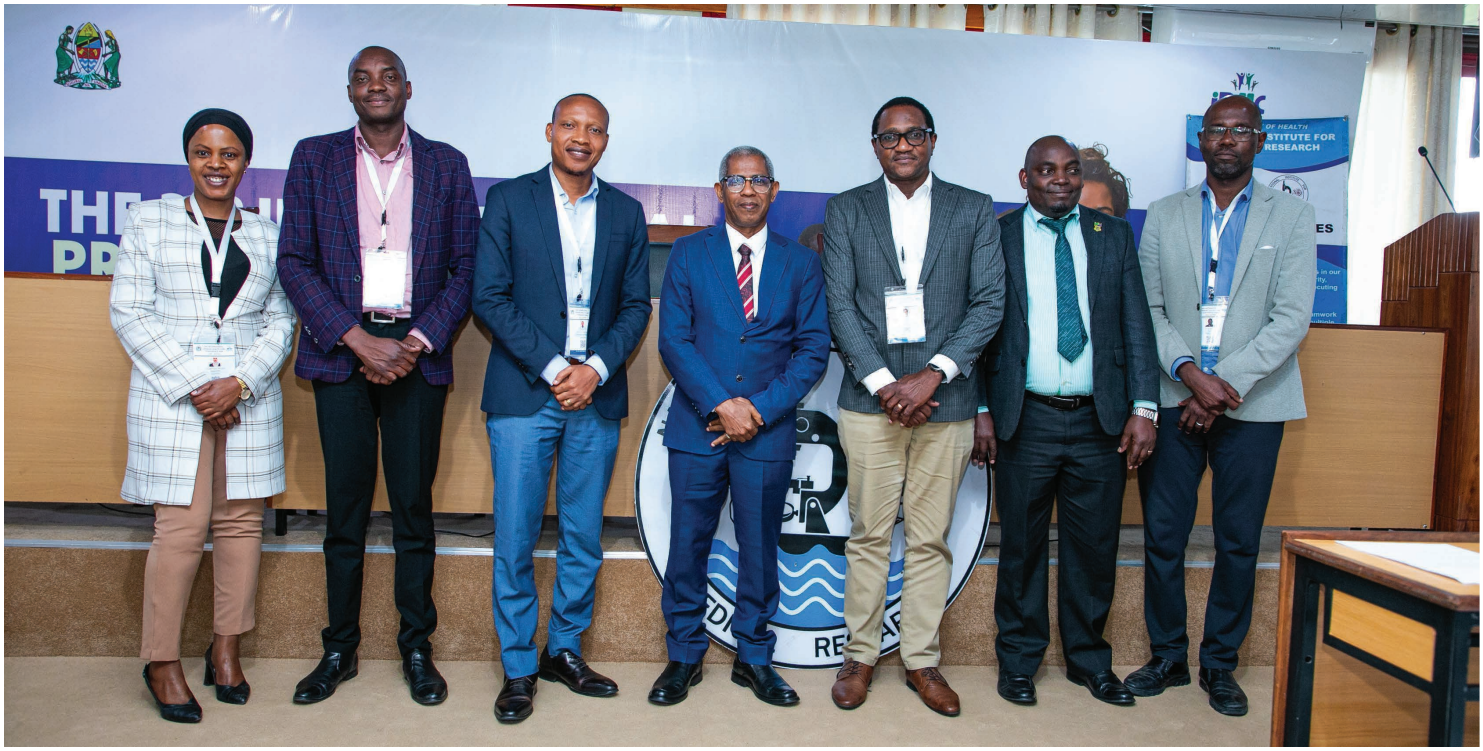
NIMR Research Evidence Strengthens HIV Services for Mothers and Infants

Research by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has shown that viral load testing for women living with HIV at the time of delivery can help identify mothers and infants at higher risk of HIV transmission, while digital innovations can improve access to test results at health facilities.

