



PRESS RELEASE

**TANZANIA AND THE UNITED STATES SIGN LANDMARK FIVE-YEAR HEALTH
SECTOR COOPERATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Dar es Salaam 01st July 2026

Historic framework mobilises over USD 3.1 billion in combined investment and delivers President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision of a self-reliant, healthy and industrialising Tanzania

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of the United States of America yesterday signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Health Sector Cooperation covering the period 2026 to 2030. The MOU was signed at a ceremony in Dar es Salaam by the Honourable Mohammed Mchengerwa (MP), Minister of Health, on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, and by Jeanne Clark, Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy, on behalf of the United States Government.

The signing of this MOU was undertaken pursuant to the strategic direction of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who has placed health at the centre of national development, industrialization and human capital transformation. Throughout the negotiations, the Tanzanian team was guided by the President's clear instruction that international cooperation must strengthen never substitute national ownership, domestic financing and Tanzanian institutions. This agreement is a direct expression of that vision.

Under the MOU, the United States Government intends to invest approximately USD 1.34 billion in Tanzania's health sector over the five-year period. The Government of Tanzania, for its part, commits to co-invest more than USD 1.8 billion of its own domestic resources over the same period a combined mobilisation of over USD 3.1 billion for the health of the Tanzanian people. By 2030, it is Tanzania that will carry the larger share of financing for its own health programmes, progressively assuming responsibility for its health workers, essential medicines and laboratory services. The agreement therefore marks a deliberate transition from a donor–recipient relationship to a partnership of sovereign equals, built on country ownership, sustainable financing and mutual respect.



This co-investment commitment is only possible because of the sustained increases in domestic health investment championed by President Samia's administration — including the expansion of health infrastructure across the country, the strengthening of the health workforce, and the landmark Universal Health Insurance framework designed to ensure that no Tanzanian is left behind. The MOU builds on this foundation: Tanzania enters this partnership not as a passive recipient of support, but as a sovereign partner investing in its own future. Concerns often raised around international health cooperation dependency, donor-driven priorities and loss of national ownership were resolved through constructive negotiation, mutual respect and a clear national position focused on protecting the long-term public interest.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, **Hon. Mchengewa** recalled the meeting between Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere and President John F. Kennedy at the White House in July 1963, and said:

“This Memorandum is not a continuation of dependency; it is a roadmap out of it. By 2030, it is Tanzania that will carry the larger share. We will absorb our health workers onto our own payroll, finance our own medicines, and fund our own laboratories. This is what Mwalimu meant by kujitegemea — self-reliance.”

— **Hon. Mohammed Mchengewa (MP), Minister of Health**

On the question of biological specimens, the position is straightforward, biological specimens and related materials of national public health importance including those connected to outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics will continue to be tested, stored and governed on Tanzanian soil, to the highest international standards of biosafety, biosecurity and quality, as the country develops its own laboratory and genomic sequencing capacity and therefore, Tanzania did not sign any specimen-sharing arrangement. Tanzania's health data will likewise remain governed under Tanzanian law and Tanzanian Health Management Information systems. This position was reached in a spirit of partnership and reflects Tanzania's determination to build sovereign scientific capacity while continuing to collaborate with partners in technical exchange, laboratory strengthening, public health emergency preparedness, training, innovation and quality assurance.

The MOU further places Tanzanian expertise at the centre of implementation. Where activities require external implementing support, due preference will be given to capable Tanzanian organisations and professionals, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and the availability of funds.

The MOU also supports the Government's objective of strengthening the Medical Stores Department (MSD) as a strategic national institution and a future regional hub for health commodity procurement, warehousing and distribution, including MSD's potential to serve as an implementer for U.S. Government-financed commodities. The United States Government further intends to connect Tanzania with U.S. manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, logistics providers and technology transfer to support local manufactures. These opportunities align with the broader agenda of health industrialization advanced under President Samia's leadership

including the development of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Special Economic Zone at Mloganzila through which Tanzania is positioning itself to become a producer of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and essential health products, creating jobs, reducing import dependence and serving regional markets across the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community.

Speaking on behalf of the United States Government, **Madam Jeanne Clark, Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy**, said: *"The signing of the MOU marks the beginning of a new phase of cooperation, not its conclusion. In the months ahead, the two Governments will jointly develop a detailed implementation plan setting out the specific activities, milestones and investments required to deliver the shared objectives of health security, country ownership, sustainable financing, and expanded trade and investment."*

Delivering the closing remarks at the ceremony, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, **Hon. Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (MP)**, underscored the depth and durability of the relationship between the two nations, noting also that the renewed confidence of international partners in Tanzania is itself a fruit of President Samia's diplomacy of openness and engagement:

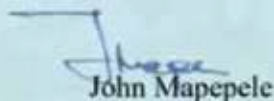
"The relationship between Tanzania and the United States is historical, and it will continue to be so. Our two countries share many priorities — in health, trade, investment and human development — and it is these shared priorities that will continue to make both our countries stronger."

— Hon. Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (MP), Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation

The Ministry of Health extends its appreciation to the United States Government for more than two decades of partnership, including through PEPFAR and the generosity of the American people, which has saved hundreds of thousands of Tanzanian lives.

The MOU will guide health cooperation between Tanzania and the United States through 2030, with a strong focus on results that benefit the people of Tanzania and strengthen the historic friendship between the two nations.

Issued by;



John Mapepele

Head of Government Communication Unit