



TANZANIA MONITORING & EVALUATION CONSULTANCY CHAMBER
LIMITED

CONCEPT NOTE

TANZANIA RESEARCHERS' MARATHON 2026

RUN FOR RESEARCH · RUN FOR A PURPOSE

Prepared for Sponsors, Funders and Strategic Partners

PROPOSED DATE	Saturday, 05 December 2026
LOCATION	Morogoro Region, Tanzania
EVENT	Tanzania Researchers' Marathon (TRM)
ORGANIZER	TanMECC Ltd
WEBSITE	www.tanzaniareseachersmarathon.or.t

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01 The Case for Action

Tanzania's ability to solve its development challenges depends on a strong pipeline of Tanzanian researchers who can generate, analyze and translate evidence into practical solutions. Yet early-career and junior researchers often face limited access to research financing, mentorship, institutional support and opportunities to build a competitive research record. The result is that promising locally relevant ideas can remain undeveloped, while dependence on external funding can constrain the continuity and ownership of research.

The Tanzania Researchers' Marathon is proposed as a practical response: a national public-engagement and fundraising platform that turns mass participation into investment in Tanzanian research talent. Its central proposition is simple – mobilize Tanzanians, businesses, institutions, development partners and the diaspora to generate domestic and complementary resources that finance competitive seed grants and structured skills development for promising junior researchers.

02 What the Marathon Will Do

The annual marathon will combine 5 km, 10 km, 21 km and full-marathon participation with sponsorships, donations, institutional teams, matched giving, diaspora participation and in-kind partnerships. Net proceeds will support a proposed Tanzania Early-Career Research Fund and complementary capacity development.

- ▶ Competitive seed grants for Tanzanian early-career and junior researchers to undertake pilot studies, generate preliminary evidence and develop research with a credible pathway to impact.
- ▶ Practical training and mentorship in research methods, proposal development, data analysis, scientific writing, publication, research communication and knowledge translation.
- ▶ Research-to-impact support that helps researchers move from ideas and data to publications, policy briefs, prototypes, community solutions and stronger applications for larger grants.
- ▶ A public platform that makes research visible and understandable, demonstrating how evidence improves health, education, agriculture, technology, the environment, industry and public services.

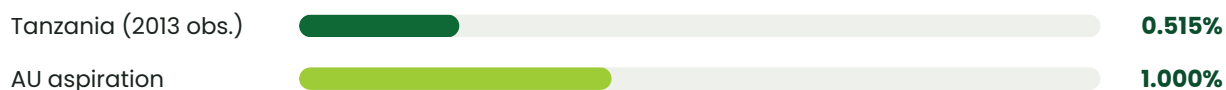
03 Why Domestic Research Funding Matters

The marathon is designed to help build a culture of Tanzanian research philanthropy, not to replace government or international research financing. Domestic contributions can provide flexible seed resources for researchers who are not yet competitive for large grants, help generate preliminary evidence needed for subsequent funding, and increase national ownership of the research agenda.

This is especially important for junior researchers, for whom a first funded study, a mentor, a publication and a credible research track record can be decisive steps in building a scientific career.

The supplied programme proposal notes that Tanzania's latest available World Bank R&D expenditure observation was approximately 0.515% of GDP in 2013, below the longstanding African aspiration of 1% of GDP. Because the observation is dated, it should be treated as an indication of the financing challenge rather than a current estimate. The marathon therefore offers a complementary mechanism for widening participation in research financing and strengthening local capacity. It is aligned with Tanzania Development Vision 2050, which identifies research, development and innovation as drivers of productivity, competitiveness and national transformation.

TANZANIA R&D EXPENDITURE VS. AFRICAN ASPIRATION



Source: World Bank Data, indicator GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS – latest available observation supplied in the source proposal (2013); shown as an indication of the financing gap, not a current estimate.

04 What Sponsors and Funders Will Be Supporting

Research Fund

Competitive seed grants for promising junior researchers and locally relevant studies.

Researcher Development

Mentorship, research methods, data analysis, proposal development, scientific writing and publication support.

Research-to-Impact

Translation of evidence into policy, practice, innovation and community solutions.

Public Engagement

Research exhibitions, researcher stories and accessible communication of evidence and results.

Event Support

In-kind or financial support that reduces event costs and increases the share of proceeds reaching research.

