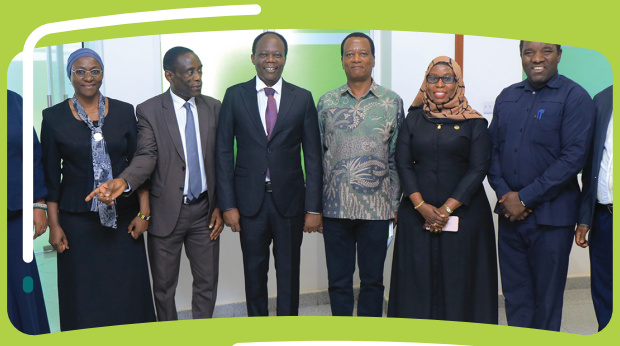
TMDA
Tanzania Medicines & Medical Devices Authority

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 14 | June, 2025

TMDA Signs MoU with the Mozambican Regulatory Authority



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Welcome Note from the Director General

The 14th Edition of the TMDA Newsletter is out again!

Dear reader,

I would like to once again wish to introduce you to our 14th edition of this Newsletter. Almost one year has passed since we last issued our previous edition, and many milestones have been recorded worth reporting.

At TMDA, we are witnessing tremendous progress in the existing systems of regulating the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics. Our regulatory systems have been re-benchmarked by the World Health Organization (WHO), and we are still waiting for the final outcome of our Maturity Level 3 status quo.

Considering that we will be holding general elections this year, we have outlined key milestones that have been attained by the sixth phase government. As we are part of the incumbent government, under the Ministry of Health, we are compelled to report on progress made insofar as the implementation of the Ruling Party (i.e., CCM) Manifesto is concerned. Critical statistics have been outlined to highlight what has been achieved in four years under the regime of our sitting President of the United Republic of Tanzania – Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Much as we have completed our service delivery survey (SDS), the current customer satisfaction index has been computed and summarized in this edition. Other features also include details on the functioning of our state-of-the-art quality control (QC) laboratory, support offered to our domestic pharmaceutical companies, completion of our head offices and incinerator project both in Dodoma, events happening at our zone offices, including relocation of our central and southern zone offices and enforcement activities that were carried out to safeguard public health.

As part of forging partnerships and collaboration with the WHO, the African Union (AU), regional economic communities (RECs), and other partners, we join hands with the Ministry of Health to congratulate

Prof. Mohammed Yakub Janabi for being elected to become the next Regional Director of the WHO for the African Region. I have known and worked with Prof. Janabi for many years, and I have no doubt that he will take up his new responsibilities to another level. We promise to accord him with all the necessary support to streamline and simplify his new roles.

I would finally wish to wind up by asking you to read this current edition and in case of any adjustments or improvements, please don't hesitate to contact us through our usual channels for necessary action.

Enjoy reading your Newsletter!

Dr. Adam M. Fimbo (PhD)
Director General and Chief Editor

Editorial Note

Dear Esteemed Reader,

Welcome to the 14th edition of the TMDA Newsletter, a platform through which we connect, inform, and engage with you - our valued partner and client.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Editor, Dr. Adam M. Fimbo, who also serves as the Director General, for his dynamic leadership, unwavering support, and invaluable guidance throughout the crafting and approval of this edition.

This edition comes at a time of significant institutional progress and national reflection. With the country heading into the general election in October 2025, we have highlighted the major milestones achieved under the sixth-phase government and TMDA's contribution towards the implementation of the CCM - Ruling Party Manifesto. From strategic policy alignment to on-the-ground impact, our work continues to uphold the safety and well-being of Tanzanians.

Our readers will find a rich collection of articles in this edition, ranging from regulatory advancements and infrastructural achievements to regional collaborations and customer service insights. For instance, this edition highlights on TMDA's strengthened international presence through a new MoU with Mozambique's regulatory authority, our recognition as the 2024 winner of the Best Public Education Award, and the impressive 75% customer satisfaction rate, an affirmation of the trust our stakeholders place on us.

I also invite you to explore features on the transformation of pharmaceutical testing through the LC/MS-MS state-of-the-art equipment, updates on domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, and a detailed scan of the newly completed TMDA headquarters and incinerator facility in Dodoma. More iimportantly, this edition also delineates our commitment to public health through enforcement actions, unfit medicines disposal activities, and awareness campaigns on antimicrobial resistance and falsified products.

Beyond technical updates, this Newsletter further celebrates moments of teamwork, social gathering, and service, from sporting events to staff farewells, reminding us that people remain at the centre-stage of TMDA's mission.

I hope this edition informs, inspires, and invites continued engagement with the Authority's mandate.

Your feedback remains critical as we strive to keep you informed with accuracy, clarity, and purpose.

Enjoy your reading!

Gaudensia Simwanza
Manager, Communication and Public Education

TMDA Signs MoU with the Mozambican Regulatory Authority

On May 7th, 2025, TMDA and the Mozambican Ambassador to Tanzania, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in medicines regulation between the regulatory authorities of the two countries. This historic event took place at the State House in Dar es Salaam, graced by President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and His Excellency Daniel Francisco Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique.

The agreement was reached during bilateral talks between Presidents Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and Mr. Daniel Chapo in Dar es Salaam, aiming at improving the business and investment climate between these two neighboring countries.

Speaking at the State House in Dar es Salaam, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, stated that despite the strong historical, diplomatic, and political ties between the two nations, economic cooperation has lagged. As a result, the two friendly countries have resolved to deepen their partnership, particularly in the areas of trade and economy.

The MoU marks a significant milestone, demonstrating a commitment to streamline medicines regulation and build regulatory capacity across these two countries to fulfil their national obligations in protecting and promoting public health. The same will provide a framework for enhanced collaboration between the two authorities in the areas of pharmaceutical oversight, capacity building, information sharing, and regulatory harmonization.

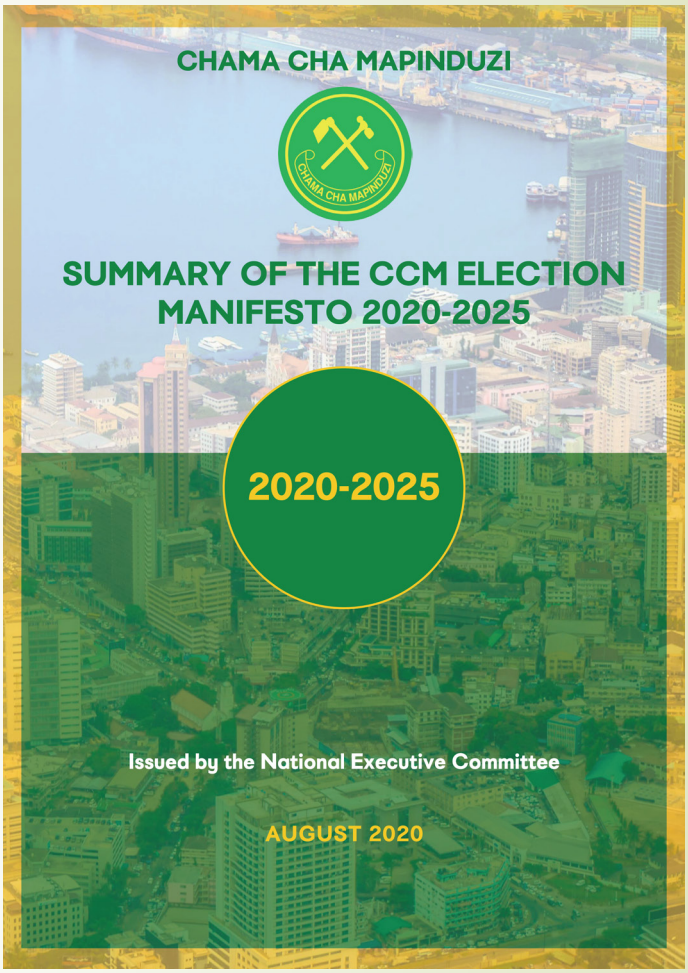
The agreement is expected to facilitate joint regulatory activities, including inspections, laboratory testing, pharmacovigilance, and the development of mutual standards and guidelines. Furthermore, the collaboration will support professional exchange programs and technical assistance to foster regulatory excellence and innovation.

> ***Speaking at the meeting, President Chapo expressed Mozambique's keen interest in strengthening collaboration with Tanzania, emphasizing that Mozambique is richly endowed with natural wealth.***

Speaking at the meeting, President Chapo expressed Mozambique's keen interest in strengthening collaboration with Tanzania, emphasizing that Mozambique is richly endowed with natural wealth.

On the flip side, President Dr. Samia described President Chapo's visit as a reaffirmation of the long-standing friendship and shared aspirations between Tanzania and Mozambique, when speaking to the media.

This MoU serves as another significant step towards the realization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) objectives in building harmonized regulatory standards on the continent.



