# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH [NIMR

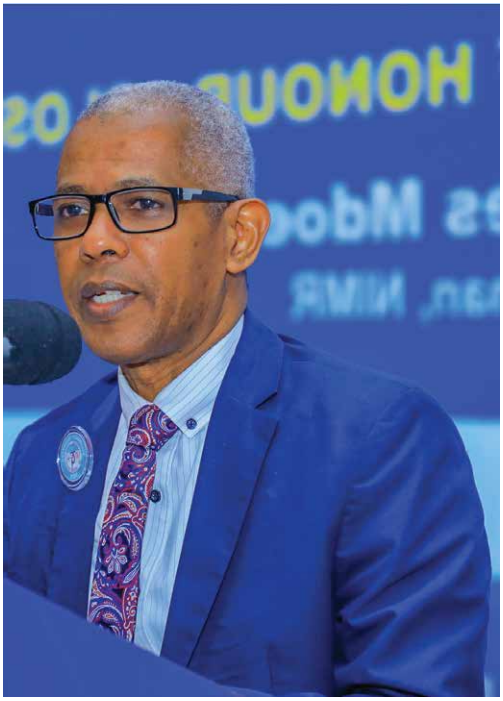
# NIMR NEWSLETTER

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June 2026

# 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 April to June 2026.

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# EDITORIAL

## Message from the Editorial Board

As we conclude the fourth quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year, we reflect with pride on another remarkable chapter in the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR)'s journey of advancing health research and innovation in Tanzania. This edition of our newsletter showcases significant achievements that reaffirm our commitment to generating scientific evidence that strengthens health systems, informs policy, and improves the well-being of our communities.

During this quarter, NIMR continued to demonstrate its leadership in health research through impactful scientific discoveries, strategic partnerships, and national and international engagements. The successful hosting of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference provided an important platform for researchers, policymakers, development partners, and healthcare professionals to exchange knowledge and explore innovative solutions for achieving Universal Health Coverage and supporting Tanzania's Vision 2050.

The Conference also reinforced NIMR's commitment to research dissemination by creating opportunities for scientific evidence to be shared with key stakeholders and translated into policy and practice. Through a series of thematic symposia, researchers presented findings on priority public health issues, including post-tuberculosis lung disease, malaria elimination, and neglected tropical diseases. These discussions fostered meaningful dialogue among researchers, programme implementers, policymakers, and development partners, generating practical recommendations that will strengthen national health programmes, support evidence-informed decision-making, and accelerate the adoption of innovative health interventions.

This edition also highlights several institutional milestones, including the recognition of NIMR scientists among Tanzania's top researchers, the expansion of research initiatives addressing emerging and existing public health challenges, strengthened regulatory and ethical frameworks for health research, and continued investment in research capacity development. These accomplishments reflect the dedication, professionalism, and collaborative spirit of our researchers, staff, and partners.

Beyond scientific excellence, NIMR remains committed to ensuring that research is effectively disseminated and translated into tangible benefits for society. Through continuous engagement with policymakers, healthcare providers, communities, and development partners, the Institute promotes the uptake of scientific evidence to inform policy, improve clinical practice, strengthen health systems, and support the implementation of effective public health interventions. Our continued efforts in community engagement, promotion of traditional medicine research, and strengthening of clinical research systems further demonstrate our commitment to making research relevant, accessible, and responsive to national priorities.

As we close the financial year, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Ministry of Health, our collaborating institutions, development partners, researchers, study participants, and all stakeholders whose continued support makes these achievements possible. Together, we are building a stronger foundation for innovation, healthier communities, and sustainable national development.

We invite you to explore this edition and learn more about the milestones, partnerships, scientific achievements, and research dissemination efforts that continue to position NIMR as Tanzania's leading institution for health research and innovation.

# INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES

## NIMR Strengthens National Coordination of Health Research through New Committee

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has established a national coordination mechanism to strengthen the management, alignment, and use of health research evidence within Tanzania's health and development agenda.

The mechanism, the National Health Research Coordination and Promotion Committee (NatHReCoP), was launched by the Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, during the 33rd Annual Joint Sector Review (AJSC) meeting held in Arusha.

NatHReCoP would operate within the Medical Research Coordinating Committee (MRCC) framework as a sister committee to the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NatHREC). While NatHREC focuses on ethical review and protection of research participants, NatHReCoP is mandated to strengthen coordination, promotion and utilization of health research outputs at national level.

The initiative responds to the need for improved coordination of health research activities including addressing fragmentation, duplication of efforts and limited uptake of research findings in policy formulation/change and best practices. It also reflects the need to enhance efficiency in the use of investments within a changing global research funding environment.



*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, cuts the ribbon on 9/6/2026 to officially launch the National Health Research Coordination and Promotion Committee (NatHReCoP), marking a key milestone in strengthening coordination, alignment, and utilization of health research evidence in Tanzania.*
*The launch, held during the 33rd Annual Joint Sector Review meeting in Arusha, reflects government commitment to improving evidence-to-policy translation and enhancing the impact of health research for national development.*

The committee brings together multi-sectoral experts from key institutions including the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) as well as representatives from academia, research institutions, Government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Its core functions include national health research monitoring and reporting, strengthening evidence-to-policy translation, promoting innovation and technology transfer, and supporting mobilization of research funding. These functions will be implemented through structured national coordination systems including a centralized health research data repository and policy dialogue platforms.

The initiative is expected to strengthen collaboration between researchers, policymakers and implementers to ensure that locally generated evidence informs national health priorities including Tanzania's Development Vision 2050.

"The establishment of NatHReCoP offers a structured national response to longstanding challenges in health research coordination. By strengthening collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and implementers, the committee will support the use of evidence in guiding national development priorities and safeguarding public health," said the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said Aboud.

To enhance coordination at subnational level, zonal structures will be integrated through NIMR regional centres to support broader stakeholder engagement and improve responsiveness across the country.

The establishment of NatHReCoP marks a strengthened approach to coordinating health research in Tanzania with emphasis on alignment, efficiency, and effective use of scientific evidence in national development.












*The launch of the National Health Research Coordination and Promotion Committee (NatHReCoP) brought together policymakers, researchers, regulators, development partners, and other stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in Tanzania's health research ecosystem.*

# NIMR Calls for Greater Use of Evidence to Strengthen Health Systems at 33rd Scientific Conference

NIMR has successfully concluded its 33rd Scientific Conference held from 9 to 11 June 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), bringing together 629 participants from Tanzania and beyond.

The conference provided a high-level platform for researchers, policymakers, health professionals, development partners, and other stakeholders to exchange research findings, share experiences, and explore innovative approaches aimed at strengthening health systems. Discussions focused on advancing Universal Health Coverage and supporting the implementation of Tanzania's Development Vision 2050 under the theme: "Universal Health Coverage: Building a Resilient and Sustainable Health System for Tanzania's 2050 Vision."

Speaking at the closing ceremony on behalf of the Chairperson of the NIMR Council, Council Member Dr. Consolatha Mhaidi commended NIMR for successfully organizing the conference and facilitating impactful scientific discussions.

She noted that the recommendations emerging from presentations and deliberations will be considered in line with national priorities, with urgent issues prioritized for implementation while others will be integrated into policy and strategic planning processes.

Presenting the institutional overview, the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said S. Aboud stated that the success of the conference was reflected in more than 390 scientific presentations and seven symposia, demonstrating the strong contribution of research to strengthening Tanzania's health system.

He emphasized NIMR's continued commitment to advancing research that integrates emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, to improve disease diagnosis, data analysis, and outbreak surveillance.

Prof. Aboud commended researchers and staff for their dedication to generating scientific evidence that informs policy decisions and strengthens strategic planning in the health sector.