The evidence comes from the LIFE and LIFE2Scale projects, supported by EDCTP, which focused on improving services for pregnant women living with HIV and infants at risk of HIV infection. Findings were presented on 10 September 2026 during the Second International Primary Health Care Conference 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), providing an opportunity to share evidence with policymakers and health stakeholders.

NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, highlighted the importance of viral load testing at delivery in identifying those at higher risk and ensuring that mothers and infants who require additional services are reached early. He noted that NIMR has worked with the Ministry of Health, PO-RALG and other stakeholders while strengthening existing national systems rather than creating parallel systems.

LIFE2Scale Principal Investigator, Dr. Issa Sabi, said the LIFE study, conducted in Tanzania and Mozambique between 2019 and 2022, showed that viral load testing at delivery could identify more mothers and infants at higher risk of transmission than relying on clinical criteria alone. LIFE2Scale built on this evidence by integrating the approach into routine services and strengthening national systems, including the Electronic Sample Referral System (ESRS) and Unified Community System–Kituoni App (UCS-Kituoni).



NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud (centre), with NIMR staff and other stakeholders Arusha,10 September 2026.

Implementation in health facilities in Mbeya and Songwe also contributed to strengthening testing capacity, including through the acquisition of approximately 15 GeneXpert machines for infant HIV testing and other conditions, including tuberculosis.

Killian Mlalama explained that the UCS-Kituoni App, integrated with ESRS, reduced reliance on paper-based test results and contributed to improving turnaround time for facilities receiving results from testing sites.

From the Ministry of Health, Dr. Mukome Nyamhagatta, Strategic Information Coordinator under the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission programme, said the research provides useful evidence for improving health service guidelines.

He noted that although Tanzania has made progress in preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission and infant HIV testing, continued strengthening of viral load monitoring, testing at delivery, service-point testing and use of data remains important.



NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, addresses participants while officially opening the LIFE and LIFE2Scale symposium on 10 September 2026.



Participants



Dr. Issa Sabi
LIFE2Scale Principal Investigator.



Participants



Mr. Killian Mlalama
IFE2Scale Investigator.

PEN-Plus Demonstrates Reduced Hospital Admissions Among Patients with Chronic Conditions

NIMR Researcher Shares Evidence on the Impact of Decentralised Care During the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care

The implementation of the PEN-Plus model in Kondoa and Karatu Districts has demonstrated a substantial reduction in hospital admissions among patients living with chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with the average number of admissions declining from four times per year to 0.1 times per year.

The findings were disseminated on 10 September 2026 by NIMR Researcher, Dr. Peter M. Karoli, during the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care (iPHC) held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC).

PEN-Plus is an approach designed to bring the management of severe chronic conditions closer to communities by shifting selected services from higher-level referral hospitals to district hospitals. The model supports patients with conditions including Type 1 diabetes, sickle cell disease and heart disease through trained healthcare teams, standardised treatment guidelines, essential medicines, diagnostic equipment, mentorship and supportive supervision.

In Tanzania, PEN-Plus was initially implemented as a pilot in Kondoa and Karatu Districts. By June 2026, the two PEN-Plus clinics had served 557 patients, while the capacity of healthcare providers to manage chronic conditions at district level had improved. Findings showed that up to 80 percent of trained healthcare workers demonstrated improved capacity to provide and manage care for patients with chronic conditions.



NIMR researcher Dr. Peter M. Karoli (third from right) poses for a group photo with other participants following the dissemination of PEN-Plus research findings at the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care (iPHC) in Arusha on 10 September 2026.



NIMR researcher, Dr. Peter M. Karoli, presents findings on the impact of the PEN-Plus model on chronic disease care during the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care (iPHC) in Arusha on 10 September 2026.

The dissemination further highlighted an 80 percent reduction in unnecessary referrals to higher-level hospitals. Among patients with sickle cell disease, the need for blood transfusions declined to zero, while cases of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) among patients with Type 1 diabetes also declined.