Four Years of President Samia's Regime: TMDA's Giant Step Towards Excellence

Over the past four years, the TMDA has made remarkable and commendable strides under the leadership of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan. The Authority has significantly advanced its mandate through facilitated domestic production, improved service delivery, and strengthened regulation of health products.

According to TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam M. Fimbo, the Authority has played an utterly critical role in supporting President Samia's health sector reforms and industrial growth agenda. "Through strategic investments and reforms, we have enhanced our regulatory capacity and contributed meaningfully to the country's health and economic development," alluded Dr. Fimbo.

One of the most notable achievements that has been witnessed is the facilitation of 18 pharmaceutical industries and 140 medical devices and diagnostics facilities being invested in the country, boosting domestic manufacturing, investment, and job creation.

During the same period, TMDA registered more than 8,300 pharmaceutical products and over 3,000 medical devices and diagnostics, ensuring that only products meeting stringent safety, quality, and efficacy standards are approved for market use. "We are working day and night to ensure that only good quality, safe, and effective products are allowed onto our market, and that has been our guiding principle and mission," Dr. Fimbo emphasized.

The Authority also strengthened its financial capabilities, including skyrocketing its annual budgets and henceforth contributing around TZS 23.3 billion of capital gains into the consolidated fund in four years' time.

An investment of over TZS 15 billion in modern laboratory equipment has enhanced scientific decision-making, ensuring more reliable regulatory oversight.

Moreover, digitization efforts have further improved service delivery, with electronic permit systems now capable of issuing approvals within just 24 hours.

In addition, during the same period, the Authority has upheld international standards, maintaining the ISO 9001:2015 certification and laboratory accreditation under ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

Even further, the TMDA laboratories were still being recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), with the medicines testing laboratory maintaining WHO prequalification since 2011. The microbiology laboratory also gained WHO prequalification in 2022, and the medical devices laboratory was certified to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in 2024.

Currently, more than 98 percent of regulated products in Tanzania meet required quality standards, safeguarding public health and boosting confidence amongst users of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics.

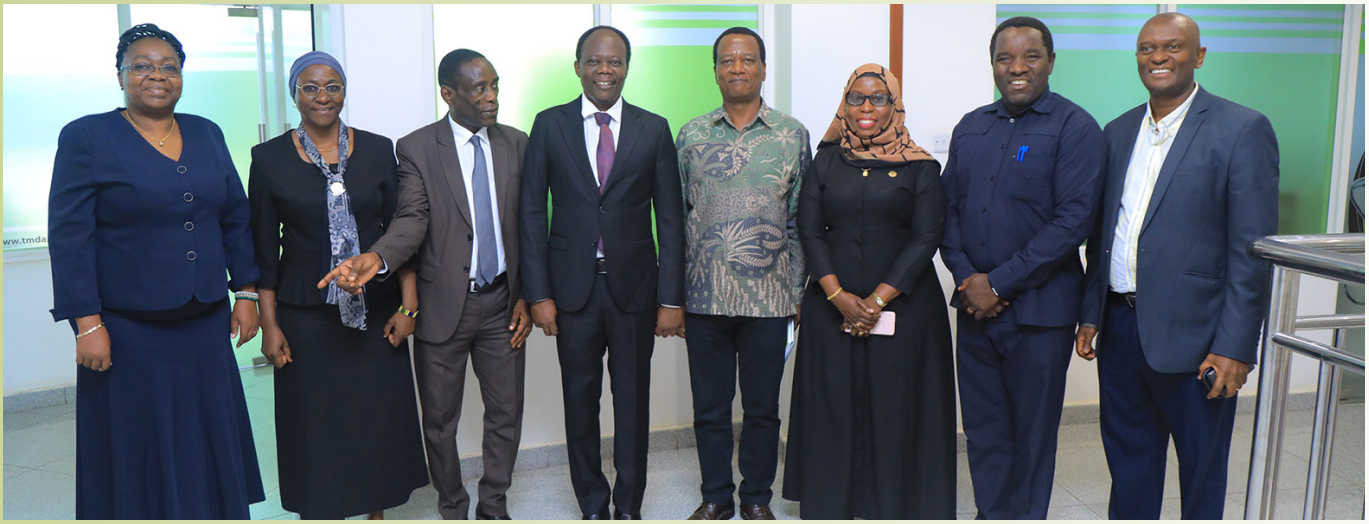
Meanwhile, post-marketing surveillance (PMS) has also been strengthened, with the number of adverse drug and vaccine reaction monitoring centers rising to 30 across the country.

The Authority also expanded its mobile laboratory network from 19 to 28 centers to allow for effective sample collection and testing nationwide.

Likewise, during this same period, TMDA has recorded development of its infrastructure to include the expansion of the headquarters office and the construction of the first phase of the incineration facility in Dodoma, to be used for safe disposal of substandard, falsified, and unfit products.

Proportionally, the TMDA's workforce grew from 278 to 421 employees, reflecting institutional development in terms of workforce and increased capacity.

"These achievements reflect on our commitment to protecting public health, supporting the national development agenda, and realizing the objectives as provided for in the Ruling Party Manifesto," concluded Dr. Fimbo.



Deputy Minister Urges MAB to Improve Access to Good Quality and Affordable Medicines

In a bold move to strengthen Tanzania's healthcare delivery system, the Deputy Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Godwin Mollel (MP), held a meeting with the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) on 21st February, 2025, in Arusha.

The meeting was convened to assess TMDA's performance in discharging its duties, including removing barriers that hinder public access to good quality, safe, and affordable medical products. Key issues, eclipsing the high price of medicines, were also on the table for discussion to address complaints raised by stakeholders.

"The greatest task before you is to review the systems for marketing authorization of medical products to reduce costs incurred by importers and manufacturers, which are at the end of the day, borne by consumers," narrated Dr. Mollel, urging MAB members to work closely with the TMDA Management to refine and streamline regulatory processes.

He further added that there is a need for the Authority to see how it can create a more conducive environment for domestic manufacturers to promote investment in pharmaceutical and medical device industries. The move will reduce dependence on importation of these products from abroad and bolster access to medicines.

"I know the Authority is currently implementing the programme to capacitate domestic manufacturers. A great job has been done already where pharmaceutical industries have increased in the country, yet more effort is needed, taking into consideration the need for reducing dependence on imports of medical products," lamented Dr. Mollel

On the flip side, Dr. Mollel further commended TMDA's ongoing endeavors to safeguard public health by ensuring that all medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics in circulation meet the required standards of quality, safety, and efficacy. He further stressed the importance of maintaining this momentum while also finding innovative ways to lower the prices of pharmaceuticals without compromising quality.

Speaking on behalf of the Advisory Board, the Chairman, Mr. Eric Shitindi, reaffirmed the Board's commitment to support TMDA with strategic guidance and oversight.

"The Board will continue to exercise its professional expertise to guide TMDA in aligning with national priorities and improving operational efficiency," alluded Mr. Shitindi.

Likewise, the directives from the Deputy Minister align with the broader commitment of the Fourth Phase Government under the leadership of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan to promote public health through enhanced access to affordable and reliable medical products.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding that a robust, responsive, and transparent regulatory system is critical to achieving universal health coverage and improving trust in Tanzania's health sector.

TMDA Completes Expansion of its Headquarter Offices in Dodoma

TMDA has consistently strived to deliver high-quality regulatory services to its stakeholders and the general public, aiming to meet their evolving needs and expectations. Over the years, the Authority has invested significantly in enhancing the working environment for its employees and improving customer access to its services.

In line with its vision to bring services closer to the public and reduce unnecessary costs and inconveniences for its customers, TMDA has undertaken various infrastructural development initiatives. Notably, the Authority has been utilizing internally generated funds, sourced from fees and service charges, to construct office buildings that support its operational efficiency.

One of the major milestones in this effort is the completion of the second phase of expansion of its Headquarters office building in Dodoma. The initial first phase involved the construction of a two-story building which was carried out by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) as the main contractor and ABECC as the consultant. This phase was successfully completed in June 2021.

At the time, the initially constructed building served multiple key functions to include housing the laboratory dedicated for testing herbal and tobacco products, the Central Zone Office and the Headquarters Office.

However, following the growing number of staff and expanded scope of TMDA's operations, the need to add office space was urgent. In response, the Authority embarked on the expansion of the building in 2023 using the contractor Hainan International Construction Company to add two additional floors to the existing structure.

The project has now come to an end and we gratefully thank the consultant and contractor for accomplishing this task. The Ministerial Advisory Board is also acknowledged for overseeing the entire project from the beginning to the end. All project managers within TMDA including the Acting Procurement Manager – Ms Donatha Koko and Clerk of Works – Mr. Baraka Chacha are sincerely appreciated for the hard work up to this end. Lastly the Management team is likewise indebted for active follow up and approval of all steps needed to ensure successful completion of this project.