The conference concluded with stakeholders reaffirming the importance of strengthening collaboration between research and innovation to ensure that scientific outputs are translated into improved health services and meaningful contributions toward Universal Health Coverage and Tanzania's Vision 2050.




*Some NIMR staff and members of the High Table pose for a group photo after the official closing of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference, held from 9–11 June 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC).*







*Council Member Dr. Consolatha Mhaidi, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the NIMR Council, commended NIMR for successfully organizing the 33rd Scientific Conference and facilitating impactful scientific discussions during the closing ceremony held on 11/06/2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Arusha.*




*NIMR Director General, Prof. Said S. Aboud, delivers closing remarks during the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference held on 11/06/2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Arusha, highlighting NIMR's commitment to advancing research, innovation, and evidence-informed health systems for Universal Health Coverage and Tanzania's Development Vision 2050.*

# NIMR Scientists Ranked Among Tanzania's Top 50 in the AD Scientific Index 2026




The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has reinforced its position as a leading research institution after five of its scientists were ranked among Tanzania's Top 50 researchers in the AD Scientific Index 2026.

The recognition reflects NIMR's sustained commitment to scientific excellence and its growing contribution to advancing health research that informs policy, strengthens healthcare systems, and improves health outcomes in Tanzania and beyond.

The scientists featured in this year's ranking are Prof. Sayoki Mfinanga, ranked 4th nationally; Prof. Said Aboud, 10th; Dr. Susan Rumisha, 12th; Dr. William Kisinza, 30th; and Dr. Bruno Mmbando, 41st. Their inclusion highlights years of dedication to high-quality research, scientific innovation, and the generation of evidence that addresses pressing public health challenges.

NIMR researchers continue to lead studies in priority health areas, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, vector-borne diseases, zoonotic diseases, non-communicable diseases, and health data systems. Their work provides critical evidence that supports national health policies, guides decision-making, and strengthens responses to both infectious and non-communicable diseases.

The presence of five NIMR scientists among the country's Top 50 researchers underscores the Institute's role as a center of scientific excellence and a trusted partner in regional and global health research. It also reflects the collective efforts of NIMR researchers, whose contributions continue to expand scientific knowledge and improve public health.

NIMR congratulates the five distinguished scientists on this remarkable achievement and commends all Institute researchers who were recognized in the AD Scientific Index 2026. Their accomplishments demonstrate NIMR's unwavering commitment to advancing health research that transforms lives and contributes to sustainable national development.

# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S HIGHLIGHTS

## NIMR Director General Honored for Outstanding Contributions to Medical Science and Capacity Building



*Prof. Said S. Aboud, Director General of NIMR, receives the African Excellence and Personality Award (AEPA 2026) in Medical Science, Research and Capacity Building, presented by ACEPA Secretariat on 10/04/2026 in Accra, Ghana, in recognition of his contribution to health research and scientific innovation in Africa.*

The Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said S. Aboud, has been honored with the African Excellence and Personality Award (AEPA 2026) in Medical Science, Research and Capacity Building. The award was presented by the African Corporate Excellence and Personality Awards (ACEPA) Secretariat on 10 April 2026 in Accra, Ghana.

This recognition celebrates Prof. Aboud's exceptional leadership and long-standing contributions to the advancement of medical research, public health, and scientific innovation across Africa. It also acknowledges his role in strengthening research systems and promoting evidence-based health interventions in Tanzania and beyond.

According to the award citation, Prof. Aboud has demonstrated unwavering commitment to improving health outcomes through research excellence. His extensive work in infection biology and clinical research has positioned him as a respected authority in the global health research community.

With over two decades of experience, Prof. Aboud has contributed to and led several groundbreaking studies addressing key public health challenges, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and antimicrobial resistance. His work has significantly influenced health policy development, improved diagnostic approaches, and strengthened research capacity at both national and international levels.

Beyond his scientific contributions, Prof. Aboud has played a pivotal leadership role in national and global health institutions. His engagement in international health initiatives, including pandemic preparedness and response efforts, has contributed to strengthening healthcare systems and advancing scientific innovation across the African continent.

Speaking during the award ceremony, Prof. Aboud expressed gratitude to the organizers for the recognition and called for increased investment in health research across African countries. He further emphasized the importance of translating research findings into practical solutions, as well as nurturing a culture of innovation among young scientists to drive the development of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics on the continent.

This recognition not only highlights Prof. Aboud's individual achievements but also underscore the growing contribution of Tanzanian researchers to global health science. It further reinforces NIMR's



# EVENTS

## NIMR Participates in International Workers' Day Commemorations, Provides Free Health Services and Strengthens Community Health Outreach

NIMR marked the 2026 International Workers' Day (May Day) with a series of community health interventions, offering free health services to citizens across multiple centres in Tanzania.

The national commemorations, held in Njombe Region and presided over by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, were accompanied by nationwide participation from NIMR centres through outreach activities aimed at improving public health awareness and access to basic health services.

The services provided included malaria rapid diagnostic tests (mRDT), blood glucose screening, blood pressure measurement, body mass index (BMI) assessment, and general health education. These interventions focused particularly on communicable and non-communicable diseases, with an emphasis on malaria prevention and early detection of health conditions.

At various centres including Tanga, Amani, Mwanza, and Mbeya, large numbers of community members turned up to access the services. At Mkwakwani grounds in Tanga, beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the initiative, noting that it provided them with an opportunity to understand their health status and seek timely medical guidance.

"These services have been very helpful. Many of us do not get regular opportunities for health screening, but today we have been able to know our health status," said one of the beneficiaries.

In addition to service delivery, NIMR researchers used the platform to engage with the public by showcasing ongoing scientific studies, including research on mosquito vectors and malaria control. This aimed at increasing community awareness of the role of scientific research in improving health outcomes and disease prevention.

During the commemorations, outstanding NIMR staff for the year 2026 were also recognized at the







*Citizens receive free medical services at the NIMR booth during the 2026 International Workers' Day (May Day) commemorations, where NIMR provided health screening and education services to promote community health awareness across Tanzania*

national level, receiving certificates and awards in acknowledgement of their contribution to institutional development and the advancement of public health research in Tanzania.

The 2026 Labour Day celebrations were held under the theme: “Decent Work as a Foundation for Sustainable Development in the Implementation of Vision 2050.”

NIMR’s participation in this national event reflects its continued commitment to strengthening community health through research, outreach, and public education, while also recognizing the vital role of employees in driving national development.







*NIMR staff participate in the 2026 International Workers’ Day (May Day) commemorations, joining other workers in celebrating and promoting decent work and contributing to public health awareness activities across the country*











*NIMR staff from headquarters and all centres across the country participate in the 2026 International Workers' Day (May Day) commemorations, joining other workers in celebrating decent work and contributing to public health awareness activities nationwide.*

# Minister Mchengerwa Commends NIMR for Advancing Health Research and National Development

The Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, has commended NIMR for its significant contribution to advancing health research, innovation, and the improvement of healthcare delivery systems in Tanzania.

The Minister made the remarks while officiating the opening of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), where he represented the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He noted that the Government recognizes NIMR's critical role in generating scientific evidence that informs the identification, evaluation, and strengthening of health interventions. The Minister further emphasized that research findings continue to play a key role in shaping health policies, improving service delivery, and reducing the burden of disease among Tanzanians.

Hon. Mchengerwa stressed that investment in research is not a luxury, but a strategic development priority that enables countries to address challenges through evidence-based decision-making, innovation, and scientific advancement. He added that such investment contributes to broader socio-economic development and strengthens national resilience.

Representing the Arusha Regional leadership, the District Commissioner of Arusha, Joseph Mkude, noted that the conference was timely as Tanzania continues to implement the Universal Health Insurance agenda under the Sixth Phase Government, aimed at ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services for all citizens.