Beyond clinical outcomes, the implementation of PEN-Plus has strengthened continuity of care and contributed to improved quality of life among patients. Children and adolescents living with chronic conditions also experienced improved school attendance, while patients benefited from closer follow-up at district hospitals, reducing the need to travel long distances to access specialised care.

The findings provide evidence that decentralising chronic disease services can improve access to care while reducing unnecessary referrals and the burden associated with seeking treatment at higher-level facilities. The experience from Kondoa and Karatu also underscores the importance of strengthening healthcare workers' capacity, ensuring the availability of essential medicines and diagnostic equipment, and providing continuous mentorship and supportive supervision.

The findings were disseminated during the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care (iPHC), held from 9–11 September 2026 at AICC, Arusha. The conference brought together stakeholders from Tanzania and beyond to share research evidence, experiences and innovations aimed at strengthening primary healthcare systems.



Participants follow a presentation of PEN-Plus research findings during the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care (iPHC) in Arusha on 10 September 2026.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

NIMR Strengthens Tanzania's Capacity for Pathogen Detection Through Advanced Genomic Sequencing Training

NIMR is strengthening Tanzania's capacity to detect and monitor pathogens through advanced training in 16S/Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) ribosomal RNA sequencing for laboratory scientists from NIMR and the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL).

The two-week training commenced on 13 July 2026 at the NPHL laboratories in Mabibo and is being implemented under the Tanzania Global Health Security Priorities – Advancing Efforts and Strategies to Protect and Improve Health Security (TAGHESP) initiative.

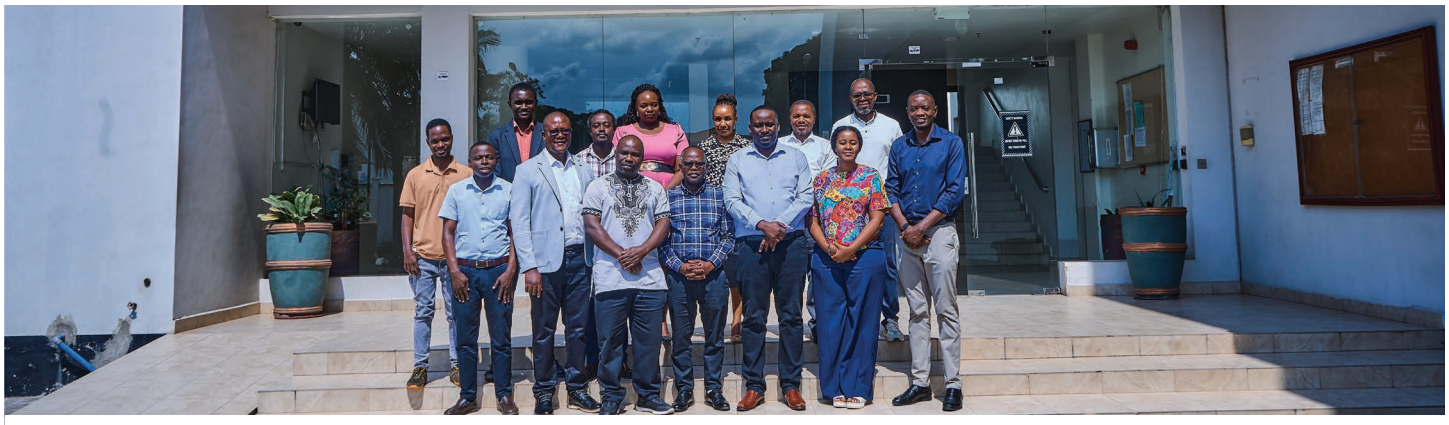
The training focuses on building laboratory expertise in advanced genomic technologies to improve detection and surveillance of pathogens causing acute febrile illnesses (AFI) and acute respiratory infections (ARI).