05 Credible Delivery and Accountability

TanMECC Ltd will own and operate the marathon within its existing governance framework. Research funding will be functionally separated from event delivery and subject to an open call, administrative screening, independent peer review, conflict-of-interest controls, due diligence, milestone-based disbursement and public award reporting. Sponsors may support themes or grant

windows but will not select individual awardees, influence findings or restrict publication of valid results.

Minimum transparency commitments include a dedicated financial mechanism, disclosure of fundraising and approved event costs, independent audit or assurance appropriate to the fund size, publication of grant criteria and awards, and a post-event financial and impact report.

06 Evidence of TanMECC's Capacity

79

RESEARCHERS & HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS ENROLLED

63

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER
SESSION

24

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS
STRENGTHENED

7

ABSTRACTS ACCEPTED AT
TIME OF REPORTING

The supplied TanMECC 2026 internal activity report records 79 young and emerging researchers and health professionals enrolled in a structured capacity-building programme, with average attendance of 63 participants per session. The programme reviewed and strengthened 24 scientific abstracts; 17 were submitted to the 5th Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Week and four to other scientific conferences, with seven accepted at the time of reporting. TanMECC also provided support in manuscript development, methodological review, journal selection, publication planning and knowledge translation. This provides a practical foundation for linking fundraising to a continuing researcher-development pathway.

07 Alignment with National and Global Priorities

The initiative supports Tanzania Development Vision 2050 through stronger research, development and innovation capacity. It complements Tanzania's existing research-financing ecosystem, including COSTECH and NFAST, rather than duplicating public mechanisms. It also contributes to SDG 9.5 on strengthening scientific research and increasing public and private investment in research and development, while supporting African priorities for stronger science, technology and innovation systems.

08 Partnership Opportunity

TanMECC invites government institutions, universities, research organisations, companies, foundations, development partners, professional bodies, media, communities and the Tanzanian diaspora to become founding partners of a national tradition of investing in research.

Partners can contribute through anchor sponsorship, research-fund contributions, matched giving, institutional teams, sponsorship of a grant window, in-kind event services, researcher mentorship or communications support. The strongest partnership proposition is to underwrite event costs

and/or directly capitalise the research fund so that the maximum possible share of public participation reaches young researchers.

09 Intended First-Year Results

- ✓ Establish a transparent, governed Tanzania Early-Career Research Fund.
- ✓ Mobilise domestic and complementary resources for research and researcher development.
- ✓ Provide a first funding and mentorship opportunity to a cohort of promising Tanzanian junior researchers.
- ✓ Generate preliminary evidence, publications, policy outputs, prototypes or community solutions that can attract follow-on funding and use.
- ✓ Demonstrate a repeatable national model for research philanthropy and public ownership of evidence generation.

10 Special Request

TanMECC seeks strategic partners who are willing to help establish the marathon as an annual national platform for financing Tanzanian research talent. Founding support will enable the 2026 event, protect the research fund from excessive event costs, and create the systems required for transparent grant-making and long-term sponsor confidence.

OUR APPEAL TO YOU

Every runner, sponsor and donor can help give a young Tanzanian researcher a first opportunity to generate evidence, build skills and turn a promising idea into a Tanzanian solution.

11 Selected References

- [1] United Republic of Tanzania. *Tanzania Development Vision 2050*. Planning Commission, 2025.
- [2] African Union Commission. *Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034* and related R&D investment commitments.
- [3] United Nations DESA. *Sustainable Development Goal 9, Target 9.5*.
- [4] OECD. *International aid falls in 2024 for first time in six years*. 16 April 2025.
- [5] OECD. *Cuts in official development assistance: OECD projections for 2025 and the near term*. 26 June 2025.
- [6] Nature Africa. *Early-career researchers in Africa endure funding insecurity*. 2024.

- [7] World Bank Data. *Research and development expenditure (% of GDP), Tanzania*, indicator GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS; latest available value in the supplied proposal: 0.51456 for 2013.
- [8] Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH). *National Fund for Advancement of Science and Technology (NFAST) and national research-financing materials*.
- [9] TanMECC. *Report on Research Capacity Building, Scientific Writing, and Knowledge Translation Conducted under TanMECC – 2026* (internal activity report supplied in the source proposal).



**Thank you for helping build
a national tradition of
investing in Tanzanian research.**

PARTNER WITH US

www.tanzaniaresearchersmarathon.or.t

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