Strides on Pharmaceutical Investment: TMDA Management Visits Domestic Pharmaceutical Manufacturers

In a move to accelerate Tanzania's drive towards pharmaceutical self-sufficiency and industrial growth, the TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Mitangu Fimbo, led a strategic inspection tour of pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in the Dar es Salaam and Coast Regions between 24 and 28 March, 2025.

This high-level engagement eclipsed part of the implementation of the Action Plan to Promote Local Manufacturing of Medical Products (2022/23–2026/27). This visit was not just a routine oversight, but rather it aimed at strengthening the regulation of pharmaceutical manufacturing to include assessment of production capacities, identifying opportunities for regulatory improvement and areas that require more technical support.

Within this five-day tour, the Management team visited nine (9) domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, eight of which produce human medicines, and one specializing in veterinary vaccines. The facilities visited were Alfa Pharmaceuticals Limited, Cure Afya Pharmaceuticals Limited, Mansoor Daya Chemicals, Keko Pharmaceuticals Industries (KPI) Limited, Zenufa Laboratories Limited, Shelys Pharmaceuticals Limited, Katwaza Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Limited, and Hester Biosciences Africa, the latter focusing on veterinary vaccines production.

> ***"TMDA believes that supporting domestic manufacturing is key to ensuring sustainable access to good quality, safe, and affordable medicines for all Tanzanians," stated Dr. Fimbo at one of the facilities.***

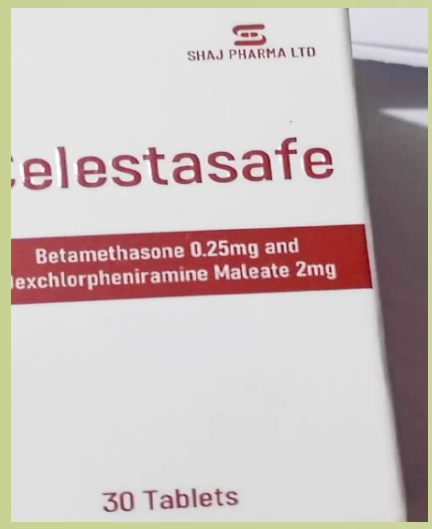
Dr. Fimbo and his team engaged in a detailed and solution-oriented dialogue with company owners, and key personnel to include quality assurance (QA), quality control (QC) and production managers. Discussions focused on strategies for scaling up production, aligning with international best practices, improving regulatory compliance, and enhancing infrastructure and workforce skills. The open and collaborative atmosphere highlighted TMDA's dual role as both a regulator and an enabler of innovation and industrial development in Tanzania's health sector.

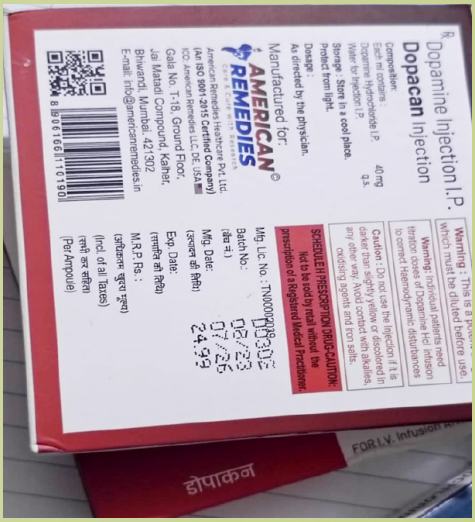
"TMDA believes that supporting domestic manufacturing is key to ensuring sustainable access to good quality, safe, and affordable medicines for all Tanzanians," stated Dr. Fimbo at one of the facilities.

In addition to assessing compliance with national and international standards, the visit also provided a platform for tailored technical guidance aimed at improving operational efficiency, boosting production capacity, and identifying areas for investment in modern pharmaceutical technologies.

The tour also reinforced TMDA's strategic commitment to fostering public-private partnerships and enhancing the country's capacity to meet both domestic and regional market demands through local content.

With this initiative, TMDA is setting a clear course towards a resilient and self-reliant pharmaceutical industry, capable of safeguarding public health while contributing to national economic development.





Falsified Products Confiscated as TMDA Intensifies Public Protection

The TMDA, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, has intensified its crackdown on falsified and substandard (SF) medical products during a special inspection operation conducted between November 4th and 8th, 2024. This special operation, targeting narcotics and psychotropic substances, was carried out across five of TMDA's eight zones.

Apart from TMDA, the operation involved different institutions, namely the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), the Pharmacy Council of Tanzania (PCT), the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), and the Medical Stores Department (MSD).

During this operation, a total of 116 facilities, ranging from hospitals and pharmacies to importers and distributors, were inspected for compliance with the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Act, Cap. 219, the Drugs Control and Enforcement Act, Cap. 95, and the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Act, Cap. 182.

Out of the facilities inspected, 24 (20.7%) were found to have violated the aforementioned legislations, including five (4.3%) with signs of diversion of narcotic drugs. Furthermore, 10 locations (8.6%) were cited for poor record keeping, and six (5.2%) had non-complying storage facilities for controlled medicines. One facility (0.9%) failed to report the loss of controlled drugs to TMDA - a serious breach of conduct when managing such items.

In addition, unregistered medicines and medical devices were seized from 13 hospitals, six pharmacies, and one customs border point. The confiscated items, valued at over TZS 18 million, included TZS 17.6 million worth of medicines and TZS 393,200 worth of medical devices.

The Authority continues to strengthen its control mechanism, and the general public is once again urged to report any malpractices and clandestine activities that could endanger public health through our normal channels.

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LC-MS/MS – How the Machine has Revolutionized Pharmaceutical Analysis

The TMDA has taken a giant leap in pharmaceutical testing through the deployment of the advanced Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry/Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) equipment.

According to TMDA's Director of Laboratory Services, Dr. Danstan Hipolite Shewiyo, the acquisition of LC-MS/MS has transformed pharmaceutical analysis, in detecting impurities such as diethylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and nitrosamines - compounds known for their harmful health effects.

"This technology empowers us to analyze complex drug formulations with unprecedented accuracy and speed," alluded Dr Shewiyo during a recent interview.

Dr. Shewiyo further pointed out that the use of LC-MS/MS in the Authority's laboratories in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza has further strengthened our capacity to support public health.

Hospitals, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and research institutions across Tanzania may benefit from reliable testing services at our laboratory.

This cutting-edge technology is revolutionizing how medicines are analyzed in the country, reinforcing TMDA's position as a leading regulatory body in Africa.

LC-MS/MS is a mass detection technology that uses a triple quadrupole mass analyzer to identify and quantify compounds in various sample types - including pharmaceuticals, food, and chemicals, with exceptional accuracy and precision.

It operates on the principle of separating ions based on their mass-to-charge (m/z) ratio, allowing only specific ions to pass through the quadrupole rods. This mechanism filters ions to ensure that only those with the desired characteristics are detected and analyzed.

At the heart of this machine's value is its high sensitivity and selectivity. It can detect trace impurities in complex samples, identify both known and unknown compounds, and generate both qualitative and quantitative data.

Importantly, it delivers rapid results without requiring validation of retention times, significantly reducing the time and resources needed for analysis.

The robustness of LC-MS/MS also makes it ideal for TMDA's laboratory settings. It is designed to handle "dirty" samples, and it is easy to clean and maintain, further enhancing its efficiency and reliability.

Additionally, it can operate independently with built-in power assurance, which ensures continuous operation even during unstable electrical supplies.

Beyond testing, TMDA's laboratories have been installed with state-of-the-art equipment for the sterilization of hospital aprons, gowns, and other critical materials. This allows for safer treatment environments in healthcare settings.

With its ongoing investment in infrastructure, technology, and skilled personnel, TMDA is not only protecting public health but also building a resilient pharmaceutical regulatory system.

Health Ministry Forms Task Force for Safe Disposal of Unused Medical Devices

> ***On the flip side, Ms. Joyce Chuwa, speaking on behalf of the Chief Pharmacist, Ministry of Health, emphasized on the importance of timely and safe disposal of medical products in preventing potential health hazards to the public. She elaborated that, "the task force should supervise and oversee a wide range of large medical equipment that are not in use both in private and public facilities".***

To address the increase in medical devices not in use in health facilities, the Ministry of Health established a Task Force to streamline and facilitate the disposal of unfit medical devices. The Task Force was created during a meeting which was held on 30th April, 2025 at TMDA Headquarters office in Dodoma.

While officiating the Trask Force, the TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, urged members to organize regular meetings to assess the current situation and devise urgent measures to dispose of unfit medical equipment lying in private and public health facilities across the country.

The Task Force, which will be under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, comprises other members from the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the President's Office – Regional Authorities and Local Government (PO-RALG), the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), and the Private Hospitals Advisory Board (PHAB).

