



NNAT
Neonatal Nurses
Association of Tanzania

**Organization
Profile
2026**





Who we are

Neonatal Nurses Association of Tanzania (NNAT) is a non-governmental organization based in the United Republic of Tanzania, dedicated to promoting and advancing neonatal healthcare. The organization focuses on empowering, building the capacity of, and supporting nurses working in neonatal-related units and wards across the country.

NNAT is committed to making a positive impact by addressing critical and holistic issues affecting newborn health. These include challenges related to the health system, policy, and community-level factors. Through its work, NNAT strives to strengthen neonatal care and improve outcomes for newborns nationwide.

The organization aims to work closely alongside the Ministry of Health, serving as a supportive partner in the absence of a dedicated professional association solely focused on newborn health. NNAT also aspires to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and partner organizations, to design and implement effective interventions in neonatal care.

NNAT is proud to contribute to national efforts aimed at building a healthier future for all newborns and the broader Tanzanian population.

Vision

All newborns to receive high quality care by competent and confident neonatal nurses.

Mission

To advance the quality neonatal nursing care with positive newborn health outcome

Core Values

- i. Compassionate Care through provision of empathetic, respectful, and individualized care to newborns
- ii. Excellence in Practice by promoting evidence-based, high-quality care through ongoing education and professional development
- iii. Collaboration and Partnership by fostering strong relationships among healthcare professionals, families, and communities
- iv. Empowerment and Autonomy by supporting midwives in their practice, promoting autonomy, and encouraging professional growth
- v. Respect and Inclusivity through valuing diversity, promoting cultural sensitivity, and respecting the unique needs and experiences of mothers and families
- vi. Continuous Improvement by encouraging ongoing learning, innovation, and quality improvement to enhance care and outcomes
- vii. Integrity, as we believe in honesty, having strong moral principles, and behaving ethically.
- viii. Dignity by focusing on privacy, family centered care and confidentiality

Overall Goal

The overall goal of NNAT is to ensure all newborns receives quality care through empowering Neonatal Nurses.

Objectives

NNAT Objectives are;

- i. To advocate for improved environment around neonatal health in the country
- ii. To lead and organize capacity building program among neonatal nurses through mentorship, peer support and online learning platforms
- iii. To assist establishment of NNAT branches in the country
- iv. Provide a voice of neonatal nurses in national platforms
- v. Raise community awareness, monitoring and provide home based care
- vi. Advocacy by promoting policies that support nursing professional autonomy, patient-centered care, and perinatal health rights
- vii. To engage with other professional associations/ groups to promote better neonatal nursing care
- viii. Enhance community responsiveness and accountability in tackling climate change impact related to neonatal outcomes
- ix. To build partnerships with other organisations, local and international and governmental institutions to fight against neonatal mortalities jointly
- x. To create opportunities for members in the association to engage in global sustainable development initiatives
- xi. To promote innovations from neonatal nurses that will provide solutions to newborn health challenges
- xii. To liaise with the private sector, civil society, and government in implementing national development plans related to neonatal health

Leadership

NNAT is formed by a team of experienced experts and leaders in national health executives post, professional political leadership position and nursing/ midwifery specialized skills. Our team has long outstanding track record in leading the implementation of several initiatives and innovations in the Government institutions and NGO sector.

The overseas and spokesman of the association is the President while day to day program operation are under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer through heads of programs.



Ms. Mwanaheri Chubi
President



Ms. Janeth Cathles
General Secretary



Ms. Jina Simai
Treasurer

NNAT Kickoff Activities Implemented to Date.

To ensure visibility and acceptance among key stakeholders, NNAT has implemented a range of impactful activities, including:

1. Mentorship Program on Neonatal and Maternal Care Skills.

In early November, a team of NNAT founding members conducted a bedside mentorship and skills training program for nurses, doctors, and midwives working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and labor ward at Kimara Health Centre, a high-volume facility with approximately 600–700 deliveries per month.

Prior to implementation, a baseline assessment was conducted to evaluate existing competencies and the availability of essential equipment. The findings from this survey informed the design and focus of the training intervention.

The program successfully strengthened participants' skills in key areas, including neonatal resuscitation, proper utilization and basic troubleshooting of neonatal equipment, essential newborn care, intrapartum care, neonatal intensive care practices, and the management of hypertensive disorders during pregnancy.

The initiative has shown promising and sustainable impact. NNAT continues to receive positive feedback and testimonies from participants, highlighting increased confidence and improved competency among frontline healthcare providers.



Image 1 & 2: Team of facilitators in group photo and President demonstrating skills to mentees

2. Involvement into key policy level workshops and meeting.

NNAT team members have actively participated in a number of critical meetings and workshops at the national level. In September 2025, an NNAT representative was invited to attend a two-week workshop organized by the Ministry of Health to develop the National RMNCAH Capacity Building Guide. This provided an important opportunity to advocate for neonatal health priorities and to gain direct insight into the government’s capacity-building agenda.

In addition, NNAT was represented in the National Child and Adolescent Health Technical Working Group meeting held in November 2025, also organized by the Ministry of Health. This engagement further strengthened NNAT’s contribution to national discussions and decision-making processes related to child and adolescent health

3. Advocacy and Proactive Leadership in Designing Innovative Maternal and Newborn Health Services.

NNAT has demonstrated strong leadership in advocating for and initiating innovative maternal and newborn health services. In collaboration with other founding members, the NNAT President

successfully engaged Muhimbili National Hospital – Mloganzila to allocate a budget for the development of a Perinatal Mental Health (PMH) guide. This included comprehensive materials such as facilitators and participants’ manuals, as well as structured PowerPoint presentations.

This initiative marked a significant milestone, as it introduced one of the first structured perinatal mental health interventions of its kind in the country. The effort did not stop at the development of the guide; the NNAT President continued to advocate for its integration into routine maternal and neonatal healthcare services, which was successfully achieved.

Furthermore, the hospital has now officially established a six-week clinical attachment program in Perinatal Mental Health. The first cohort has successfully completed the program, demonstrating the sustainability and growing impact of this initiative.

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