The Chairperson of the NIMR Council, Prof. James Mdoe, highlighted that over the past four decades, NIMR has conducted impactful research addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition, public health, and other priority




*Members of the High Table and the Organizing Committee pose for a group photograph during the opening ceremony of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), reflecting collaboration in supporting the successful organization of the conference and advancing health research in Tanzania.*

areas. He reaffirmed the Council's commitment to supporting the Ministry of Health in ensuring that research findings are effectively translated into policies, plans, and healthcare delivery systems.

Presenting the institutional report, the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said S. Aboud, stated that the conference brought together researchers, health experts, policymakers, and development partners to discuss the role of scientific evidence in strengthening health systems and advancing Tanzania's Vision 2050.

He further noted that NIMR continues to make significant contributions to the health sector through research that informs policy reforms, improves clinical services, strengthens disease prevention strategies, and enhances the use of technology in health research management.

The conference reaffirmed NIMR's position as a leading institution in generating scientific evidence that supports national health priorities and contributes to sustainable development in Tanzania.









# RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

## NIMR Launches Project to Strengthen Mpox Outbreak Prediction in Tanzania



*A group photo of participants at the inception meeting of the Mpox epidemic modelling project, bringing together experts and stakeholders committed to advancing epidemic preparedness through data-driven decision-making and scientific collaboration.*

NIMR officially launched a new project on 30 April 2026 aimed at strengthening Tanzania's capacity to predict and respond to Mpox outbreaks through evidence-based scientific approaches.

The initiative marks a significant step forward in enhancing the country's preparedness for public health emergencies, with a strategic focus on shifting from reactive response mechanisms to proactive outbreak planning through epidemic modelling and risk mapping.

Speaking during the inception meeting, the Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Erasto Sylvanus, noted that the project is timely, as Tanzania continues to strengthen its systems for managing public health emergencies. He emphasized that the use of modelling approaches will improve decision-making, enhance resource allocation, and



increase the effectiveness of outbreak response strategies.

The Principal Investigator from NIMR, Dr. Angelina M. Lutambi, highlighted that the project will also focus on building national capacity in epidemic modelling and geospatial analysis. This will enable local experts to independently design, analyze, and manage future public health threats using advanced scientific tools.

Adding to this, the Programme Lead for Thanzi at the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), Mr. Edward Kataika, emphasized the importance of modelling in strengthening health systems. He noted that ECSA-HC promotes modelling as a key approach for generating evidence to support decision-making, particularly in the efficient allocation of limited health resources.

A key highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Emmanuel Mnjowe, software developer at ECSA-HC, who introduced the Thanzi Model. This newly developed predictive tool is designed to support outbreak forecasting and response planning, and is expected to play a critical role in enhancing data-driven decision-making for Mpox and other emerging infectious diseases.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with key partners, including the Ministry of Health, the Prime Minister's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), ECSA-HC, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Overall, the launch of this initiative represents a major milestone in strengthening Tanzania's preparedness and response capacity for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases through advanced scientific modelling and multi-sectoral collaboration.





*Participants engage in discussions during the inception meeting of the Mpox epidemic modelling project, sharing insights and exploring evidence-based strategies to strengthen Tanzania's preparedness and response to emerging infectious disease outbreaks.*

# Research and Innovation Exhibition Enriches NIMR 33rd Scientific Conference at AICC 2026

The Research and Innovation Exhibition held alongside the 33rd Scientific Conference of NIMR which took place from 9 to 11 June 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), attracted significant interest from health sector stakeholders and participants.

The exhibition showcased research outputs, innovations, and health services from various institutions, including NIMR and its research centres in Amani, Mabibo, Mbeya, and Muhimbili, as well as the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Medical Stores Department (MSD), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA), Kibong'oto Infectious Disease Hospital (KIDH), Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital, UTT AMIS, and Tanzania Biotech Products Limited (TBPL). These institutions presented a wide range of scientific innovations, technologies, and health services aimed at improving healthcare delivery in Tanzania.

Among the key attractions was research on medicinal plants and traditional medicine conducted by NIMR Mabibo Centre, where participants had the opportunity to explore various products developed from scientific research. The nutritional beverage NIMRVIT attracted considerable public interest, reflecting growing recognition of research-based traditional medicine products. In addition, an innovative mosquito larvae elimination device developed by Mr. George Nyahende drew attention for demonstrating practical scientific solutions to public health challenges.

While touring the exhibition stands, the Guest of




*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, receives a briefing from NIMR Tanga researchers on an advanced microscope used for malaria diagnosis during his visit to the NIMR exhibition booth at the 33rd NIMR Annual Scientific Conference.*

Honour, Mohamed Mchengerwa, emphasized the importance of strengthening research efforts aimed at developing sustainable solutions for malaria, noting that the disease remains a major public health challenge in many developing countries, including Tanzania.

He further urged researchers and institutions to focus on innovations that can be directly translated into improved healthcare services and reduced disease burden among communities.

The exhibition, guided by the theme “Universal Health Coverage: Building a Resilient and Sustainable Health System for Tanzania’s 2050 Vision,” added significant value to the conference by strengthening collaboration between researchers, innovators, and policymakers through science, technology, and innovation.











*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, receives a briefing from exhibitors during a tour of the Research and Innovation Exhibition held alongside the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference, highlighting scientific innovations and research contributing to improved healthcare delivery in Tanzania.*

# Health Research and Traditional Medicine Prioritized in Tanzania's 2026/2027 Health Budget

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening health research and traditional medicine following the prioritization of these areas in the Ministry of Health budget for the 2026/2027 financial year.

The budget was presented to Parliament in Dodoma by the Minister for Health, Mohamed Mchengerwa, who emphasized that the Government will continue to strengthen health research systems and promote the utilization of research findings in strategic national priorities. He further noted ongoing efforts to regulate and enhance traditional and complementary medicine services in the country.

The Minister highlighted that the Government is working to ensure that traditional medicines undergo rigorous scientific evaluation for safety and efficacy before being integrated into the formal health system. He also acknowledged the contribution of the NIMR–Mabibo pharmaceutical facility in advancing integrated traditional medicine services in Tanzania.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) was recognized in the budget as the national coordinating institution responsible for regulating, overseeing, and conducting health research in the country. The Institute continues to implement research across key areas including infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, health systems, and traditional medicine.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, NIMR has been allocated TZS 4 billion to support national research activities. During the period from July 2025 to March 2026, the Institute issued 513 research permits out of 600 applications received, representing an approval rate of 86 percent.




*Hon. Edward Ole Lekaita, Member of Parliament for Kiteto Constituency (Manyara Region), signs the visitors' book after visiting the NIMR exhibition booth during the 2026/2027 Health Sector Budget Exhibitions at Parliament in Dodoma.*



*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, presents the Ministry of Health's budget estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year before Parliament, outlining the Government's priorities for strengthening healthcare services, health research, and traditional medicine in Tanzania.*

Alongside the budget presentation, ongoing health sector exhibitions in Parliament attracted strong engagement from Members of Parliament, government officials, and members of the public. NIMR's exhibition stand was among the most visited, drawing significant attention and interest.

Visitors had the opportunity to learn about ongoing health research projects, particularly in traditional medicine, as well as the scientific processes used to evaluate and validate herbal products. NIMR experts provided detailed explanations to lawmakers and officials, reflecting growing interest in evidence-based traditional medicine.

Products developed by the NIMR Mabibo Centre attracted considerable attention, including the nutritional beverage NIMREVIT, scientifically validated traditional medicines, and skincare products developed through research-based innovation.

The strong engagement from Parliamentarians, government leaders, and the public reflects increasing awareness of NIMR's contribution to advancing health research and the development of scientifically validated traditional medicine to improve healthcare services in Tanzania.