On the flip side, Ms. Joyce Chuwa, speaking on behalf of the Chief Pharmacist, Ministry of Health, emphasized on the importance of timely and safe disposal of medical products in preventing potential health hazards to the public. She elaborated that, "the task force should supervise and oversee a wide range of large medical equipment that are not in use both in private and public facilities".

The Task Force is expected to accomplish the task within six months, beginning April 2025, as directed by the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Completion of First Phase of TMDA Incinerator Project

The first phase of the incinerator project, which began in 2024, has finally been completed. This is one of the significant milestones that has been recorded by the TMDA. It sums up the efforts put in place to ensure the safe and environmentally sound disposal of medical products deemed unsuitable for human consumption.

The official handing-over of the facility which has been built in Nala – Dodoma region, to the MAB Chairman - Mr. Eric Shitindi, was done on the 7th of October, 2024. Witnessed by the TMDA Management Team and the contractor (i.e., National Housing Corporation – NHC) and the consultant – ABECC, the Board Chairman received on behalf of other Board members a Certificate of Practical Completion to denote the official completion of the project.

This milestone marks a major leap forward in Tanzania's healthcare infrastructure, in which the new incineration facility will handle unfit medical products in Tanzania such as expired items, those seized during inspections, unregistered products, and falsified or substandard (SF) medical products.

"This project demonstrates TMDA's commitment to safeguarding and promoting public health," lamented MAB Chairman Mr. Eric Shitindi during the handing–over event. "The incinerator will ensure that all medical products deemed unfit for human and veterinary use are disposed of, and that only good quality, safe, and efficacious medical products are circulating on the market.

Strategically, the incinerator is poised to serve as a centralized disposal hub, accessible to various stakeholders across the country. It will also save approximately TZS 150 million annually, which TMDA is currently using as disposal fees when sending products for disposal at private facilities.

This first phase of the project involved the construction of the incinerator warehouse, boundary wall, security gate house, and water bore well. The final phase will involve the installation of the high-temperature combustion incineration unit, safety systems, and other supporting utilities.

As the TMDA looks ahead to the next phase, we remain committed to enhancing health system resilience and protecting Tanzanians from the dangers of improperly discarded medical products.

TMDA Laboratory Continues to Guarantee Quality and Safety of Medical Products

The TMDA continues to guarantee the quality and safety of medical products in the country, through its state-of-the-art laboratory, which is now capable of conducting over 95% of quality tests for all regulated health products.

This milestone represents a significant leap in the country's ability to safeguard public health and ensure the quality and safety of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics.

"These are remarkable achievements for TMDA's laboratory, making it one of the most advanced regulatory laboratories on the continent," asserted Dr Danstan Shewiyo, Director of Laboratory Services, during a recent interview.

"I want Tanzanians to appreciate that the TMDA Laboratory operates with the highest level of professionalism and precision, delivering reliable test results that help the Authority make sound and informed regulatory decisions to protect public health," Dr Shewiyo emphasized.

TMDA operates laboratories in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Dodoma, each with a distinct specialization. The Dar es Salaam laboratory focuses on testing pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and diagnostics. The Mwanza laboratory deals with pharmaceutical and research products, while the Dodoma laboratory is tasked with analysing tobacco products and herbal medicines.

TMDA laboratories are equipped with cutting-edge technology, enabling comprehensive testing of raw materials used in the production of human, veterinary, and herbal medicines.

The laboratories perform a wide range of tests, including identification of active ingredients, assay, moisture content determination, and impurity profiling for substances such as diethylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and nitrosamines.

In addition to quality testing, the TMDA laboratories also test packaging materials, conduct various research projects, and carry out other assignments as mandated by the Authority.

According to Dr Shewiyo, test results generated by the laboratories play a crucial role in TMDA's regulatory decisions, as they are based on rigorous scientific data.

The laboratory processes samples from two main sources: regulatory samples, which are collected for decision-making by TMDA, and non-regulatory samples submitted by stakeholders such as manufacturers and researchers for independent verification of quality.

Regulatory samples originate from TMDA's internal directorates, which submit products for registration, inspection, and market surveillance. Non-regulatory samples may come from local and international manufacturers, researchers, or institutions seeking quality verification.

Reflecting on the progress made during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's four years in office, Dr Shewiyo listed several key achievements: the chemical testing laboratory has maintained its WHO prequalification since 2011; the microbiology laboratory received WHO prequalification in 2022; and the medical devices laboratory earned ISO/IEC 17025:2017 certification in 2024.

He also acknowledged the government's partnership with international donors in supporting the lab's advancement. "Through Global Fund support, we have secured nearly TZS 10 billion worth of modern equipment to expand our capacity in testing human vaccines and biological medicines," he noted.

TMDA's continued investment in laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and personnel is a testament to its commitment to excellence in public health regulation. As the Authority scales up its operations, it remains a cornerstone in Tanzania's efforts to ensure that only safe, effective, and high-quality medical products reach the market.

TMDA Wins 2024 Best Public Education Award

In a spotlight gesture that underscores the power of effective public engagement, the TMDA has been honored with the 2024 Best Public Education Campaign Award.

The award was presented during the Public Relations & Communication Excellence Awards held on April 3, 2025, in Dar es Salaam. This recognition goes beyond a ceremonial trophy, it symbolizes TMDA's impactful efforts in enhancing how Tanzanians understand, interact with, and safeguard themselves through better use of medicines and medical devices.

At the heart of the award-winning campaign was a clear and compelling goal: to empower people to report adverse reactions to medicines they use. Through a blend of mass media outreach, village meetings, social media engagement, and health center partnerships, TMDA launched a nationwide campaign that inspired citizens to take ownership of their health by reporting Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs).

The results have been nothing short of transformative. From receiving an average of just 200 ADR reports annually before the campaign, TMDA now records over 8,000 reports each year, a more than 40-fold increase. This surge reflects a growing public awareness and vigilance, as well as a cultural shift where individuals now actively participate in protecting not only their own well-being but that of their communities.

The impact of these reports extends beyond Tanzania. The country has now contributed 62,038 adverse event reports to the global pharmacovigilance database hosted by WHO (Vigibase), accounting for 0.2% of all data submitted worldwide. This significant contribution has propelled Tanzania to 47th place out of 168 countries, firmly establishing its presence on the global map in the area of medicines safety monitoring.

Behind each report is a human story: a mother observing a strange reaction in her child, a nurse guiding her patient to speak up, or a youth using social media to share their experience. TMDA ensured that these voices were not only heard but valued.

"This award is a reflection of the people," said Dr. Yonah H. Mwalwisi, TMDA's Director for Medicines Control, shortly after receiving the trophy. "It is their willingness to learn, to report, and to protect one another that has made this possible. Our role is simply to continue guiding them with knowledge and support," Dr. Yonah said.

The success of this campaign is a powerful reminder that public health education is not just about delivering information; it's about empowerment. An informed public leads to safer medicines, more trusted medical devices, and a stronger, more resilient healthcare system.

As TMDA celebrates this national recognition, the message remains clear: education saves lives, and every report truly counts.

Cancer Patients at Bugando Hospital Smiling Again: Thanks to TMDA Female Employees

Towards the International Women's Day celebration on March 8th, 2025, TMDA female employees visited and donated toiletries and hygienic products to cancer patients undergoing treatment at the Bugando Zonal Referral Hospital in Mwanza.

Speaking during the handing-over ceremony on 4th April, 2025, as part of ongoing commemorations of the International Women's Day, the TMDA Eastern Lake Zone Office Manager, Ms. Sophia Mziray, reiterated that the Authority recognizes the challenges faced by cancer patients and their caregivers and that it has decided to donate such products in the moral sense of sympathy and easing suffering.

"Cancer requires long-term treatment, and it is costly. We have come all the way here to hold hands with our fellow Tanzanians. We believe this assistance will make them smile again and bring joy, at least for a while," lamented Ms. Sophia Mziray.

While accepting the donation, the Hospital Director of Health Services Support, Dr. Cosmas Mbulwa, acknowledged the good gesture from TMDA and thanked the team for the support.

"It is true that these treatments take a long time and are quite expensive, while our fellow Tanzanians need constant comfort, care, and support. I am pretty much confident that our patients will feel good and valued through this support from TMDA," acknowledged Dr. Mbulwa.

Dr. Mbulwa further clarified that "Bugando Health Center admits cancer patients from the Lake Zone regions and beyond. These kinds of support are highly needed for both caregivers and patients. We accept any support, in kind or otherwise, and urge other stakeholders to follow suit to help Bugando patients," he added.

Women across the country joined others in the world to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8th. In Tanzania, the nationwide celebrations took center stage in Arusha, where President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan presided over as the guest of honor.

While accepting the donation, the Hospital Director of Health Services Support, Dr. Cosmas Mbulwa, acknowledged the good gesture from TMDA and thanked the team for the support.