Acting NPHL Director, Mr. Seif Abdul, emphasised the importance of strengthening the use of genomic sequencing, particularly the 16S/ITS approach, in detecting pathogens responsible for ARI and AFI. He also commended CDC Tanzania for its continued support to strengthen laboratory systems and modern disease surveillance.

Representing NIMR Principal Investigator Dr. Misago Seth, the study team highlighted the importance of strengthening technical skills among NIMR and NPHL laboratory scientists and incorporating metagenomic sequencing into



multipathogen investigations as Tanzania expands surveillance of ARI and AFI.



NIMR and NPHL scientists pose for a group photo during 16S/ITS sequencing and bioinformatics training at NPHL Mabibo, Dar es Salaam, in July 2026.

Participants gained hands-on skills in nucleic acid extraction, 16S/ITS sequencing, bioinformatics analysis and interpretation of sequencing results. The training also supports the development of standardised laboratory workflows and Standard Operating Procedures for sustainable application of genomic sequencing in disease surveillance.
The enhanced capability will help NIMR and NPHL detect a broader range of pathogens, including those that may remain unidentified through conventional diagnostic methods, contributing to stronger infectious disease surveillance, evidence-informed public health decision-making and preparedness for emerging health threats.





Participants contribute to discussions during 16S/ITS sequencing training at NPHL laboratories in Mabibo, Dar es Salaam, on 13 July 2026.

NIMR Continues to Strengthen Staff Capacity Through Participation in the 14th TRAMPA Conference

NIMR continued to strengthen the professional capacity and development of its staff through participation in the 14th Conference of the Tanzania Records and Archives Management Professionals Association (TRAMPA), held in Dodoma from 21 to 25 September 2026.
The conference, held at Urio Hall, brought together records and archives management professionals and stakeholders from various institutions across Tanzania to exchange knowledge and professional experience, as well as discuss emerging approaches and practices in records and archives management.

NIMR was represented by 10 staff members from its Headquarters and various research centres and stations across the country. The participants included Jovina Cosmas from Headquarters; Issa Ibrahim from Mabibo; Salum Bakomeye from Korogwe; Anna Mafuru from Tabora; Angel Manga from Mwanza; Rukia Waziri from Tanga; Raheli Molleli from Mbeya; Joshua Hhape from Ngongongare; Jesca Mlwale from Amani; and Lucy Malinga from Muhimbili.

The conference was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba, underscoring the importance of effective records and archives management in strengthening institutional efficiency, accountability and information preservation.

