



EAST AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES PROJECT (PHASE II)

Extension of the Call for Proposals

Kindly find the updates made, including the inclusion of a budget template, the use of the DVC-RC email for proposal submission, and the extension of the call to 15th December.

Research and Community Interventions to Combat Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs) in Tanzania

Focus Area: *Implementation Research for Improved Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of CVD in Tanzania, as well as Cross-sectional/Cohort studies addressing critical gaps in community burden and risk factors of important CVDs in the country.*

1. Background

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) deaths in Tanzania, contributing significantly to premature mortality and disability. Despite existing guidelines and proven interventions, gaps remain in the **translation of evidence into practice** due to systemic, cultural, infrastructural, and economic barriers. There are also **gaps on the community burden of CVDs** of significant importance in our communities (for example heart failure, atrial fibrillation, cardiomyopathies, untreated congenital heart diseases, etc.)

This Call for Proposals seeks innovative research projects that address the implementation barriers to accelerate the adoption, scaling, and sustainability of effective CVD prevention, as well as research that will address the critical gaps in our understanding of the burden and risk factors of CVDs in the communities in Tanzania.

2. Objectives of the Call

The primary objective is to generate **practical, context-relevant evidence** to inform policy and improve CVD outcomes by:

1. Identifying and addressing barriers to implementing proven CVD interventions
2. Adapting and testing interventions for local health system and community contexts
3. Evaluating strategies for sustainability and scalability
4. Closing the gap in our knowledge of community burden of CVDs of significant importance in Tanzania

3. Scope and Priority Areas

Proposals should focus on **implementation research** or **Cross-sectional/Cohort studies** in at least one of the following areas:

Implementation Science projects:

- Community-based prevention programs e.g., hypertension screening, salt reduction campaigns, physical activity promotion
- Integration of CVD services into existing health programs (HIV, maternal health, primary health care)
- Task-shifting and task-sharing models for CVD management in resource-limited settings
- Digital health and telemedicine solutions for early detection and follow-up care
- Improving adherence to CVD medications and lifestyle recommendations
- Strengthening referral systems between community and hospital care for acute CVD events
- Health financing models that increase access to essential CVD services and medications

NB: Proposals considering the analysis of combined impact of gender with poverty, geography, age, are strongly encouraged.

Community Burden of CVDs data:

Please refer to this citation for research priorities in the community burden of CVDs:

Chillo P, Mashili F, Kwasigabo G, Ruggajo P, Kamuhabwa A. Developing a Sustainable Cardiovascular Disease Research Strategy in Tanzania Through Training: Leveraging From the East African Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences Project. Front Cardiovasc Med. 2022 Mar 25;9:849007. doi: 10.3389/fcvm.2022.849007. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8990919/>

4. Eligible Applicants

- Principal Investigators should come from MUHAS, but Institutional and Inter-discipline collaboration is encouraged
- Research involving young researchers are highly recommended
- Women applicants are highly encouraged

5. Funding Information

- **Grant size:** Up to USD 150,000 per Implementation Science projects; and up to USD 25,000 for Observational Research
- **Project duration:** Up to 24 months (for observational research) and 36 months (for Implementation Science research)
- **Number of awards:** Estimated minimum of 15 projects
- Funding may cover personnel, fieldwork, training, equipment (justified), travel, data management, and dissemination, **there will be no institutional overhead.**

6. Proposal Requirements

Proposals should clearly articulate:

1. **Background and rationale** including relevance to implementation research or critical gaps in CVD in the community
2. **Specific aims/objectives** aligned with the call's priorities
3. **Research Innovation** component
4. **Methodology:** study design, target population, sample size, data collection and analysis plan
5. **Implementation science framework** being applied (e.g., RE-AIM, CFIR, PRECEDE-PROCEED).
6. **Partnerships and stakeholder engagement** strategy
7. **Capacity building** components
8. **Dissemination and knowledge translation plan** for policymakers and communities
9. **Budget and justification**, kindly find the budget template attached to this link: [Download budget template here](#).
10. **Timeline** (Gantt chart preferred)

7. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Clear focus on implementation research principles
- Relevance to CVD critical gaps, prevention, and control in Tanzania
- Feasibility within budget and timeline
- Potential for scalability and policy impact
- Strength of partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Plans for capacity building and sustainability beyond the project

8. Application Process

- **Submission deadline:** 15th December, 2025 (*submissions after this date will not be processed*)
- **Submission method:** Email complete proposal package to dvcrc@muhas.ac.tz with subject line: *EACoECVS Cardiovascular Science Research 2025*.
- **Required documents:**
 - Full proposal (max 15 pages excluding annexes)

- Budget and budget justification
- CVs of key personnel
- Institutional letter(s) of support (from Head of Department or Dean of School)
- Letters of support from key collaborators

9. Key Dates

Call launch: 6th October, 2025

Letter of Intent: 30th October, 2025 (*for administration purposes only*)

Proposal submission deadline: 15th December, 2025

Review and selection: 15th January, 2025

Project start: 30th January, 2026

Project ends: 29th January, 2030

10: Annexes

- CVs of PI and key team members
- Letters of support from institutions/partners
- References

11. Contact Information

For further inquiries, please contact:

Prof. Pilly Chillo (Professor of Cardiology)

Research Focal Person for the EACoECVS Project

Department of Internal Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences

Email: pilly.chillo@muhas.ac.tz

Phone: +255 713 779781 (messages only)