

PAT NEWSLETTER



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Joining Efforts for Child Health and Well-Being

Breathing for Babies (BfB) Progress Celebration at Amana Regional Referral Hospital

On 1st April at Amana Regional Referral Hospital, stakeholders from Paediatric Association of Tanzania, Ifakara Health Institute, Goal 3, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, and health facilities convened for the Breathing for Babies (BfB) Progress Celebration Workshop.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration in implementing the BfB initiative, improving neonatal respiratory support through CPAP use, and enhancing continuous monitoring and clinical mentorship in newborn care.



Dr. Theopista Jacob (PAT President), speaking during the BfB celebration at Amana RRH



A group photo showing some participants of the BfB celebration at Amana RRH

The workshop provided an opportunity for clinicians, mentors, and partners to share experiences and review achievements made through integrated newborn care interventions. Participants highlighted improvements in managing respiratory distress, early detection of complications, and increased confidence among healthcare providers, all contributing to better neonatal survival outcomes.

Stakeholders agreed to expand the BfB program to more facilities, strengthen mentorship and training, improve utilization of monitoring systems, and ensure availability of essential equipment. They also committed to strengthening data use and collaboration to further reduce neonatal mortality and improve newborn health outcomes across Tanzania.

Professional Associations Unite to Strengthen Maternal and Child Health Services

On 22nd April, key stakeholders, including the Paediatric Association of Tanzania, the Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Tanzania, the Tanzania Midwives Association, the Surgical Association of Tanzania, the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community, and the Beginnings Fund partners, met to strengthen collaboration in implementing the Beginnings Fund intervention.

The engagement focused on enhancing healthcare provider capacity through a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to improve maternal and child health services nationwide.



Hot discussion during the meeting to Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Services



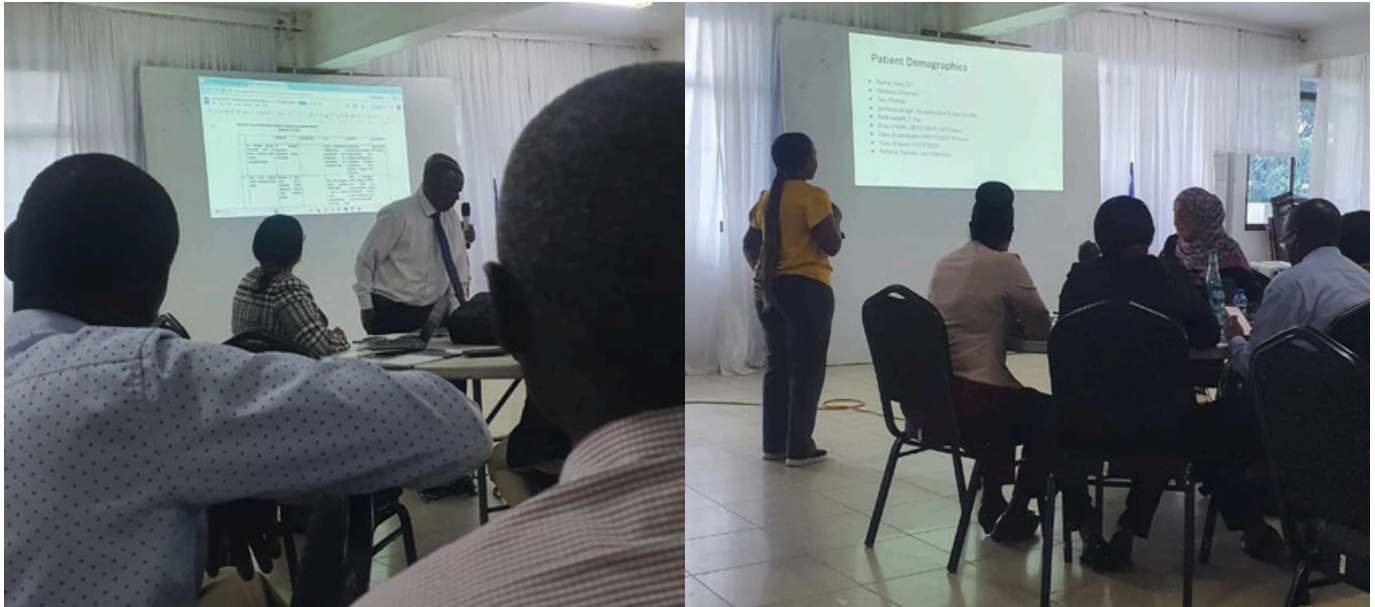
A group photo showing participants of the meeting to Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Services

Participants agreed that professional associations would jointly implement capacity-building activities, with AGOTA serving as the main recipient and partner associations acting as sub-recipients.

Priority actions include identifying ready hospitals, conducting baseline assessments, strengthening facilities into ECSA-HC training centers, and implementing training, mentorship, scholarships, and quality assurance programs.

Regional referral hospitals identified as priority training hubs include Bukoba Regional Referral Hospital, Sekou Toure Regional Referral Hospital, Kitete Regional Referral Hospital, Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital, and Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital.

Regional MPDSR Meeting Strengthens Efforts to Reduce Maternal and Newborn Deaths



Photos showing presentations to during the Regional MPDSR Meeting to Strengthen Efforts to Reduce Maternal and Newborn Deaths

The Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Regional Meeting held from 28–29 April 2026 in Sinza brought together healthcare stakeholders to review maternal and perinatal deaths and develop practical solutions to improve maternal and newborn healthcare services across the region. The meeting provided an important platform to analyze major contributors to maternal and newborn mortality, including high Caesarean section rates, postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), neonatal sepsis, and birth asphyxia.

Participants emphasized the importance of evidence-based interventions, accountability, and data-driven decision-making to strengthen healthcare delivery and improve outcomes.

Stakeholders agreed on key actions, including reducing unnecessary Caesarean sections, promoting Vaginal Birth After Caesarean (VBAC) where appropriate, strengthening postnatal monitoring, improving infection prevention and control practices, and enhancing neonatal resuscitation and labour monitoring skills. Facilities are also committed to improving blood supply services, procuring essential equipment such as CPAP machines, and strengthening ICU and NICU services.

Participants called for continued collaboration, strong leadership, and sustained investment in capacity building to accelerate reductions in maternal and newborn deaths across the region.

Stakeholders Strengthen Collaboration to Improve Maternal and Newborn Health in Tanzania



Dr. Theopista Jacob (PAT President) on side-chat during the Stakeholders meeting to Strengthen Collaboration to Improve Maternal and Newborn Health in Tanzania

From 23rd to 24th April 2026, multidisciplinary stakeholders, including the Paediatric Association of Tanzania, the Ministry of Health, and Beginning Fund partners, convened for a Special Stakeholders' Meeting on Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) Programmes.

The meeting aimed to harmonize implementation approaches, align priorities with national MNH strategies, review programme progress, and strengthen coordination among partners.

The engagement provided an important platform for government, professional associations, and development partners to address critical challenges, including neonatal mortality, workforce shortages, infrastructure gaps, and weaknesses in health data systems.

Participants emphasized the importance of integrated and evidence-based interventions to improve the quality of maternal and newborn care across Tanzania.

Stakeholders agreed to prioritize high-burden and underserved regions, strengthen competency-based training and mentorship, improve equitable distribution of neonatal equipment, and enhance data use for decision-making.

Moving forward, implementation will focus on high-impact interventions such as neonatal resuscitation, infection prevention, and care for preterm and low birth weight infants, while reinforcing the role of professional associations in national MNH technical initiatives.

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

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