PICTORIALS

Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango listens to Dr. Adam Fimbo, Director General of TMDA, during his presentation on TMDA's role in public health at the Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania's AGM exhibition on 4th June 2025 in Arusha.

"Group photo of TMDA officials with three ICT officers from the Ghana FDA during their benchmarking visit on the Regulatory Information Management System at TMDA, held from May 26 to 30, 2025, in Dodoma."

Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Tanzania, H.E. Amb. Sherif Ismail, in a group photo with TMDA Directors during his visit to the Authority on 15th May 2025 in Dar es Salaam, aimed at discussing regulatory collaboration and strengthening bilateral ties

PICTORIALS

Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Tanzania, H.E. Amb. Sherif Ismail, met with TMDA Director General Dr. Adam Fimbo on 15th May 2025 in Dar es Salaam to discuss regulatory cooperation and strengthen bilateral relations in the health sector.

TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, together with Dr. Yonah Mwalwisi, Director of Medicines Control, and Mr. Adonis Bitegeko, Manager of TMDA Eastern Zone, visited Katwaza Pharmaceutical Industry in Coast Region on 27th March 2025 to discuss challenges related to the registration of medicines in Tanzania.

TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, together with Dr. Yonah Mwalwisi, Director of Medicines Control, and Mr. Adonis Bitegeko, Manager of TMDA Eastern Zone, visited Katwaza Pharmaceutical Industry in Coast Region on 27th March 2025 to discuss challenges related to the registration of medicines in Tanzania.

PICTORIALS

Director General of TMDA, Dr. Adam Fimbo, visits Alfa Pharmaceuticals in Dar es Salaam on 25th March 2025 to address medicine registration challenges and offer technical guidance. Joining him on the tour were Dr. Yonah Mwalwisi, Director of Medicines Control, and Mr. Adonis Bitegeko, Manager of TMDA Eastern Zone.

On 28th February 2025, TMDA proudly handed over two laptops to Kampala International University (KIU) Dar es Salaam as part of our ongoing commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility. This initiative aims to support education and empower students with the tools they need for success. TMDA remains dedicated to making a positive impact in our communities and contributing to the growth of future leaders.

Dr. Danstan Shewiyo, Director of Laboratory Services, representing the Director General, officiates the launch of the Vigilance Technical Committee on March 4, 2025, in Morogoro. The event marks the appointment of the newly selected members of the committee.

TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo (second left) alongside other beneficiaries of the PROFORMA Project PhD program, during the project's closure symposium held on 18 -19 December, in Sweden

PICTORIALS

Director General of TMDA, Dr. Adam Fimbo, visits Alfa Pharmaceuticals in Dar es Salaam on 25th March 2025 to address medicine registration challenges and offer technical guidance. Joining him on the tour were Dr. Yonah Mwalwisi, Director of Medicines Control, and Mr. Adonis Bitegeko, Manager of TMDA Eastern Zone.

The Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) in one of its regular meetings to oversee the Authority functions held on 20th February, 2025 in Arusha

On February 18th, 2025, Dr. Godwin Mollel (MP), Deputy Minister for Health, met with Members of the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) for TMDA in Arusha. The discussion centered on strengthening medicine regulation in Tanzania to improve accessibility to affordable medicines. The MAB convened for their ordinary meeting, reviewing TMDA's performance in protecting and promoting public health.

More Publications from TMDA Scientists

In a noteworthy demonstration of scientific leadership and regulatory innovation, researchers and scientists within TMDA have once again made significant contributions to the global body of knowledge through a series of peer-reviewed scientific publications. These not only highlight TMDA's commitment to public health but also reveal its competence in regulating medicinal products and research activities.

The publications, which span diverse topics on post-marketing surveillance, safety of medicines, clinical trials oversight, efficacy of medicines, and drug utilization patterns, reflect years of data-driven efforts by TMDA to ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical products used in the country.

On this, the recent articles which have been published in peer-reviewed journals involving TMDA scientists include:

- *Fimbo AM, Sillo HB, Nkayamba A, Kisoma S, Mwalwisi YH, Idris R, Asiimwe S, Githendu P, Ogbuoji O, Morrison L, Bump JB, Kaale E. Strengthening regulation for medical products in Tanzania: An assessment of regulatory capacity development, 1978-2020. PLOS Glob Public Health. 2024 Oct 16;4(10):e0003241. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgph.0003241. PMID: 39413119; PMCID: PMC11482716.*

- *Mwamwitwa KW, Bukundi EM, Maganda BA, Munishi C, Fimbo AM, Buma D, Muro EP, Sabiiti W, Shewiyo DH, Shearer MC, Smith AD, Kaale EA. Adverse Drug Reactions Resulting from the Use of Chiral Medicines Amoxicillin, Amoxicillin-Clavulanic Acid, and Ceftriaxone: A Mixed Prospective-Retrospective Cohort Study. INQUIRY. 2024 Jan-Dec;61:469580241273323. doi: 10.1177/00469580241273323. PMID: 39279290; PMCID: PMC11406638.*

- *Eulambius M. Mlugu, Jacob Mhagama, Damas Matiko, Siya Augustine, Moses Nandonde, Emmanuel Masunga, Peter P. Kunambi, Raphael Zozimus Sangeda, Yonah H. Mwalwisi and Adam Fimbo. A Comparative Assessment of Quality of Antimalarial Medicines in Mainland Tanzania: Insights from Five Years of Postmarket Surveillance, Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg. 00 (00), 2024, pp.1-8, doi:10.4269/ajtmh. 24-0145.*

- *Fimbo, A., Mwalwisi, Y.H., Matiko, D. et al. Lessons from enriching Tanzania's clinical research ethics clinical trials oversight and pharmacovigilance through the ASCEND project. Discov Public Health 21, 54 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12982-024-00180-3*

- *Sangeda RZ, Ndabatinya CJ, Maganga MB, Nkiligi EA, Mwalwisi YH, Fimbo AM. Good manufacturing practice inspections conducted by Tanzania medicines and medical devices authority: a comparative study of two fiscal years from 2018 to 2020. J Pharm Policy Pract. 2024 Sep 16;17(1):2399722. doi: 10.1080/20523211.2024.2399722. PMID: 39291054; PMCID: PMC11407403.*

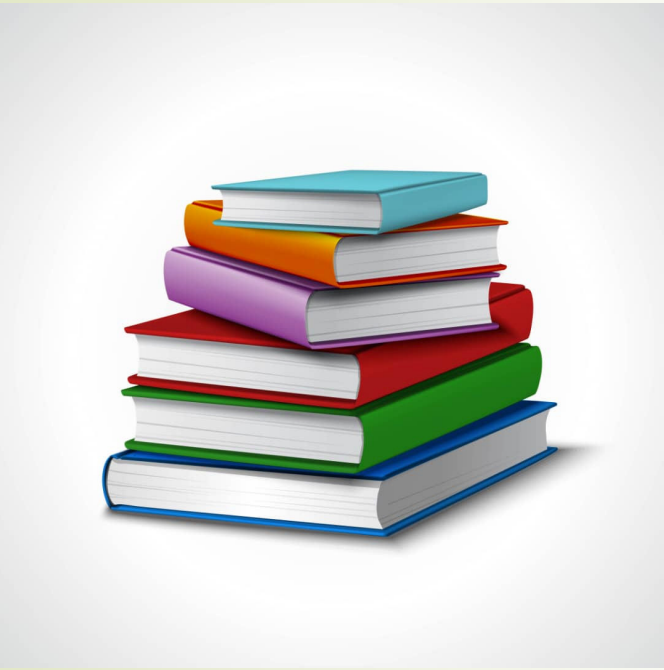
- *Fimbo AM, Mnkugwe RH, Mlugu EM, Kunambi PP, Malishee A, Minzi OMS, Kamuhabwa AAR, Aklillu E. Efficacy of ivermectin and albendazole combination in suppressing transmission of lymphatic filariasis following mass administration in Tanzania: a prospective cohort study. Infect Dis Poverty. 2024 Jun 12;13(1):44. doi: 10.1186/s40249-024-01214-3. PMID: 38867265; PMCID: PMC11167743.*

- *Raphael Z Sangeda, Sahani M William, Faustine C Masatu, Adonis Bitegeko, Yonah H Mwalwisi, Emmanuel A Nkiligi, Pius G Horumpende, Adam M Fimbo, Antibiotic utilization patterns in Tanzania: a retrospective longitudinal study comparing pre- and intra-COVID-19 pandemic era using Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority data, JAC-Antimicrobial Resistance, Volume 6, Issue 3, June 2024, dlae081, https://doi.org/10.1093/jacamr/dlae081*

- *Sangeda RZ, William SM, Masatu FC, Bitegeko A, Mwalwisi YH, Nkiligi EA, Horumpende PG, Fimbo AM. Antibiotic utilization patterns in Tanzania: a retrospective longitudinal study comparing pre- and intra-COVID-19 pandemic era using Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority data. JAC Antimicrob Resist. 2024 May 27;6(3):dlae081. doi: 10.1093/jacamr/dlae081. PMID: 38803386; PMCID: PMC11128939.*

These publications, which can be cited and accessed from all search engines and databases, including PubMed, Medline, Google Scholar, Elsevier, Scopus, and others, underscore TMDA's commitment to information sharing in the public domain on measures undertaken to monitor medical products circulating in Tanzania. The publications further provide findings with critical data for policymakers and the general public to better understand the safety, efficacy, use, and prescribing patterns, including misuse of medicines.

