

PAT NEWSLETTER



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Advocating for Child Health and Well-being

Strengthening Early Childhood Development in Tanzania: Highlights from the National ECD Stakeholders Meeting 2026

The National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Stakeholders Meeting was held on 16th–17th March 2026 in Morogoro, convened by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups. The meeting brought together multi-sectoral partners to review progress and shape the next phase of Tanzania's ECD programme.

This event is vital for paediatrics as it emphasized strengthening



Participants of the ECD Stakeholders Meeting

Integrated services - health, nutrition, early learning, responsive caregiving, and child protection to ensure optimal child growth and development. It also addressed key challenges, including inequitable service delivery, weak coordination, and sustainability gaps.

Stakeholders agreed to conduct an end-line evaluation of NM-ECDP I and to develop an inclusive, evidence-based NM-ECDP II with stronger health-sector integration.

All partners are urged to commit resources, enhance coordination, and actively support implementation to ensure every child in Tanzania thrives.



Dr. Theopista Jacob (PAT President), giving some insights during the ECD Stakeholders meeting

Advancing Neonatal Care through Breathing for Babies (BfB) Mentorship

The Breathing for Babies (BfB) Mentors' Orientation took place on 9th–10th March 2026 at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), convening healthcare providers and partners to advance newborn care. The training focused on building mentors' capacity in neonatal respiratory support, including CPAP use, the IMPALA monitoring system, and quality improvement practices within neonatal units.

This event aimed to strengthen the ability of health workers to promptly identify and manage conditions such as respiratory



A group photo showing some participants of the BfB Mentorship training program at MUHAS



A photo showing ongoing training during the BfB Mentorship training program at MUHAS

distress, infections, and hypothermia—major causes of newborn illness and death. Improving these skills directly contributes to better survival and healthier outcomes for infants.

Moving forward, participants will implement structured mentorship, conduct facility visits, and ensure continuous monitoring and follow-up.

Stakeholders and healthcare providers are encouraged to translate these learnings into practice, reinforce standards of care, and work collaboratively to improve the quality of neonatal services across all levels.

Strengthening CPD Through Professional Associations: Key Outcomes from MCT Engagement



A photo showing participants of the strategic meeting between MCT and professional associations on continuous professional development

The Medical Council of Tanganyika (MCT) convened a strategic meeting with professional associations, including the Paediatric Association of Tanzania, to strengthen Continuing Professional Development (CPD) systems. Chaired by the CPD Committee, the meeting reviewed current practices and future directions.

The MCT Registrar emphasized the vital role of professional associations in shaping the healthcare workforce, urging them to take greater ownership of CPD, including defining specialty-specific mandatory topics. Updates on the transition to a new CPD system were shared, while

annual license renewal procedures remain unchanged. Participants highlighted the need for functional CPD committees within associations to coordinate both physical and virtual learning. While webinars offer flexibility, concerns about engagement call for more interactive approaches.

For paediatrics, this is a key opportunity to align CPD with emerging child health priorities.

Call to Action: PAT urges members to actively participate in CPD, contribute to relevant learning activities, and strengthen professional leadership in advancing child health in Tanzania.

Strengthening RMNCAH Commodity Systems for Better Child Health Outcomes



Participants of the Co-creation Meeting for the RMNCAH Market Management Strategy and Capacity Building Plan

The Co-creation Meeting for the RMNCAH Market Management Strategy and Capacity Building Plan was held from 25th to 27th March 2026 in Morogoro, bringing together the Paediatric Association of Tanzania and key stakeholders.

The meeting reviewed program performance, assessed forecasting and procurement systems, and developed evidence-based strategies to strengthen the management of essential RMNCAH commodities.

This initiative is critical for paediatrics, as reliable availability of maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health commodities directly

improves quality of care, prevents illness, and reduces child morbidity and mortality. Key priorities identified included strengthening data quality, improving forecasting using multiple data sources, enhancing coordination, and building capacity in supply chain systems.

Stakeholders are committed to implementing practical, measurable interventions and strengthening partnerships.

A strong call to action was made for sustained collaboration, improved data use, and accountability to ensure uninterrupted access to life-saving commodities for every child.

**Register for the 26th PAT Scientific Conference
taking place at Malaika Beach Resort in Mwanza
from 15 - 17 July 2026**

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