*Members of Parliament and government officials visit the NIMR exhibition booth during the Parliamentary Health Sector Exhibitions, where they learn about the Institute's ongoing health research, scientific innovations, and evidence-based traditional medicine.*

# Minister Mchengerwa Urges NIMR to Accelerate Translation of Research into Marketable Solutions



*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, addresses delegates during the opening of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha on 9 June 2026, calling for the accelerated translation of research findings into innovative products and services that strengthen healthcare delivery, create economic value, and support Tanzania's Development Vision 2050.*

The Minister of Hon. Health, Mohamed Mchengerwa, has called on the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) to accelerate the translation of research findings into practical products and services that generate economic value and contribute to national development.

The Minister made the remarks on 9 June 2026 during the opening of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC). He emphasized that Tanzania is strategically positioned to leverage science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of economic competitiveness and improved healthcare delivery.

He noted that NIMR's achievements in traditional medicine, nutritional products, and commercially viable research outputs demonstrate the Institute's growing capacity to transform scientific knowledge into real-world solutions that benefit society.

"We need to see research moving beyond laboratories into markets, industries, and the daily lives of citizens," he stated.

The Minister further stressed that global competitiveness is increasingly driven by knowledge and innovation, underscoring the importance of sustained investment in research as a foundation for achieving Tanzania's Development Vision 2050.

The Chairperson of the NIMR Council, Prof. James Mdoe, noted that the conference reflects the Institute's continued contribution to strengthening research and its application within the national health system.

He highlighted that over the past four decades, NIMR has conducted impactful research in communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition, and public health. These efforts, he said, have continued to inform government policies and improve health interventions across the country. He reaffirmed the Council's commitment to supporting the Government and the Ministry of Health in ensuring that research findings are effectively translated into improved healthcare services.

Presenting the institutional report, the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said S. Aboud, stated that the conference continues to serve as a critical



*Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Prof. Said S. Aboud, addresses delegates during the opening of the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha on 9th June 2026, highlighting the Institute's research achievements and emphasizing the role of scientific evidence in strengthening Tanzania's health system and advancing the country's Development Vision 2050.*

platform for bringing together researchers, policymakers, and health stakeholders to exchange scientific evidence and strengthen its application within the health system.

He noted that the 2026 conference is guided by the theme “Universal Health Coverage: Building a Resilient and Sustainable Health System for Tanzania’s 2050 Vision,” aimed at strengthening evidence-based health planning and decision-making.

Prof. Aboud further reported that research presentations covered a wide range of priority areas, including HPV, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, and nutrition, alongside improvements in laboratory infrastructure and international research collaborations.

The 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference is being held from 9 to 11 June 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), bringing together researchers, policymakers, and health stakeholders to discuss the role of research in advancing Tanzania’s Development Vision 2050.








*Participants attentively follow scientific presentations during the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference, held on 9 June 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), as researchers share evidence to advance healthcare and support Tanzania’s Development Vision 2050.*

# NIMR Honors Outstanding Scientists for Their Contributions to Health Research and Innovation at the 33rd Scientific Conference




*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, holds the National Health Research Promotion Award on behalf of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, during the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha on 9th June 2026, recognizing her outstanding leadership in advancing health research, scientific innovation, and evidence-based healthcare in Tanzania.*

NIMR celebrated outstanding achievements in health research, innovation, and leadership during the 33rd Annual Scientific Conference held in Arusha.

The recognition was presented as part of the Institute's commitment to promoting scientific excellence and strengthening the translation of research into impactful health solutions that benefit society.

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, was awarded the National Health Research Promotion Award in recognition of her transformative leadership in strengthening Tanzania's health research ecosystem, expanding scientific capacity, and advancing evidence-based policy and innovation. Her leadership has also contributed significantly to improvements in maternal and child health services and the advancement of digital health innovations.

The Minister for Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, who represented the President of United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan as Guest of Honour, received the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Champion Award in recognition of his contribution to advancing local pharmaceutical production, strengthening health innovation systems, and promoting national health security through strategic policy and investment frameworks.

In the category of scientific excellence and innovation, Prof. Bruno Focus Sunguya (MUHAS) was awarded the National Best Health Scientist Award for his outstanding academic leadership, extensive research output, and commitment to mentoring emerging scientists.

Dr. Sang'udi Emmanuel Sang'udi received the National Health Innovation Award for developing the Saratani Artificial Intelligence platform, an innovative tool that enhances early detection of cervical cancer with high diagnostic accuracy and is currently being implemented in multiple health facilities.

Prof. Sayoki Godfrey Mfinanga (National Institute for Medical Research) was honored with the National Lifetime Health Research Achievement Award in recognition of his longstanding contributions to infectious disease research, global health leadership, and evidence-informed policymaking.

NIMR also conferred the Best Scientist Awards to Dr. Mary Theodory Mayige and Dr. Nyanda Elias Ntinginya in recognition of their contributions to non-communicable disease research, clinical leadership, and strengthening of health systems and policy frameworks.

Special recognitions included the Mwelecele Malecela Memorial Award presented to Dr. Lucy Eliuteri Mrema for her leadership in clinical research and trials, and the Maria Kamm Best Female Scientist Award presented to Prof. Sia Emmanueli Msuya for her significant contributions to maternal and child health, reproductive health, and health systems research.

NIMR reaffirmed its commitment to recognizing scientific excellence, strengthening research capacity, and ensuring that scientific outputs are translated into evidence-based policies, innovations, and improved health outcomes. The NIMR Council, Management, and staff extended their congratulations to all awardees for their well-deserved recognition.


















*Minister of Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, presents awards and trophies to outstanding researchers and innovators during the 33rd NIMR Scientific Conference at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha on 9th June 2026, recognizing their exceptional contributions to health research, scientific innovation, and evidence-based solutions that strengthen Tanzania's healthcare system and national development.*

# NIMR Through PEN-Plus Expands Access to Non-Communicable Disease Services Closer to Communities

NIMR through the PEN-Plus research initiative, continues to strengthen the delivery of non-communicable disease (NCD) services in Tanzania by enabling district-level hospitals to provide specialized care that was previously only available at regional and referral hospitals.

These achievements were highlighted during the 3rd International Conference on the PEN-Plus Regional Strategy to Address Severe NCDs in Africa (ICPPA 2026), held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam from 23 to 25 June 2026.

Opening the conference, the Minister for Health, Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, noted that the PEN-Plus strategy continues to serve as a critical solution across Africa by bringing specialized NCD services closer to communities, particularly at designated district hospitals and health centres.

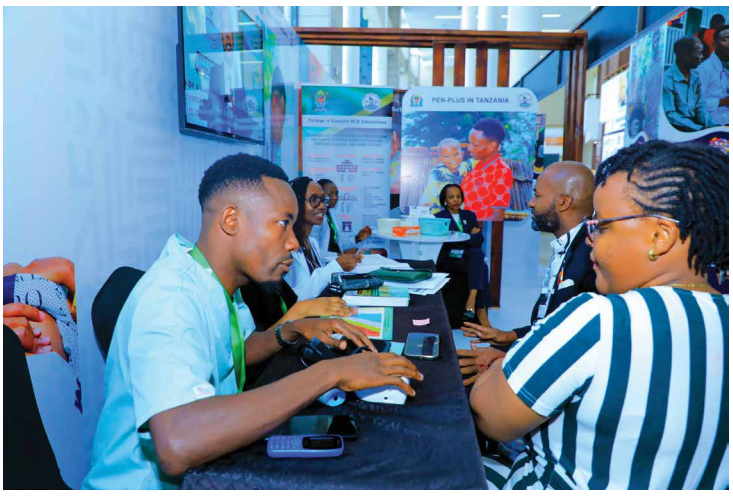
He further stated that through collaboration




*Leaders of the PEN-Plus Project in Tanzania join fellow delegates for a group photo during the 3rd International Conference on the PEN-Plus Regional Strategy to Address Severe Non-Communicable Diseases in Africa (ICPPA 2026), reflecting a shared commitment to advancing equitable access to quality care for severe non-communicable diseases across Africa.*



*Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of Health, receives a briefing from Dr. Mary Mayige at the PEN-Plus exhibition booth during the ICPPA 2026 Conference in Dar es Salaam*




*Conference participants receive free health screening and counseling services, including blood pressure and diabetes screening, at the PEN-Plus exhibition booth during ICPPA 2026, promoting the early detection and prevention of non-communicable diseases.*

between the Government, development partners, and the Samia Suluhu Hassan Outreach Programme, PEN-Plus services are being expanded nationwide, with particular emphasis on rural and underserved areas.

