

PAT NEWSLETTER



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Advocating for Child Health and Well-Being

PAT Participates in Parliamentary Deliberations on the Ministry of Health Budget for 2026/27



Dr. Theopista Jacob (PAT president) in a group photo with the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Health and other officials after the 2026/27 Health Budget discussion in Dodoma

On 11–12 May 2026, Parliament convened in Dodoma to deliberate on the Ministry of Health Budget for the 2026/27 financial year.

The Government highlighted key achievements from 2025/26, including investments in health infrastructure, workforce development, medical supplies and equipment, specialized healthcare services, and improvements in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health.

Priorities for 2026/27 include the implementation of Universal Health Insurance reforms, strengthening medicine supply systems, expanding specialized services, and advancing digital health,

improving outbreak preparedness, and sustaining investments in maternal and child health.

The discussions reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to strengthening the health sector and advancing Universal Health Coverage.

For child health stakeholders, the budget presents important opportunities to improve newborn and pediatric care, strengthen emergency services, and reduce preventable child deaths. Stakeholders were encouraged to align their efforts with national priorities while advocating for high-quality pediatric care and stronger health system resilience.

PAT Engages in Shaping National Nutrition Policies for Mothers and Children

In May 2026, the Pediatric Association of Tanzania (PAT), represented by Dr. Gema Mkumbo, participated in a Ministry of Health technical workshop to develop and review the 2026 National Guideline on Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN). The workshop aimed to align Tanzania's nutrition guidance with the latest World Health Organization recommendations and global best practices.

Key discussions focused on maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, donor human milk, infant feeding during emergencies, and nutrition support for vulnerable groups, including preterm infants and children with special needs.



Hot discussion during the technical workshop to develop and review the 2026 MIYCN



A group photo showing some participants of the technical workshop to develop and review the 2026 MIYCN

The revised guideline provides healthcare workers with updated, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen nutrition services across the country. It is expected to support efforts to prevent malnutrition, improve feeding practices, enhance caregiver counselling, and reduce child morbidity and mortality.

PAT remains committed to advancing child nutrition and supporting implementation of the guideline to improve health outcomes for Tanzanian children.

Breathing for Babies Mentorship Evaluation Strengthens Newborn Care Services

In May 2026, the Breathing for Babies (BfB) program conducted a mentorship evaluation across six health facilities in Dar es Salaam, including Amana, Temeke, and Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospitals, as well as Kivule, Mabwepande, and Yombo Vituka Health Centres.

The evaluation assessed healthcare providers' competencies in essential newborn care, neonatal resuscitation, CPAP use, infection prevention, patient monitoring, and utilization of the IMPALA monitoring system.

The assessment revealed notable improvements in teamwork, communication, hand hygiene, newborn stabilization, and neonatal monitoring practices.



Newborn care and monitoring practices were observed in the HDU at Kivule HC.



Health care providers demonstrated use of the IMPALA monitoring system in the Theatre at Mwananyamala RRH.

Healthcare workers demonstrated strong commitment to learning and applying mentorship skills despite workload and resource challenges.

However, gaps were identified in areas such as thermal care, post-resuscitation stabilization, alarm response, documentation, and clinical decision-making using monitoring data.

The findings underscore the importance of continued mentorship, supportive supervision, simulation training, and quality improvement initiatives to strengthen neonatal care and improve newborn survival outcomes in Tanzania.

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

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