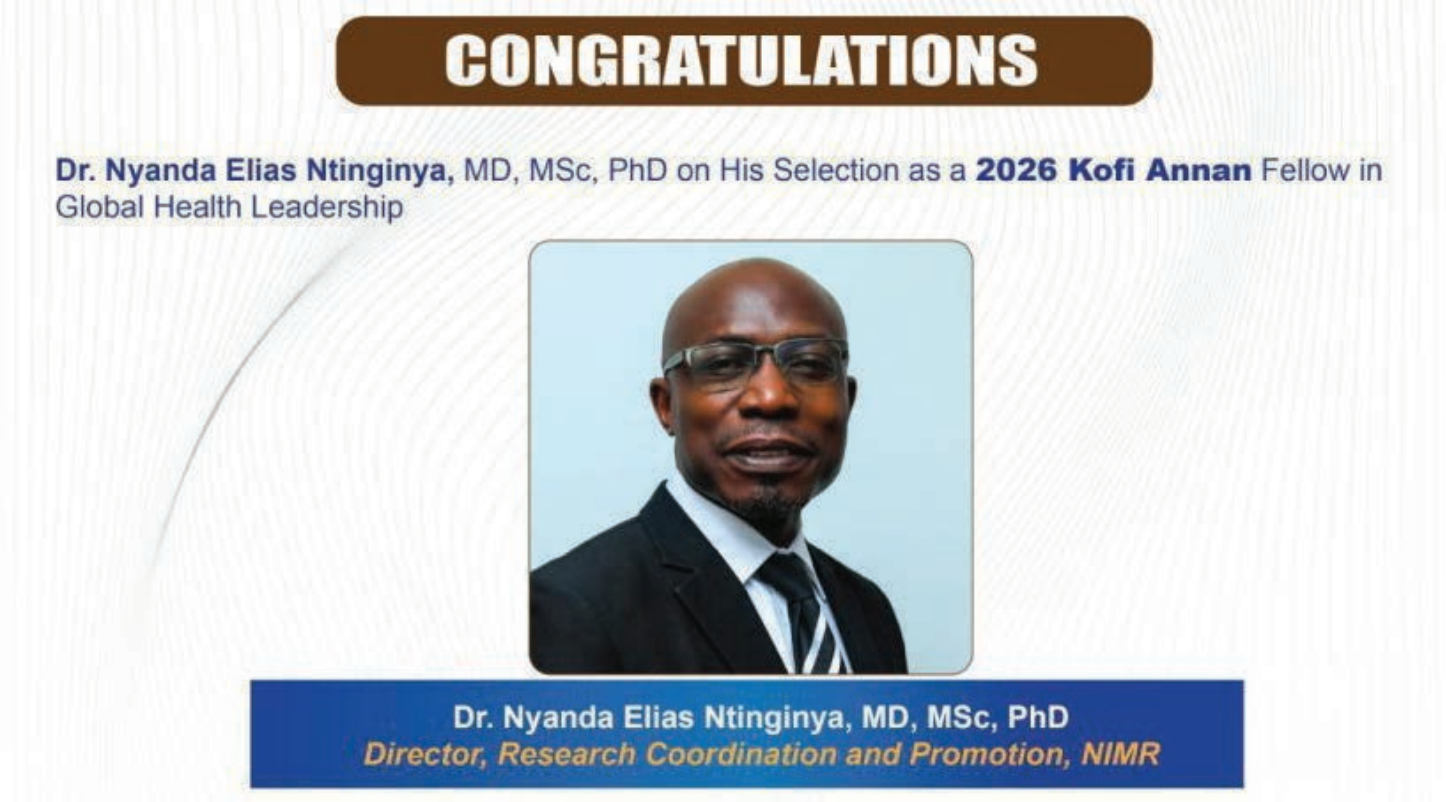
Through its participation in the conference, NIMR continues to invest in human resource development, strengthen professional competencies and improve the management of institutional records and information. These efforts contribute to greater efficiency and improved service delivery in support of the Institute's mandate.



NIMR staff pose for a group photo during the 14th TRAMPA Conference held at Urio Hall in Dodoma from 21 to 25 September 2026.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

NIMR Congratulates Dr. Nyanda Elias Ntinginya on Selection as 2026 Kofi Annan Fellow in Global Health Leadership



NIMR congratulates Dr. Nyanda Elias Ntinginya on his selection as a 2026 Kofi Annan Fellow in Global Health Leadership.

The Kofi Annan Fellowship in Global Health Leadership, implemented by Africa CDC in partnership with the Kofi Annan Foundation, is a continental leadership programme that equips senior public health professionals from African Union Member States with advanced competencies in strategic leadership, health diplomacy, policy influence and health systems transformation.

Dr. Ntinginya's selection reflects his professional excellence, leadership and continued commitment to advancing public health research and strengthening health systems across Africa.

NIMR wishes Dr. Ntinginya every success throughout the fellowship programme.