Presenting the initiative during a visit to the NIMR exhibition booth, the Principal Investigator of the PEN-Plus project in Tanzania, Dr. Mary Mayige, explained that the project has enabled Kondoa District Hospital and Karatu Lutheran Hospital to provide specialized NCD services through capacity building of health workers, strengthening of health facility infrastructure, and provision of essential medical equipment.

During the conference, NIMR also provided health screening and advisory services to participants, including blood pressure monitoring, diabetes screening, as well as height and weight measurements, aimed at promoting prevention and early detection of NCDs.

In addition, the project team was accompanied by patients benefiting from PEN-Plus-supported clinics, who shared testimonies on how the initiative has improved access to care and reduced barriers to treatment in their communities.

NIMR's participation in ICPPA 2026 underscores its continued contribution to strengthening NCD care through research, scientific evidence, and innovative service delivery models designed to reach more people, particularly those in high-need and underserved areas.








*Dr. Mary Mayige, Principal Investigator of the PEN-Plus Project in Tanzania at NIMR, speaks during a panel discussion at the 3rd International Conference on the PEN-Plus Regional Strategy to Address Severe Non-Communicable Diseases in Africa (ICPPA 2026) in Dar es Salaam, sharing insights on strengthening district-level care for severe non-communicable diseases through the PEN-Plus initiative.*

# Traditional Medicine Research Guidelines to Strengthen Ethics and Oversight of Health Research in Tanzania



*Participants pose for a group photo during the stakeholder consultative meeting on the draft Guidelines for Traditional Medicine Research in Tanzania, reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening ethical and scientific standards in traditional medicine research.*

NIMR has convened a stakeholder consultative meeting to review the draft Guidelines for Traditional Medicine Research in Tanzania, aimed at strengthening the quality, safety, and effectiveness of traditional medicine research in the country.

The meeting was held at EDEMA Hotel in Morogoro on 22 June 2026 under the TRACE Project, bringing together stakeholders from government institutions, regulatory authorities, universities, researchers, health professionals, and traditional medicine practitioners to review and improve the draft guidelines.

Opening the meeting, the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said S. Aboud, stated that the guidelines are intended to establish a strong foundation for traditional medicine research that upholds scientific quality, ethical standards, participant protection, and the development of evidence-based health products.

He emphasized that traditional medicine remains an important source of healthcare for many Tanzanians, highlighting the need for robust research that generates scientific evidence to ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of traditional health products and services.

“These guidelines go beyond regulation; they provide a foundation for strengthening a research system grounded in scientific quality, professional ethics, participant protection, and accountability in the development of health products,” said Prof. Aboud.

On his part, the Head of Health Research Regulation at NIMR and TRACE Project Coordinator, Dr. Obadia Bishoge, noted that the objective of the meeting was to gather stakeholder input to improve the guidelines and strengthen ethical standards in traditional medicine research in Tanzania.

He explained that the guidelines will help reduce challenges in the ethical review of traditional



*Participants attentively follow the proceedings during the stakeholder consultative meeting on the draft Guidelines for Traditional Medicine Research in Tanzania in Morogoro.*



*Prof. Said S. Aboud, Director General of NIMR, delivers opening remarks during the official opening of the stakeholder consultative meeting on the draft Guidelines for Traditional Medicine Research in Tanzania in Morogoro.*

medicine clinical studies, particularly within Research Ethics Committees, while also enhancing collaboration between researchers, traditional medicine practitioners, and regulatory institutions.

Dr. Bishoge further noted that the guidelines will support the protection and preservation of indigenous knowledge, improve coordination among stakeholders, and ensure that research is conducted in line with scientific standards and legal requirements.

He added that the framework will contribute to the integration of traditional medicine into the formal health system based on scientific evidence, ethics, and service effectiveness.

The meeting featured technical presentations and in-depth discussions, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute insights that will be incorporated into the final version of the guidelines.

NIMR reaffirmed its commitment, through the TRACE Project, to strengthening ethical and regulatory systems in health research to ensure that research outputs contribute directly to public health advancement and national development.








*Participants engage in discussions during the consultative meeting to review the draft Guidelines for Traditional Medicine Research in Tanzania, contributing valuable insights to strengthen ethical, scientific, and regulatory standards for traditional medicine research.*

# STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## NIMR Mbeya Women Donate Bed Sheets to Support Health Research Clinics and Study Participants

Women from NIMR Mbeya Centre have donated bed sheets to research clinics used by the Centre as part of their continued efforts to support and appreciate participants involved in various health studies.

The donation, made on 18 April 2026, was presented to the management of NIMR Mbeya for distribution to clinics supporting research on Tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, and Diabetes Mellitus, including the PROTID project. The initiative is aimed at improving the experience of study participants who play a critical role in advancing medical research in Tanzania.

The gesture reflects recognition of the essential contribution made by community members who participate in research studies, forming a cornerstone of scientific progress and improved public health outcomes.

Speaking during the reception of the donation, the Manager of NIMR Mbeya Centre, Dr. Bariki Mtafya, commended the initiative and emphasized that the success of health research largely depends on the willingness and active participation of the community.

“Research participants are a vital part of health science advancement. This gesture reflects appreciation of their contribution and strengthens the relationship between researchers and the community,” said Dr. Mtafya.

He further praised the women of NIMR Mbeya for their dedication, solidarity, and continued support, noting that they have become an important driver of positive institutional development through various initiatives that complement research activities.




*Staff of NIMR Mbeya Centre pose for a group photo after donating bed sheets to research clinics, reaffirming their commitment to supporting research participants and strengthening community-centred health research.*

Dr. Mtafya also highlighted the important role of women in advancing science and technology, not only as researchers but also as leaders and innovators contributing to meaningful change in society.

He reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to supporting such initiatives, stating that empowering staff-led community engagement activities strengthens both research implementation and community trust.

The initiative underscores the importance of collaboration between researchers and the community in ensuring the success of health research and maximizing its benefits for current and future generations of Tanzanians.









*Staff members and the Centre Manager engage in discussions during the presentation of bed sheets to research clinics at NIMR Mbeya Centre, highlighting their shared commitment to supporting research participants and advancing community-centred health research.*

# NIMR Strengthens International Collaboration in Tuberculosis and Diabetes Research at PROTID Annual General Meeting



*Prof. Said S. Aboud, Director General of NIMR, joins researchers and international partners for a group photo during the PROTID Annual General Meeting, reaffirming a shared commitment to advancing collaborative research on tuberculosis and diabetes.*

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing international collaboration in research, training, and innovation aimed at addressing the dual burden of Tuberculosis (TB) and Diabetes Mellitus (DM).

This commitment was underscored by the Director General of NIMR during the opening remarks of the Preventive Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in People with Diabetes Mellitus (PROTID) Annual General Meeting, which brought together a wide range of national and international stakeholders.

The meeting attracted participants from leading institutions across Africa, Europe, and Oceania, including KCRI/KCMC through the Good Samaritan Foundation, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Makerere University, Uganda Martyrs Hospital Lubaga, Radboud University Medical Center (Netherlands), the University of Otago (New Zealand), St George's Hospital Medical School, King's College London (United Kingdom), as well as NIMR.