By sharing these findings with the global community, TMDA contributes to international knowledge exchange while also contributing to evidence-based decision making, collaboration, and regulatory transparency. More research and innovative studies are currently underway, and once completed, findings will again be shared in the public domain.



PROFORMA Project Concludes with Major Gains in Pharmacovigilance Across East Africa

The five-year PROFORMA Project, launched back in April 2018 to strengthen pharmacovigilance infrastructure and post-marketing surveillance systems across East Africa, officially concluded in December 2024.

Funded by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) with a total grant of 3 million, of which 240,696 was allocated to the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), the project marked a turning point in how medicines and vaccines are monitored for safety in the region.

The project, formally titled Pharmacovigilance Infrastructure and Post-Marketing Surveillance System Capacity Building for Regional Medicines Regulatory Harmonization in East Africa, was implemented in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Sweden through a consortium of national regulatory agencies, academic institutions, WHO Collaborating Centres, and Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence (RCOREs). Its main goal was to build capacity among regulators, healthcare providers, academia, and other stakeholders to ensure better detection, assessment, and prevention of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and vaccine-related events.

In Tanzania, the project was implemented through TMDA in close collaboration with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). Over the project period, 12 professionals were trained in pharmacovigilance and cohort event monitoring (CEM). These trained experts were instrumental in overseeing national CEM initiatives, including surveillance for Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapy and the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Results from these initiatives were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, contributing valuable data to the global medicines safety monitoring database (Vigibase).

On the flip side, postgraduate pharmacovigilance programs were launched at MUHAS and Addis Ababa University, reinforcing the pre-existing Master's degree programme at the University of Nairobi. In total, 12 postgraduate students were sponsored through PROFORMA project, comprising four PhD candidates based in Sweden and eight Master's students in Kenya - creating a skilled pool of future pharmacovigilance trainers and regulatory leaders across the region.

The impact of the project on pharmacovigilance in Tanzania has been massive. Prior to PROFORMA, the country reported approximately 200 ADR reports annually. The figure has ever since increased to over 8,000 reports per annum. Between 2018 and September 2024, over 62,000 adverse events were reported to the global database, placing Tanzania at 47th position out of 168 countries in global pharmacovigilance reporting rankings. This success was driven by national training initiatives that reached more than 9,000 healthcare professionals across the country.

In addition, to support this expanded reporting trajectory, PROFORMA helped to establish and equip national and zonal pharmacovigilance centers with ICT tools for real-time data entry and collation. TMDA also developed and implemented the national pharmacovigilance regulations that mandated mandatory reporting of adverse events from stakeholders, including healthcare providers, Marketing Authorization Holders (MAHs), and public health programmes.

Another important milestone achieved through the PROFORMA project was the development of the National Pharmacovigilance Roadmap, following a baseline assessment using WHO Pharmacovigilance Indicators. As a result, Tanzania successfully achieved Maturity Level 3 (ML3) during a WHO benchmarking exercise in July 2024 - an indication of a well-established and sustainable regulatory framework for medicines and vaccine safety.

One indelible mark to note was also on the TMDA staff being engaged in ongoing research activities, as one member who completed his Master's degree in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology at the University of Nairobi secured funding for conducting research on vaccines cold chain management in Arusha through the East African Community Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization, and Health Supply Chain Management (EAC-RCE-VIHSCM). The study is now being expanded to cover Nairobi County in Kenya and Bariadi District in Tanzania, demonstrating the project's role in generating regionally relevant, scalable research activities.

As the PROFORMA project concludes, stakeholders reflect on a legacy of strengthened systems, regional collaboration, and sustainable training structures. "This project has fundamentally changed how we approach medicines safety in East Africa," lamented the TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo. "It has not only improved our surveillance systems but also empowered our workforce and created lasting academic partnerships."

Looking forward, the regional regulatory landscape is now better equipped to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of medical products. The PROFORMA project has laid a strong foundation for a harmonized, data-driven, and sustainable pharmacovigilance ecosystem - one that will continue to benefit millions across East Africa long after the project's end.

Anti-Microbial Resistance Stewardship: Raising Awareness in Animal Husbandry

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has emerged as one of the most pressing global health threats, affecting humans, animals, and the environment. In Tanzania, the growing concern over AMR is closely linked to the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials not only in humans but also in animals and agriculture.

Recognizing the seriousness of the matter, TMDA has taken a pivotal role in promoting antimicrobial stewardship, with a focus on awareness creation in the livestock sector. AMR occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve and become resistant to medicines designed to kill them.

This makes infections harder to treat, increases the risk of disease spreading, and elevates mortality rates. In animal husbandry, the misuse of antibiotics to promote growth and prevent disease without proper veterinary oversight has been identified as a major contributor to the development of AMR.

According to Ms. Gaudensia Simwanza, TMDA's Communication and Public Education Manager and Chairperson of the National AMR Awareness Technical Group, "The Authority has been engaging in the combat of AMR through strategic regulatory enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and cross-sector collaboration".

Ms Simwanza narrated that – "As part of its antimicrobial stewardship efforts, TMDA is actively involved in implementing the National AMR Action Plan (2023–2028), which focuses on the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary practices and animal farming".

One of the Authority's key contributions is its regulatory oversight of veterinary medicines. TMDA ensures that only registered and quality-assured antimicrobials are available on the market and that their use complies with national standards.

The Authority also supports training programmes for veterinary professionals, livestock officers, and farmers, helping them understand the importance of rational antimicrobial use and the risks associated with resistance.

Awareness creation is the cornerstone of TMDA's intervention. The Authority has collaborated with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, the Ministry of Health, and other stakeholders in public campaigns that promote infection prevention and control (IPC) in animal farming. These efforts aim to minimize disease outbreaks and reduce unnecessary reliance on antibiotics.

TMDA also promotes routine surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial use and resistance patterns. By supporting laboratories capable of conducting antimicrobial susceptibility testing, the Authority enables veterinarians and animal health practitioners to make evidence-based decisions when prescribing antibiotics.

Nonetheless, a recent survey has showed that albeit 84 percent of hospitals in Tanzania adhered to prescribing guidelines, most antibiotic prescriptions were empirical rather than guided by laboratory results. TMDA is addressing this gap by advocating for broader access to and use of diagnostic tools in both human and veterinary medicines. The Authority's efforts extend to the grassroots level, where it works with farmers to adopt best practices in animal care, including improved hygiene, vaccination, and biosecurity measures - all of which help reduce infection rates and the need for antibiotics.

With infection prevention and control becoming increasingly crucial in preventing AMR, TMDA's role is more critical than ever. Through regulation, education, and collaboration, TMDA is building national resilience against AMR, safeguarding both public health and the livestock economy.

Disposal of Medicines – Safeguarding Public Health

> ***We urge all health facilities, pharmacies, and outlets to observe proper storage and disposal practices," Mr Bitegeko stressed. "This isn't just about waste management, it's all about protecting people's lives and our environment."***

The TMDA Eastern Zone Office has ramped up efforts to protect public health and the environment through the proper disposal of expired, falsified, and unfit medicines and medical devices.

Mr. Adonis Bitegeko, the TMDA Eastern Zone Manager, revealed that over the past year, 2024, the Authority successfully destroyed substantial quantities of unfit pharmaceutical products, thereby safeguarding public health and protecting the environment.

According to Mr Bitegeko, clients voluntarily surrendered expired and unfit medicines weighing up to 264,399.05 kgs and valued at over TZS 1.88 billion. In the same period, medical devices weighing 38,533.61 kgs, worth over TZS 12.17 billion, were also incinerated. Products seized during routine inspections were disposed of. These included medicines weighing 7,120 kgs, valued at TZS 299.27 million, and medical devices weighing 6,390 kgs, valued at TZS 256.35 million.

However, he further alluded that not all confiscated items were destroyed. Some fit medicines worth TZS 12.58 million and medical devices worth TZS 9.13 million were redistributed back to the Rufiji District Council to support local healthcare delivery.

The disposal exercise was conducted in collaboration with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), regional health authorities, and law enforcement agencies. It followed strict environmental safety protocols, including engaging high-temperature incineration units approved by NEMC.

Mr Bitegeko highlighted the risks associated with improper disposal of pharmaceutical waste. "Disposing of medicines inappropriately, such as through open air fields or flushing into water systems, can contribute to antimicrobial resistance and pollute water sources. This poses a serious threat to both human and environmental health," he cautioned.