PUBLICATIONS

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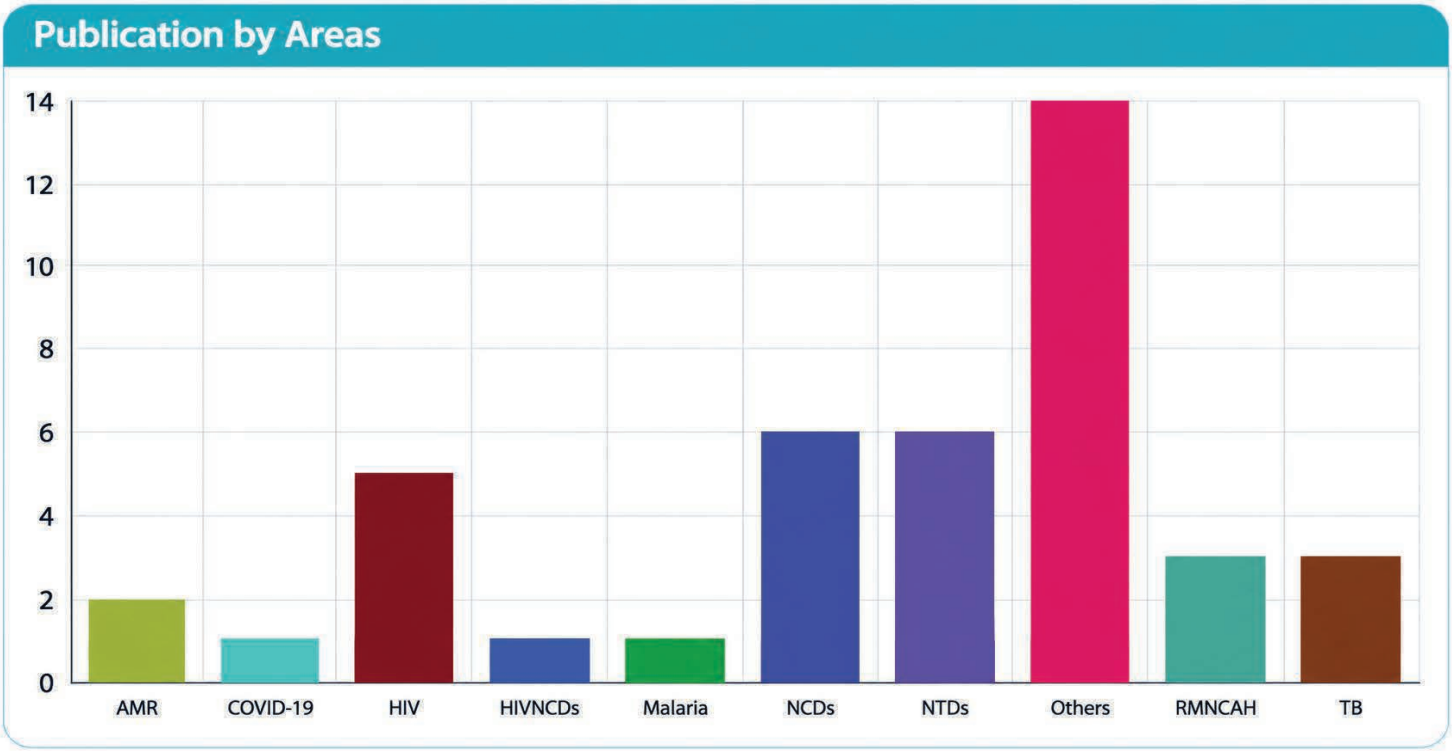
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High Impact Factors Journal

Six papers were published in high-impact journals, including Nature Medicine, The Lancet Infectious Diseases, The Lancet Public Health, The Lancet HIV, The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and JAMA Network Open



Policy Briefs

1. Title: Are Tanzania's Antibiotic treatment recommendations still fit for purpose?
   Author: Mary T. Mayige, Charles B. Kafaiya, Johnson J. Mshiu, Obadia K. Bishoge, Jonathan M. Mcharo, Kunda J. Stephen, Sia E. Malekia, Irene R. Mremi, Angelina M. Lutambi, Mwanaada A. Kilima, Said S. Aboud.

2. Title: Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Improving Care-Seeking Through Inte gration of Traditional and Biomedical Mental Health Services in Tanzania
   Author: Mercy G. Chiduo, Angelina M. Lutambi and Basiliana A. Emidi.


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Muhimbili
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