The Director General emphasized that the meeting served as a vital platform for strengthening global partnerships and enhancing knowledge exchange in addressing complex public health challenges. He noted that collaboration among diverse institutions significantly enriches scientific dialogue and accelerates the generation of evidence-based solutions for improved health outcomes.

He further highlighted that the PROTID project continues to play a critical role in building research capacity and mentoring early-career scientists through multidisciplinary approaches. The project's findings, he noted, are increasingly informing health policies and improving service delivery, particularly in settings where infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases intersect.

Researchers participating in the meeting shared progress updates, key findings, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening scientific collaboration in TB and diabetes research. Discussions also focused on improving implementation strategies and expanding the impact of ongoing studies.

The Director General encouraged participating institutions to deepen collaboration, enhance engagement, and pursue sustainable, evidence-driven solutions to public health challenges. He also expressed appreciation to the PROTID leadership, organizers, and all partners for their continued commitment to advancing the project's objectives.

The three-day meeting, held from 12 to 14 April 2026 at the Ummy Mwalimu Hall within Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, brought together researchers, clinicians, partners, and early-career scientists with the shared goal of strengthening international collaboration and advancing research on TB and DM.

# DISSEMINATION

## Research Evidence Strengthens Tanzania's Drive to Eliminate Onchocerciasis

Operational research findings presented at the 33rd Annual Joint Scientific Conference (AJSC) have demonstrated the critical role of research in guiding Tanzania's progress towards eliminating onchocerciasis, with evidence already informing major national programme decisions, including the cessation of mass drug administration in two endemic transmission foci.

Researchers from the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) disseminated findings from operational research during the 33rd Annual Joint Scientific Conference (AJSC) through a symposium themed "Towards Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Tanzania: Success Stories, Challenges and Next Steps for Elimination of Onchocerciasis." The symposium convened researchers, policymakers and media practitioners to review progress, share lessons learned and discuss the way forward towards achieving the World Health Organization (WHO) 2030 target for eliminating onchocerciasis.

Opening the symposium, Dr Otilia Gowelle, Director of Preventive Services at the Ministry of Health, called upon participants to engage fully in discussions to identify the remaining challenges to eliminating the disease. She emphasized that the symposium provided an important opportunity for experts to exchange knowledge and strengthen collaborative efforts towards achieving the WHO elimination roadmap.

Following the opening remarks, Dr Clarer Mwansasu, Manager of the National Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme (NTDCP), presented an overview of Tanzania's progress in eliminating onchocerciasis. He commended NIMR researchers for generating evidence that has consistently guided national programme decisions.





*Dr Otilia Gowelle, Director of Preventive Services, Ministry of Health (left), and Dr Clarer Mwansasu, Manager of the National Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme (NTDCP) (right), during the opening session of the symposium*

"It is through findings from operational research conducted by NIMR that programmatic decisions have been effectively guided, providing direction towards the elimination of onchocerciasis in Tanzania," said Dr Mwansasu.

The scientific session featured presentations from four NIMR researchers, each highlighting findings from different endemic transmission foci across Tanzania.

Dr Akili Kalinga presented findings on the final phase towards eliminating onchocerciasis transmission in the Tukuyu focus, while Dr Mabenga Peter shared evidence on the successful interruption of transmission in the Tunduru focus. Dr Vivian Mushi discussed the progress and persistent challenges in the Mahenge focus, whereas Mr Paul Martine presented recent advances in diagnostic tools that support evidence-based decision-making for disease elimination.



*Dr Akili Kalinga, Dr Mabenga Peter, Dr Vivian Mushi and Mr Paul Martine respond to questions from participants following their presentations*

The presentations demonstrated varying transmission patterns across the three study areas. Evidence confirmed that Tanzania has successfully eliminated the transmission of onchocerciasis in the Tukuyu focus, covering Rungwe, Busokelo and Kyela district councils in Mbeya Region, and Ileje District Council in Songwe Region, where an estimated 846,546 people are no longer at risk of disease transmission.

Similarly, findings from the Tunduru focus confirmed that transmission has been interrupted, leading researchers to recommend the cessation of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) to the National Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme.

In contrast, research findings from the Mahenge focus indicated that transmission remains ongoing, with an Onchocerca volvulus prevalence of 3%, which is above the WHO-recommended threshold of 0.1% required before stopping MDA. The findings therefore call for intensified community-directed treatment and sustained surveillance to accelerate progress towards elimination.

The symposium concluded that operational research continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Tanzania's response to neglected tropical diseases. Evidence generated by NIMR has directly informed national policy and programme implementation, including the decision to discontinue MDA after more than two decades in two of the country's eight endemic transmission foci.

As Tanzania advances towards the WHO 2030 elimination target, participants underscored the importance of continued investment in research, surveillance and multisectoral collaboration to ensure that evidence remains at the centre of public health interventions and disease elimination efforts.

# Transmission Zero Showcases Research Progress Towards Malaria Elimination at the 33rd NIMR Annual Scientific Conference




*Participants of the Transmission Zero Symposium pose for a group photograph during the 33rd NIMR Annual Scientific Conference, reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing innovative, evidence-based solutions for malaria elimination in Tanzania*

Transmission Zero showcased research progress in advancing innovative approaches for malaria control and elimination during a dedicated symposium held at the 33rd National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Annual Scientific Conference on 10 June 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC).

The symposium brought together more than 120 participants, including researchers, public health professionals, policymakers, students, and development partners, to discuss emerging technologies and evidence-based strategies aimed at strengthening malaria elimination efforts in Tanzania and beyond.

The session featured presentations highlighting key areas of the Transmission Zero project. Prisca Kweyamba presented on the biological determinants of malaria transmission and the potential application of gene drive technology in African Anopheles mosquitoes as an innovative approach for reducing malaria transmission.

Edmond Bernand shared updates on baseline entomological data collection and field site preparations in Ukerewe, providing insights into the foundational activities supporting the implementation and evaluation of the project. Justina Mosha presented on stakeholder engagement and communication activities, highlighting efforts to promote awareness, transparency, and meaningful dialogue with communities and key partners throughout the research process.

The presentations were followed by an engaging panel discussion featuring Dr. Dickson Lwetoijera from Ifakara Health Institute, Dr. Alphaxard Manjurano from NIMR Mwanza Centre, Mr. Charles Mwalimu, Head of Vector Control at the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), Dr. Adiel Mushi from the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), and Mr. Thomas Chali from the Vice President's Office.

The panel discussion addressed key issues surrounding the application of gene drive technology for malaria control, including public awareness and acceptance of genetically modified mosquitoes, lessons learned from previous research initiatives, prospects for modifying *Anopheles funestus*, challenges related to

mosquito rearing under laboratory conditions, safety considerations for antimicrobial effector molecules, and effective stakeholder engagement approaches.

Discussions emphasized the importance of responsible research, scientific excellence, ethical oversight, and inclusive community participation in the development of innovative malaria interventions. Panelists highlighted the need for continued collaboration among researchers, policymakers, regulators, and communities to ensure that emerging technologies are developed and applied responsibly to support Tanzania's malaria elimination goals.

The symposium concluded with media engagement, during which panelists reiterated the importance of strengthening partnerships and advancing evidence based innovations to address malaria transmission. The strong attendance and active participation demonstrated growing interest in the role of emerging technologies, collaborative research, and stakeholder involvement in shaping the future of malaria control and elimination.

The symposium reflected NIMR's continued commitment to advancing innovative health research and fostering partnerships that contribute to evidence-based solutions for priority public health challenges, including malaria elimination.