The destroyed items included commonly used medicines such as antibiotics, painkillers, antimalarials, and various medical devices. These were collected from health facilities, pharmacies, and distributors across the eastern part of the country.

TMDA continues to urge the public, healthcare providers, and pharmaceutical businesses to return expired or unused medicines to designated TMDA offices rather than disposing of them irresponsibly.

"We urge all health facilities, pharmacies, and outlets to observe proper storage and disposal practices," Mr Bitegeko stressed. "This isn't just about waste management, it's all about protecting people's lives and our environment."

This regulatory process aligns with national and global best practices in pharmaceutical waste management. TMDA remains committed to ensuring that the disposal of pharmaceutical waste is carried out responsibly, following the existing legal framework to protect the public and the environment.

Investors Encouraged to Capitalize on Tanzania's Pharmaceutical Sector Potential

Despite about 80 Percent of the medicines supplied on the Tanzanian market being imported, the Minister for Industry and Trade, Dr. Selemani Jaffo, has called upon the TMDA to proactively engage and attract investors into the domestic pharmaceutical and medical devices manufacturing sectors.

Dr. Jaffo made this appeal on 10th September, 2024, during his visit to the TMDA pavilion at the 19th East African Trade Fair held in Mwanza. The event brought together exhibitors and stakeholders from across the East African region.

"Tanzania currently relies heavily on imported medicines and medical devices, which presents a greater opportunity for investment in local production," said Dr. Jaffo. "TMDA is doing commendable work in safeguarding the quality and safety of pharmaceutical products. It is the right time now for the Authority to entice foreign investors to establish pharmaceutical industries in the country. The government has already created a conducive and favourable investment environment and remains committed to further improving the same."

Briefing the Minister, TMDA's Eastern Lake Zone Manager, Ms. Sophia Mziray, highlighted the Authority's commitment to facilitating trade through efficient and professional regulatory services.

"We operate in line with the Client's Service Charter that ensures timely delivery of services," Ms. Mziray lamented. "Additionally, TMDA has stationed inspectors at all Ports of Entry to streamline the importation and movement of regulated products into the country."

TMDA's efforts were recognized at the exhibition when the Authority was awarded the first winner in the regulatory institutions category for excellence in service delivery.

About 75 Percent of Customers are Satisfied with TMDA Services

In its ongoing endeavours to promote public health and maintain high standards of service, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has successfully completed its 5th Service Delivery Survey (SDS) conducted between November and December 2024.

This nationwide survey reaffirms TMDA's dedication to improving the quality, efficiency, and responsiveness of its services by listening to the voices of its stakeholders. Organized in collaboration with experts from the University of Dar es Salaam Business School (UDBS), the survey captured critical insights from across 35 districts in 16 regions, involving TMDA employees, manufacturers, importers, retailers, laboratory service users, media, and the general public.

This 2024 SDS version, the first since TMDA's restructuring in 2019, focused on assessing stakeholders' satisfaction, public awareness, and levels of compliance with TMDA services.

Findings of the survey have revealed that stakeholders are generally satisfied with TMDA's performance, with an external customer satisfaction index measured at 74.8% and an impressive internal staff satisfaction index at 89.2%. However, key concerns such as low staff satisfaction with remuneration (47.98%) and low salary increments (40.81%) were noted, calling for organizational review and reform. Additionally, the survey showed increased public awareness of TMDA services, rising from 47% in 2020 to 56% in 2024, alongside moderate awareness among consumers of the TMDA Client's Service Charter.

Despite progress in its regulatory mandate, notably in reducing falsified medicines on the market, the report still highlighted limited resources as a barrier to expanding services to more remote areas. A loosely aligned service delivery triangle was also noted, indicating room for improvement in internal, external, and interactive marketing strategies.

To address the gaps, the survey proposed strategic recommendations including: ongoing public education campaigns, salary structure reviews, system upgrades for digital service delivery, and broader stakeholder engagement. It also suggested quick wins such as improving the TMDA website for feedback and complaints handling, updating the customer database, enhancing laboratory service promotion, and introducing national events like TMDA Week or sports competitions to boost visibility and public engagement.

In addition, the SDS underscored TMDA's commitment to transparency, accountability, and customer-focused service delivery. By listening to stakeholders and responding with actionable strategies, TMDA continues to build public trust and reinforce its role as a responsive, efficient, and dynamic health regulatory agency.

Service delivery surveys are usually conducted after every four years to examine the level of customers' and other stakeholders' satisfaction with services delivered to ascertain the general public's level of awareness and compliance towards services offered by TMDA. They also intend to identify areas for improvement to enhance the quality-of-service delivery to customers and other stakeholders. Previous SDS were conducted in 2004, 2008, 2014, and 2020.

TMDA Donates Medicines to Morogoro and Rukwa Health and Correctional Facilities

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), TMDA donated medicines and medical devices valued at TZS 38 million to health and correctional facilities in the Morogoro and Rukwa regions. This generous contribution aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and supporting underserved communities underscores TMDA's commitment to enhancing public health and well-being across the country.

In Morogoro, TMDA, through its Central Zone Office, handed over supplies worth over TZS 19 million to correctional health facilities across the region. The donation is expected to enhance service delivery in 13 prison-based health centres by improving access to essential medicines and promoting the overall health of the prison community.

Speaking at the handing-over event, TMDA Central Zone Manager Ms. Sonia Henry Mkumbwa affirmed that the donated medicines and supplies are safe and of high quality. She emphasized that their distribution aligns with TMDA's mission to ensure access to quality-assured medical products for all Tanzanians.

"These medicines were collected during inspection and regulatory enforcement operations conducted in Dodoma, Iringa, Singida, and Morogoro. The products were confiscated from facilities that were not licensed to store or distribute them, in accordance with the TMDA Regulations," she explained.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Assistant Commissioner of Prisons (ACP) of Morogoro prison centre, Mr. Godfrey Boniface Kavishe, the Regional Prisons Staff Officer, expressed gratitude for TMDA's timely intervention.

"These medicines will significantly improve healthcare services in our facilities. We are committed to using them responsibly and in line with the national treatment guidelines," he stated.

In a similar effort, TMDA's Southern Highlands Zone Office donated medicines and medical devices worth over TZS 19 million to Tinda House Family Dispensary in Rukwa Region. The facility, which serves the rural and underserved population, is expected to benefit many from this support.

Both initiatives are part of TMDA's CSR to help those in need, including vulnerable populations and those living in hard-to-reach areas. By responsibly redistributing safe and quality-assured medical products recovered from non-compliant outlets, TMDA helps bridge healthcare access gaps while maintaining regulatory standards.

TMDA remains committed to ensuring that all medical products circulating in Tanzania meet the highest standards of quality, safety, and efficacy. The Authority continues to collaborate with stakeholders nationwide to uphold regulatory compliance and contribute meaningfully to improved healthcare outcomes.

TMDA Southern Zone Office Relocated to Ruvuma

As part of its continued efforts to enhance service delivery and bring regulatory services closer to the public, in September, 2024 TMDA officially relocated its Southern Zone Office from the PSSF Building in Mtwara to a more accessible location in Songea, Ruvuma Region.

This strategic move is aimed at reducing operational costs and minimizing inconveniences for customers, while ensuring a more efficient and customer-friendly service environment. The relocation also responds to the growing need for larger office space to better accommodate both staff and clients.

These improvements will allow the Authority to continue fulfilling its mission of safeguarding public health through the effective regulation of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics.

The Southern Zone Office is responsible for serving clients in Mtwara, Lindi, and Ruvuma regions, and remains committed to offering high-quality regulatory services in alignment with the existing laws and regulations.

New Contact Information:
TMDA Southern Zone Office
NBC Building, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 48,
Serengeti Road,
Songea – Ruvuma
Telephone: +255 766 729 416
Toll-Free: 0800 110084
Email: info.ruvuma@tmda.go.tz

TMDA welcomes all stakeholders and clients in the Southern Zone to visit the new office for continued support and service.

TMDA Shines at SHIMMUTA 2024 – Emerges First Runners-Up

> ***Speaking after the award ceremony, the sports coordinator, Mr. Japhari Mtoro, expressed pride in the team's dedication and spirit: "This achievement reflects not only athletic excellence but also the unity, discipline, and hard work that define our institution. We thank the Management for the support and all staff members for their prayers."***

In a thrilling display of teamwork, talent, and determination, TMDA proudly emerged as 1st Runners-Up in the Netball games category during the SHIMMUTA 2024 competition, held between 10th and 24th November, 2024 in Tanga City.

The SHIMMUTA (Shirikisho la Michezo ya Taasisi za Umma Tanzania) games brought together employees from various public institutions across the country for competition, camaraderie, and national unity. TMDA's contingent, composed of athletes and performers from its zonal and headquarters offices, made a powerful impression throughout the event.