*Participants engage in scientific discussions and knowledge exchange during the Transmission Zero Symposium at the 33rd NIMR Annual Scientific Conference, exploring innovative and evidence-based approaches to accelerate malaria control and elimination in Tanzania.*

# From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Post-Tuberculosis Care in Tanzania




Researchers, clinicians, policymakers, programme implementers, and development partners convened during the 33rd (NIMR) Annual Scientific Conference to discuss emerging evidence and practical strategies for addressing Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease (PTLD) in Tanzania.

The symposium, titled "Addressing Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease (PTLD): From Evidence to Policy and Practice in Tanzania", was organized by NIMR in collaboration with national and international partners. The session provided a platform for stakeholders to share research findings, exchange experiences, and explore opportunities for integrating post-TB care into Tanzania's health system.

Discussions highlighted the growing recognition of PTLD as a major contributor to long-term illness among tuberculosis survivors. Participants noted that although tuberculosis can be successfully treated, many individuals continue to experience chronic respiratory symptoms, impaired lung function, and reduced quality of life long after completing treatment. The symposium emphasized the need to shift attention beyond TB cure towards ensuring long-term health and well-being for survivors.

A major highlight of the symposium was the presentation of research conducted in Tanzania, demonstrating the country's increasing contribution to advancing knowledge on post-TB health. Dr. Elizabeth Shayo shared findings from the IMPALA Study, which provided important insights into the long-term outcomes experienced by individuals following TB treatment.

Dr. Julieth Lalashowi presented findings from the NAC Study, highlighting ongoing efforts to evaluate interventions aimed at improving recovery and preventing long-term complications among TB survivors. Dr. Erick Kanje showcased the implementation and evaluation of the Boresha Afya ya Mapafu Project, illustrating how integrated lung health services can be delivered through primary healthcare facilities in Dar es Salaam and Simiyu.

The symposium also underscored the importance of pulmonary rehabilitation as an essential component of comprehensive TB care. Prof. Stella Mpagama shared practical experiences demonstrating how structured rehabilitation programmes can improve physical functioning,

reduce respiratory symptoms, and enhance the quality of life of TB survivors. Participants called for increased investment in rehabilitation services and their integration into routine healthcare delivery.

National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) Programme Manager, Dr. Riziki Kisonga, provided updates on national initiatives aimed at strengthening post-TB care. He outlined ongoing efforts to integrate PTLD services into routine TB programmes and emphasized the importance of closer collaboration among healthcare providers, researchers, and programme managers.

The symposium concluded with a discussion led by Dr. Nyanda Elias Ntinginya on translating scientific evidence into policy and practice. Participants emphasized the need to incorporate PTLD into national TB guidelines, strengthen surveillance systems, expand pulmonary rehabilitation services, and continue investing in operational and clinical research to address the long-term consequences of tuberculosis.

The discussions generated practical recommendations to support the integration of PTLD into national policies, guidelines, and routine clinical care, while reinforcing the importance of collaboration between research institutions, healthcare providers, and policymakers in improving long-term outcomes for tuberculosis survivors in Tanzania.

The symposium reflected NIMR's continued commitment to advancing research and promoting evidence-based interventions that address priority public health.




*Speakers present research findings during the Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease (PTLD) Symposium at the 33rd NIMR Annual Scientific Conference, highlighting evidence-based approaches to strengthen post-TB care and improve long-term health outcomes for tuberculosis survivors in Tanzania.*

# TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

## The Workers' Council convened to discuss the Institute's budget, strategic plans, and staff welfare

NIMR convened its 17th Workers Council Meeting on 21st April 2026 at St. Gasper Conference Centre in Dodoma. The meeting focused on reviewing and approving the Institute's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2026–2031) alongside the Medium-Term Plan and Budget Estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Strategic Plan and budget have been developed in alignment with national planning frameworks, including the Budget Guidelines, NIMR's Strategic Direction, the ruling party's 2025–2030 Election Manifesto, as well as directives from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health.

The meeting underscored the importance of transparency, inclusiveness, and shared ownership in institutional decision-making. It also aimed at ensuring that all staff members clearly understand the Institute's strategic priorities and actively contribute to the achievement of its goals.

Opening the meeting, the Chairperson of the Workers Council, who is also the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said S. Aboud, described the Council as an important platform that brings together employees and management to deliberate on human resource management, working conditions, and institutional development.

Prof. Aboud highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional sustainability and resource mobilization, including plans to establish a spin-off company to enhance collaboration with stakeholders and increase institutional revenue. He also noted plans to construct a new office building in Dodoma, improve working infrastructure, allocate funds for early-career researchers, and enhance staff welfare.

He further reported that through the Mabibo Centre, NIMR continues to produce traditional




*Participants pose for a group photo during the 17th Workers' Council Meeting, reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening institutional governance, strategic planning, and the continued growth of NIMR.*

medicines and conduct scientific research aimed at improving public health outcomes in Tanzania.
Reflecting on key achievements over the past year, Prof. Aboud noted that the Institute has continued to produce impactful research that informs health policies and strengthens service delivery. He also highlighted improvements in infrastructure across NIMR centres, procurement of working tools for staff, implementation of ICT systems to improve efficiency, and the relocation of the NIMR Headquarters to Dodoma.
Additionally, he noted that NIMR Muhimbili Centre has been provided with dedicated office space, reducing rental costs and improving operational efficiency. The Institute has also expanded its contribution to integrated services in 14 regional referral hospitals, enhanced traditional medicine production, and improved staff welfare through various incentive mechanisms.
Prof. Aboud further urged staff to maintain high standards of professionalism, uphold public service ethics, use working hours effectively, and safeguard institutional resources to enhance productivity and performance.

The 17th Workers Council Meeting brought together representatives from all NIMR centres and Headquarters to deliberate on key institutional matters aimed at strengthening performance and efficiency.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Research and Allied Workers Union (RAAWU), including the Deputy General Secretary, Mr. Simon Mbai, and the Central Zone Secretary, Ms. Staile Kiko.









*Participants follow the proceedings during the 17th Workers' Council Meeting, contributing to discussions on NIMR's Strategic Plan (2026–2031) and the 2026/2027 Medium-Term Plan and Budget.*

# NIMR Continues to Invest in Staff Development and Capacity Building

NIMR has reaffirmed its commitment to investing in human resource development through active participation in the 13th Annual Professional Conference of the Tanzania Association of Secretaries, Personal Assistants and Office Administrators (TAPSEA).

The conference was held at Ngurdoto Conference Centre in Arusha Region from 18 to 23 May 2026, bringing together secretaries and office administrators from various public and private institutions across the country. The forum focused on discussing technological advancements, professional development, as well as strengthening ethics, accountability, and efficiency in workplace performance.

NIMR was represented by eight administrative staff members from Headquarters and its Centres, including Rukia Mbwana (Headquarters – Dodoma), Dalin Chimbonaga (Mabibo), Charity Msangi (Tanga), Sikuzani Masaka (Tabora), Jacquline Mtambi (Headquarters – Dodoma), Asia Mwanaupanga (Mbeya), Tabitha Temhanga (Dodoma), and Laika Tibishubwamu (Mwanza).

Their participation reflects NIMR's strong commitment to building staff capacity in order to enhance productivity, professionalism, and the quality of services delivered to the public.

The guest of honor was H.E. Emmanuel Nchimbi, who emphasized the importance of innovation, accountability, integrity, and efficiency as key pillars of sustainable development in the workplace.

The conference theme was: "Innovation, Accountability, Integrity and Efficiency as Key Pillars of Sustainable Development in Workplace Performance."

Through participation in such professional forums, NIMR staff gain valuable opportunities to acquire new skills, exchange






*NIMR administrative staff pose for a group photo during the 13th Annual Professional Conference of the Tanzania Association of Secretaries, Personal Assistants and Office Administrators (TAPSEA), highlighting the Institute's commitment to professional development, capacity building, and workplace excellence.*

professional experiences, and strengthen their ability to adapt to technological changes in modern working environments.

NIMR's engagement in this conference demonstrates the Institute's long-term vision of strengthening institutional performance by investing in human capital development, professionalism, and the delivery of high-quality services to society.

## Investing in Staff Development and Recognizing Excellence Through Employee Achievement

NIMR continues to demonstrate excellence in staff performance and professional development after one of its employees, Mr. Fabio Avith Massawe from the NIMR Amani Centre, was awarded a Certificate of Recognition as an Outstanding Employee during the Second Annual General Meeting of Human Resource and Public Administration Professionals in Tanzania.

The meeting was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) from 5 to 8 May 2026, bringing together human resource and public administration experts from various public institutions across the country. The forum aimed at discussing best practices for strengthening workforce management, improving employee performance, and enhancing efficiency in public service delivery.

Mr. Massawe's recognition is a result of his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to effectively executing his duties. His achievement reflects the high standards of performance demonstrated by NIMR staff in contributing to health research and public service delivery in Tanzania.

NIMR was represented at the meeting by six staff members, led by the Director of Corporate Services, Ms. Flora Mazeleng'we, accompanied by the Human Resources and Administration Manager, Ms. Bupe Ndelwa, along with four other Human Resource Officers from various NIMR centres.

The Guest of Honor was Hon. Ridhiwani Jakaya Kikwete, who emphasized the importance of technology adoption, accountability, and the delivery of high-quality public services within the civil service.

NIMR's participation in the forum reflects its continued commitment to investing in staff development through learning, professional exchange, and institutional capacity strengthening, with the aim of improving overall organizational performance.

The meeting was held under the theme: "Rethinking Public Service Delivery: How Government Can Use Technology to Deliver Citizen-Centered Services, Address Youth Unemployment, and Respond to Environmental Challenges."






*NIMR representatives pose for a group photo during the Second Annual General Meeting of Human Resource and Public Administration Professionals in Tanzania, reflecting the Institute's commitment to staff development, professional excellence, and improved public service delivery.*

# NIMR Develops 2026/27 Procurement Plan to Enhance Efficiency, Transparency and Value for Money

NIMR has developed its Procurement Plan for the 2026/27 financial year, aimed at strengthening efficiency in public procurement and ensuring effective implementation of research activities.

The planning exercise commenced on 18 May 2026 and brought together procurement specialists, laboratory technologists, accountants, researchers, as well as monitoring and evaluation experts representing various centers, units, and directorates of the Institute. The collaborative approach aimed to develop a realistic and well-coordinated plan aligned with budgetary allocations and operational needs in the execution of research activities.

Following a progress briefing, the Director General of NIMR, Prof. Said S. Aboud, emphasized the importance of careful and realistic procurement planning, underscoring the need to align plans with actual financial capacity to avoid implementation gaps.

He directed procurement and supply officers to ensure thorough validation of departmental plans and budgets before entering data into the National e-Procurement System (NeST). This, he noted, would enhance alignment between procurement plans and available financial resources.

The Procurement Plan is expected to facilitate timely acquisition of essential goods and services while ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. It is also intended to support the efficient implementation of NIMR's research agenda for the 2026/27 financial year.

The Ministry of Health continues to emphasize prudent use of public resources across institutions, with the aim of strengthening the delivery of quality healthcare services in Tanzania.





## Strengthening Africa's Clinical Research Systems: NIMR Leads TRACE Training to Enhance Trial Oversight

Efforts to strengthen Africa's clinical research systems continue to advance as the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) leads targeted capacity building initiatives through the TRACE Project, in collaboration with the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).

Clinical trial reviewers from across Tanzania convened in Morogoro for the TRACE Clinical Trial Reviewers Training, a strategic programme designed to strengthen regulatory oversight, enhance ethical review capacity, and improve the overall integrity of clinical research systems.

The training focused on strengthening reviewers' ability to assess clinical trial applications with precision, ensuring alignment with both national regulatory frameworks and international ethical standards governing human research.

Speaking during the opening session on behalf of TMDA's Director General, Mr. Damas Matiko Nyang'anyi, Manager for Clinical Trials Controls and Pharmacovigilance, underscored the importance of the training as a key catalyst for strengthening regulatory systems and advancing excellence in clinical research.

He emphasized that the programme is structured to enhance practical competencies in identifying regulatory risks early, addressing compliance gaps proactively, and safeguarding participant protection throughout the entire lifecycle of clinical trials.

Mr. Nyang'anyi further noted that the TRACE Project is driving significant improvements in regulatory efficiency, ethical review strengthening, and oversight harmonization across institutions. He stressed that strong Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), well-trained reviewers, and enhanced coordination between TMDA and NIMR remain essential in accelerating responsible clinical research and positioning Tanzania as a competitive hub for high-quality clinical studies.



*Participants pose for a group photo during the TRACE Clinical Trial Reviewers Training in Morogoro, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening regulatory capacity, ethical review systems, and quality clinical research in Tanzania.*

The three-day training brought together experts in clinical trial regulation, ethics governance, and health research oversight, with a strong focus on strengthening practical skills for reviewing scientifically robust and ethically sound clinical trial applications.

Through this initiative, the National Institute for Medical Research continues to reinforce its leadership in advancing Africa's clinical research systems, ensuring that emerging studies meet the highest standards of safety, ethics, and scientific integrity while contributing to improved health outcomes across the continent.






*Participants engage in discussions during the TRACE Clinical Trial Reviewers Training in Morogoro, sharing knowledge and experiences to strengthen clinical trial review capacity and ethical research oversight in Tanzania.*

# RECOGNITION & AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS

### *Outstanding Employees 2026*

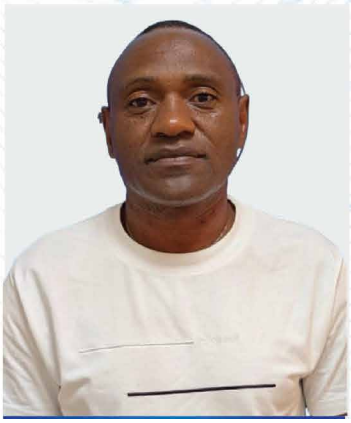


*Congratulations*

***NIMR Outstanding Employee of the Year 2026***

**DR. BRUNO MMBANDO**

Principal Researcher

| *RESEARCHERS* | *LABORATORIES* | *SUPERVISORS* | *ASSISTANTS* |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| **Dr. Bruno Mmbando**<br>Principal Researcher | **Mr. Chrispin Mukerebe**<br>Senior Laboratory Scientist | **Mr. Noah Makandi**<br>Accountant | **Mr. Asumile Swebe**<br>Dereva Mwandamizi |
| **NIMR TANGA** | **NIMR MWANZA** | **NIMR MBEYA** | **NIMR MBEYA** |

The NIMR Council, Management and all Staff are congratulated for your outstanding performance and dedicated service, which have been a major driving force behind the continued growth and development of our Institution.

Congratulations and well done!

# PUBLICATIONS


1. Hassan, F., Kagaruki, G. B., Mayige, M. T., Ubuguyu, O. S., Kumalija, C., Millinga, V., Salumu, B., Suleiman, O. M., Amour, Z. S., Mtumwa, M. M., Nanai, A., Kileo, N., Nchimbi, H., Likindikoki, S., Cosmas, S. G., Nungu, R., Kombo, K. M., Ali, S. K., Khamis, K. A., & Mtei, G. T. (2026). Clustering of NCD Risk Factors Among Adults aged 18 to 69 in Tanzania: Results from the 2023 STEPS Survey. Tanzania Journal of Health Research, 27(2), 1–14. https://doi.org/10.4314/thrb.v27i2.13

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