TMDA teams, including Netball, Football, and Marathon, demonstrated discipline, sportsmanship, and skill in a range of disciplines, such as football, netball, and traditional games. The team's commitment to both physical fitness and institutional pride earned them top notch in these competitions.

Speaking after the award ceremony, the sports coordinator, Mr. Japhari Mtoro, expressed pride in the team's dedication and spirit: "This achievement reflects not only athletic excellence but also the unity, discipline, and hard work that define our institution. We thank the Management for the support and all staff members for their prayers."

TMDA's participation in SHIMMUTA highlights its holistic approach to employee wellbeing, balancing regulatory responsibilities with social and physical development. These sports act as a platform to strengthen cooperation, wellness, and morale among employees, while promoting the importance of health and teamwork in national development.

As TMDA sets its sights on next year's competition, the 2024 success in Tanga City stands as a proud milestone, a celebration of talent, resilience, and excellence.

Congratulations, TMDA!

TMDA Hands Over Mini-Lab Kit to Simiyu Regional Hospital

In a significant step towards enhancing public health and ensuring access to safe and effective medicines, on 11th of November,2024, TMDA handed-over one Mini Laboratory Kit to Simiyu Regional Referral Hospital.

Speaking during the handing-over ceremony held in Simiyu region, the Manager of TMDA's Eastern Lake Zone Office, Ms. Sophia Mziray, highlighted the significant importance of the Mini Lab Kit in detecting substandard medicines before they reach consumers.

"This Mini Lab enables quick and cost-effective screening of medicine's quality. It has been designed to be flexible, allowing multiple samples to be tested simultaneously within the shortest time possible," she explained.

Ms. Mziray emphasized that the kit will play a vital role in protecting the health of communities by identifying poor-quality medicines in real time and alerting the Authority so take quick and swift action.

On receiving the equipment on behalf of the region, the Simiyu Regional Commissioner - Hon. Kenan Kihongosi expressed gratitude to TMDA for its continued efforts to public health protection.

"We are thankful for this invaluable support. A designated space has already been allocated at the hospital, and our healthcare professionals trained on how to use the kit. This will undoubtedly improve the safety and quality of medicines in Simiyu region and beyond," he stressed.

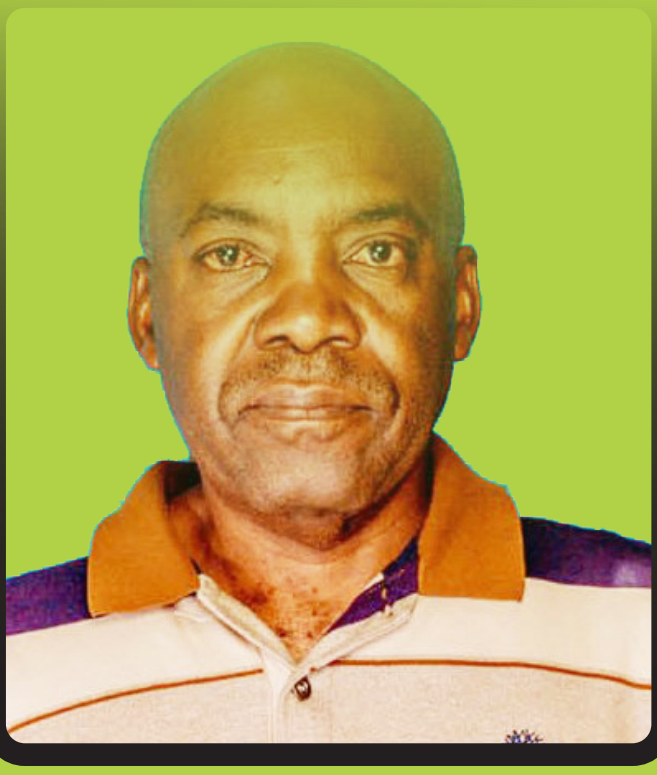
He also urged the hospital management team to ensure the facility is properly maintained, remarking that, "This is not just a piece of equipment, it is a tool for saving lives. Its appropriate use will directly benefit the health of our citizens."

The Mini Lab Kit is specifically designed for the initial screening of medicines used to treat diseases under surveillance program such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, intestinal worms, and bacterial infections.

TMDA first introduced the Mini Lab Kit in 2002 with only five kits at the time. Today, the number has grown to 26 kits total, which are strategically deployed across regional referral hospitals and customs entry points nationwide, enhancing the country's capacity for rapid screening and quality assurance of medical products.

TMDA Bids Farewell to Its Long-Serving Employees

In a heartfelt gesture marked by deep appreciation and warm tributes, the TMDA recently bid farewell to three of its long-serving and devoted employees - Mr. Oscar Kandege, Mr. Oscar Mbafu and Mr. Hamad Lyimo, who have officially retired from public service after years of dedicated contribution to the Authority and the nation.



Mr. Oscar Kandege

Mr. Oscar Kandege was among the pioneers who transitioned from the former Pharmacy Board to TFDA in 2003. He served with commitment and distinct perseverance in the Laboratory Services Directorate. As an instrument technician, Mr. Kandege played a pivotal role in the early establishment and operationalization of TMDA's Quality Control Laboratory, contributing significantly to the Authority's mission of ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines, medical devices and diagnostics in Tanzania.

Throughout his tenure, he was instrumental with measured technical ability in the installation, calibration, and maintenance of laboratory equipment in the laboratory. His technical expertise and unwavering attention to detail were key in verifying product compliance with national and international standards, thereby protecting public health and supporting regulatory decision-making.

His legacy lies not only in the many analytical reports and regulatory recommendations he supported but also in the robust culture of quality and discipline that he helped cultivate within TMDA's laboratory operations. As the Secretary of TUGHE between 2005 and 2020, he further dedicated his time to serve employees to realize their rights and benefits.

As he steps into retirement, Mr. Kandege leaves behind a well-established laboratory infrastructure and a team of professionals who continue to uphold the standards he helped shape.

TMDA Bids Farewell to Its Long-Serving Employees

Mr. Oscar Mbafu

Mr. Hamad Lyimo

Mr. Oscar Mbafu has served the Authority with unquestionable dedication since 2017, the era of the then Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), marking a long and commendable career in public service. As a driver, he worked across various operational zones, including the Northern Zone and the Eastern Lake Zone Offices, where he became a vital part of TMDA's logistical and field operations.

Over the years, Mr. Mbafu distinguished himself through his professionalism, reliability, and strong work ethic. He was not only responsible for transporting staff and official documents but also played a key role in facilitating field inspections, stakeholder engagements, and outreach programs that required meticulous logistical coordination. His familiarity with diverse terrains and road networks across the country made him an asset to the Authority, ensuring that services reached even the most remote areas.

Mr. Mbafu was widely respected by his colleagues for his humility, discipline, and team spirit. He consistently upheld the values of safety, punctuality, and responsibility, representing TMDA with integrity in every assignment he undertook. His calm demeanour, respectful conduct, and willingness to go to extra mile made him a reliable figure within the Authority.

Though his work often took place behind the scenes, Mr. Mbafu's contributions significantly supported TMDA's mission of safeguarding public health. His service is a testament to the critical role support staff play in the success of regulatory operations.

As he enters retirement, TMDA expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. Oscar Mbafu for his loyalty, dedication, and exemplary service. He leaves behind not only a track record of professional excellence but also the respect and admiration of those who had the pleasure of working alongside him.

Mr. Lyimo joined the Authority in 2022 from TAMISEMI, bringing with him a wealth of experience and professionalism in executive transport services. Appointed as a Principal Driver, he served diligently at the TMDA Central Zone Office in Dodoma, where he became known not only for his exceptional driving skills but also for his reliability, discipline, and commitment to duty.

In his role, Mr. Lyimo supported the Authority's operations by ensuring the safe and timely transportation of staff, documents, and vital consignments across the region. His deep understanding of logistical coordination and road safety regulations made him a trusted team member, particularly during high-stakes field operations, stakeholder engagements, and outreach programs in remote and urban settings.

Mr. Lyimo's professionalism extended beyond the wheel, he was respected for his humility, punctuality, and team spirit. He served as a dependable point of support for staff across all levels and contributed meaningfully to maintaining the Authority's positive public image in the Central Zone.

TMDA commends Mr. Kandege, Mr. Mbafu, and Mr. Lyimo for their exceptional service, integrity, and lasting contributions to the Authority's mission of safeguarding public health. Their institutional memory, expertise, and dedication have left an indelible mark.

As they step into this new chapter of retirement, the Authority extends its sincere gratitude and best wishes to them and their families. TMDA remains hopeful that these esteemed retirees will continue to contribute their knowledge and wisdom whenever called upon.

Indeed, they may have left the office, but their legacy remains.

The joy of winning the netball championship in the SHIMMUTA tournament

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